

quantity of assessable olives for the 2000 fiscal year is 113,750 tons. Thus, the \$21.73 rate should be adequate to meet this year's budgeted expenses, when combined with funds from the authorized reserve and interest income.

The following table compares major budget expenditure recommendations for the 2000 fiscal year with those from last year.

| | Budget Expenditure | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | 1999 | 2000 |
| Administration | \$346,485 | \$356,190 |
| Research | 302,000 | 868,550 |
| Market Development | 1,190,500 | 1,212,495 |

The higher research budget of \$868,550 is needed to fund: (1) Continue research and development of the mechanical olive harvester and (2) scientific studies to develop chemical and scientific defenses to counteract a potential threat from the olive fruit fly in the California production area.

A lower assessment rate was recommended for fiscal year 2000 because the estimated 2000 fiscal year assessable tonnage is approximately 40 percent larger than last fiscal years tonnage, due in large part to the alternate bearing nature of the crop. A comparison of assessable tonnage for fiscal year 2000 with the two previous fiscal years is listed below:

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 |
|--------------|------|--------|---------|
| 85,585 | | 67,990 | 113,750 |

The Committee reviewed and unanimously recommended fiscal year 2000 expenditures of \$2,472,235, which reflects increases in the research, market development, and administrative budgets. Prior to arriving at this budget, the Committee considered information from various sources, such as the Committee's Executive Subcommittee, the Research Subcommittee, and the Marketing Subcommittee. Alternate spending levels were discussed by these groups, based upon potential reductions in the funding of various research and marketing projects. The Committee determined it was not necessary to increase the assessment rate to cover these expenses because the increased estimated tonnage will provide sufficient funds to cover anticipated expenses. The assessment rate of \$21.73 per ton of assessable olives was derived by considering anticipated expenses, as estimated assessable tonnage of olives, and additional pertinent factors.

A review of historical and preliminary information pertaining to the current fiscal year indicates that the grower

revenue for the 1999–2000 crop year will approximate \$64,126,725. With an assessment rate of 421.73 per ton and assessable tonnage totaling 113,750 tons, the Committee's assessment revenue for fiscal year 2000 will be \$2,471,788, or approximately 3.9 percent of grower revenue.

This action continues to decrease in the assessment obligation imposed on handlers for fiscal year 2000 by \$506,187. Assessments are applied uniformly on all handlers, and some of the costs may be passed on to producers. However, decreasing the assessment rate reduces the burden on handlers, and may reduce the burden on producers. In addition, the Committee's meeting was widely publicized throughout the California olive industry and all interested persons were invited to attend the meeting and participate in Committee deliberations on all issues. Like all Committee meetings, the December 9, 1999, meeting was a public meeting and all entities, both large and small, were able to express views on this issue.

This action imposes no additional reporting or recordkeeping requirements on California olive handlers. As with all Federal marketing order programs, reports and forms are periodically reviewed to reduce information requirements and duplication by industry and public sector agencies.

The Department has not identified any relevant Federal rules that duplicate, overlap, or conflict with this rule.

An interim final rule concerning this action was published in the **Federal Register** on January 19, 2000 (65 FR 2839). Copies of that rule were also mailed or sent via facsimile to all commodity handlers. Finally, the interim final rule was made available through the Internet by the Office of the Federal Register. A 60-day comment period was provided for interested persons to respond to the interim final rule. The comment period ended on March 20, 2000, and no comments were received.

A small business guide on complying with fruit, vegetable, and specialty crop marketing agreements and orders may be viewed at the following web site: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/fv/moab.html>. Any questions about the compliance guide should be sent to Jay Guerber at the previously mentioned address in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

After consideration of all relevant material presented, including the information and recommendation submitted by the Committee and other available information, it is hereby found

that this rule, as hereinafter set forth, will tend to effectuate the declared policy of the Act.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 932

Marketing agreements, Olives, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

PART 932—OLIVES GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

Accordingly, the interim final rule amending 7 CFR part 932 which was published at 65 FR 2839 on January 19, 2000, is adopted as a final rule without change.

Dated: April 4, 2000.

Robert C. Keeney,
Deputy Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs.

[FR Doc. 00–9038 Filed 4–11–00; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

14 CFR Part 1206

RIN 2700–AC36

Availability of Agency Records to Members of the Public

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Final rule; technical amendment.

SUMMARY: This amendment to NASA's regulations on availability of agency records to members of the public clarifies an inconsistency in the provisions relating to notice to submitters of commercial information.

DATES: Effective April 12, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Freedom of Information Act Officer, Code PO, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kellie N. Robinson, 202/358–2265, or Sharon S. Seward, 202/358–2085.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration published a Final Rule to revise its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) regulations on July 22, 1999 (64 FR 39404), in accordance with the EFOIA of 1996 as amended by Public Law 104–231. This amendment provides clarification of an inconsistency in that Final Rule. This amendment removes § 1206.610(e)(4) so that § 1206.610(e) is consistent with the provisions of § 1206.610(d).

List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 1206

Freedom of information.

Dated: March 23, 2000.

Daniel S. Goldin,

Administrator.

Accordingly as set forth above, NASA amends 14 CFR chapter V as follows:

PART 1206—AVAILABILITY OF AGENCY RECORDS TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. The authority citation for part 1206 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552, 552a; 42 U.S.C. 2473.

§ 1206.610 [Amended]

2. In § 1206.610, remove paragraph (e)(4).

[FR Doc. 00-8769 Filed 4-11-00; 8:45 am]

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**20 CFR Parts 325, 330, 335, and 336**

RIN 3220-AB39

Registration for Railroad Unemployment Benefits; Sickness Benefits; Determination of Daily Benefit Rates; Duration of Normal and Extended Benefits

AGENCY: Railroad Retirement Board.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Railroad Retirement Board (Board) amends its regulations to incorporate amendments made to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, which shortened the waiting period for receipt of benefits under the RUIA, changed the method of computing the daily benefit rate, and eliminated certain extended benefits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule will be effective May 12, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marguerite P. Dadabo, Senior Attorney, (312) 751-4945, TDD (312) 751-4701.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public Law 104-251 (110 Stat. 3161), commonly known as the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act Amendments of 1996, amended the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) to shorten the waiting period for receipt of unemployment and sickness benefits payable under that statute, to change the method of computing the daily benefit rate, and to eliminate certain extended payments of benefits,

and the Board amends its regulations under the RUIA to conform to those amendments.

Section 325.1 is amended to reflect the change in the waiting period for unemployment benefits from 14 days to seven days. As amended, § 325.1 would provide that unemployment benefits are payable to any qualified employee for each day of unemployment in excess of seven in his or her first two-week registration period, and then for up to ten days of unemployment in any subsequent registration period within the same period of continuing unemployment. However, if the unemployment is the result of a strike, no benefits are payable for the first day 14 days of unemployment. For purposes of applying the seven-day waiting period, a period of continuing unemployment would end when an employee exhausts his or her unemployment benefits for a benefit year. Section 325.1 would also be amended to incorporate a definition of "period of continuing unemployment", a concept added by the 1996 amendments. The concept of a period of continuing unemployment was added to the RUIA so as to permit the continued payment of benefits from one benefit year to the next without a new waiting period if the period of unemployment runs from one year to the next. Finally, § 325.1 is amended to provide that if an employee's earnings in a registration period exceed the monthly compensation base for the applicable base year, then no unemployment benefits are payable in that registration period. For example, for benefit year 2000 the base year is calendar year 1999 in which the monthly compensation base was \$970. No benefits are payable for any days of unemployment in the benefit year beginning July 1, 2000, for any registration period in which the employee earns more than \$970. An employee who declines suitable work during a registration period is treated as having earned the amount of earnings he would have received had he not declined employment.

Section 330.2 is amended to provide that the maximum daily benefit rate under the RUIA is the monthly compensation base, as computed under 20 CFR part 302, multiplied by 5%, rounded down to the nearest \$1. This change is the result of a change in the RUIA enacted under the 1996 amendments. The Board will publish the maximum daily benefit rate for the upcoming benefit year by June 1 of each year.

Section 335.6 is revised to reflect the same changes with respect to the waiting period for sickness benefits that

the amendments to § 325.1 make with respect to unemployment benefits.

Finally, § 336.13 is revised, and § 336.14 is amended to reflect a change in the payment of extended benefits made by the 1996 amendments. Under the RUIA, as amended, an employee with ten or more years of service will receive a maximum of 65 days of extended unemployment or sickness benefits after the employee has exhausted his or her normal 130 days of unemployment or sickness.

The Board published this rule as a proposed rule on December 3, 1999 (64 FR 67811), and invited comments by February 1, 2000. No comments were received.

The Board, with the concurrence of the Office of Management and Budget, has determined that this is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866; therefore no regulatory impact analysis is required. There are no information collections associated with these rules.

List of Subjects in 20 CFR Parts 325, 330, 335, and 336

Railroad employees, Railroad unemployment and sickness benefits.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Railroad Retirement Board amends chapter II, title 20 of the Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 325—REGISTRATION FOR RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

1. The authority citation for part 325 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 45 U.S.C. 362(i) and 362(1).

2. Paragraphs (a) through (d) of § 325.1 are revised, paragraph (e) is redesignated as paragraph (h), and new paragraphs (e) through (g) are added as follows:

§ 325.1 General.

(a) *Day of unemployment.* A "day of unemployment" is a calendar day on which an employee, although ready and willing to work, is unemployed, and on which no remuneration is payable and for which the employee has registered, as required by this part. The amount of compensable days of unemployment shall be computed in accordance with this section.

(b) *Registration period.* Except for registration periods in extended unemployment benefit periods, a "registration period" means a period of 14 consecutive days beginning with the first day for which an employee registers following:

(1) His or her last day of work, or