

California Crop Improvement Association

Frank G. Parsons Seed Certification Center
University of California
One Shields Avenue
Davis, California 95616-8541

Phone: (530) 752-0544
FAX: (530) 752-4735
ccia.ucdavis.edu

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Dear Sunflower Seed Producers:

CCIA field history standards require (among much else) that certified sunflower seed fields must not have grown sunflowers during the previous three (3) years or the land must have grown two (2) intervening irrigated crops. With the rapid expansion of sunflower seed production in recent years it has become more difficult to identify fields that meet all of the CCIA's required standards.

As a courtesy to applicants who occasionally found themselves in a difficult situation, the CCIA made available online in 2017 a new form entitled "CCIA Additional Requirements for Fields NOT Meeting Sunflower Field History Standards." The form was intended to be used only as a last resort when CCIA field history standards were not met (such as when a grower has mistakenly planted a field that did not meet the standards).

Unfortunately, we are finding in 2018 that the form is being misused. A large number of fields have been pinned on the CCIA Pinning Map that lack adequate history. This practice is wreaking havoc with the orderly pinning process and is causing isolation problems for fields that actually do have the proper history. As such, the form has been removed from the CCIA website. A revised form has been created, but will require that applicants obtain approval from the CCIA to proceed with possible certification of a field lacking proper history. A copy of the new form is attached.

If you feel that it is still necessary to plant fields that do not meet the standards, please contact Ashley Koala at akoala@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-9828.

All fields that have been pinned this season under the assumption that a variance would be granted, should be unpinned immediately.

Best Regards,

John C. Palmer
Executive Director