



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
March 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Changala, Grower – Chair
Marc Fallini, Handler Member
Will Carleton, Grower
Jim Donovan, Handler
Gus Gunderson, Grower

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Stacey Hughes
Sam Santander

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Grower Alternate
Dana Thomas, Handler Member

INTERESTED PARTIES

April Aymami, CA Avocado Commission
Monica Arnett, CA Avocado Commission
Tom Bellamore, CA Avocado Commission
James Murphy, Avocado Inspection
Program
Tim Spann, CA Avocado Commission

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 11:01 a.m. by Mr. Peter Changala, Chair. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS REPORT

Ms. Marcee Yount gave the vacancies report. The committee currently has one handler member, and one handler alternate vacancy. Mr. Mark Fallini, Mr. Dana Thomas, Mr. Gus Gunderson, and Mr. Ohnanes Karaoghlanian are up for reappointment in May, 2017.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Changala asked for a motion to approve the September 22, 2016 meeting minutes.

Ms. Stacey Hughes stated that Stacia Kierulff is the Human Resources Manager, not the Accounting Manager as was written in the meeting minutes.

Mr. Changala asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes with corrections.

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to approve the September 22, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Will Carlton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED CDFA BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017/18

Ms. Marcee Yount presented the 2017/18 Fiscal Year (FY) proposed budget. The projected total expenses for the 2017/18 FY are \$187,552.

Mr. Changala asked for a motion to approve the 2017/18 FY Budget.

MOTION: Mr. Will Carlton moved to approve the proposed 2017/18 Fiscal Year Budget. Mr. Mark Fallini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: PROGRAM UPDATES

Mr. Sam Santander gave the Avocado Inspection Program update. He mentioned the modifications to the avocado regulations that repealed standard container requirements, container weight requirements, and amended labeling requirements were adopted and became effective in December, 2016.

Mr. Santander also provided some inspection information on the current season. Starting in November 2016 through March 2017, 451 size count tests were performed on lugs resulting in 22 notices of noncompliances being issued, and 778 lugs rejected. There were also 17 size count test performed on RPC's with no violations. 331 maturity tests were performed, with 43 notices of noncompliances issued, and 26,625 pounds disposed.

There was some discussion regarding windfall of avocado fruit. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations prohibit harvesting fruit that has fallen to the ground because of strong winds. The Committee then discussed some possible ideas of how the industry might handle the fallen avocados.

Mr. Steve Patton gave an update on the FSMA. He stated that the Department was able to hire staff for the new Environmental Auditing Unit with use of federal grant monies. Some of the priorities of the new Unit will be to provide education and outreach to growers in California, and to build the California farm inventory. Mr. Patton also mentioned that he and others from CDFA attended a meeting which included representatives from all 48 FSMA participating states, members from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and officials from the Federal Department of Agriculture.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be September 19, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., in Santa Paula, CA.

ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. by Mr. Changala.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Santander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Sam Santander, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch