

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2007
Irvine, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Wedin, Chairman
Ross Wileman
Reuben Hofshi
Bob Bednar
Mark Wollam (Partial)
Phil Gilligan
Ohannes Karaoghlanian (Alternate Grower)

AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM

Donella Boreham (CDFA)
Rick Jensen (CDFA)

INTERESTED PARTIES

Guy Witney (CAC)

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Chairman Rob Wedin called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with a quorum present.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL MAY 10, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Wedin stated the May 10, 2007 minutes needed to be amended to read:

Mr. Reuben Hofshi was elected Handler Member for the term 2006-2008. As such his term will not expire until next year and no election was needed for that position.

Mr. Chris Varvel was elected as Alternate Handler in 2006 to fill the 2005-2007 term. His term has expired and a new election is required to fill that position.

Mr. Phil Gilligan was elected to fill vacant Grower Member term and that term should be for 2007-2009.

The Alternate Grower position, Mr. Gilligan vacated, was filled by Mr. Ohannes Karaoghlanian and is for the remainder of the 2006-2008 term.

Another correction to the May 10, 2007 minutes is to add Mr. Ross Wileman as an attendee, and delete the second instance of Chariman Wedin listed as an attendee.

MOTION: Mr. Bob Bednar moved to approve the amended and corrected minutes. Mr. Phil Gilligan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Copy of MAY 10, 2007 Meeting Minutes are attached as EXHIBIT A.

ITEM 3: CLARIFICATION : TERM OF MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Rick Jensen reviewed the letter he sent on July 5, 2007 explaining the error and the corrective action taken by CDFA. He explained the term of office is tied to the position and is not associated with the individual in the position. If a position is either vacated or filled mid-term, the individual(s) are still limited to the four consecutive terms and may only serve a total of seven years.

FAC Section 45013:

The committee member's term of office shall be two years. Appointment of the first members shall be made so that the terms of office of three members shall expire at the end of one year and three at the end of two years. Thereafter, appointment shall be for full two-year terms. Each committee member shall be limited to four consecutive terms in office. Any vacancies which occur during an unexpired term shall be filled for the unexpired term following the same procedure used for initially nominating and appointing members.

Copy of Mr. Jensen's letter dated July 5, 2007 is attached as EXHIBIT B.

ITEM 4: NOMINATION OF ALTERNATE HANDLER

Chairman Wedin informed the committee a recommendation was needed to send to the California Avocado Commission (CAC) for the Alternate Handler position term 2007-2009.

MOTION: Mr. Wileman moved to nominate Mr. Chris Varvel for the Alternate Handler two-year term 2007-2009, and recommend nomination to CAC Board. Mr. Karaoghlanian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: PROPOSED FEE INCREASE (Nov. 1, 2007)

Donella Boreham presented members with a proposed fee increase from the current crop year (2006/2007) of 13 cents per hundredweight, to 16 cents per hundredweight for the crop year 2007/2008. This is based on an estimated 350 million-pound crop year. Including the proposed fee increase in 2007/2008, the ending fund balance on October 31, 2008 is estimated at \$160,938.

MOTION: Mr. Wileman moved to approve the certification fee increase to 16 cents per hundredweight for crop year 2007/2008. Mr. Bob Bednar seconded. The motion passed with one abstention, Reuben Hofshi.

ITEM 6: PROPOSED AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM BUDGET 2007/2008

Ms. Donella Boreham presented members with the proposed budget of \$605,362 for the Avocado Inspection Program 2007/2008 crop year beginning November 1, 2007. The proposed budget is based on a fee of 16 cents per hundredweight. The total budget for the year (including CDFA Budget of \$175,700 approved May 10, 2007) will be \$781,062.

MOTION: Mr. Bob Bednar moved to approve the 2007/2008 Avocado Inspection Program (AIP) budget of \$605,362 as submitted, based on a fee of 16 cents per hundred weights. Mr. Mark Wollam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Copies of Proposed Budget 2007/08 identified as EXHIBIT C, and Projected Operations 2007/08 identified as EXHIBIT D for the Avocado Inspection Program are attached.

ITEM 7: MATURITY TESTING UPDATE

Ms. Boreham reported the testing results from Mexico and Chile. Spot checks will continue to be conducted at cold storage facilities, terminal markets, packing houses, distributors, and brokers.

The Avocado Inspection Committee (AIC) discussed the proposed inclusion of language to the 2007 Farm Bill establishing maturity standards. The committee feels there are many questions that have not been answered regarding release dates, implementation and cost, and how the minimum maturity value might be changed.

MOTION: Mr. Wileman moved that AIC recognize the good intentions of the legislation but AIC wishes to express reservations that it might not be implemented successfully. Mr. Bednar seconded. The motion passed unanimously

ITEM 8: WINDFALL MOTION FOLLOW UP

Mr. Wedin stated he would send a letter to CAC regarding the windfall motion that was voted on at the May 10, 2007 AIC meeting. **That motion was:**

Mr. Essick moved AIC request CAC to fund a Third Party Risk Assessment. The assessment would need to determine the safety of avocados from tree to table with special attention to windfall fruit and fruit on the ground. Mr. Hofshi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 9: REVISED AIC PROCEDURES

Ms. Boreham presented members with the proposed revised Procedures for the Avocado Inspection Committee. The revision includes new language to cover nominations for AIC membership, eligibility of appointment, the application, the appointments and terms of the AIC members. Members are to review the proposed changes, make recommendations for approval at the next AIC meeting.

Copy of Revised AIC Procedures identified as EXHIBIT E are attached.

ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

Discuss Lamb Hass release dates at the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wedin adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donella Boreham, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services