



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
October 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes
12 Mauchly, Suite L, Irvine, CA 92618**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Browne, Handler – Chairman
Jim Donovan, Alternate Handler
Chris Varvel, Handler
Will Carleton, Alternate Grower

MEMBERS ABSENT

Peter Changala, Grower – Vice Chair
Ohannes Karaoghlianian, Grower
Gus Gunderson, Grower

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Patton
Kathie Yniguez

INTERESTED PARTIES

Tom Bellamore, CA Avocado Commission
Jonathan Dixon, CA Avocado Commission
April Aymami, CA Avocado Commission
Sam Santander, CA Avocado Commission

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Mr. Mike Browne, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL FEBRUARY 28, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Chris Varvel moved to approve the February 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Will Carleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: AVOCADO INSPECTION UPDATE

Mr. Sam Santander discussed the new inspector computer systems that allow for quicker transfer of data between inspectors and handlers. The committee agreed it was a much improved system.

Mr. Santander discussed the ongoing inspections of product imported from Mexico and Chile and stated there have been no rejections for maturity, yet staff will continue to spot check. California fruit continues to be tested on an informational basis for the packinghouses.

Mr. Carleton asked if industry was aware of the inspection office location change from Oxnard to Ventura. Ms. April Aymami stated that all handlers were made aware but they would be happy to include the information again in their upcoming news bulletin.

Ms. Kathie Yniguez provided inspection activity report information.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Mr. Steve Patton provided an update on Committee vacancies and terms. He stated that there is currently one alternate handler vacancy. Member whose terms will expire on May 27, 2013, and are eligible for reappointment to the Committee are Mr. Browne and Mr. Gus Gunderson. Mr. Varvel, handler member, will be terming out.

ITEM 5: BUDGET APPROVAL

Mr. Patton gave an overview of the Avocado Inspection Program proposed budget for FY 2012/13.

MOTION: Mr. Jim Donovan moved to recommend the CDFA Secretary approve the FY 2012/13 Proposed Budget as submitted. Mr. Varvel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Bellamore asked who should be notified if avocados were being sold via websites such as Craigslist. Mr. Patton stated that Ms. Yniguez should be called to ensure that the product is meeting all standards.

ITEM 7: NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding the desire to know what other countries use as their maturity standard and what their sampling methods are. Mr. Jonathan Dixon stated that New Zealand uses a similar method as California, but in addition utilizes historical data and a larger sample size.

There was discussion about the use of infrared devices and how technology would soon make the current process obsolete. It was decided that committee members would gather information on the various methods and report back at the next meeting.

ITEM 8: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held in March 2013.

ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Browne adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Steve Patton, Branch Chief
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services