



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
February 28, 2012 Meeting Minutes
12 Mauchly, Suite L, Irvine, CA 92618**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Browne, Handler – Chairman
Peter Changala, Grower – Vice Chair
Gus Gunderson, Grower
Reuben Hofshi, Handler
Chris Varvel, Handler
Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Grower
Will Carleton, Alternate Grower

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Donovan, Alternate Handler

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Patton
Susan Shelton

INTERESTED PARTIES

April Aymami, CA Avocado Commission
Tom Bellamore, CA Avocado Commission
Ken Melban, CA Avocado Commission
Jonathan Dixon, CA Avocado Commission
Ed McFadden, CA Avocado Commission

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

The Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Mike Browne, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL DECEMBER 21, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to approve the December 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Ohannes Karaoghlanian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: AVOCADO INSPECTION UPDATE

From October 2011 through January 2012, there was 4,065,246 pounds of fruit packed. Few packinghouses are still testing fruit for their customers. Additionally, the new computer software is ready to be installed on the new equipment and be used for next season. Industry should start at full speed by March 15, 2012.

ITEM 4: RECOMMENDATION AND NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO PROVIDE TO THE CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMITTEE BOARD

Mr. Jim Donovan was recommended to fill the vacant handler vacancy, which left an alternate handler vacancy that Norm Traner has been nominated to fill. Mr. Karaoghlanian, Mr. Peter Changala, and Mr. Will Carleton were recommended for reappointment. The committee unanimously agreed upon all recommendations and nominations.

ITEM 5: USE OF CASS INSPECTORS

Mr. Steve Patton discussed the utilization of California Agricultural Support Services (CASS) to conduct inspections at packing facilities in the central valley. This would ease the cost burden on those customers in that region. If CDFA and California Avocado Commission (CAC) agree to convert CAC employees over to CASS employees in the future, it would be beneficial to train a CASS person in the central area.

ITEM 6: PROPOSED CDFA BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012/13

Because of the recent discussions regarding transitioning CAC personnel to CASS personnel, there are two proposed fiscal year (FY) 2012/13 budget displays for each scenario.

MOTION: Mr. Changala moved to recommend the CDFA Secretary approve the FY 2012/13 [CDFA personnel only] Proposed Budget as submitted. Mr. Chris Varvel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Changala moved to recommend the CDFA Secretary approve the FY 2012/13 [utilization of CASS personnel] Proposed Budget as submitted. Mr. Gunderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: CALIFORNIA HASS AVOCADO MATURITY STANDARD

Mr. Patton stated that there has been discussion over changing the California Hass Avocado Maturity Standard. The process to change the standard would start with the Committee approving a motion to make the change. Then, a proposal would have to be submitted to CDFA with extensive research that proves the need for the change. More specifically, what are the reasons why the current standard is no longer applicable and what should the new standard be. Additionally, it would have to go through the Standardization Advisory Committee for their approval because they are involved in minimum standards. Once the recommendation is approved by the CDFA Secretary, it is then submitted to Office of Administrative Law for review and approval.

Discussion ensued regarding the issues that have stemmed the discussions surrounding the need to change the California Hass Avocado Maturity Standard and the pros and cons of moving forward with a change.

ITEM 8: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in October 2012.

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Browne adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Steve Patton, Chief
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services