



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)**

**March 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes
12 Mauchly Suite L Irvine, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Browne, Handler – Chairman
Peter Changala, Grower – Vice Chair
Jim Donovan, Handler
Will Carleton, Grower Alternate Member

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Patton
Stacey Hughes
Kathie Yniguez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gus Gunderson, Grower

INTERESTED PARTIES

Tom Bellamore, CA Avocado Commission
Sam Santander, CA Avocado Commission
April Aymami, CA Avocado Commission
Monica Arnett, CA Avocado Commission
Ken Melban, CA Avocado Commission

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Mr. Mike Browne, Chairperson. The Bagley Keene Act, Section VI update related to deliberations and voting was read and Roll was called. A quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Jim Donovan moved to approve the September 23, 2014, Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Peter Changala seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CDFA AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM (AIP) BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 15/16 BUDGET

Ms. Kathie Yniguez discussed the AIC budget for the 2015/16 Fiscal Year (FY). There was a reduction in the indirect administration and indirect division costs. The total amount for the personnel services are \$121,866, just slightly higher than the 2014/15 FY. The total operating expenses and equipment are \$59,295, and the internal recovery costs are \$2,556. The total AIC program for the 2015/16 FY is \$178,605.

MOTION: Mr. Peter Changala motioned to approve the Proposed California Department of Food and Agriculture, Avocado Inspection Program Budget for the 2015/16 Fiscal Year. Mr. Jim Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 4: AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Kathie Yniguez provided the Avocado Inspection Program update. In the month of January, permanent inspectors put in overtime hours conducting 530 maturity and cutting tests as a result of the freeze. In the 2013-2014 season, 289,628,137 pounds of Avocados were packed. Of those pounds pack, 3804 size count tests were run, with 64 non compliances (N/C) issued, and 2880 containers rejected. There were 22,199 weight count test completed. Of those weight count tests, 301 were issued N/C notices, and 30,134 containers were rejected. The program conducted 288 maturity tests, with 30 N/C notices issues, and 1362 rejected containers.

The approximate number of inspection hours in the 2013/2014 season was 8,438. The approximation includes windfall, freeze damage, and travel time.

Ms. Yniguez also informed the Committee that new seasonal staff was hired in both Santa Paula and Temecula.

ITEM 5: COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Committee member vacancies include: one Handler Member, one Alternate Handler Member, and one Grower Member. No candidates have come forward as of the date of this meeting. It was discussed that each member should reach out to qualified personnel in the industry to find potential committee members.

ITEM 6: REGULATORY REVIEW

Mr. Steve Patton discussed the regulatory review. Mr. Patton explained that a packer is currently exempt from using the standard containers when volume packing, as long as the container was labeled as an irregular container. The California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 3, Sections 1408.10 and 1408.11 gives the authority for irregular containers to be used for volume packing. If these sections are stricken from the regulations there would be no other allowances for the use of irregular containers. No other language in the regulations allow for a deviation from the standard containers.

The committee discussed the idea to change packing containers to accommodate size count instead of weight count, and the effect this change will have on the industry. It was decided that the previously assembled subcommittee along with a few industry experts will meet at a later date to discuss these regulatory changes.

Mr. Browne asked for a motion to rescind the September 23, 2014, motion regarding eliminating CCR, Title3, Sections 1408.10 and 1408.11 from the regulations.

MOTION: Mr. Peter Changala motioned to rescind the previous recommendation to eliminate CCR, Title 3, Sections 1408.10 and 1408.11. Mr. Will Carleton seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be September 28, 2015 at 11:00 a. m., location TBD
Some Agenda items that will be discussed are: the update of regulations; time spent on foreign fruit imports; and CAC budget.

A possible interim meeting on the regulations may be scheduled at a later date.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Browne asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Jim Donovan motioned and Mr. Peter Changala seconded the motion. No one abstained, and Mr. Browne adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Kathie Yniguez, F&VQC Supervisor II
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services