



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
September 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes
750 East Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Changala, Grower – Chairman
Gus Gunderson, Grower
Marc Fallini, Handler Member
Will Carleton, Grower

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Patton
Marcee Yount
Laurel Rudolph

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dana Thomas, Handler Member
Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Grower Alternate

INTERESTED PARTIES

Sam Santander, CA Avocado Commission
April Aymami, CA Avocado Commission
Stacia Kierulff, CA Avocado Commission
Ken Melban, CA Avocado Commission
Tom Bellamore, CA Avocado Commission

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Mr. Peter Changala, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: ELECTIONS OF NEW OFFICERS

Mr. Steve Patton opened the floor for nominations for the new Chairperson.

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to nominate Peter Changala for the position of Chairperson. Mr. Mark Fallini seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Mr. Peter Changala was elected as Chairperson.

MOTION: Mr. Peter Changala moved to nominate Mr. Mark Fallini for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Gus Gunderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Mr. Mark Fallini was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

It was noted that Mr. Changala was written in the meeting minutes as Vice-Chairman instead of Chairman. It was also noted that Mr. Tom Bellamore's name was misspelled.

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

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to approve the March 22, 2016 meeting minutes with corrections. Mr. Mark Fallini seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 5: COMMITTEE VANCANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Ms. Laurel Rudolph provided the current committee vacancy and terms. Current vacancies include: one handler member; and one alternate handler member. The committee discussed the vacancies and who could fill them.

There are no reappointments until May, 2017.

ITEM 6: AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM PERSONNEL CHANGES

Mr. Bellamore gave the Avocado Inspection Program (AIP) personnel changes update. The California Avocado Commission (CAC) has made the decision to have the Cooperative Agricultural Support Services (CASS) assume the personnel functions of the AIP. This decision will allow CAC to reduce their personnel budget.

ITEM 7: AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM FY 2016/17 BUDGET APPROVAL

Ms. Stacia Kierulff, Human Resources Manager for CAC presented the proposed 2016/17 Fiscal Year (FY) AIP budget. The proposed budget was based on a projected crop size of 200 million pounds.

The committee discussed the financial reserve and the possibility of raising the assessment rates to increase the reserve. After some deliberation the committee decided to increase the assessment rates from 0.15 cents per 100 pounds, to 0.20 cents per 100 pounds.

Mr. Changala asked for a motion to approve the budget with the crop estimate at 200 million and the new assessment rates being increased to 0.20 cents per 100 pounds.

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to approve the budget based on the crop size and the new assessment rates. Mr. Will Carleton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

ITEM 8: AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Sam Santander gave the AIP update. Between November 2015 and September 2016, the total pounds for the season were 376,617,606 million. The program performed 5,390 size count inspections, issued 72 noncompliances and rejected 4,944 containers. The program also conducted 30,073 weight tests, and issued 218 noncompliances with 13,933 containers rejected. There were also, 360 maturity tests conducted, with 58 noncompliances, and 879 containers rejected.

ITEM 9: REGULATION REVIEW

Mr. Patton discussed the regulation review and the proposed regulatory changes which include repealing standard container requirements, the current container weight requirements and amending labeling requirements. These regulatory changes have been submitted to OAL for the start of the 45 day comment period, which will end on October 17, 2016. The Department has yet to receive any comments regarding the regulatory changes.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Patton discussed the Food Safety Modernization Act rules. The rules are expected to establish standards for growing, harvesting, packing, and holding produce on domestic and foreign farms.

CDFA was recently awarded a grant from the Food and Drug Administration that will enable CDFA to hire staff, and create a plan for implementation of the new produce safety rules.

Mr. Bellamore briefly informed the committee that an association called the South African Growers Association (SAGA) is trying to raise the United Nations standards of imported produce to Europe. There was a brief discussion in the committee regarding domestic standards versus foreign standards.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be in Santa Paula on March 14, 2017, at 11:00 a.m.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Peter Changala adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Samuel Santander, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services