



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
September 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes
750 East Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Browne, Handler – Chairman
Gus Gunderson, Grower
Peter Changala, Grower – Vice Chair
Jim Donovan, Handler

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Patton
Kathie Yniguez

MEMBERS ABSENT

Will Carleton, Alternate Grower

INTERESTED PARTIES

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 1:00 p.m. by Mr. Mike Browne, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF APRIL 15, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to approve the April 15, 2014, Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Mike Browne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM FY 2014/15 BUDGET APPROVAL

Ms. Monica Arnett, Finance and Accounting Manager for the California Avocado Commission (CAC) presented the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2014/15 Avocado Inspection Program (AIP) budget. Some inconsistencies within the AIP and CDFA budgets were identified and it was explained that the fiscal year used for each of the two program's budgets are different, thus the discrepancies. Jim Donovan requested information related to employee hours, tasks performed. Ms. Yniguez stated that she and her staff will develop a summary report of information requested. Chairman Mike Browne asked Ms. Arnett to change the crop prediction from 350 million pounds to 330 million pounds. Ms. Arnett agreed to make the requested changes to the proposed AIP budget. Mr. Mike Browne asked for a motion to approve the AIP proposed budget for (FY) 2014/15.

MOTION: Mr. Jim Donovan motioned to approve and recommend to the Secretary, the AIP proposed Budget for FY 2014/15 and Mr. Peter Changala seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Yniguez provided the committee with information related to the number of pounds packed and certified, weights and size counts taken, non-compliances, cartons rejected and maturity tests performed. She then informed them of some changes in personnel this season and went on to say that these changes have assisted with ensuring uniformity of inspections. Two seasonal inspectors were hired this season and only one will be available next season. Also, that there is now an Avocado training presentation available for viewing on the Standardization Program webpage.

ITEM 5: COMMITTEE VACANCIES AND TERMS REPORT

Committee member vacancies include: one Alternate Handler Member, one Handler Member and one Grower Member. The members eligible for reappointments are: Mr. Mike Browne, Mr. James Donovan, Mr. Peter Changala, Mr. Gus Gunderson and Mr. Will Carleton. Difficulties in finding potential committee members were discussed. Utilizing teleconferences rather than physical meetings was also discussed as a possible means to ensure current member participation.

ITEM 6: REGULATORY REVIEW

Mr. Mike Browne discussed changes to the California Code of Regulations (CCR) that included removing net weight requirements, irregular containers, standard containers, consumer-type packages and modifying size requirements, Mr. Jim Donovan stated that the California Avocado Determining Organization (CADO) assisted in informing the avocado industry of these issues. Specific CCR sections being reviewed included: 1408.10, 1408.11, 1408.13, 1408.14, 1408.15 and 1408.17. CADO formed a sub-committee to evaluate these issues and the general consensus was to remove sections 1408.10, Irregular Containers, and 1408.11, Consumer-Type Packages. Mr. Mike Browne expressed that a consensus could not be reached on the other issues at this time. Mr. Steve Patton explained the petition process to remove CCR sections 1408.10 and 1408.11 would be started by letters from industry submitted to the Secretary. Mr. Browne asked for a motion to eliminate code sections 1408.10 and 1048.11.

MOTION: Mr. Peter Changala motioned to eliminate code sections 1408.10 and 1048.11. And Mr. Gus Gunderson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Browne discussed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Surveillance Sampling Program report that identified California Avocados are as vulnerable to pathogens as any imported fruit. Windfall was discussed and Mr. Browne explained that there is a kill

step in the plans for the packing houses. It will be available to be shared with anyone who is interested. Discussion continued regarding the amounts of windfall and potential damage due to heat. Everyone agreed that they should be preparing to meet requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). CAC has approved the use of the Primus Ranch Audit and their customers are happy with the decision. Mr. Ken Melban provided an overview of a harmonized audit to the committee. He pointed out that a harmonized audit is considered a higher tier audit compared to a Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Audit. Mr. Browne added that a harmonized audit includes more documentation and water test record keeping.

Mr. Patton explained that United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to have their harmonized audit be recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative, has not yet been approved. CDFA is going through an accreditation process to become a certifying body to perform GFSI audits.

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be in the spring of 2015, possibly a Teleconference.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Mike Browne asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gus Gunderson motioned and Mr. Jim Donovan seconded the motion, Mr. Browne adjourned the meeting at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:



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