

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2008
Irvine, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Wedin, Chairman
Ross Wileman, Handler
Reuben Hofshi, Handler
Mark Wollam, Grower
Phil Gilligan, Grower
Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Alternate Grower
Chris Varvel, Alternate Handler (Absent)
Bob Bednar, Grower (Absent)

AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM

Donella Boreham (CDFA)

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Mr. Rob Wedin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL JANUARY 9, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Ross Wileman moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Ohannes Karaoghlanian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the January 9, 2008 Meeting Minutes are attached as EXHIBIT A.

ITEM 3: RECOMMENDATION AND NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO SEND TO THE CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION BOARD.

Mr. Wedin informed the committee that Mr. Reuben Hofshi, Mr. Mark Wollam, Mr. Bob Bednar and Mr. Karaoghlanian have terms expiring on May 27, 2008 and are eligible to serve another term.

The following members were nominated to serve another term (2008-2010):

Reuben Hofshi, Handler
Mark Wollam, Grower
Bob Bednar, Grower
Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Alternate Grower

MOTION: Mr. Wileman moved to approve the nominations for the two-year terms commencing on May 27, 2008 and to recommend nominations to the California Avocado Commission (CAC) Board and the CDFA Secretary. Mr. Phil Gilligan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: PROPOSED CDFA BUDGET 2008/09

Ms. Boreham presented members with the proposed CDFA budget of \$176,576 for fiscal year (FY) 2008/09 beginning on July 1, 2008. This portion of the Avocado Inspection Program budget covers overhead at CDFA and remains on the CDFA fiscal year basis of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

MOTION: Mr. Wollam moved to approve the FY 2008/09 CDFA portion of the Avocado Inspection Program budget in the amount of \$176,576. Mr. Wileman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the CDFA Budget is attached as EXHIBIT B.

ITEM 5: INSPECTION UPDATE

Ms. Boreham discussed the maturity testing of Mexican and Chilean avocados and explained that spot checks will be conducted at cold storage facilities, terminal markets, packinghouses, distributors, and brokers. Ms. Boreham reviewed the weight requirements and size/count requirements for packed avocados.

ITEM 6: OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Karaoghlanian moved to adjourn. Mr. Wollam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wedin adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donella Boreham, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Wedin, Chairman
Ross Wileman
Reuben Hofshi
Bob Bednar, Partial
Mark Wollam
Phil Gilligan
Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Alternate Grower
Chris Varvel, Alternate Handler

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INTERESTED PARTIES

Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia
Charles Froehlich

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Mr. Rob Wedin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL AUGUST 15, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Mark Wollam moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Ross Wileman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A copy of the August 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes are attached as EXHIBIT A.

ITEM 3: LAMB HASS (ADD LARGER SIZES TO RELEASE DATES)

Mr. Charles Froehlich sent a letter on behalf of the Lamb Hass Association to Mr. Wedin requesting the Avocado Inspection Committee (AIC) add release dates for size 32 and size 36.

Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia discussed the "Summary of Lamb Hass Results" which lists the release dates for size 32 and size 36.

MOTION: Mr. Wileman moved to add size 32 (05/08) and size 36 (5/22) to the Date/Size maturity releases for Lamb Hass, based on a hedonic score of 6.0 and 22.8% dry weight. Mr. Wollam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 4: WINDFALL MOTION/LETTER FOLLOW UP

Mr. Wedin summarized that a petition was presented to the AIC at the December 13, 2007 meeting. At that time, the committee agreed on the need for research and to request the California Avocado Commission (CAC) to fund the study. It was decided that the AIC needed to return to the CAC Board with a recommendation to complete a third party risk assessment.

MOTION: Mr. Essick moved to request the CAC to fund a third party risk assessment. The assessment should include a determination of the safety of avocados from tree to table with special attention to windfall fruit and fruit on the ground.

The AIC did not receive a response, prompting Mr. Wedin to send a letter to Mr. Mark Affleck dated September 28, 2007. A response was not received as of January 9, 2008.

ITEM 5: APPROVE REVISED AIC PROCEDURES

Ms. Donella Boreham reviewed the revised AIC procedures provided during the August 15, 2007 meeting. The revision includes new language to cover nominations for AIC membership, eligibility of appointment, the application, and terms of members.

MOTION: Mr. Wileman moved to approve the revised AIC procedures. Mr. Phil Gilligan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: INSPECTION UPDATE

Ms. Boreham reported the maturity testing results from Mexico and Chile for the months of September, October, and November. Spot checks were conducted at cold storage facilities, terminal markets, packing houses, distributors, and brokers. California maturity season will conclude on January 16, 2008. The majority of the fruit coming into the packing houses are being sized picked, resulting in minimal testing.

Ms. Boreham reviewed the weight requirements and size/count requirements for packed avocados.

ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Wedin set the next meeting for March 12, 2008.

ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Wileman moved to adjourn. Mr. Wollam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wedin adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donella Boreham, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance
Inspection Services

CDFA BUDGET (AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM 2008/2009)

Exhibit B

	FY 2007-08 Budget	FY 2007-08 Projected	FY 2008-09 Proposed	
PERM. SALARIES	69,500	68,376	68,376	
TEMP HELP	5,000	-	5,000	For Unanticipated Staff Shortages
OVERTIME				
DIVISION SALARY & WAGES	27,500	27,330	27,500	
STAFF BENEFITS	27,300	24,205	25,000	
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	129,300	119,911	125,876	
GENERAL EXPENSE	500	500	500	Same as 2007-08 Budget
COMMUNICATIONS	5,500	5,000	5,500	Same as 2007-08 Budget
POSTAGE	400	400	400	Same as 2007-08 Budget
TRAVEL- IN STATE	14,000	13,756	14,000	Same as 2007-08 Budget
TRAINING	400	400	400	Same as 2007-08 Budget
FACILTIES	2,200	1,856	2,200	Same as 2007-08 Budget
UTILITIES	3,500	2,800	3,500	Same as 2007-08 Budget
INDIRECT- DIVISION	6,200	6,200	6,200	Same as 2007-08 Budget
INDIRECT- EXEC/ADMIN	13,200	13,200	17,500	24.6% Increase from 2007-08 Projected
DIRECT- OTHER	500	100	500	Same as 2007-08 Budget
TOTAL OE & E	46,400	44,212	50,700	
TOTAL EXPENSES	175,700	164,123	176,576	7.0% Increase from 2007-08 Projected
Avocado Inspection Program Budget(AIP) approved 8.15.07			605,362	
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENDITURES			781,938	

02.06.08