



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
March 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes
12 Mauchly, Suite L, Irvine, CA 92618**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Donovan, Handler
Chris Varvel, Handler

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Patton
Kathie Yniguez

INTERESTED PARTIES

Jonathan Dixon, CA Avocado Commission
Tom Bellamore, CA Avocado Commission
Ken Melban, CA Avocado Commission
April Aymami, CA Avocado Commission
Sam Santander, CA Avocado Commission

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Mr. Mike Browne, Chairperson. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OCTOBER 23, 2012 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to approve the October 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Ohannes Karaoghlanian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: AVOCADO INSPECTION UPDATE

Ms. Kathie Yniguez provided the Avocado Inspection Program (AIP) Update. Topics discussed were the Maturity Testing Process, End of the Season Report, and the comparison between the Food and Agricultural Code Regulations and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Proposal. Mr. Sam Santander discussed non-compliances on weight counts and size counts.

ITEM 4: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Ms. Yniguez provided the AIC Vacancy and Terms Report. There is currently one alternate handler member vacancy. Member whose terms will expire on May 27, 2013, and are eligible for reappointment to the Committee are Mr. Browne and Mr. Gus Gunderson. Mr. Varvel, handler member, will be terming out.

The Committee discussed nominations of Mr. Scott Scarborough and Mr. Scott Bauwens.

ITEM 5: FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. Ken Melban gave a presentation on the FSMA and how the avocado industry could be affected by proposed §112.114, specifically "dropped fruit". Mr. Melban suggested to Mr. Browne that they have a conference call with Ms. Leanne Skelton of the US Food and Drug Administration.

ITEM 6: AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM BUDGET APPROVAL

Mr. Steve Patton provided an overview of the AIP proposed budget for fiscal year (FY) 2013/14.

MOTION: Mr. Peter Changala moved to recommend the CDFA Secretary approve the AIP FY 2013/14 Proposed Budget as submitted. Mr. Karaoghlanian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Bellamore presented a chart of maturity testing processes conducted in the US and other countries. In addition, he informed the Committee that California Avocado Commission would be moving their Ventura Inspection Office to Santa Paula in the near future.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding establishing a meeting place to better serve the members coming from the north, although a specific facility has not yet been chosen.

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING

The next AIC meeting will be held in August 2013.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Browne adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Steve Patton, Branch Chief
Inspection and Compliance Branch
Inspection Services