



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Browne, Handler – Chairman
Reuben Hofshi, Handler
Chris Varvel, Handler
Gus Gunderson, Grower
Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Grower

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Susan Shelton
Steve Patton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pete Changala, Grower – Vice Chair
Will Carleton, Alternate Grower
Jim Donovan, Alternate Handler

GUESTS

Samuel Santander, AIP
Steve Mauch, CASS
Ken Melban, CAC
Tom Bellamore, CAC

ITEM 1: ROLL CALL

Mr. Mike Browne called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. with a quorum present.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OCTOBER 19, 2011 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Gus Gunderson moved to approve the October 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Mr. Reuben Hofshi seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: AVOCADO INSPECTION UPDATE

Mr. Samuel Santander provided the Avocado Inspection Update. He stated that in the past few months, there has been testing of Chilean fruits upon arrival to the port. After the testing of Chilean fruits, testing of Mexican and Peruvian fruits began. The Mexican fruits were only tested for approximately one month, and Peruvian fruits were only tested for a few weeks. Packing houses are still in operation packing fruit from the north once or twice per week.

Mr. Santander provided the Committee with a chart showing total weights that have been performed in Escondido, Oxnard, and Temecula, from November 2010 to October 2011. Approximately 34,411 weights have been performed. There were a total of 159 non-compliances issued, which accounted for approximately 13,157 loads of fruit. There were 4,549 size counts conducted throughout the year with only 15 non-compliances issued. For the packing houses, there were 339 maturity tests performed; 45 non-compliances were issued. Informational testing is being conducted as requested.

ITEM 4: PROPOSED AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM BUDGET 2011/12

Ms. Susan Shelton provided an overview of the 2011/12 Proposed Avocado Inspection Program Budget. Discussion ensued on several line items of the budget.

MOTION: Mr. Hofshi motioned and Mr. Chris Varvel seconded to make a recommendation to the Secretary to accept the 2011/12 Proposed Avocado Inspection Program Budget, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: CASS

Mr. Steve Mauch, Executive Officer of Cooperative Agriculture Support Services (CASS), provided the Committee with a presentation on CASS. He stated that CASS is a Joint Powers Authority that began in November 2006. CDFA partnered with Yolo and Trinity counties to create CASS for the primary purpose of transferring work activities for cost effectiveness and to streamline similar work activities between the counties and state. CASS is a separate stand alone public agency that reports to a board of directors made up of individuals who have been appointed by member agencies. Work that is conducted is based upon the legal authorities of those organizations or agencies that have established CASS. CASS provides staff that complete daily work activities of programs, and those government agencies charged with a program responsibility have management structures that oversee the work of CASS. CASS has flexibilities that most government agencies do not have, has a leaner organizational structure, and is cost effective.

Discussion ensued regarding the benefits of utilizing CASS for the Avocado Inspection Program.

ITEM 6: NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

ITEM 7: NEXT MEETING

The next tentative scheduled meeting will be in March 2012.

ITEM 8: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Browne adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Susan Shelton, Program Supervisor
Inspection and Compliance Branch