



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

The meeting will be conducted via Zoom only

Zoom Meeting ID: 160 593 8230

Passcode: AIC3921!

Dial-in Phone Number: 833-568-8864 (passcode: 81068270)

Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605938230?pwd=aXBsR2NSNVQ2LzJsZFZrb09oYkVYZz09>

Please keep your personal device on mute during the meeting to avoid background noise and wait to be called by the Chair before speaking. Please identify yourself before speaking.

Committee Members

John Schaap, Chair

Bryce Bannatyne, Vice Chair

Wayne Brydon, Alternate

Marc Fallini

Keith Blanchard

Aaruni Thakur, Alternate

Salvador Dominguez

Stewart Lockwood

Public Participation

Members of the public are encouraged to provide comment to the Avocado Inspection Committee (Committee) and may suggest items to be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Committee meeting. While the Committee values the participation of the public, the Committee Chair reserves the right to limit the time for public comment per speaker, as needed, in order to proceed with the agenda.

Americans with Disabilities Act

All Advisory Board or Committee meetings must be accessible to the physically disabled. Any person needing a disability-related accommodation or modification in order to attend or participate in any Advisory Board or Committee meeting may request assistance by contacting Mitchell King located at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, California 95833 or by emailing Mitchell.King@cdfa.ca.gov or calling (916) 900-5210.

Meeting Notices and Agendas may be found at: <http://cdfa.ca.gov/is/uploader/postings/hearings/>.



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AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

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Items

- (1) CALL TO ORDER
- (2) INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL - Establish Quorum
- (3) PUBLIC COMMENTS – Limited to items not on the agenda
- (4) REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 MEETING MINUTES
- (5) COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT
- (6) REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED CDFA FISCAL YEAR 2021/22 BUDGET
- (7) PROGRAM UPDATES
- (8) DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WIND SCARING RESEARCH
- (9) GEM VARIETY UPDATES
- (10) NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS
- (11) ADJOURNMENT

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Department Contact: Mitchell King, Branch Analyst
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**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)
AVOCADO INSPECTION COMMITTEE (AIC)
September 22, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Teleconference**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bryce Bannatyne – Vice Chair
Marc Fallini
John Schaap – Chair
Salvador Dominguez
Keith Blanchard
Stewart Lockwood
Wayne Brydon
Aaruni Thakur

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

CDFA REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Patton
Stacey Hughes
Sam Santander
Mitchell King
Marcee Yount

INTERESTED PARTIES

Monica Arnett, CA Avocado Commission
April Aymami CA Avocado Commission
Ed Williams, Ventura County
Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia, UC Riverside
Dave Holden, Holden Research and Consulting

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Marcee Yount. Roll was called, a quorum was established, and introductions were made.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ITEM 3: COMMITTEE VACANCY AND TERMS REPORT

Mitchell King provided the Committee Vacancy and Terms Report.

ITEM 4: ELECTIONS

Yount opened the floor to nominations for Chair.

MOTION: Stewart Lockwood nominated John Schaap for Chair. Bryce Bannatyne seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

Yount opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: Stewart Lockwood nominated Bryce Bannatyne for Vice Chair. John Schaap seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5: REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

i. September 17, 2019

MOTION: Stewart Lockwood moved to approve the September 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented. John Schaap seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. May 19, 2020

MOTION: Salvador Dominguez moved to approve the May 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented. Keith Blanchard seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 6: GEM VARIETY RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATE

Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia of the University of California Riverside presented the GEM Variety Research Project Update to the Committee. Dr. Arpaia asked the Committee if there were any questions about the work of the project as it enters its final year. Bryce Bannatyne asked Dr. Arpaia about the possibility of GEM variety avocados going to the market later than the current last inspection in May. Dr. Arpaia stated that this could be done, if the cooperators in the project were willing to allow fruit to remain on trees longer than they currently are. This led to further discussion between Dr. Arpaia and Bannatyne regarding the number of trees needed per ranch to get the proper data.

There was further discussion among the Committee members about dates for picking trees and Dr. Arpaia's project. Salvador Dominguez suggested conducting work with the GEM variety to identify its window of marketability. Keith Blanchard noted that it would be beneficial to get data on how long fruit can be left on trees and still be palatable. This led to further discussion about how such data could be acquired, as well as discussion about the possibility of conducting future taste tests.

ITEM 7: GEM VARIETY WIND SCARING

Dave Holden of Holden Research and Consulting provided information on GEM Variety Wind Scaring research. Holden stated that when the GEM variety of avocados was initially introduced into the Ventura County area, there were concerns about the origin of scaring on the fruit, and that originally, it was thought that the scaring was due to pests or the application of chemicals. This led Holden to conduct research to determine what the origin of the scaring was from.

Holden conducted tests in orchards to determine whether the scaring seen in the GEM variety was due to thrips scaring or wind scaring and found that while thrips scaring usually follows a pattern on the fruit from the stem downward, wind scaring does not appear to follow a pattern on the body of the avocado. Holden also found that wind scaring is more likely to occur on fruit located on the windward side of a tree than the

leeward side. Holden has proposed further research with the California Avocado Commission (CAC) to examine what difference wind screens make on the appearance of wind scaring on GEM variety avocados.

There was discussion regarding the timing of wind scaring as well as whether calcium would make a difference in wind scaring on avocados. Holden stated that wind scaring appears to happen early in the growth cycle and that calcium may not make a difference, though research into calcium has not been conducted. There was also discussion of the potential impact of dead wood and the potential of applying polymers to help prevent wind scaring.

ITEM 8: APPROVAL OF THE AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM BUDGET

Monica Arnett, Vice President of Finance and Administration for CAC presented the Avocado Inspection Program Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/21 to the Committee. The beginning reserves for FY 2020/21 are \$828,217; total projected revenue is \$814,540; total projected expenses are \$846,480; with projected ending reserves of \$796,276. There was discussion between Bannatyne, Stacey Hughes, and Steve Patton regarding the total projected expenses being higher than projected revenue. Arnett noted that any money not used in prior years does carry over to the next budget year.

April Aymami and Arnett informed the Committee that the funding for a third year of GEM variety research by Dr. Arpaia is included in the proposed budget, and that approval of the budget would allow for continuation of GEM variety research. There was brief discussion regarding research funding.

MOTION: John Schaap moved to approve the Avocado Inspection Program Budget as presented. Stewart Lockwood seconded the motion. A vote by roll call was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 9: NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Patton stated that CDFA will provide its proposed budget at the next meeting. Bannatyne suggested discussion of the effect of temperature on the GEM variety.

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m. by Chair Schaap.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sam Santander, Program Supervisor
Avocado Inspection Program
Inspection and Compliance Branch



Avocado Inspection Program

CDFA Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22

CDFA BUDGET - AVOCADO INSPECTION PROGRAM FY 2021/2022*Utilizing Cooperative Agricultural Support Services Staffing***Agenda Item 6**

	FY 2019-20 Approved Expenditures	FY 2019-20 Actual Expenditures	FY 2020-21 Approved Expenditures	FY 2021-22 Proposed Expenditures
Permanent Salaries	89,564	90,218	93,354	95,184
Branch Salaries and Wages	21,500	21,060	21,500	27,249
Staff Benefits	49,260	55,740	55,079	56,159
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	160,324	167,019	169,933	178,591
General Expense	1,500	1,332	1,500	1,800
Communications	4,000	6,438	6,500	7,000
Postage	150	26	150	150
In State Travel	10,000	7,467	10,000	10,000
Training	200	-	200	200
Facilities	4,000	3,884	5,000	5,000
Utilities	1,650	1,472	2,000	2,000
Cons/Prof Serv - Interdept	100	5	50	150
Direct - Other	-	-	1,200	-
Indirect - Branch OE & E	5,000	5,265	5,000	6,812
Indirect Cost - Exec/Admin	13,000	15,179	16,700	17,328
Indirect Cost IT	6,200	5,168	5,400	5,609
Indirect Cost - Division	6,000	5,171	7,100	7,165
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES & EQUIPMENT	51,800	51,407	60,800	63,214
Sec 224C Recovery (Gas Tax)	(2,460)	(7,610)	(2,460)	(2,460)
*Cash Adjustment	9,467	9,467	12,957	13,640
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 219,131	\$ 220,283	\$ 241,230	\$ 252,985

*Pro Rata recovery of statewide administrative costs