

**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 5, 2022**

A meeting of the California Avocado Commission (CAC) Board was held on Thursday, May 5, 2022, with the following people present:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gary Caloroso  
Jason Cole  
John Cornell  
Rob Grether  
Jessica Hunter  
Ohannes Karaoghlanian  
Rachael Laenen  
John Lloyd-Butler  
Daniella Malfitano  
Daryn Miller  
Michael Perricone  
Andrew Prechtl  
Peter Shore

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Will Carleton  
Maureen Cottingham  
Connor Huser  
Catherine Keeling  
Ryan Rochefort  
Charley Wolk

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**ALTERNATES ABSENT**

None

**OFFICIALLY PRESENT**

Victoria Carpenter, *USDA*  
Jeff Hodge, *Boyden*  
Ben Kardokus, *CDFA*  
John Lamb, *Succession Task Force*  
Rick Shade, *Succession Task Force*  
George Soares, *Kahn, Soares & Conway*

**STAFF PRESENT**

Monica Arnett  
April Aymami  
Tom Bellamore  
Zac Benedict  
Dave Cruz  
Jan DeLyser  
Angela Fraser  
Stacia Kierulff  
Miriam Martinez  
Ken Melban  
Cristina Wede

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Rick Carey  
Eddie Grangetto

**ITEM #1 CALL TO ORDER**

**Roll Call/Quorum – Item 1.a.**

Rob Grether, CAC chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with a quorum present.

April Aymami, CAC industry affairs director, announced the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) representatives, CAC staff and known guests participating in the meeting. She asked for all other guests to announce themselves and recorded all participants in attendance.

**ITEM # 2 OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

California grower, Rick Carey, addressed the Board stating, “CA growers face challenges. Please conduct a National search to bring in fresh leadership in an effort to reshape CAC to better serve needs in a more cost- efficient manner.”

California grower, Eddie Grangetto, commented regarding the transition of new CAC leadership and the need to address core issues such as the return on investment of CAC assessment dollars and a Commission focused on representing the best interests of California growers.

**ITEM # 3 CLOSED SESSION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF AN EMPLOYEE PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11126(a)**

Mr. Grether convened a Closed Session of board members, alternates, legal counsel, CDFA and USDA representatives, Jeff Hodge, John Lamb and Rick Shade at 9:13 a.m.

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**ITEM # 4 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ANNOUNCE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY**

Mr. Grether returned to open session at 1:30 p.m. and announced that the board had taken action to extend an offer of employment to the President/CEO candidate recommended by the Succession Task Force.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Mr. Grether adjourned the meeting at 1:32 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on May 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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April Aymami, CAC Industry Affairs Director

I certify that the above is a true statement of the Minutes of May 5, 2022 approved by the CAC Board of Directors on August 18, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Hunter, CAC Board Secretary

**EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT COPY OF THESE MINUTES**

None