

**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION
PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

October 4, 2022

A web/teleconference meeting of the Production Research Committee (PRC) of the California Avocado Commission (CAC) was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, with the following people participating:

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING
VIA TELECONFERENCE:**

Leo McGuire, Chair
John Burr (9:10)
Jason Cole
Jim Davis (9:07)
Consuelo Fernandez
Darren Haver
Katherine Keeling
Ryan Larken
Ed McFadden
Ryan Rochefort

CAC STAFF PARTICIPATING:

April Aymami
Ken Melban

OFFICIALLY PARTICIPATING:

Dr. Tim Spann, Spann Ag Research & Consulting

GUESTS PARTICIPATING:

None

CALL TO ORDER

Leo McGuire, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 27, 2022 PRODUCTION RESEARCH
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MOTION

To approve the minutes of the July 27, 2022 Production Research Committee meeting.

(Rochefort/Haver) MSC Unanimous

Motion 22-10-4-1

RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Spann updated the Committee on the University of California Irvine's acquisition of land from the South Coast Research and Extension Center for the purpose of building faculty housing. On August 29, 2022, Ken Melban (CAC VP of Industry Affairs), Robert Grether (CAC Chair), Darren Haver (Director, SCREC), Mike Mellano (Chair of the UC President's Advisory Committee for Agriculture and Natural Resources) and Dr. Spann met via zoom with Dr. Glenda Humiston (UC VP of Agriculture and Natural Resources) and Tu Tran (UC Associate VP of Business Operations) to discuss the land transfer from SCREC to UCI and the impacts to avocado research. Dr. Humiston informed the group that in February 2021 when the land transfer was initiated UC ANR offered \$300,000 to the UC researchers whose projects would be impacted to cover the costs of repropagating or moving their research trees. She informed the group that Dr. Patricia Manosalva had accepted that offer and had arranged for her trees to be repropagated and replanted elsewhere at SCREC. Other researchers had not accepted the funds and chose to challenge the land transfer.

The group reviewed maps showing what land will be transferred to UCI and what avocado projects would be impacted. In addition to some of Dr. Manosalva's trees being affected, a portion of the UC avocado germplasm collection and a block of Dr. Mary Lu Arpaia's Tier 1 selections would also be impacted. The group discussed the funding from Eurosemillas for the scion breeding program and that the germplasm and Tier 1 blocks fell under their control and, if funds beyond what UC ANR was offering were needed then Eurosemillas should contribute those funds. The group concluded that affected projects currently being funded by CAC (Dr. Manosalva's) had already been handled and other avocado trees, although important resources, were no longer under CAC's control. The group agreed there was no action needed by CAC on this matter.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider request for funding from Dr. Patricia Manosalva

Dr. Spann reminded the committee that they had reviewed a proposal from Dr. Manosalva for 3-years of funding to continue the commercial-scale avocado rootstock trials that were established in 2019 and 2020 at their previous meeting. Dr. Manosalva had asked for \$300,000 over 3-years and the committee asked Dr. Manosalva to reduce her budget to \$225,000 (\$75,000 per year). Dr. Manosalva revised her proposal per the committee's request but was only able to reduce the budget to \$268,884. Discussion ensued focusing on the value of the trials and the data they will generate to the industry. There was agreement from the committee that Dr. Manosalva had made every effort to meet their budget request and they understood certain costs, such as mandatory staff raises, were beyond her control.

MOTION

To recommend funding the proposal “Commercial-scale field testing and potential release of five elite advanced rootstocks” with the revised budget of \$268,884.

(Davis/Rochefort) MSC Unanimous

Motion 22-10-4-2

B. Develop a recommendation for the lease renewal of Pine Tree Ranch

Dr. Spann reminded the committee that they had previously recommended entering negotiations with the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation to exercise CAC’s option to renew the lease of Pine Tree Ranch for a 5-year term. Dr. Spann informed the committee that he and CAC staff would be notifying the Foundation of CAC’s intent to renew the lease and that staff would like to receive some guidance from the committee regarding the terms of the lease renewal. Discussion ensued about what projects had been done at Pine Tree Ranch during the initial 10-year period of the lease and what challenges had arisen. Dr. Spann informed the committee that the greatest challenge was due to the well and the inability to irrigate independently of the rest of the ranch. The committee agreed this severely limited the projects that could be done and recommended pursuing the installation of a variable frequency drive on the well as part of the lease renewal negotiations. The discussion then turned to the lease rate. Dr. Spann informed the committee that the current monthly lease rate was \$1,976 with an annual increase of approximately 3.5%. The committee agreed that this was a fair rate and that staff should try to negotiate to keep the rate as it is with an annual increase of 3.5%.

ADJOURN MEETING

Leo McGuire, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Spann

EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT COPY OF THESE MINUTES

EXHIBIT A October 4, 2022 Production Research Committee AB 2720 Roll Call Vote Tally Summary

EXHIBIT B Manosalva revised budget



CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION
Production Research Committee
AB 2720 Roll Call Vote Tally Summary

To be attached to the Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name: <i>California Avocado Commission Production Research Committee Meeting</i>	Meeting Location: <i>Teleconference</i>	Meeting Date: <i>October 4, 2022</i>
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Attendees Who Voted	<u>MOTION</u> <u>22-10-4-1</u>	<u>Motion</u> <u>22-10-4-2</u>
Leo McGuire, Chair	Yea	Yea
John Burr	Absent	Yea
Jason Cole	Yea	Yea
Jim Davis	Absent	Yea
Consuelo Fernandez	Yea	Yea
Darren Haver	Yea	Yea
Katherine Keeling	Yea	Yea
Ryan Larken	Yea	Yea
Ed McFadden	Yea	Yea
Ryan Rochefort	Yea	Yea
<i>Outcome</i>	Unanimous	Unanimous

Proposed Budget

	plots Nov. 2022-Oct. 2023	plots Nov.2023 - Oct. 2024	plots Nov. 2024- Oct. 2025	Total 3 yrs
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Note:Manosalva is subsidizing all travel expenses (2x/year) because salaries are more expensive as well as hotel, gas and rentals. Also UCR team is also subsidizing gas in all trips.

Section 1: Collect data for 8 large plots (Leo McGuire (2), Westpack (1), John Lamb (2), Cris Sayer (1), Alina Ranch (1), Pete Miller (1) and), Amber, Matthew and Patty

Personnel salary and benefits for all sections

Amber Newsome (Assistant Specialist I) 50% EFT	\$26,100	\$29,407	\$30,289	
Benefits	\$12,867	\$14,497	\$14,933	
Matthew Elvena (Assistant Specialist I) 36% EFT	\$24,637	\$21,173	\$21,808	
	\$12,146	\$10,439	\$10,751	
SUBTOTAL	\$75,750	\$75,516	\$77,781	

Travel

1. TRAVEL TO PLOTS AT NORTH

Miller, pine tree)

2023

(twice a year)

Car rental based on UCRconnextus (travel.ucop.edu)

Car rental one day trip cargo van service= 68

Car rental one 5 day trip = 340

Gas @ \$3.54/gallon; 20 miles/gallon

TRAVEL TO COLLECT TREE DATA

Data collection

Rental car 5 days) twice	\$680	\$680	\$680
Gas (subsidized from my other grants involve travel)	\$500	\$500	\$500
Hotel comfort inn 4 nights ~200/night (twice/year) two people	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$3,200
Per diem 2 people x 5 days/1 wk trip	\$620	\$620	\$620
Patty's travel			

TRAVEL TO COLLECT HARVEST DATA

calculations are based on staying in Ventura overnight in Ventura for harvest once a year for plots (each plot separate since growers harvest different days) once a year

Rental car (2 days) x 5 plots	\$680	\$680	\$680
Gas	\$500	\$500	\$500
Hotel comfort inn 1 night ~200/night (once/year) two people x5plots	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Per diem 2 people x 2 days x 5 plots, once a year (62/day)	\$1,240	\$1,240	\$1,240
Patty's travel			

1. TRAVEL TO PLOTS AT SOUTH

calculations are based on one day trips. Two trips for data collection and one for harvest

Leo McGuire

AdnaFarm

TRAVEL TO COLLECT TREE DATA

Data collection and harvest

Rental car (1 day)	\$408	\$408	\$408
Gas /milleage	\$250	\$250	\$250

SUBTOTAL TRAVEL Section 1 **\$10,078** **\$10,078** **\$10,078**

TOTAL SECTION 1 **\$85,828** **\$85,594** **\$87,859**

Section 2: Bonsall and Pine Tree (6 visits/year; Brandon 7.5% and Aidan 5%, MLA do the data analyses)

Travel Monitoring and harvest

Krnich - planted 2017

Tree measurements (1X)/YEAR) + 1 visit

Harvest (days) 1X/YEAR

Pine Tree - planted 2017
 Tree measurements (2X)/YEAR
 Harvest (days) 1X/YEAR
 Assumptions:

Round Trip mileage from Visalia for PineTree but will use Fallbrook for Krnich (RT is 40 miles)
 For south used 40 miles roundtrip as average
 for north used 200 miles one-way as average
 Assume reimbursement rate as a 3 year average will be 0.55 per mile
 Assume lodging on average is \$140/night and meals are \$60 per day for a total of \$200 per day

MLA TRAVEL	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$3,800
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UCR TEAM TRAVEL (Amber Newsome and Matthew Elvena)
 Car rental based on UCRconnexus (travel.ucop.edu)
 Car rental one day trip = 68
 Car rental one two day trip = 136.14
 Car rental one three day trip = 204.21
 Gas @ \$3.54/gallon; 20 miles/gallon

TRAVEL TO COLLECT TREE DATA
 Bonsall (minimum 3X visits a year)
 rental car
 gas

TRAVEL TO COLLECT TREE DATA 2X AND 1 HARVEST (travel include in the travels above)
 Pine Tree (3 visits a year, Overnight trip)
 rental car
 gas
 Hotel 1 nights/trip x 3 trips total x 2 people @ \$200/night
 Per diem 2 people x 3 trips x 2 days per trip @ \$62/day

SUBTOTAL TRAVEL Section 2	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$3,800
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analysis will be partially cover for the Manosalva lab
SERVICE
 shipping/sample (12 samples, fields)
 (12 samples, fields)

TOTAL ANNUAL (really need)	\$89,628	\$89,394	\$91,659	\$270,681.0
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TOTAL ANNUAL (can work with this and I will subsidize the salaries increase and merits)	\$89,628	\$89,628	\$89,628	\$268,884.0
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TOTAL CAC propose no enough	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$225,000.0
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