

**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
December 19, 2025**

A meeting of the California Avocado Commission (CAC) Board was held on Friday, December 19, 2024 with the following people present:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Berns  
Maureen Cottingham  
John Dmytriw  
Robert Jackson  
Danny Klittich  
Ohannes Karaoghlanian  
Rachael Laenen  
Stephen Sheldon  
Al Stehly  
Tina Wolferd

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Maddie Cook  
Adam Franscioni  
Enrico Ferro  
Doug O'Hara

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Daryn Miller  
Marty Ordman

**ALTERNATES ABSENT**

Kurt Bantle

**OFFICIALLY PRESENT**

Victoria Carpenter, *USDA*  
Ben Kardokus, *CDFA*

**STAFF PRESENT**

April Aymami  
Zac Benedict  
Alya Hijazi  
Stacia Kierulff  
Ken Melban  
Lori Small  
Terry Splane  
Cristina Wede

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Tim Spann

**ITEM #1 CALL TO ORDER**

**Roll Call/Quorum – Item 1.a.**

Rachael Laenen, CAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. with a quorum present.

**Introductions – Item 1.b.**

April Aymami, CAC director of industry affairs and operations, 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**

Ms. Laenen asked if there was anyone that would like to make a public comment.

Hearing none, she moved to the next agenda item.

**ITEM #3 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**Consider approval of 2025-26 committee appointments – Item 3.A.**

Ms. Laenen presented the 2025-26 committee appointment list on the screen for Board review.

Robert Jackson, CAC Board member, requested to have Ohannes Karaoghlanian added to the Governance Committee.

The Board discussed the committees and the purpose of the Marketing Committee. The census was to keep the 2025-26 Committee Appointments as presented and add Ohannes Karaoghlanian as a member of the Governance Committee.

**ACTION:** *The CAC Board of Directors approves the 2025-26 Committee Appointments as presented with the addition of Ohannes Karaoghlanian to the Governance Committee.*

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***(Jackson/ Karaoghlanian) MSC (Unanimous)***

**MOTION 25-12-19-1**

The 2025-26 Committee Appointments are included in the December 2025 Board Packet and is attached to the permanent copy of these Minutes and identified as EXHIBIT A, Item 3.a.

Ms. Laenen discussed the Avocado Sustainability Advisory and the open member seats available. She asked the Board if anyone would like to volunteer to be a member.

Tina Wolferd, CAC Board member, stated that she was interested in being a member.

Ohannes Karaoghlanian, CAC Board member, stated that he also was interested in being a member.

Hearing no further interested candidates, the following motion was put forward:

**ACTION:**

***The CAC Board of Directors recommends Tina Wolferd and Ohannes Karaoghlanian as California member representatives for the Avocado Sustainability Advisory.***

***(Jackson/ Franscioni) MSC (Unanimous)***

**MOTION 25-12-19-2**

**ITEM # 4 CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Laenen stated there was no need for the Board to go into closed session.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Ms. Laenen adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on March 5, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:  


027280274446944477...  
Stacia Kierulff, CAC Human Resource Manager

I certify that the above is a true statement of the Minutes of December 19, 2025 approved by the CAC Board of Directors on March 5, 2026.

Signed by:  


027280274446944477...  
John Berns, CAC Board Secretary

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

EXHIBIT A December 2025 Board Packet

EXHIBIT B December 19, 2025 Board Meeting AB 2720 Roll Call Vote Tally Summary



**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION**  
**AB 2720 Roll Call Vote Tally Summary**  
*To be attached to the Meeting Minutes*

<b>Meeting Name:</b> <i>California Avocado Commission Regular Board Meeting</i>	<b>Meeting Location:</b> <i>Online - Zoom</i>	<b>Meeting Date:</b> <i>December 19, 2025</i>
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<i>Attendees Who Voted</i>	<u><i>MOTION</i></u> <u><i>25-12-19-1</i></u>	<u><i>MOTION</i></u> <u><i>25-12-19-2</i></u>
Al Stehly	Yea	Yea
Robert Jackson	Yea	Yea
Ohannes Karaoghlanian	Yea	Yea
Tina Wolferd	Yea	Yea
Maureen Cottingham	Yea	Yea
John Berns	Yea	Yea
Rachael Laenen	Did Not Vote	Did Not Vote
Stephen Sheldon	Yea	Yea
Adam Franscioni	Yea	Yea
John Dmytriw	Yea	Yea
Danny Klittich	Yea	Yea
Maddie Cook	Yea	Yea
<b><i>Outcome</i></b>	<b>Unanimous</b>	<b>Unanimous</b>



# AGENDA

## California Avocado Commission Board of Directors Meeting

### Meeting Information

**Date: December 19, 2025**  
**Time: 11:00 a.m.**  
**Location: Hybrid Meeting**

**Physical Meeting Location:**  
Yorba Linda Public Library  
Olinda Conference Room  
4852 Lakeview Avenue  
Yorba Linda, CA, 92886

**Web/Teleconference URL:**  
<https://californiaavocado.zoom.us/j/86010745420?pwd=4btsGcxHXL3yaf51WXKkUZ5yeuHOg.1>  
**Conference Call Number: (669) 900-6833**  
**Meeting ID: 860 1074 5420**  
**Passcode: 771049**

**Meeting materials will be posted online at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at:**  
<https://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/commission/industry-calendar>

### Board Member and Alternate Attendance

**As of Thursday, December 18, 2025, the following individuals have advised the Commission they will participate in this meeting:**

- John Dmytriw, *Member***
- Enrico Ferro, *Alternate***
- Adam Franscioni, *Alternate***
- Ohannes Karaoghlanian, *Member***
- Danny Klittich, *Member***
- Rachael Laenen, *Member***
- Doug O’Hara, *Alternate***
- Stephen Sheldon, *Member***
- Al Stehly, *Member***
- Tina Wolfert, *Member***

Time	Item
11:00 a.m.	<b>1. Call to Order – CAC Chair</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Roll Call/Quorum</li> <li>b. Introductions</li> </ul>

Time	Item
	<p><b>2. Opportunity for Public Comment</b> Persons may address the Board on subjects within the jurisdiction of the Commission.</p> <p><b>3. Items for Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p>a. Consider approval of 2025-26 committee appointments</p> <p><b>4. Closed Session</b></p> <p>a. Closed session regarding pending and/or ongoing litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(e)</p> <p><b>5. Return to open session and announce action taken in closed session, if any.</b></p>
12:00 p.m.	<b>6. Adjourn Meeting</b>

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## Disclosures

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Some agenda items may not be discussed prior to adjournment. Such items will be rescheduled for a subsequent meeting. All meetings of the Commission are open to the public and subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

All agenda items are subject to discussion and possible action.

For information or a request regarding disability-related modification or accommodation for the meeting, please contact April Aymami at 949-341-1955 via email at [aaymami@avocado.org](mailto:aaymami@avocado.org). Such requests should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

This meeting schedule notice and agenda is available on the internet at <https://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/commission/meeting-agendas-minutes> and <http://it.cdfa.ca.gov/igov/postings/detail.aspx?type=Notices>.

Contact April Aymami at [aaymami@avocado.org](mailto:aaymami@avocado.org) or 949-341-1955 if you have any questions.

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## Summary Definition of Conflict of Interest

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Members and alternates are responsible to determine whether they have a conflict of interest and whether to recuse themselves from discussion or vote during a meeting. The following **Summary Definition of Conflict of Interest** may be helpful.

A Commission *member or employee* has a conflict of interest in a decision of the Commission if it is reasonably foreseeable that the decision will have a material effect, financial or otherwise, on the member or employee or a member of his or her immediate family that is distinguishable from its effect on all persons subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

No Commission member or employee shall make, or participate in making, any decision in which he or she knows or should know he or she has a conflict of interest.

No Commission member or employee shall, in any way, use his or her position to influence any decision in which he or she knows or should know he or she has a conflict of interest.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, December 19, 2025**

**EXHIBIT A**

## **BOARD ACTION**

### **ITEM 3.a: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2025-26 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

#### **SUMMARY:**

Under Commission law, CAC has the power to appoint committees composed of both members and non-members of the Commission to advise the Commission in carrying out Chapter 5 of Division 22 of the Food and Agricultural Code. (§67058). During the Board Orientation, it was emphasized that the Board delegates assignments to committees, while retaining final authority on all programs, projects, activities and policies adopted by any committee of the Commission. CAC Bylaws specify:

*The Chairperson of the Commission shall appoint all committee chairpersons and shall appoint all members of each committee after consultation with the committee Chairperson affected. Appointments are subject to approval by the Commission and may be changed from time to time as determined by the Chairperson and concurred in by the Commission. (Article IV, 1.b).*

In addition, the Bylaws allow the Chairperson to appoint committee members from among the Board members and alternates, as well as the industry in general. (Article IV, 1.d).

Chair Rachael Laenen has acted in accordance with the above and appointed Chairs for the following committees. Chair Laenen has conferred with the Committee Chairs regarding committee members. The Hass Avocado Board Avocado Sustainability Advisory member recommendations will be discussed during the meeting.

The attached list for all other committees has been prepared for Board concurrence.

#### **FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

- Not applicable

#### **BOARD OPTIONS:**

- Approve the committee appointments, as recommended by the Chair
- Modify the committee appointments
- Take no action

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

- Staff supports the appointments as proposed

#### **EXHIBITS / ATTACHMENTS:**

- 2025-26 Committee Appointments



## 2025-26 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

<p><b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachael Laenen, Chair</li> <li>• Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Vice Chair</li> <li>• Maureen Cottingham, Treasurer</li> <li>• John Berns, Secretary</li> </ul> <p><b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maureen Cottingham, Chair</li> <li>• John Berns</li> <li>• John Haskett</li> <li>• Jamie Shafer</li> <li>• Al Stehly</li> </ul> <p><b>MARKETING COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doug O’Hara, Chair</li> <li>• John Dmytriw, Index Fresh</li> <li>• Jessica Hunter, Del Rey Avocado</li> <li>• Marty Ordman</li> <li>• Peter Shore, Calavo Growers</li> </ul> <p><b>PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danny Klittich, Chair</li> <li>• Victor Araiza</li> <li>• Allisen Carmichael, PTR Manager Rep</li> <li>• Jason Cole</li> <li>• Jim Davis</li> <li>• Herman Els</li> <li>• Consuelo Fernandez, Brokaw Rep</li> <li>• Darren Haver, University of CA Rep</li> <li>• Leo McGuire</li> <li>• Daryn Miller</li> </ul>	<p><b>GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Al Stehly, Chair</li> <li>• John Haskett</li> <li>• Andy Sheaffer</li> </ul> <p><b>GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert Jackson, Chair</li> <li>• Kurt Bantle</li> <li>• John Berns</li> <li>• Adam Franscioni</li> <li>• Doug O’Hara</li> <li>• Charley Wolk</li> </ul> <p><b>REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rick Shade, Chair</li> <li>• Wayne Brydon</li> <li>• Enrico Ferro</li> <li>• Gabe Filipe</li> <li>• Rob Grether</li> <li>• Stephen Sheldon</li> </ul> <p><b>HASS AVOCADO COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ohannes Karaoghlanian, Member</li> <li>• Tina Wolferd, Alternate</li> </ul> <p><b>HASS AVOCADO BOARD AVOCADO SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be discussed during December 19, 2025 Board meeting</li> </ul>
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**NOTE:** Chair Laenen is an ex-officio member of all CAC committees, task forces and teams