

# AVOCADO THEFT IS A CRIME!

**PUNISHABLE WITH UP TO THREE YEARS IN STATE PRISON AND A FINE UP TO \$10,000.**

**CA PENAL CODE SECTION 487(b).**

Avocado theft is demoralizing to growers, a danger to local communities, and is every one's business.

***The likelihood of avocado theft is greatest during bright nighttime conditions around full moon, when market demand and values are high, and during periods of economic slowdown.***

## PRECAUTIONS

Take steps to secure your property and be especially vigilant during periods when thefts are more likely.

Fence your grove and secure all access roads to make it harder to get into your property and harder to get out with stolen fruit.

Post "**AVOCADO THEFT IS A CRIME**" signs along the road or around the property. Signs are available by request in English and Spanish. Contact Laurie Hill at the Commission: (800) 344-4333, ext. 123.

Provide a visible presence on your property. Be on the alert. Typical avocado theft operations involve small vans or trucks parked in orchards and along roadways that border orchards during late eve-



nings, weekends and after hours. Recently, organized thieves have used larger equipment including boom-trucks and commercial picking bins. Orchards that can be stripped of crop easily, smaller trees, high density plantings, and Lamb Hass variety are often targeted.

## TAKE ACTION

**If you witness a theft in progress call 911 immediately. Do not confront suspects -- they may be dangerous.**

Report any suspicious activity you see in your neighborhood to local law enforcement authorities. If you are a victim of avocado theft, call your local deputy to take a report. It is very important to report these crimes immediately no matter how small. Not only does it inform authorities about your specific incident, it may help to identify a theft pattern.

**For thefts in progress, call 911.**

For non-emergency report of theft or suspicious activity, contact your local sheriff's station:

**Orange County Sheriff**  
(714) 647-7000

**Riverside County Sheriff**  
Riverside West County Sheriff Dispatch  
(951) 776-1099 or (800) 950-2444

**San Diego County:**  
Avocado Theft Prevention: (760) 940-4350 or  
Sheriff Dispatch (858) 565-5200

**San Luis Obispo County Sheriff**  
(805) 781-4550

**Santa Barbara County Sheriff**  
(805) 681-4100  
Carpinteria (805) 684-4561  
After Hours (805) 683-2724

**Tulare County Sheriff**  
(559) 733-6220

**Ventura County Sheriff**  
Major Crimes Unit/ Agricultural Detail  
(805) 477-7029 or Sheriff Dispatch (805) 654-9511

# REWARD OFFERED!

## UP TO US\$5,000 FOR THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN AVOCADO THEFT

The California Avocado Commission (CAC) offers a reward of up to \$5,000, based upon the arrest and conviction of persons engaged in avocado theft. Reward monies are available for individuals who provide information that leads to the arrest and/or the conviction of anyone unlawfully taking, transporting, selling or in possession of California avocados. A reward can be claimed by anyone other than the grove owner or immediate family. Rewards are based on the following guidelines:

CRIME	ARREST/RECOVERY	CONVICTION
Infraction	\$100	\$100
Misdemeanor	\$300	\$300
Felony	\$2500	\$2500

To submit a request for a reward, an applicant must provide the following information: 1. Claimant's full names. 2. Claimant's social security number. 3. Claimant's current mailing address. 4. Names and address of current employer. 5. Copies of all crime incident reports or other law enforcement summaries of the occurrence. These documents must clearly reflect the claimant's involvement and eligibility for a reward, otherwise the claimants should provide the Commission with a letter from the investigating law enforcement agency verifying their involvement and eligibility. REQUESTS SHOULD BE MAILED TO: California Avocado Commission 38 Discovery, Suite 150 Irvine, CA 92618 FAX (949) 341-1970 Copies of the complete reward policy can be obtained from the California Avocado Commission at the above address or call (800) 344-4333, Ext. 123.