



2026 CAC GENERAL ELECTION PRODUCER DISCLOSURE OF AFFILIATIONS

I declare that I am engaged, within this state, in the business of producing or causing to be produced avocados for market through a legal entity (individual ownership, partnership, corporation, or other) which is not also involved in the handling of avocados, and that my **grove** is located in California Avocado Commission District Number ____ (Refer to enclosed **Grove District Zip Code List**)

I **own** the following number of planted avocado acres in California ____ and derive a portion of my gross avocado industry income from producing or causing to be produced avocados. I also have a financial interest in groves located in District(s) _____.

I **manage** the following number of planted avocado acres in California ____ and derive a portion of my gross avocado industry income from producing or causing to be produced avocados. I also have a financial interest in groves located in District(s) _____.

I **pack** my fruit with the following handlers: Calavo ; Index Fresh ; Del Rey ; _____.

In addition, I am also involved in the avocado industry in the following capacities (*check all that apply*):

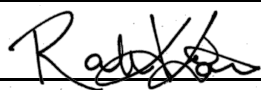
- ___ Handler – Owner/Partner
- ___ Handler – Officer/Director
- ___ Handler – Employee
- ___ Holder of a personal financial interest in the production of avocados outside of the United States.
- ___ Holder of a personal financial interest in a handling operation that imports fruit from outside of the United States.

Please briefly describe that financial interest and specify the location of the out-of-country operation.

I am shareholder of Mission Produce

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a complete, true and correct explanation of each of my affiliations with the avocado industry. I understand that this form may be made available upon request, or reproduced and included with election information mailed to eligible voters.

PRINT NAME: Rachael Laenen

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 7/20/2026

MUST ARRIVE AT CAC ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 17, 2026 VIA EMAIL

EMAIL CACElections@avocado.org



2026 CAC GENERAL ELECTION PRODUCER CANDIDATE STATEMENT

(Please Print or Type All Information)

NAME: Rachael Laenen

GROVE CITY/CITIES: Santa Paula

CAC BOARD SEAT PREFERRED: ☐ MEMBER ☐ ALTERNATE ☐ NO PREFERENCE

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS:

This form will be included with the ballots to inform growers about your qualifications. Please limit your statement to the space provided.

My family has been farming in Ventura County for six generations and growing avocados for more than 100 years. I am passionate about growing safe, healthy avocados in the most sustainable way possible, ensuring the land we steward will continue to support future generations. My commitment to the California avocado industry is rooted in hands-on farming. I am actively involved in every aspect of the operation and management of our ranch - from irrigation scheduling, pest and disease management, nutrition programs, harvesting decisions, and financial management to overseeing employees, equipment, regulatory compliance, and long-term strategic planning. I understand firsthand the realities growers face and know the decisions the Commission makes directly impact my operation just as they do yours.

Since being elected to represent you on the California Avocado Commission Board in 2020, I have had the privilege of serving in a variety of leadership roles, including Vice Chair, Governance Committee Chair, Hass Avocado Board Representative, member of the Succession Planning Task Force and Marketing Committee, and most recently, Board Chair—the first woman ever elected to serve in that role.

I feel strongly it's important to be part of the conversations that shape our industry's future and I strive to be a thoughtful and considered voice in the Boardroom. I am committed to listening to fellow growers, considering diverse perspectives, and making decisions that support the long-term success of California avocado growers.

We are facing increasing challenges—from rising production costs and water availability to labor shortages and foreign competition. These issues require experienced leadership grounded in the realities of farming. While it has been an exceptionally challenging year, the Commission has accomplished a great deal including strategically redirecting our marketing efforts to reinforce our positioning with retailers while working tirelessly to secure meaningful trade relief from the unprecedented volume of imported fruit entering our market. I believe the Commission is vital to our success and I'm committed to being at the table, continuing to ask the difficult questions and making thoughtful decisions that put the California grower first. I would welcome the opportunity to continue representing you for another term and respectfully ask for your support.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a complete, true and correct explanation of my qualifications. I understand that this form shall be reproduced and included with election information mailed to eligible voters.

SIGNATURE: Rachael Laenen DATE: 7/20/2026

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