



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 1 (Refer to enclosed **Grove District Zip Code List**)

I **own** the following number of planted avocado acres in California 20 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 20 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: Eco Farms; Del Rey; _____; _____.

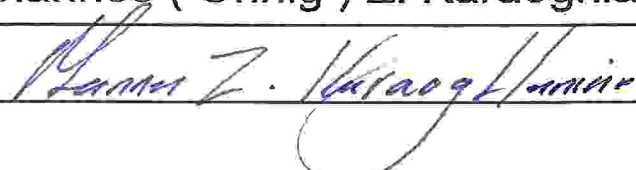
In addition, I am also involved in the avocado industry in the following capacities (*check all that apply*):

- ☐ 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 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: Ohannes (Onnig) Z. Karaoghlanian

SIGNATURE:  DATE: 08 / 12 / 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: Ohannes (Onnig) Z. Karaoghlanian

GROVE CITY/CITIES: Temecula

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.

California avocado growers are confronting two urgent challenges that threaten our ability to compete — and neither has been resolved.

First, USDA rules allow only Hass avocados to enter the United States from Mexico. Yet Mexico's Carmen/Mendez Hass — a look-alike variety not permitted under U.S. import rules and shipped into the U.S. during California's peak harvest season — is difficult to differentiate from true Hass when comingled in commerce. That gap in enforcement allows non-compliant fruit to enter our market unchecked, even as California growers must meet strict CDFA maturity standards and precise variety labeling. The result is an uneven playing field that puts real pressure on our operations and deepens the ongoing confusion surrounding the Carmen/Mendez variety itself.

Second, promotional funding is deeply imbalanced. USDA marketing-fund programs have provided Mexico with many millions more in promotional support than California growers receive. That disparity directly weakens our ability to compete in our own domestic market. If California avocados are to stand on equal footing, this imbalance in USDA-administered advertising support must be corrected.

I've spent nearly 24 years as a California avocado grower and industry board member, and I understand these challenges firsthand. In my current role as CAC Vice Chair, I've worked extensively with USDA, CDFA, Congress, and the California Legislature to elevate grower concerns. I am now leading efforts to close the loophole that allows the Carmen/Mendez Hass to compete against California fruit in the U.S. market. If elected, I will work to ensure that existing import rules are enforced, that the Carmen/Mendez loophole is closed, and that California growers receive a fair and equitable share of promotional funding. My industry experience, business background, and commitment to fairness guide every decision I make — and I will continue advocating in Washington and Sacramento to address these systemic inequities.

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: Ohannes Z. Karaoghlanian DATE: 08 / 12 / 2026

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