

**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
February 16, 2024**

A meeting of the California Avocado Commission (CAC) Executive Committee was held on February 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with the following people present:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Maureen Cottingham  
Rachael Laenen  
Daryn Miller

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ken Melban  
Dave Cruz

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Dan Coxe  
Robert Jackson

**OFFICIALLY PRESENT**

Samantha Mareno, *USDA*  
Dennis Manderfield, *CDFA*

**ITEM #1 CALL TO ORDER**

*Roll Call/Quorum – Item 1.a.*

Rachael Laenen, CAC Board Vice-chair, called the meeting to order 10:06 a.m. and established a quorum.

*Introductions – Item 1.b.*

Ken Melban, CAC vice president 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.

**ITEM # 2 OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ITEM # 3 CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Consider approval of Executive Committee meeting minutes of January 9, 2024 – Item 3.a*

Mr. Melban noted that the meeting minutes had not been distributed prior to the meeting, therefore would be approved at the next Executive Committee meeting.

**ITEM # 4 UPDATE ON THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION**

Updates were tabled until the upcoming February 22 board meeting.

**ITEM #5 CLOSED SESSION REGARDING PENDING AND/OR ONGOING LITIGATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11126(E)**

Ms. Laenen convened a Closed Session of the CAC Executive Committee at 10:25 a.m. with members of the Executive Committee, CDFA representative Dennis Manderfield and CAC's legal counsel George Soares.

**ITEM #6 RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AND ANNOUNCE ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY**

Ms. Laenen returned to open session at 12:00 p.m. and announced that the Committee had taken no action in Closed Session.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Ms. Laenen adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

California Avocado Commission  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

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Ken Melban, CAC Vice President of Industry Affairs and Operations

I certify that the above is a true statement of the minutes of the February 16, 2024, CAC Executive Committee, approved by the CAC Executive Committee on April 4, 2024.

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Daryn Miller, CAC Board Secretary