



AGENDA

California Avocado Commission Production Research Committee Meeting

Meeting Information

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Hybrid Meeting

Physical Meeting Location:

South Coast Research & Extension Center

Annex Building

7601 Irvine Boulevard

Irvine, CA 92618

Web Conference URL:

<https://californiaavocado.zoom.us/j/5375836823?pwd=aURBZ3BELL29tclBRS1ZRY3QrMkhZQT09&omn=85684337673>

Conference Call Number: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 537 583 6823

Passcode: 348652

Meeting materials will be posted online at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at:

<https://www.californiaavocadogrowers.com/commission/meeting-agendas-minutes>

Committee Member Attendance

As of Friday February 2, 2024, the following individuals have advised the Commission they will participate in this meeting:

- Leo McGuire, *PRC Chair*
- John Burr
- Jim Davis
- Jason Cole
- Consuelo Fernandez
- Darren Haver

- Danny Klittich
- Ryan Rochefort

Time	Item
10:00 a.m.	1. Call to Order a. Roll Call/Quorum
10:05 a.m.	2. Opportunity for Public Comment Any person may address the Committee at this time on any subject within the jurisdiction of the California Avocado Commission.
10:10 a.m.	3. Approval of Minutes a. Consider approval of Production Research Committee Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2023
10:15 a.m.	4. Action Items a. Consider request for funding from UC Santa Barbara for salinity research
11:00 a.m.	5. Adjourn Meeting

Disclosures

The times listed for each agenda item are estimated and subject to change. It is possible that some of the agenda items may not be able to be discussed prior to adjournment. Consequently, those items will be rescheduled to appear on a subsequent agenda. All meetings of the California Avocado 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 more information, or to make a request regarding a disability-related modification or accommodation for the meeting, please contact April Aymami at 949-341-1955, California Avocado Commission, 12 Mauchly, Suite L, Irvine, CA 92618, or via email at aaymami@avocado.org. Requests for disability-related modification or accommodation for the meeting should be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting time. For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, audiocassette or computer disk. 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>.

If you have questions on the above agenda, please contact Tim Spann at tim@spannag.org or 423-609-3451.

Summary Definition of Conflict of Interest

It is each member's and alternate's responsibility to determine whether they have a conflict of interest and whether they should excuse themselves from a particular discussion or vote during a meeting. To assist you in this evaluation, 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.

**CALIFORNIA AVOCADO COMMISSION
PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

September 28, 2023

A meeting of the Production Research Committee (PRC) of the California Avocado Commission (CAC) was held on Thursday, September 28, 2023, with the following people participating:

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

Leo McGuire, Chair
John Burr (9:18)
Jason Cole (9:04)
Jim Davis (9:02)
Consuelo Fernandez
Darren Haver
Danny Klittich
Daryn Miller (9:03)
Ryan Rochefort
Rob Grether, *ex officio* (9:35)

CAC STAFF PARTICIPATING:

April Aymami
Ken Melban
Jeff Oberman

OFFICIALLY PARTICIPATING:

Dr. Tim Spann, Spann Ag Research & Consulting

GUESTS PARTICIPATING:

John Berns

CALL TO ORDER

Leo McGuire, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2023 PRODUCTION RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION

To approve the minutes of the May 26, 2023 Production Research Committee meeting as amended.

(Klittich/Davis) MSC Unanimous

Motion 23-9-28-1

RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Spann reminded committee members that a new PRC will be appointed following the seating of the new Board in November and asked the committee members to think about whether they wish to continue serving. Dr. Spann also informed the committee that the final report on the chloride mitigation project had been received from Dr. Liu and would be sent to the committee for their review. Finally, Dr. Spann updated the committee on the status of the Pine Tree Ranch lease renewal process, stating that CAC had just signed another 3-month lease extension to allow Cal Poly time to complete the installation of the variable frequency drive on the well. It is anticipated the work will be completed and a new lease will be signed starting January 1, 2024.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider request for funding for Cal Poly Project #24-044, Avocado Rootstock Trial

Dr. Spann started by reminding the committee that one of the seven rootstock trial sites is on the Cal Poly campus in San Luis Obispo and none of the funding provided to Dr. Manosalva at UC Riverside has been used to support the Cal Poly planting to date. However, the funding that Cal Poly was using to maintain the plot and collect data expired in June 2023 and they are now requesting funds to continue data collection in 2024 and 2025. Discussion ensued and there was general agreement that the Cal Poly site is important to the overall project and maintaining ties with Cal Poly is important as they appear to be the future of applied field research for the avocado industry. Although there was support for the project, there was a strong feeling the cost was too high given the tight budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Dr. Spann informed the committee that Dr. Garner had provided him with budget options and the cost to continue basic data collection was \$33,463 for the next two years (\$16,690 in 2023-24 and \$16,773 in 2024-25).

MOTION

To recommend funding the project with Cal Poly for the reduced amount of \$33,463 for two years.

(Cole/Davis) MSC Unanimous

Motion 23-9-28-2

B. Reconsider request for funding for project “Characterization and Management of Avocado Branch Canker Disease and Post-Harvest Decay Rots in Avocado Production in California”

Dr. Spann began by reminding the committee that they had reviewed this proposal from Dr. Fatemeh Khodadadi at their previous meeting and recommended it for funding. However, a decision on funding was tabled by the Board and, given the new information about the budget for 2023-24, the committee was being asked to reconsider the proposal. There was general consensus among the committee that supporting Dr.

Khodadadi, a new faculty member, was to the industry's benefit to ensure her support in the future if a critical issue arises. Additionally, there was general agreement that avocado branch canker (ABC) is a serious issue throughout the industry. However, at the present time the industry does not know how much, if any, yield is lost to branch canker and what the appropriate investment should be. There was general agreement that, given current budget constraints, the current proposal's scope and budget are beyond what can be supported. The committee agreed there would be value in meeting in the future with Dr. Khodadadi as well as Dr. Michailides, who worked on ABC prior to Dr. Khodadadi's hiring, to discuss a more paired down study to answer specific questions that the committee feels are important and that placeholder funding should be earmarked in the budget for such a project.

MOTION

To recommend \$30,000 of placeholder funding in the 2023-24 budget for ABC research dependent on the committee meeting with Dr. Khodadadi to define the scope of a project and a new proposal being submitted.

(Klittich/Cole) MSC – Vote Tally: Yea7, Nay 1

Motion 23-9-28-3

C. Consider a policy on overhead costs for research projects

Dr. Spann began the discussion by reminding the committee that there has been a longstanding agreement between the commodity boards in California and the UC system that exempts the commodity boards from paying overhead on research grants to the University. However, while Dr. Garner was developing her proposal for rootstock trial funding, it was found that no such agreement exists with the California State University (CSU) system. To avoid paying overhead, the CSU system asked to see CAC's official policy stating that CAC does not pay overhead, but no such policy exists. Discussion ensued and there was general agreement that such a policy should be developed.

MOTION

To recommend CAC staff develop a no overhead payment policy for the Board's consideration.

(Cole/Klittich) MSC Unanimous

Motion 23-9-28-4

ADJOURN MEETING

Leo McGuire, Production Research Committee (PRC) Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Spann

EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT COPY OF THESE MINUTES

- EXHIBIT A September 28, 2023 Production Research Committee AB 2720 Roll Call
Vote Tally Summary
- EXHIBIT B Proposal Cal Poly Project #24-044, Avocado Rootstock Trial
- EXHIBIT C Proposal Characterization and Management of Avocado Branch Canker
Disease and Post-Harvest Decay Rots in Avocado Production in California