



2023 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 3 (Refer to enclosed Grove District Zip Code List)

I own the following number of planted avocado acres in California 70 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) n/a.

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) n/a.

I pack my fruit with the following handlers: Index Fresh; ; ; .

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: James Shafer

SIGNATURE: [Handwritten Signature]

DATE: 8/28/2023

MUST ARRIVE AT CAC ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 28, 2023 VIA MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL

12 Mauchly, Suite L, Irvine, CA 92618-6305

FAX: (949) 208-3503 EMAIL AAYMAMI@AVOCADO.ORG



2023 CAC GENERAL ELECTION
PRODUCER CANDIDATE STATEMENT

(Please Print or Type All Information)

NAME: James Shafer

GROVE CITY/CITIES: Saticoy

CAC BOARD SEAT PREFERRED: [] MEMBER [x] 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.

I've spent the last two months serving as the D3 Alternate Board Member. I've leveraged my past consulting, venture, and farming experience to add value to both the strategic planning and industry affairs task force over the past few months at CAC. I'm very excited to continue serving the interests of D3 growers for another 2 years at the California Avocado Commission. My current responsibilities primarily include financial planning and analysis at our family-managed lemon and avocado ranch in Saticoy, CA.

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.

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I own the following number of planted avocado acres in California: 42, 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) 2.

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: Mission Produce; 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.

Blank lines for describing financial interest and location of 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: John Berns

SIGNATURE: [Handwritten Signature] DATE: 8/25/23

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2023 CAC GENERAL ELECTION PRODUCER CANDIDATE STATEMENT

(Please Print or Type All Information)

NAME: John Berns

GROVE CITY/CITIES: Moorpark

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.

Our profits and ability to sustain our farming operations are threatened by higher expenses and increased competition from foreign imports. I am running for the Board because I believe we can no longer support CAC conducting business as usual. CAC needs to be more pro-active, assertive, and innovative in working to represent California avocado growers. We need to push the marketing envelope and think outside the box to ensure our continued and future profitability. My votes will have the growers' best interest in mind, as I am not affiliated with, or own any interest in an avocado import packing house. I have 20 years of experience owning and managing 42 acres of avocados. Additionally, I have 36 years of leadership and management experience from a career in public education as a High School Principal and in aerospace procurement management. I am currently a Director on my mutual water board. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from UC Riverside and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from CSU Los Angeles. Vote for me to advocate for you and hold CAC accountable to pursue the actions and initiatives that will support and preserve our hard work and lifestyles.

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: _____

John Berns

DATE: _____

8/25/23

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I own the following number of planted avocado acres in California 11 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 525 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: Index Fresh; ; ;

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.

Shareholder of Index Fresh, which imports avocados from Mexico, Peru, Chile, and Colombia

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: Robert Grether

SIGNATURE: [Handwritten Signature]

DATE: August 28, 2023

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2023 CAC GENERAL ELECTION PRODUCER CANDIDATE STATEMENT

(Please Print or Type All Information)

NAME: Robert Grether

GROVE CITY/CITIES: Somis

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.*

For the past 12 years, it has been my honor to serve on the CAC board and to support the work it does on behalf of California’s commercial avocado growers. Over this period, domestic avocado consumption has exploded and global planted acreage has doubled to 1.2 million acres. As this acreage matures, we are likely to enter a prolonged period of excess global supply unless global consumption accelerates. Some California avocado growers advocate that CAC should be their champion for protectionist trade policies to curb imports with the hope that limited supply will drive prices to the exorbitant levels necessary to offset their unsustainable input costs and/or dismal productivity. These growers—most of whom I suspect advocate for Free-Trade! of all other goods and services—would have CAC pursue a trade action despite millions in legal expense, the very low likelihood of success, and the huge risks associated with a failed action. Inexplicably, these growers will cite insatiable demand and pop culture avocado obsession as evidence that consumers will pay \$5 an avocado, but never that the marketing investment by CAC or that year-round availability has had a positive effect. Don’t allow these growers to derail the thoughtful, efficient, and impactful work CAC had done and can continue to do for California’s commercial growers. I would be grateful for your support in this election so I can continue to help this organization identify and execute viable industry initiatives, craft impactful and cost-effective marketing programs, and defend our groves against destructive pests and diseases and our industry against unreasonable regulations and devastating legislation.

- CAC Board Chair, 2020 – Present; CAC Treasurer, 2017 – 2020

- MBA, Duke; BA Economics, Tulane; Class 42, Calif. Ag Leadership Program; 5th gen Calif. farmer

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