OLIVE OIL COMMISSION OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Olive Oil Commission of California
2565 Alluvial Ave., Suite 152
Clovis, CA 93611

Zoom Information
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85434504422

M I N U T E S

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Jackie Kennedy called the meeting of the OOCC Board of Directors to order at 10:03 a.m. The following Board Members were in attendance:

i. Roll Call

Jackie KENNEDY*	-	Kennedy Ranch
Adam ENGLEHARDT	-	Alta California Olive Partner
Larry MABEN*	-	Maben Farms
Derek CRESSMAN	-	The Green Olive Branch
Matt LOHSE*	-	Big W Ranch
Mikayla GNOSS	-	Capay Valley Ranches
Conor CHURCHIN*	-	Cobram Estate Olives
Jeff CHARTER	-	Jeff Charter Farming
Frank OLAGARAY*	-	Blossom Vineyards
Jeff COLOMBINI*	-	Lodi Farming
Mary MORI*	-	California Olive Ranch
Brittany FAGUNDES	-	California Olive Ranch
Leandro RAVETTI*	-	Cobram Estate Olives
Andy GNOSS	-	G&S Milling
Cliff LITTLE*	-	Corto Olive
Jonathan SCIABICA	-	Sciabica Family California
Clint SMITH*	-	GCI Insurance Brokers
Mark SIEVERS*	-	II. Fiorello Olive Oil Company
Rick BENSON	-	Desert Milling

STAFF:

Todd SANDERS	-	Olive Oil Commission of California
Mary MCDONNELL	-	Olive Oil Commission of California
Ethan CRANMER	-	Olive Oil Commission of California
Janette RAMOS	-	Olive Oil Commission of California

GUESTS

Dennis MANDERFIELD	-	CDFA
Laurel RUDOLPH	-	CDFA
Ann GROTTVEIT	-	Kahn, Soares & Conway
Selina WANG	-	UC Davis
Chris CALVERT	-	Ciarlo Fruit & Nut
David GARCI-AGUIRRE	-	Corto Olive0
Chris STEELE	-	Capay Valley Ranches
RUE MURPHY	-	AgriLogic
Kim HARRIS	-	AgriLogic
Alexandra KICENIK DEVARENNE	-	CalAthena
Kimberly HOULDING	-	AOOPA

*Denotes voting members for the Committee

ii. Establish Quorum

With the appropriate number of Directors from producers and handlers present, a quorum was established.

iii. Approval of the Minutes – ACTION

The minutes of the June 23, 2026, meeting was presented to the Board for approval.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LITTLE, and unanimously carried THAT the minutes of June 23, 2026, be approved as presented. (MOTION 9-15-26 #1)**

II. CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS

No comment

III. COMMITTEE ROSTERS FOR 2026-2027 FY

The OOCC Executive Committee reviewed each committee and working group roster. The following include the updated rosters for each committee and working group.

1. Grades and Standards Committee

Mari Mori – Chairwoman	Chris Calvert
Bruce Golino	Natalie Ruiz
Jon Sciabica	Selina Wang
David Garci-Aguirre	

2. Research Committee

Matt Lohse – Chairman	Charles Brannon
Brittany Fagundes	Larry Maben
Adam Englehardt	Brandon Sargent
Paul Busalacchi	Randy Post
Leandro Ravetti	

3. Pest Quarantine Working Group

Matt Lohse	Vincent Ricchiuti
Andy Gnoss	Randy Post
Adam Englehardt	Leandro Ravetti
Paul Busalacchi	

4. Off the Shelf Working Group (*grower led*)

Matt Lohse	Cliff Little
Jeff Colombini	Frank Olagaray
Jackie Kennedy	Leandro Ravetti
Dino Del Carlo	Jaime Howe

IV. GRADES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

i. Sampling Program Update

The OOCC Annual Sampling Program is beginning to ramp up as the new season gets underway. Staff have started handler outreach for this year's program and have also begun working individually with toll processors to better understand their operations and determine the appropriate timing and process for sampling.
The key program dates remain consistent with previous years, and updated forms were developed to help streamline the process.

ii. Ring Test Update

UC Davis began the 2026–2027 OOCC Ring Test for Fat and Moisture Content in Olives the week of August 10. This year, the Ring Test has 10 participants, an increase from last year. Round 1 has concluded, with four participants using the official method and seven participants using the secondary method (NIR). Round 1 has been completed and round 2 will begin shortly. UC Davis will continue to provide the OOCC updates as the project progresses.

V. RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Each year the Research Committee funds research projects and requests progress reports from researchers. Land IQ's report will be submitted in December. Sudan Gyawaly and Jhalendra Rijal, UCANR, will be submitting a proposal to the OOCC Research Committee in early November focusing on phenological studies using traps.

2026-2027 RESEARCH PROJECTS

Researcher	Project	Amount
Joel Kimmelshue	Land IQ Acreage	$28,000
	Contingency Fund	$50,000
	Total	**$78,000**

VI. CROP INSURANCE UPDATE

Kim Harris with AgriLogic has informed the AOOPA Crop Insurance Task Force that Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Yuba, and Imperial counties have been approved for crop insurance coverage beginning in 2027. The Task Force will continue efforts to expand coverage into additional counties, with San Benito County identified as the next priority. The development of Optional Units remains the Task Force's most important overall priority moving forward.

VII. OLIVE OIL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The Olive Oil Conference will be held March 17–19, 2027, at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. The goal is to have the conference website up and running by the end of October or early November, and Sponsorship packages have been distributed.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

i. Olive Oil Research and Promotion Board Update

The Proposed Olive Oil Research and Promotion Program was submitted in December 2024. The program is to maintain and expand markets by funding promotion, research, and information initiatives aimed at increasing consumption, developing new markets, improving market efficiency, and enhancing the image of olive oil in the United States. As of August 26, 20206, AMS has not received the requested edits from NAOOA about the Proposed Research and Promotion Board. Although there is word that NAOOA started their lobbying efforts, they have not resubmitted anything to AMS.

ii. SB 54 and 343 Update

SB 54 Litigation and Compliance Update

On March 4, 2026, the OOCC Board of Directors held a special meeting and voted to join coalition litigation related to California's single-use packaging laws, including issues associated with SB 54 and SB 343.

iii. Legislative Language - ACTION

Staff and KSC presented the final legislative language changes, which included the following:

1. Dissolution of the Advisory Committee

The Board discussed the Advisory Committee with a unanimous decision to eliminate this committee. The Advisory Committee will no longer be on the board, but may still attend board meetings. A member of the Advisory Committee may still be appointed to the board in an ex officio capacity.

- **MOVED by RAVETTI, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors voted, and approved the dissolution of the OOCC Advisory Committee. (MOTION 9-15-26 #2)**

2. Adjusting the Commission's Marketing Year

The Board discussed changing the OOCC Marketing Year from June 1 to June 30th to January 1st to December 31st.

- **MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by RAVETTI, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors approve to change the Marketing Year from June 1st to June 30th to January 1st to December 31st. (MOTION 9-15-26 #3)**

3. Add Marketing to the Commission Law

To promote the sale of olive oil by advertising and any other promotional means, including cost-sharing advertising, for the purpose of maintaining and expanding present markets and creating new and larger intrastate, interstate, and foreign markets for olive oil, and to educate and instruct the public with respect to the uses, healthful properties, and nutritional value of olive oil.

- **MOVED by RAVETTI, duly seconded by LITTLE, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors approve to add Marketing into the Commission Law. (MOTION 9-15-26 #4)**

4. Olive Oil Marketing Research Information Center (OOMRIC)
Add to OOMRIC Powers and Duties Article to allow commission to conduct olive oil data collection.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors approve to have the Olive Oil Marketing Research Information Center (OOMRIC) added to the Olive Oil Commission Law. (MOTION 9-15-26 #5)**

5. Health and Safety Code Adjustments
Any olive oil refined-olive oil , pomace-olive oil, and refined olive-pomace oil produced, processed, sold, offered for sale or given away, and derive3d from olives grown in California, shall comply with said Grade and Labeling Standards.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors approve to have the proposed changes to the Grade and Labeling Standards language. (MOTION 9-15-26 #6)**

IX. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Todd Sanders presented to the Board the following:

i. Balance Sheet
ii. Profit & Loss

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kimberly Houlding of the American Olive Oil Producers Association, (AOOPA) is hosting an Integrative Pest Management Field Day on September 25, 2026. The location will be at the River Grove Ranch, in Dos Palos, CA.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

No Action Taken

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

OOCC In-Person Strategic Planning Session in Lodi, CA – January 27-28, 2027.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Jackie Kennedy adjourned the meeting of the OOCC Board of Directors at 11:08 a.m.

Todd W. Sanders
Executive Director
Olive Oil Commission of California

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

MOTION 9-15-26 #1 APPROVED

MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LITTLE, and unanimously carried THAT the minutes of June 23, 2026, be approved as presented.

MOTION 9-15-26 #2 APPROVED

MOVED by RAVETTI, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors voted, and approved the dissolution of the OOCC Advisory Committee.

MOTION 9-15-26 #3 APPROVED

MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by RAVETTI, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors approve to change the Marketing Year from June 1st to June 30th to January 1st to December 31st.

MOTION 9-15-26 #4 APPROVED

MOVED by RAVETTI, duly seconded by LITTLE, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors approve to add Marketing into the Commission Law.

MOTION 9-15-26 #5 APPROVED

MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors approve to have the Olive Oil Marketing Research Information Center (OOMRIC) added to the Olive Oil Commission Law.

MOTION 9-15-26 #6 APPROVED

MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the OOCC Board of Directors approve to have the proposed changes to the Grade and Labeling Standards language.