OLIVE OIL COMMISSION OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TUESDAY
JUNE 23, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Robert Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue
Stockton, CA 95206

Zoom Information
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88250368505

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 10:35 a.m. The following Board Members were in attendance:

i. Roll Call

Jackie KENNEDY*	-	Kennedy Ranch
Larry MABEN*	-	Maben Farms
Matt LOHSE*	-	Big W Ranch
Conor CHURCHIN*	-	Cobram Estate Olives
Jeff CHARTER	-	Jeff Charter Farming
Frank OLAGARAY*	-	Blossom Vineyards
Jeff COLOMBINI*	-	Lodi Farming
Mary MORI*	-	California Olive Ranch
Leandro RAVETTI*	-	Cobram Estate Olives
Bruce GOLINO*	-	OOCC
Mark SIEVERS*	-	II. Fiorello Olive Oil Company

STAFF:

Todd SANDERS	-	Olive Oil Commission of California
Michelle BORGES	-	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
Georgia DILL	-	Olive Oil Commission of California

GUESTS

Dennis MANDERFIELD	-	CDFA
Ann GROTTVEIT	-	Kahn, Soares & Conway

Adam ENGLEHARDT	-	Alta California Olive Partner
Joel CROWTHER	-	Land IQ
Joel KIMMELSHUE	-	Land IQ
Chris CALVERT	-	Ciarlo Fruit & Nut
Xueqi (Shirley) LI	-	UC Davis
Rick BENSON	-	Desert Milling
Clint SMITH	-	GCI Insurance Brokers
George BORBA	-	Prima Olive Branch
Derek CRESSMAN	-	The Green Olive Branch
Brent LEISHMAN	-	Circle G Ranch
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 March 20, 2026, meeting was presented to the Board for approval.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by MORI, and unanimously carried THAT the minutes of March 20, 2026, be approved as presented. (MOTION 6-23-26 #1)**

II. CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairwoman Jackie Kennedy discussed she would like everyone to be engaged and have good conversations. If you are part of the committee, she would appreciate that you keep active within that committee, and making sure you are proactive at being an involved grower representative.

III. SEATING OF THE NEW BOARD

The Olive Oil Commission of California, in coordination with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, has finalized elections for 2026. The following individuals were voted in and elected to serve on the OOCC Board of Directors:

Producer Representatives
District 1
• Jackie Kennedy – Producer Member
• Adam Englehardt – Producer Alternate
District 2
• Matt Lohse – Producer Member
• Mikayla Gnoss – Producer Alternate
District 3
• Frank Olagaray – Producer Member
• George Borba – Producer Alternate
Handler Representative
District 1
• Mary Mori – Handler Member

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

i. Appointment of Public Members - ACTION

The OOCC Board of Directors must appoint a Public Member and Public Alternate. The three individuals notified the commission of their interest in serving.

1. Bruce Golino – Current Public Member
2. Clint Smith – GCI Insurance Brokers
3. Cliff Beumel – Agromillora California Nursery

The Board discussed all three individuals, and proceeded to move to a roll call vote. Clint Smith had the highest vote count for Public Member, and the second highest was Bruce Golino for Public Alternate Member.

- **MOVED by MORI, duly seconded by COLOMBINI, and carried THAT the Board of Directors approve Clint Smith as Public Member, and Bruce Golino as Public Alternate Member. (MOTION 6-23-26 #2)**

ii. Appointment of Advisory Board Representative - ACTION

The Board discussed the reappointment of Mark Sievers and the alternate vacancy on Advisory Board.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by COLOMBINI, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors reappoint Mark Sievers and appoint John "Rick' Benson as Advisory Board Alternate. (MOTION 6-23-26 #3)**

iii. Consideration of Handler Vacancy - ACTION

Each handler may have only one representative elected through the balloting process for each position. Because California Olive Ranch is the only handler in District 1, the District 1 Handler Alternate position remains vacant following the election. In the past, the Board has voted to fill this vacancy by appointing an additional representative from California Olive Ranch.

District 1 Handler Alternate Member – Vacancy

- **MOVED by MORI, duly seconded by MABEN, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the nomination, and appoint Brittney Fagundes for Handler Alternate Member for District 1. (MOTION 6-23-26 #4)**

District 1 Producer Alternate Member – Vacancy – ACTION

The Board discussed appointing a Producer Alternate Member for District 1.

- **MOVED by LOHSE, duly seconded by MORI, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the nomination and appoint Derek Cressman for Producer Alternate Member for District 1. (MOTION 6-23-26 #5)**

iv. Election of Officers – ACTION

The OOCC Board of Directors must appoint officers for the 2026-2027 term. The Board may choose to reappoint the current officers or elect new officers to serve in the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. The current officer roster is listed below.

- Chair: Jackie Kennedy
- Vice Chair: Leandro Ravetti
- Treasurer/Secretary: Jeff Colombini

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve Jackie Kennedy as Chairwoman, Leandro Ravetti as Vice-Chairman, and Jeff Colombini as Treasurer/Secretary. (MOTION 6-23-26 #6)**

v. 2026-2027 Board of Directors - ACTION

District 1 Producers

Member	Alternate
Jackie Kennedy	Adam Englehardt
Larry Maben	Derek Cressman

District 2 Producers

Member	Alternate
Matt Lohse	Mikayla Gnoss
Conor Churchin	Jeff Charter

District 3 Producers

Member	Alternate
Frank Olagaray	George Borba
Jeff Colombini	Marco Bussolotto

District 1 – Handler

Member	Alternate
Mary Mori	Brittany Fagundes

District 2 - Handler

Leandro Ravetti	Andy Gnoss

District 3 – Handler

Cliff Little	Jonathan Sciabica

Public Member	**Public Alternate Member**
Clint Smith	Bruce Golino

Advisory Board

Member	Alternate
Mark Sievers	John “Rick” Benson

- **MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by KENNEDY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the 2026-2027 election results as presented . (MOTION 6-23-26 #7)**

V. GRADE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

i. 2025-2026 Evaluation of Mandatory Testing Final Report

The 2025/2026 OOCC Mandatory Testing Program has concluded. Shirley Li provided an overview of the 2025/2026 evaluation, summarize key findings from the annual report, and discussed the overall project with the Board.

ii. 2025-2026 Ring Test Final Report

Xueqi Li presented the final report for the 2025/2026 Ring Test of Fat and Moisture Content in Olives — A Multi-Laboratory Proficiency Test. The report was prepared by Xueqi Li and Selina Wang at the University of California, Davis.

iii. Approval of 2026-2027 Grades and Standards Projects - ACTION

The OOCC Board of Directors discussed funding for the Ring Test of Fat and Moisture Content in Olives and approve funding for the 2026-2027 Evaluation of Mandatory Testing for California Olive Oil. The proposed cost submitted by UC Davis, is $46,800.

2026-2027 GRADES AND STANDARDS PROJECTS

	Researcher	Project	Amount
1	Principal Researcher: Dr. Selina Wang Cooperating Personnel: Xueqi (Shirley) Li	Ring test of fat and moisture content in olives-a multi-laboratory proficiency test	$26,000
2	Principal Researcher: Dr. Selina Wang Cooperating Personne: Xueqi (Shirley) Li	Evaluation of mandatory testing for California olive oil 2026-2027	$20,800
		Total	$46,800

- **MOVED by OLAGARAY, duly seconded by MABEN, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve to fund the two proposals of Dr. Selina Wang's research project for the $46,800. (MOTION 6-23-26 #8)**

iv. Approval of 2026-2027 Grades and Labeling Standards – ACTION

The Board of Directors reviewed the drafted changes made to the 2026-2027 Grades and Labeling Standards.

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the drafted changes made to the 2026-2027 Grades and Labeling Standards. (MOTION 6-23-26 #9)**

v. Legislative language – ACTION

In 2024, the OOCC Board of Directors discussed revisiting and adjusting the standard for olive oil. OOCC staff and KSC worked on legislative language to allow for the grade standards to be determined by CDFA, as recommended by the commission, rather than US Federal Standards.

HSC Section 113877: Olive oil grades

a. "…quality, purity, labeling standards for extra virgin olive oil are otherwise established by the Department of Food and Agriculture in the 'Grade and Labeling Standards for Olive Oil, Refined-Olive Oil, and Olive-Pomace Oil…"
OMRIC: Add to the Powers and Duties Article to allow the commission to conduct olive oil data collection.

The OOCC Executive Committee**:**
• Adjusts the Commission's Marketing Year: January 1 to December 31
• Add Marketing into the Commission Law
• Remove OOCC Advisory Committee

- **MOVED by RAVETTI, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the OOCC staff, and Kahn, Soares & Conway work on the legislative language and bring it back to the board at the September meeting. (MOTION 6-23-26 #10)**

VI. RESEARCH COMMITTEE

i. Review of 2025-2026 Research Projects

All funded research projects submitted final reports to the Commission.

2025-2026 RESEARCH PROJECTS

Researcher	Project	Amount
Jim Adaskaveg	Epidemiology and Management of Olive Knot Caused by Pseudomonas Savastanoi pv. Savastonoi	$7,500
Joel Kimmelshue	Land IQ Acreage	$34,700
Becky Wheeler-Dykes	Developing an Understanding of Sap Analysis for Nutrient Management in Olives Grown for Oil	$21,320.4
	Total	$63,520.4

ii Approval of 2026-2027 Research Proposals – ACTION

An estimated budget of $78,000 is proposed based on the submitted projects.

2026-2027 RESEARCH PROJECTS

Researcher	Project	Amount
Joel Kimmelshue	Land IQ Acreage and Mapping	$28,000
	Miscellaneous Research	$50,000
	Total *budget estimate; actual budget pending on results	$78,000

- **MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by KENNEDY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board approve and fund Joel Kimmelshue research project for $28,000, and approve the Miscellaneous Research for $50,000 for a total of $78,000. (MOTION 6-23-26 #11)**

iii. Pest Quarantine Working Group

In June 2025, the Research Committee recommended, with the Board's approval, the establishment of a crisis working group focused on pests and quarantines, composed of three growers and three millers. The group has since met and developed a strategic plan to provide clear guidelines and response protocols should any situation arise.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

i. Strategic Plan - ACTION

The OOCC Executive Committee chose Agralytica as its strategic planning consulting company. Agralytica proposes a highly structured, stakeholder-driven strategic planning process built around document review, stakeholder engagement, market analysis, facilitated workshops, and development of strategic initiatives. Their team has conducted strategic planning for organizations, including the California Walnut Commission, California Dried Plum Board, Food Export USA, National Pork Board, Cattlemen's Beef Board, and numerous USDA cooperators.

- **MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board approve a $40,000 budget for the approval of Agralytica as its strategic planning consulting company. (MOTION 6-23-26 #12)**

ii. Off-The-Shelf Testing Project Discussion - ACTION

The Executive Committee recently discussed the potential implementation of an off-the-shelf testing program for the upcoming season. Following that discussion, the OOCC reached out to the University of California, Davis for additional information. The Executive Committee discussed establishing a $100,000 contingency fund in the budget to support this project if approved by the Board.

- **MOVED by OLAGARAY, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board allocate up to $200,000 for Off-The-Shelf Testing Project by Selina Wang, UC Davis, and instruct staff to acquire a proposal first. (MOTION 6-23-26 #13)**

iii. Market Access Grant Program - ACTION

Through the Market Access Program (MAP), the Foreign Agriculture Service partners with U.S. agricultural trade associations, cooperatives, state regional trade groups, and small businesses to share the costs of overseas marketing and promotional activities. The OOCC would like to submit a Market Access Program (MAP) Grant through the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association to start market assessments in the following markets: Japan, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates.

- **MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by RAVETTI, and unanimously carried THAT the Board approve and allocate $10,000, for the Market Access Grant Program. (MOTION 6-23-26 #14)**

VIII. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

i. SB 54/SB 343

<u>SB 54 and SB 343 Litigation</u>

On March 4, 2026, the OOCC Board of Directors had a special meeting to vote to join the litigation regarding all of the single-use packaging that must be recyclable/compostable by 2032 to meet the requirements of SB 54.

SB 54 establishes a new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program that requires producers selling single-use packaged products (covered material) into California to fund

and meet statewide recycling and plastic-reduction targets. Producers must register within 30 days of the regulation's effective date, May 1, 2026. Registration and data submission are due June 1, 2026. The first producer fees will be assessed soon after registration.

ii Proposed Research and Promotion Board

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. During the week of June 8-12, 2026, OOCC staff and Jackie and Adam Kennedy traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with Congress and USDA regarding the Proposed Research and Promotion Board.

IX. OLIVE OIL CONFERENCE DISCUSSION

Staff discussed the Annual Olive Oil Conference for March 17-19, 2027. The Conference will be held in Clovis, CA., at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District.

X. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Todd Sanders presented to the Board the following:

i. Balance Sheet
ii. Profit & Loss
iii. Approval of the 2026-2027 Budget – ACTION

- **MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the board approve the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget. (MOTION 6-23-26 #15)**

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Jackie Kennedy adjourned the meeting of the OOCC Board of Directors at 1:07 p.m.

_____

Todd W. Sanders
Executive Director
Olive Oil Commission of California

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS FOR JUNE 23, 2026

MOTION 6-23-26 #1 APPROVED

MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by MORI, and unanimously carried THAT the minutes of March 20, 2026, be approved as presented.

MOTION 6-23-26 #2 APPROVED

MOVED by MORI, duly seconded by COLOMBINI, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve Clint Smith as Public Member, and Bruce Golino as Public Alternate Member.

MOTION 6-23-26 #3 APPROVED

MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by COLOMBINI, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors reappoint Mark Sievers and appoint John "Rick' Benson as Advisory Board Alternate.

MOTION 6-23-26 #4 APPROVED

MOVED by MORI, duly seconded by MABEN, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the nomination, and appoint Brittney Fagundes for Handler Alternate Member for District 1.

MOTION 6-23-26 #5 APPROVED

MOVED by LOHSE, duly seconded by MORI, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the nomination and appoint Derek Cressman for Producer Alternate Member for District 1.

MOTION 6-23-26 #6 APPROVED

MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve Jackie Kennedy as Chairwoman, Leandro Ravetti as Vice-Chairman, and Jeff Colombini as Treasurer/Secretary.

MOTION 6-23-26 #7 APPROVED

MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by KENNEDY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the 2026-2027 election results as presented .

MOTION 6-23-26 #8 APPROVED

MOVED by OLAGARAY, duly seconded by MABEN, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve to fund the two proposals of Dr. Selina Wang's research project for the $46,800.

MOTION 6-23-26 #9 APPROVED

MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the drafted changes made to the 2026-2027 Grades and Labeling Standards.

MOTION 6-23-26 #10 APPROVED

MOVED by RAVETTI, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board of Directors approve the OOCC staff and Kahn, Soares & Conway work on the legislative language and bring it back to the board at the September meeting.

MOTION 6-23-26 #11 APPROVED

MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by KENNEDY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board approve and fund Joel Kimmelshue research project for $28,000, and approve the Miscellaneous Research for $50,000 for a total of $78,000.

MOTION 6-23-26 #12 APPROVED

MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the Board approve a $40,000 budget for the approval of Agralytica as its strategic planning consulting company.

MOTION 6-23-26 #13 APPROVED

MOVED by OLAGARAY, duly seconded by LOHSE, and unanimously carried THAT the Board allocate up to $200,000 for Off-The-Shelf Testing Project by Selina Wang, UC Davis, and instruct staff to acquire a proposal first.

MOTION 6-23-26 #14 APPROVED

MOVED by COLOMBINI, duly seconded by RAVETTI, and unanimously carried THAT the Board approve and allocate $10,000, for the Market Access Grant Program.

MOTION 6-23-26 #15 APPROVED

MOVED by MABEN, duly seconded by OLAGARAY, and unanimously carried THAT the board approve the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget.