

MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

Location: California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street – Main Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
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MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2018

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron	Joy Sterling	Bryce Lundberg
Nancy Casady	Martha Montoya	Ashley Boren
Frank Muller	Donald Bransford	Mike Gallo

Absent:

Eric Holst	Rachelle Arizmendi	Helene Dillard
Crystal Hayling	Jeff Huckaby	Andy Thulin

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Nancy Casady moved to approve the minutes of the May 1st Board meeting. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote (8-0). Board member Ashley Boren was not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included a status report on the continuing investigation related to E. coli in romaine lettuce originating from Arizona. As a result of the outbreak a Leafy Green Food Safety Task Force has been established to assess and address issues associated with the outbreak. Other updates included additional Huanglongbing (HLB) finds in backyard citrus; ongoing budget discussions and a reminder that California fair season has started.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – USDA Farm Service Agency

The Board heard a presentation from the state executive director for the USDA Farm Service Agency on the agencies work and future plans for the coming years.

Speaker:

- Aubrey Bettencourt, USDA Farm Service Agency

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – USDA Rural Development (Broadband)

The Board heard from a representative from USDA Rural Development on federal initiatives/programs to expand broadband connectivity within California.

Speaker:

- Robert Tse, USDA Rural Development

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Rural Broadband

The Board heard from a representative of the Rural County Representatives of California on issues related to broadband and rural communities.

Speaker:

- Greg Norton, Rural County Representatives of California

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

The Board heard from representatives from the CPUC on broadband access within the Central Valley.

Speakers included:

- Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, CPUC
- Robert Wullenjohn, CPUC

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) BREAK

(10) PANEL DISCUSSION– Broadband Perspectives

The Board heard from national media representatives that have covered broadband issues in rural agricultural communities on common issues they have observed.

Speakers included:

- Kaleigh Rogers, Motherboard – Vice Magazine (via Skype)
- Sam Bloch, New Food Economy (via Skype)

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) PANEL DISCUSSION– Broadband: Options at the State Level

The Board heard from representatives of a non-profit corporation and a stakeholder group concerning state level options related to broadband.

Speakers included

- Sunne Wright McPeak, California Emerging Technology Fund
- Robert Gore, Ag Tech Roundtable

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(12) OTHER BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following issues:

- STAFF DRAFT letter – USDA/USTR (trade)
- STAFF DRAFT letter – SB 623 (support)
- STAFF DRAFT letter – Governor (trade)

After Board discussion and a preliminary motion to approve all STAFF DRAFT letter in one motion, it was determined to consider each STAFF DRAFT letter individually.

MOTION: Board member Joy Sterling moved that the Board approve the STAFF DRAFT letters on an individual vote. Board member Martha Montoya seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote (9-0).

VOTE: (APPROVED) STAFF DRAFT letter – USDA/USTR (trade)

PASS: (9-0)

Ayes: Boren, Bransford, Cameron, Casady, Gallo, Lundberg, Montoya, Muller, Sterling

Noes: None received

VOTE: (APPROVED) STAFF DRAFT letter – SB 623 (support)

PASS: (7-2)

Ayes: Boren, Bransford, Cameron, Gallo, Montoya, Muller, Sterling

Noes: Casady, Lundberg

VOTE: (APPROVED) STAFF DRAFT letter – Governor (trade)

PASS: (9-0)

Ayes: Boren, Bransford, Cameron, Casady, Gallo, Lundberg, Montoya, Muller, Sterling

Noes: None received

Action by the Board on ‘Other Business’ concluded.

(13) BOARD DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Following Board discussion on issues related to rural broadband connectivity the following action was taken.

MOTION: Board member Joy Sterling moved that two STAFF DRAFT letters be developed for consideration at the Board’s next meeting. The first letter will be a STAFF DRAFT to the PUC on broadband issues; the second letter will be a STAFF DRAFT to the Federal Communication Commission on the importance of broadband to rural agriculture. Board member Bryce Lundberg seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote (9-0).

(14) PUBLIC COMMENT

One individual provided comment:

- Trish Kelly, Valley Vision

Comments can be seen at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

No further public comments were provided

(15) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:10 p.m.