

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

Meeting Location:

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

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director

Office: (916) 654-0462

BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at approximately 10:05 a.m., Executive Director Josh Eddy presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron

Chris Valadez

Hernan Hernandez

Mike Gallo

Julia Jackson

Joy Sterling

Doria Robinson

David Shabazian

Bryce Lundberg

Rachelle Arizmendi

Rolston St. Hilaire

David Mancera

Jenet DeCosta

Michelle Passero

Absent:

Glenda Humiston

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Joy Sterling moved to the approve the minutes of the March 4, 2025. Board meeting. Board member Mike Gallo seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of (11-0). Board members Cameron, Lundberg, Shabazian and St. Hilaire were not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Deputy Secretary Rachael O'Brien provided a brief update to the Board. The update included information on recent legislative appearances by CDFA leadership, status of federal funding pauses and participation with Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board on workforce issues.

Deputy Secretary O'Brien also announced the recent name change of CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) to the Office of Agricultural Resiliency and Sustainability (OARS). The Deputy Secretary concluded with a preview of CDFA's Strategic Plan.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

The Board heard a presentation concerning the current highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in cattle and poultry.

Speaker:

- Dr. Annette Jones, California State Veterinarian

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grants

The Board was provided an overview on the current status of the federal Resilient Food System Infrastructure Grants Program administered by CDFA. In addition, the Board was provided a spotlight on a state-led supply chain project that is funded by the program.

Speakers included:

- Stephen Tachiera, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Sarah Hanson, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

Public Comment:

The Board held public comment on the agenda item, one individual provided public comment.

- Kelly Eagan, California Department of Transportation

No further public comments were received. Public comments can be viewed at:

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Medically Tailored Meals/Health as Medicine

The Board heard presentations outlining opportunities to incorporate locally grown foods into medically tailored diets.

Speakers included:

- Michel Huizar, California Department of Health Care Services
- Katie Ettman, Fullwell

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) BREAK

(9) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

California Water Update

The Board heard a presentation from the California Department of Water Resources on the current status of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and DWR's work with local groundwater agencies.

Speaker:

- Paul Gosselin, California Department of Water Resources

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Agricultural Land Conservation

The Board was provided an overview presentation by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts on land conservation initiatives, organizational operations and funding status.

Speaker:

- Nancy Whal-Scheurich, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) BOARD DISCUSSION

No Board Discussion occurred.

(12) PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments were received.

(13) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 2:10 p.m.