

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 MAY 6, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at approximately 10:05 a.m., Board President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Don Cameron | Glenda Humiston | Rolston St. Hilaire |
| Chris Valadez | David Mancera | Mike Gallo |
| Hernan Hernandez | David Shabazian | Jenet DeCosta |
| Michelle Passero | | |

Absent:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Julia Jackson | Bryce Lundberg | Doria Robinson |
| Rachelle Arizmendi | Joy Sterling | |

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes occurred after Agenda Item 4. Board member Glenda Humiston moved to the approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025, Board meeting. Board member Mike Gallo seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of (9-0). Board member St. Hilaire were not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karean Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included CDFA leadership announcements– Joseph Damiano is serving as the Interim Director of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division and Michelle Pham is assisting with the Pierce’s Disease Control Program.

Other updates included the continuing downward trend of Avian Influenza, attendance at the FFA Conference, federal funding status (RFSI/Regional Food Business Centers), Earth Day Visit to CSU Chico’s Farm with the Governor and First Partner.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD
Agricultural Trade and Tariffs

The Board heard a presentation concerning the current international trade situation and role of tariffs.

Speaker:

- Darci Vetter, Sower Strategies, LLC (via Zoom)

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PANEL DISCUSSION

California Trade

The Board heard presentations from state officials concerning the role of international trade in California's economy.

Speakers included:

- Emily Desai, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz)
- Josh Eddy, 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.
- Zion Taddese, Queen Sheba

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

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

(7) PANEL DISCUSSION

Agricultural Trade

The Board held a panel discussion with representatives from California's agricultural sector focusing on the importance of agricultural exports for California agriculture.

Speakers included:

- Keith Schneller, Almond Board of California
- Julie Berge, Wine Institute
- Mike Montna, California Tomato Growers Association

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) BREAK

(9) PANEL DISCUSSION

Trade Perspectives

The Board heard presentations from foreign government officials and port representatives concerning perspectives on the current trade environment.

Speakers included:

- Rana Sarkar, Consulate General of Canada in San Francisco
- Silke Boger, Delegation to the European Union to the United States
- David Libatique, The Port of Los Angeles

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) BOARD DISCUSSION

No Board Discussion occurred.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments were received.

(12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 2:03 p.m.