

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 AUGUST 5, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 5, 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

David Mancera

Hernan Hernandez

Julia Jackson

Joy Sterling

Mike Gallo

Jenet DeCosta

Rolston St. Hilaire

Rachelle Arizmendi

Bryce Lundberg

Absent:

Michelle Passero

David Shabazian

Glenda Humiston

Doria Robinson

Chris Valadez

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Mike Gallo moved to the approve the minutes of the June 3, 2025, Board meeting. Board member Bryce Lundberg seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of (8-0). Board members Julia Jackson and David Mancera were not present for the vote.

A July 2025 Board meeting did not occur.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Prior to the Department Update – the Board acknowledged the contributions and legacies of John Harris, Joel Nelsen and Vicky Dawley within the agricultural sector.

Undersecretary Chirstine Birdsong provided an update to the Board. The update included the referendum approval for CDFA's Pierce's Disease Control Program, release of the DRAFT report of the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force, and ongoing interview process for the Director position within the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division. Other updates included the USDA reorganization plan (regional hubs) and impact to NASS, as well as federal immigration enforcement on farm operations.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PANEL DISCUSSION

Agricultural Real Estate and Credit Observations

The Board heard presentations from professional within the banking and farm appraisal sector related to land values, farm equity and economic conditions.

PANEL DISCUSSION – Cont.

Speakers included:

- Kyle Dalrymple, American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers
- Les Crutcher, Ag Lenders Society of California

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

Public Comment:

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

- Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, University of California

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

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

(6) PANEL DISCUSSION

Agricultural Transitions and Costs – SGMA Implementation

The Board heard presentations from organizations within California's Central Valley related to trends and costs associated with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation.

Speakers included:

- Erik Porse, California Water Institute of Water Resources
- Eddie Ocampo, Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

Public Comment:

The Board held public comment on the agenda item, two individuals provided public comment.

- Norm Groot, Monterey County Farm Bureau
- Unidentified Member of the Public

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

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

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

Agricultural Labor – Costs and Trends

The Board heard a presentation on agricultural labor focusing on costs, trends and H2A employment.

Speaker:

- Alexandra Hill, University of California, Berkeley

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.

- Norm Groot, Monterey County Farm Bureau

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

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

(8) BREAK

(9) PANEL DISCUSSION

Agricultural Perspectives

The Board held a panel discussion with representatives from California agricultural organizations and farm companies focusing on the current economic environment within the agricultural sector.

Speakers included:

- Alexi Rodriguez, Almond Alliance
- Mona Shulman, Pacific Coast Producers/CA League of Food Processors
- Michael Silva, J.S. West and Companies

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

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

- Robert Sisson, unidentified

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

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

(10) BOARD DISCUSSION

No Board Discussion occurred.

The following Board schedule announcement was made.

Amended Meeting Schedule

- September 26, 2025 – Meeting at Terra Madre Americas in Sacramento
- October 21, 2025 – Meeting at FIRA USA in Woodland
- November 4 – Meeting Canceled
- December 2 – Meeting in Sacramento

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board held public comment for items not on the agenda three individuals provided public comment.

- Sharon Fels
- Deb Shatley
- Tracey Celio

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

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

(12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 2:20 p.m.