

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

Meeting Location:
FIRA USA – Yolo County Fair
Home Arts Hall
1250 Gum Avenue
Woodland, CA 95776

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director
Office: (916) 654-0462

BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at approximately 10:10 a.m., Board President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron
David Shabazian
Rolston St. Hilaire

Mike Gallo
David Mancera
Jenet DeCosta

Glenda Humiston
Rachelle Arizmendi
Bryce Lundberg

Absent:

Joy Sterling
Julia Jackson

Michelle Passero
Hernan Hernandez

Doria Robinson
Chris Valadez

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Glenda Humiston moved to the approve the minutes of the Sept 26, 2025, Board meeting. Board member Jenet DeCosta seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of (9-0).

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included information related to national and state preparedness for New World screwworm and ongoing work related to Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The Secretary also mentioned planning and collaboration with California agricultural organizations related to the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF) and CDFA budgetary proposals for the coming year.

Secretary concluded remarks with an announcement that Dr. Annette Jones, State Veterinarian and Director of CDFA's Animal Health and Food Safety Services will be retiring at the end of the year. It was also announced that Justin Hopper, the Director of CDFA's Office of Civil Rights is departing and taking a promotional opportunity at another state agency.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PANEL DISCUSSION – California Agricultural Research and Innovation Roadmap

The Board heard a presentation concerning a collaborative approach to drive research and innovation in California agriculture.

PANEL DISCUSSION – Cont.

Speaker:

- Teresea Siles – Nuffer, Smith, Tucker

Public Comment on the Agenda Item:

- Hannah Johnson, The Vine - commented on how the initiative could align with Jobs First Priorities and include key performance indicators.
- Trish Kelly, Valley Vision – commented on sustainable agricultural lands and the importance of broadband in furthering innovation.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PANEL DISCUSSION – California AgTech Alliance & Agricultural Workforce

The Board heard presentations focusing on Jobs First initiatives related to agricultural technology and agricultural workforce.

Speakers included:

- Gabreil Youtsey, UC Agricultural and Natural Resources
- Karen Aceves, ARKEN Strategies
- Kelly Scott, Farm Robotics Academy

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – CDFA and CalEPA Regulatory Alignment Study

The Board heard a presentation on a report highlighting opportunities to align food safety and water quality regulations at the state level.

Speakers included:

- Tommy Abeyta & Jamey Hammond, Crowe LLP

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California SprayDays Update

The Board heard a presentation from CA Department of Pesticide Regulation providing a six-month progress report on SprayDays California.

Speaker:

- Juvenio Guerra, CA Department of Pesticide Regulation

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) BOARD DISCUSSION

No Board Discussion occurred.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board held public comment for items not on the agenda, one individual provided public comment.

- Sarah Pelle, Yolo County Fair: Welcomed the Board to Woodland and thanked the team for having the meeting at the Yolo County Fair.

No further public comments were received.

(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 1:15 p.m.