

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
BIPOC PRODUCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

(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 DECEMBER 2, 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, December 2, 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	Mike Gallo	Glenda Humiston
David Shabazian	David Mancera	Rachelle Arizmendi
Chris Valadez	Doria Robinson	Bryce Lundberg
Joy Sterling	Michelle Passero	Hernan Hernandez

Absent:

Jenet DeCosta	Julia Jackson	Rolston St. Hilaire
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(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following the Departmental Update, Board member Rachelle Arizmendi moved to the approve the minutes of the October 21, 2025, Board meeting. Board member David Shabazian seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of (12-0).

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board, including a budget overview and discussion of impacts related to the federal government shutdown and how nutrition programs are among the most affected. The Secretary also shared information about the State Employee Food Drive and the Run to Feed the Hungry initiative.

Additional updates covered ongoing response and prevention efforts related to New World screwworm, Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) trapping, and glassy-winged sharpshooter detections.

The Secretary concluded her remarks with divisional updates, including Farm to School (regional meetings), the Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability's continued work on program implementation (regulatory process) related to Proposition 4, and ongoing federal coordination on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PANEL DISCUSSION – Food Assistance

The Board heard presentations concerning the current status of various food assistance programs in the state.

Speakers included:

- Alexis Fernández Garcia, CA Department of Social Services
- Stacia Levenfeld, CA Association of Food Banks
- Sarah Hanson, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
- Stephen Tachiera, CA Department of Food and Agriculture

Public Comment:

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

- Shannon Davis, Member of the Public (online participant)
- Catherine Van Dyke, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)
- Beth Smoker, California Food and Farming Network
- Delia Hitz, Farms Together (online participant)

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

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

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) BOARD & COMMITTEE DISCUSSION/UPDATE - Farm Equity Office

Members of the Board, BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee and the Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committee discussed recent work related to the Advisory Committees established under CDFA's Farm Equity Office.

Speakers included:

- Chair Hung K. Doan, BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee (online participation)
- Chair Justin Miller, Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committee

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) Legislative Update

The Board heard a Legislative update on issues related to agriculture, energy, nutrition and the environment.

Speaker:

- Rachel O'Brien, CA Department of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board held public comment for items not on the agenda item, two individuals provided public comment.

- Zion Taddese, Sheba Farms
- Michael Harris, California Black Farmers Association

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

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

(9) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 1:00 p.m.