

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

Meeting Location:
University of California, Merced
Admin Building - Room 306
5200 North Lake Rd
Merced, CA 95343

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

**BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 7, 2026
MEETING MINUTES**

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at approximately 10:05 a.m., Board Member Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron	Bryce Lundberg	Mike Gallo
Glenda Humiston	Rolston St. Hilaire	Joy Sterling
David Shabazian	Jenet DeCosta	Hernan Hernandez

Absent:

Julia Jackson	Chris Valadez	Michelle Passero
Doria Robinson	Rachelle Arizmendi	VACANT

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 3, 2026 meetings were reviewed. Board member Glenda Humiston moved to approve the minutes and Board member Mike Gallo seconded the motion. The minutes were approved (8-0). Board member Jenet DeCosta was not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Undersecretary Christine Birdsong provided a brief update to the Board. The updated included notice of the release of California's Climate Resilience Strategy for California Agriculture and status of Proposition 4 Climate Bond programs (Healthy Soils and SWEEP). In addition, the update included information on invasives pests, border station inspections as well as impacts to USDA's National Agricultural Statistic Service funding.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

UC Chancellor Juan Sánchez Muñoz provided welcoming remarks to the Board and attendees. Remarks focused on the agricultural importance to the Central Valley and the role of UC Merced in supporting innovation, health and agricultural research.

The remarks concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) **OVERVIEW PRESENTATION: AES & F3 Innovate**

The Board heard a presentation from a representative of UC Merced on programs related to the Agriculture Experiment Station (AES) and the Farms, Food, Future (F3) Innovate.

Speaker:

- Dr. Joshua Viers, UC Merced

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **PANEL DISCUSSION: Experimental Smart Farm Research**

The Board heard presentations focusing on research projects occurring at the Experimental Smart Farm at UC Merced

Speakers included:

- Dr. Rebecca Ryals, Healthy Soils and Composting
- Dr. Stefano Carpin, Technology for Precision Agriculture
- Dr. Adeyemi Adebisi, Dust Generation and Valley Air Quality
- Dr. Reza Ehsani, Ag Tech Innovation

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) **PANEL DISCUSSION: Secure Water Future Research**

The Board heard presentations focusing on water research and policy,

Speakers included:

- Dr. Thomas Harmon, Micromanaged Aquifer Recharge
- Dr. Josue Medellin-Azuara, Drought Impact Report
- Dr. John Abatzoglou, State of the California Ag Climate
- Dr. Kimberly Gibson, Crop Transitions under SGMA and Climate

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD - Update on Spray Days**

The Board heard a presentation from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation focusing on the SprayDays statewide notification system.

Speaker:

- Juvenio Guerra, California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Public Comment:

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

- Steve Haze, Tranquillity Resource Conservation District, commented on how better to inform the community on SprayDays and increase distribution of information.

No further public comments were received.

BOARD ACTION: Board member Bryce Lundberg moved to allow the Board President, working with staff, to provide written public comment as part of DPR's Open Public Comment Period on SprayDays California. Board member Glenda Humiston seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote (8-0).

No further action occurred.

(10) BOARD DISCUSSION

No Board Discussion was held.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board held public comment for issues not on the agenda. Three individuals provided public comment.

- Melinda Kline, Citrus Research Board, thanked the Board for coming to UC Merced and noted the importance of citrus in California. Ms. Kline also spoke on key challenges for the industry (water/labor) and encouraged the Board to consider citrus for a future meeting.
- Steve Haze, Tranquillity Resource Conservation District, spoke on the potential for the Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities program to support /fund needed Central Valley projects.
- Lori Gallo, Merced County Fair Board, commented on the important work of fairs, thanked CDFA, the Board and UC Merced for engaging with the community and highlighted the opportunity to upskill existing workforce.

(12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 1:35 p.m. Following adjournment, the Board conducted a tour of UC Merced's AES Experimental Smart Farm.