

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

**Location:** University of California, Santa Cruz  
Cowell Ranch Hay Barn  
94 Ranch View Rd.  
Santa Cruz

**Contact:** Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director  
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**BOARD MEETING**  
**MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2024**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at approximately 10:15 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Don Cameron  
Michelle Passero  
Mike Gallo  
Julia Jackson

Glenda Humiston  
Chris Valadez  
Jenet DeCosta

Joy Sterling  
Bryce Lundberg  
Rachelle Arizmendi

**Absent:**

David Mancera  
Vacant (Public)

Doria Robinson  
Vacant (Environment)

Patricia Stock

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Glenda Humiston moved to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2024 meeting. Board member Joy Sterling seconded the motion and a vote of (10-0) carried the motion.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included current status of the oriental fruit fly project in Riverside and San Bernardino as well as the upcoming California State University report on high-risk pathways (pest exclusion). The Secretary also commented that there have been no further detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in California and the outbreak has concluded. While avian influenza has been recently detected in dairy cows in other states, California continues to have no detections. The Secretary concluded with updates on CDFA's Farm to School Incubator Grant Program and recent participation in USDA Agribusiness Trade Missions to Korea and India.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD**

**Center for Agroecology**

The Board heard a presentation from a representative of the Center for Agroecology. The presentation covered an overview of the Center and its programs focusing on food system education and workforce.

**PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD (Continued)**  
**Center for Agroecology**

Speaker:

- Stacy Philpott, Center for Agroecology – UC Santa Cruz.

The presentation concluded without Board Action.

**(6) PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**Agricultural Land Conservation**

The Board heard presentations from land trust organizations and non-profit associations related to land conservation on the Central Coast. Presentations and discussion focused on the conservation of working lands in partnership with farmers and ranchers.

Speakers Included:

- Sarah Newkirk, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
- Dash Dunkell, Elkhorn Slough
- Walter Moore, Peninsula Open Space Trust

The presentation concluded without Board Action.

**(7) BOARD DISCUSSION**

No Board Discussion occurred.

**(8) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Two individuals provided public comments for items not included on the agenda.

- Tracy Rogers Brandt, Circulate Patterns.
  - Commented on the regenerative agriculture – regenerative organic certified, life affirming systems (mirroring nature) and climate as key elements for consideration.
- Aysha Peterson, Resource Conservation District of Monterey County.
  - Commented on the importance of technical assistance for agricultural conservation and the concern for the viability of technical assistance in future programs.

No further public comments were received.

**(9) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The public meeting concluded at approximately 12:20 p.m.