

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

Location: Video Conference - GoToWebinar

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MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 5, 2021
Video Conference

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on October 5, 2021 at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron

Nancy Casady

Mike Gallo

Bryce Lundberg

Joy Sterling

Ashley Boren

Helene Dillard

Andrew Thulin

Christopher Valadez

Rachelle Arizmendi

Absent:

Donald Bransford

Eric Holst

Jeff Huckaby

Martha Montoya

VACANT

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Nancy Casady moved to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021 meeting. Board member Ashley Boren seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board member Andy Thulin was not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

The Departmental Update was provided after Agenda Item #5

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board.

The update included information related to CDFA's budget in regards to programs associated with water resiliency, climate smart agriculture, healthy food systems, economic recovery, California's fair network as well as biodiversity and plant health. The Secretary noted that at the Board's November meeting a legislative update will provided on legislation of interest to the Board and CDFA.

Other updates included a report of the Port/Infrastructure Forum facilitated by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development; changes in the leadership of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA); and ongoing invasive pest issues (spotted lantern fly surveillance, fruit flies and glassy winged sharp shooter). The Secretary concluded remarks by mentioning participation in the groundbreaking ceremony for California Dairies, Inc. (CDI's) state of the art milk processing facility in Shafter.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

Public Comment:

Following the Departmental Update, one individual provided public comment on this agenda item.

Speaker:

- Michael Harris, California Black Agriculture

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

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

Public comments concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PANEL DISCUSSION: Federal/State Disaster Assistance (Drought & Wildfire)

The Board held a panel presentation on disaster assistance and had representatives from state and federal agencies provide updates and program overviews.

Speakers included:

- Ryan Buras, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Jacque Johnson, USDA Farm Service Agency
- Carlos Suarez, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Jeff Yasui, USDA Risk Management Association

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Celebrating Farmer & Farmworker Month

The Board heard presentation from a representative of the Buy California Marketing Agreement (CAGROWN) on the Farmer & Farmworker Month initiative.

Speaker:

- Cherie Watte, Buy California Marketing Agreement

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

Public Comment:

Following the Presentation, one individual provided public comment on this agenda item.

Speaker:

- Michael Harris, California Black Agriculture

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

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

Public comments concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) BREAK

(8) PANEL DISCUSSION: Celebrating Farm Community

The Board held a panel discussion focusing on community engagement and the work of California farmers, ranchers, retailers and farm organizations.

Speakers included:

- Rebecca Torpie, Briar Patch Food Co-op
- Blake Alexandre, Alexandre Family Farm
- Cole Mazariegos-Anastassiou, Brisa Ranch
- Jennifer Beretta, Young Farmers and Ranchers

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PANEL DISCUSSION: Education, Leadership and Training

The Board held a panel discussion with farmworker associations on education, leadership and training initiatives focusing on workforce and career development.

Speakers included:

- David Villarino, Farmworker Institute of Education and Leadership Development (FIELD)
- Hernan Hernandez, California Farmworker Foundation

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

The following issues were discussed:

- 2022 Meeting Dates

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments were provided.

(12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:00 p.m.