

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

Location: California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Main Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

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MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2023

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at approximately 10:10a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron	Jenet DeCosta	Doria Robinson
Bryce Lundberg	Glenda Humiston	Julia Jackson
Chris Valadez	Rachelle Arizmendi	

Absent:

Eric Holst	Michelle Passero	Mike Gallo
Frank Salazar	Patricia Stock	Joy Sterling
David Mancera		

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A quorum was not present to approve the June 6, 2023 Minutes.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Undersecretary Christine Birdsong provided a brief update to the Board. The updated included information on upcoming events for Secretary Ross (Ag Media Summit and NASDA Indonesia Trip), budget overview on key CDFA programs, and CDFA/DPR outreach and engagement related to the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap. Other updates included extreme heat preparations, the agricultural trucking study with UC Labor Center and increased fruit fly detections.

CDFA's Farm Equity Advisor also updated the Board on membership and status of CDFA's BIPOC and Small Farm Advisory Committees.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:

Federal Resources for Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

The Board heard a presentation from the USDA Farm Service Agency on the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Program.

Speaker:

- Victor Hernandez, USDA Farm Service Agency

The Presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

Following the presentation, the Board heard public comment from the following individual:

- Carine Hines, Kitchen Table Advisors

No further public comments were received on this agenda item. Public comments can be viewed at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

(6) PANEL DISCUSSION

Small-scale/Beginning Farmer Assistance

The Board heard presentations for academic partners, community organizations and state representatives on programs and services available to small-scale and beginning farmers.

Speakers, included:

- Carine Hines, Kitchen Table Advisors
- Ruth Dalquist-Willard, UC Cooperative Extension
- Kali Feiereisel, Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Sara Bernal, CDFA Office of Farm to Fork (via videoconference)
- Carmen Carrasco, CDFA Small Farm Liaison (via videoconference)

The Panel Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

California Ag Land Equity Task Force

The Board heard a presentation from the California Strategic Growth Council on the establishment, role and membership of the California Ag Land Equity Task Force.

Speaker:

- Sean Kennedy, California Strategic Growth Council

The Presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) BREAK

(9) PANEL DISCUSSION

Land Access

The Board heard presentations from agricultural stakeholders and community organizations related to land access for beginning farmers and ranchers.

Speakers, included:

- Deborah Nares, American Farmland Trust (via Videoconference)
- Liya Schwartzman, CA Farmlink
- Héctor Calderón, National Young Farmer Coalition (via Videoconference)

The Panel Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) PANEL DISCUSSION

Finance Opportunities

The Board heard presentations from agricultural lenders concerning finance programs for beginning farmers and ranchers.

Speakers, included:

- Debra Raven, Valley Small Business Development Corporation
- Paige Gilligan, Ag Lenders Society of California

The Panel Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board

(11) BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board held a discussion with members of Urban Tilth's Apprenticeship Program. The discussion focused on challenges and opportunities for new and beginning farmers as well as issues of equity in relation to land ownership and land access.

The Board Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board

(12) PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment was provided prior to Item 11 (Board Discussion) because of timing.

The Board heard public comment from the following individual:

- Craig Gordon, Dairy Farmer

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

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

(13) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The public meeting concluded at approximately 3:30 p.m.