

**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

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

**MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Don Cameron  
Bryce Lundberg  
Chris Valadez  
Frank Salazar

Doria Robinson  
Glenda Humiston  
Mike Gallo

David Mancera  
Joy Sterling  
Eric Holst

**Absent:**

Michelle Passero  
Jenet DeCosta

Rachelle Arizmendi  
Julia Jackson

Patricia Stock

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Joy Sterling moved to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2023 and August 1, 2023 meetings. Board member Glenda Humiston seconded the motion and a vote of (9-0) carried the motion. Board member Frank Salazar was not present for the vote.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The updated included information on Hurricane damage, disaster assistance (flood/drought) and latest USDA Economic Research Service production statistics for California. Other updates included pest/disease information (fruit flies and equine VSV) as well as collaboration with Mexico on Climate Smart Agriculture. The Secretary also discussed the recent NASDA trip to Indonesia focusing on building opportunities and relationships for California agriculture.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:**

**CDFA's Racial Equity Action Plan**

The Board heard a presentation from CDFA's Office of Civil Rights and Farm Equity Advisor on the release and implementation of CDFA's Racial Equity Action Plan.

Speakers, included:

- Thea Rittenhouse, CDFA's Farm Equity Advisor
- Justin Hopper, CDFA's Office of Civil Rights

The Presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD**

**California Water Commission – Drought Work Update**

The Board heard a presentation from the California Water Commission on drought strategies to protect communities and species that aligns with the State’s Water Resilience Portfolio.

Speaker:

- Laura Jensen, California Water Commission

The Presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD**

**Regenerative Agriculture**

The Board heard a presentation from a representative of CDFA’s Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel on work related to regenerative agriculture and below ground biodiversity.

Speaker:

- Jeff Dlott, CDFA’s Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel

The Presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

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

- Elizabeth Whitlow, Regenerative Organic Alliance

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

**(8) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD**

**Public Engagement Approach (Regenerative Agriculture)**

The Board heard a presentation from a representation of California State University Sacramento – Consensus and Collaboration Program on the planned facilitation process for public engagement on regenerative agriculture.

Speaker:

- David Ceppos, California State University Sacramento

The Presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(9) BREAK**

**(10) PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Regenerative Agriculture**

The Board heard presentations from agricultural stakeholders and academic researchers on elements of importance for a definition of regenerative agriculture.

Speakers, included:

- Elizabeth Whitlow, Regenerative Organic Alliance
- Cannon Michael, Bowles Farming Company
- Cynthia Daley, Center for Regenerative Agriculture & Resilient Systems (CSU Chico)

The Panel Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(11) BOARD DISCUSSION**

The Board Discussion was limited to local updates from Board members.

No formal action was taken by the Board.

**(12) PUBLIC COMMENT**

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 2:35 p.m.