

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

**Location:** Video Conference - GoToWebinar

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

**MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2022**  
**Video Conference**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 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  
Helene Dillard  
Eric Holst

Nancy Casady  
Joy Sterling  
Andrew Thulin  
Chris Valadez

Mike Gallo  
Ashley Boren  
Donald Bransford  
Martha Montoya

**Absent:**

Rachelle Arizmendi

VACANT (Consumer)

VACANT (Agriculture)

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Nancy Casady moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting. Board member Andy Thulin seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (10-0) carried the motion. Board members Eric Holst and Don Bransford were not present for the vote.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board.

The update focused on current drought conditions and the importance of conserving water. UC Merced recently released a report detailing impacts of the 2021 drought, which included 395,000 fallowed acres, \$1.7 billion in economic losses and an estimated 14,600 jobs lost. These impacts are comparable to the 2014 drought. Other updates included reports on the Oakland Container Pop-up site to address port congestion; participation in the USDA Agricultural Trade Mission to United Arab Emirates; and funding updates on CDFA Climate Smart Agriculture (SWEEP and Healthy Soils).

The Secretary concluded remarks by focusing on the release of *Planting the Seed: Farm to School Roadmap for Success* a report promoting the expansion of farm to school programs across California to advance child well-being, equity, economic growth, and environmental resilience. *Planting the Seed* is the result of a collaboration, led by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and Secretary Karen Ross along with a variety of farm to school stakeholders. CDFA's Office of Farm to Fork is key component of the program.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (5) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: USDA Funding & California - Climate**  
The Board heard a presentation on the current USDA federal funding opportunity “Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities” and CDFA’s project considerations for submission.

Speaker:

- Deputy Secretary Virginia Jameson, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (6) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: USDA Funding & California – Local Food**  
The Board heard a presentation on the current USDA federal funding opportunity “Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement” and CDFA’s project considerations for submission.

Speaker:

- Undersecretary Christy Birdsong, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

Public Comment

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

- Duskie Estes, Farm to Pantry

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

- (7) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: SGMA – Groundwater Sustainability Plan Updates**  
The Board heard a presentation from a representative of the California Department of Water Resource on current status of SGMA implementation and status of Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

Speaker:

- Paul Gosselin, California Department of Water Resources

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (8) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: SGMA Groundwater Sustainability Plans (Environmental Justice Perspective)**  
The Board heard a presentation from a representative of Clean Water Action on an independent review of Groundwater Sustainability Plans related to equity and inclusion.

Speaker:

- Ngodoo Atume, Clean Water Action

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

Public Comment

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

- Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, UC Cooperative Extension

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

**(9) BREAK**

**(10) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:  
Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSA Perspective)**

The Board heard from representatives of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies on issues related to Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

Speakers included:

- Aaron Fukuda, Tulare Irrigation District
- Matthew Hurley, McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(11) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD:  
Groundwater Sustainability Plans (Outreach/Engagement)**

The Board heard a presentation on outreach and engagement focusing on economic development assistance and programs as it relates to the implementation and enactment of Groundwater Sustainability Plans.

Speaker:

- Derek Kirk, Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(12) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Small Farm/Mid-Sized Farm Considerations

Board staff provided a number of options for potential action related to small and mid-sized farms, which was requested following the February meeting. Board discussion on the item occurred and the item was open to public comment.

Public Comment

Following the discussion, the Board heard public comment from the following individuals:

- Patty Poire, Kern Groundwater Authority
- Taylor Roschen, California Farm Bureau Federation

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

Following public comment, the Board took the following action.

ACTION: Board member Ashley Boren moved to authorize the Board President to send a letter to Secretary Karen Ross on the issue. The letter should recommend the establishment of two public bodies (Small Farm and Socially Disadvantaged); the majority of participants on each panel are to be farmers and ranchers; and that the public bodies should meet jointly at least once per year. The Small Farm Public Body should work to define a recommendation of small farms for consideration. Board member Nancy Casady seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board members Helene Dillard, Joy Sterling and Eric Holst were not present for the vote.

The discussion concluded without further action by the Board.

**(13) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Following the discussion, the Board heard public comment (items not on the agenda) from the following individual:

- Manuel Cunha, Nisei Farmers League

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

**(14) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:20 p.m.