

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

Location: University of California, Merced
Administration Building – Room #306
5200 North Lake Rd
Merced, CA 95343

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

MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2022
INFORMAL MEETING – NO QUORUM

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 5, 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

Rachelle Arizmendi

David Mancera

Joy Sterling

Patricia Stock

Jenet DeCosta

Absent:

Bryce Lundberg

Martha Montoya

Michelle Passero

Eric Holst

Donald Bransford

Frank Salazar

Mike Gallo

Chris Valadez

Glenda Humiston

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A meeting quorum was not present – no official action.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Undersecretary Christine Birdsong provided a brief update to the Board. The update focused on current drought conditions and the recent agreement among state/federal agencies and local water suppliers to improve the health of rivers and landscapes. The Voluntary Agreements between the entities provides for additional water flows and new habitat to help improve conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta Watershed.

Other updates included ongoing port congestion work with agricultural stakeholders, port entities and state/federal agencies. Work also continues on the Port of Oakland ‘pop-up’ site to provide a staging ground for agricultural exports.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Drought Update

The Board heard a presentation from a representative from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on federal actions and planning related to the drought.

Speaker:

- Regional Director Ernest Conant, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California-Great Basin

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Drought Impacts - Agriculture

The Board heard a presentation from researchers at the University of California, Merced related to drought impacts within the agricultural sector for the 2021 drought.

Speakers included:

- Josue Medellin-Azuara, UC Merced
- Joshua Viers, UC Merced

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PANEL DISCUSSION: Irrigation and Water Districts

The Board held a panel discussion with representatives from California irrigation and water districts related to current drought actions and future planning.

Speakers included:

- Jarret Martin, Central California Irrigation District
- Eric Swenson, Merquin County Water District

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board. An invited speaker from the Turlock Irrigation District was unable to attend.

(8) BREAK

**(9) PANEL DISCUSSION
Community/Farmer Perspectives**

The Board held a panel discussion with farmers and community representatives to discuss drought impacts at the local level.

Speaker:

- Supervisor Scott Silveira, Merced County Board of Supervisors

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board. Invited speakers from J. Marchini Farms and Cortez Growers Association were unable to attend.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

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

- Lilian Thaoxaochay, UC Cooperative Extension
 - Comments focused on work with small and socially disadvantaged farmers during the drought period and increased costs being experienced by these growers.
- Vong Moua, UC Cooperative Extension
 - Comments focused on work with small and socially disadvantaged farmers during the drought period and increased costs being experienced by these growers.
- Ruth Dalquist-Willard, UC Small Farm Advisor
 - Comments focused on the importance of technical assistance, CDFA's Climate Smart Agricultural Programs and increased costs being experienced by small and socially disadvantaged farmers.
- Casey Creamer, California Citrus Mutual
 - Comments focused on the impact of drought on the citrus industry and the need for policy focus and infrastructure investments to increase water availability and storage.
- Scott Hamilton, Water Blueprint CA (via Zoom)
 - Comments focused on the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley.

No further public comments were received.

- (11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting concluded at approximately 2:30 p.m.