

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

Location: Urban Tilth
323 Brookside Dr
Richmond, CA 94801

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director
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MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

(1) CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at approximately 9:15 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

Present:

Don Cameron
Doria Robinson
Frank Salazar
Jenet DeCosta

Glenda Humiston
Joy Sterling
Julia Jackson
David Mancera

Michelle Passero
Mike Gallo

Absent:

Bryce Lundberg
Patricia Stock

Rachelle Arizmendi
Eric Holst

Christopher Valadez

(2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Glenda Humiston moved to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2022 meeting. Board member Mike Gallo seconded the motion and a vote of (8-0) carried the motion. Board members Frank Salazar and Julia Jackson were not present for the vote.

(3) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

CDFA Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included a summary of the recently passed Budget Bill and Trailer Bill, specifically the definition within the package set aside for drought action. This included a total of \$110M for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET), \$35M for direct drought relief and technical assistance support through the California Underserved and Small Producers (CUSP) program, and \$15M for the Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Program (WETA). The Secretary also highlighted drought relief investments in other agencies including \$75M for direct relief grants for businesses impacted by drought modeled after the oversubscribed COVID relief program.

The Secretary also provided a summary of recent National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) activities including a commitment to equity, food safety, and environmental resilience in their ongoing Farm Bill discussions.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(4) PANEL DISCUSSION – Farm Bill Perspectives

The board heard presentations from local community representatives providing perspectives on Farm Bill issues related to nutrition, equity and climate.

Speakers included:

- Navina Khanna, HEAL Food Alliance
- Jared Call, Nourish California
- Doria Robinson, Urban Tilth / State Board Member

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – 2023 Farm Bill Priorities

The following individuals provided public comment related to 2023 Farm Bill Priorities.

Speakers included:

- Mariana Zavala, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (RCD)
- Tania Pulido, District Coordinator for Supervisor Gioia
- Ilaf Esuf, Assemblymember Wick's Office
- Joanna Cedar, Turpene Belt Farms
- Grecia Marquez-Nieblas, SPUR
- Ruben Canedo, UC Systemwide Basic Needs Committee
- Isabella Zizi, Urban Tilth
- Traver Riggins, Urban Tilth
- Karina Mudd, Native Plant Supply Collaborative
- Frank Andris, Farmer in Sacramento Valley
- Itzul Gutierrez, California Association of Food Banks
- Andrew Shane, Food Research Action Center
- Sakeenah Shabazz, Berkeley Food Institute
- Luke, Student at UC Berkeley
- Brooke Porter, Agroecology Commons
- Michael Olson, Author and Radio Host
- Rachel Cohen, Verdant Structural Engineers
- Miya Kitahara, StopWaste
- Emily Diehl, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
- Theresa Dixon, Urban Tilth
- Paul Towers, CAFF
- Dustin Givens, Family First Farms
- Trevor Probert, StopWaste

Comment period concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) BOARD DISCUSSION / RECOMMENDATIONS

Board members discussed salient points heard during public comment period including the importance of supporting new and beginning farmers, particularly producers of color; facilitating farmers in implementing new conservation practices that improve

environmental and economic resilience; and supporting local food systems to combat malnutrition in historically underserved communities.

Discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PUBLIC COMMENT / ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at approximately 11:30 a.m.