

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

Location: Video Conference
GoToWebinar

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MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021
Video Conference Meeting

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron	Nancy Casady	Andrew Thulin
Bryce Lundberg	Joy Sterling	Donald Bransford
Helene Dillard	Jeff Huckaby	Mike Gallo
Martha Montoya	Rachelle Arizmendi	Ashley Boren

Absent:

Christopher Valadez	Crystal Hayling	Eric Holst
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(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Don Bransford moved to approve the minutes of the December 16th meeting. Board member Rachelle Arizmendi seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board members Nancy Casady, Martha Montoya, and Joy Sterling were not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included a report on COVID-19 vaccinations for agricultural workers and the vaccination progress occurring in several counties. On the personnel front, the Secretary announced that Mark McLoughlin is CDFA's Director of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services following the retirement of Nick Condos and that Deputy Secretary Arturo Barajas is leaving CDFA for an opportunity outside of state government. Other topics included the launch of a series of CDFA roundtables focusing on farmer-led climate solutions, a dairy petition on quota, and CDFA's Office of Farm to Fork's application period for the Farm to School Incubator Grant Program.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – COVID-19 Vaccination Update

The Board heard a presentation from a representative of the California Department of Public Health focusing on the vaccination roll-out within California, with an emphasis on the food and agricultural sector.

Speaker:

- Dr. Ron Chapman, California Department of Public Health

Public Comment

No public comments were provided on the agenda item.

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PANEL DISCUSSION – Nasdaq Veles California Water Index

The Board held a panel discussion with businesses associated with launch of the Nasdaq Veles California Water Index.

Speakers included:

- Clay Landry, WestWater Research
- Patrick Wolf, Nasdaq
- Tim McCourt, CME Group

Public Comment

Following the panel discussion, the Board heard public comment from two individuals:

- Dominic Gutierrez, Member of the Public
- Jim Miller, Member of the Public

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

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) BREAK

(8) PANEL DISCUSSION – Water Futures and Groundwater Trading

The Board held a panel discussion with agricultural and water stakeholders as well as a consulting firm developing a groundwater trading system within the boundaries of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA).

Speakers included:

- David Guy, Northern California Water Association (ACWA)
- Jared Plumbee, Booth Ranches, LLC
- Amer Hussain, Geosyntec Consultants
- Bob Anderson, Geosyntec Consultants

Public Comment

No public comments were provided on the agenda item.

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Agricultural Lender Perspective

The Board heard a presentation by a financial representative concerning the considerations of water futures/trading in agricultural lending.

Speaker:

- Roland Fumasi, Rabobank

Public Comment

No public comments were provided on the agenda item.

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) BOARD DISCUSSION – Water Futures

The Board held a discussion focusing on water futures/trading and what it could potentially mean for the agricultural sector.

Speakers included:

- Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California
- Board Members

Public Comment

Following Board Discussion, one individual provided public comment

- Justin Frederickson, Member of the Public

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

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

After presentations and discussion, the Board took the following actions:

- STAFF DRAFT – Water Committee Letter on Drought Actions

MOTION: Board Member Bryce Lundberg moved to approve the STAFF DRAFT Letter. Board member Martha Montoya seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board members Rachelle Arizmendi, Jeff Huckaby and Andy Thulin were not present for the vote.

CLARIFICATION: Executive Director Josh Eddy informed Board members that a previous Board Action – Letter on Broadband (Approved on Dec 16) was rescinded in concurrence with the Board member who had proposed the action. Recommendations within the STAFF DRAFT were reflected in a final report that was released by the Administration prior to issuance of the approved letter.

No further discussion or recommendations occurred.

(12) PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

(13) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:45 p.m.