

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 2, 2021
Video Conference Meeting

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 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
Crystal Hayling	Eric Holst	

Absent:

Christopher Valadez

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Mike Gallo moved to approve the minutes of the February 2nd meeting. Board member Donald Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (10-0) carried the motion. Board members Rachael Arizmendi, Ashley Boren, Jeff Huckaby and Andy Thulin 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 current state budget discussions and legislative meetings related to early action and regular budget items. Over the past month, the Secretary has participated in a variety of meetings including the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Winter Policy Meeting, the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum and several opportunities for engagement with student groups. The Secretary also informed the Board that CDFA had recently partnered with the Almond Board and the USDA in hosting a forum on Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) that helps further more integrated pest management efforts.

The Secretary concluded with an update on COVID-19 vaccinations for farmworkers in the Central Valley.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) CDFA Office of Farm To Fork Update

Representatives from CDFA's Office of Farm to Fork provided an overview of programs focusing on increasing food access, nutrition and education.

Speakers included:

- Sarah Hanson, CA Department of Food and Agriculture
- Nicholas Anicich, CA Department of Food and Agriculture

Public Comment

Following the update, one individual provided public comment.

- Kelvin Garvanne, 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 update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Master Plan on Aging

The Board heard a presentation from the California Department of Aging on California's Master Plan for Aging

Speaker included:

- Director Kim McCoy Wade, California Department of Aging

Public Comment

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

- Vanessa Finnigan, Member of the Public
- Kelvin Garvanne, 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 presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California Association of Food Banks

The Board heard a presentation by the California Association of Food Banks on the organization's work to address food insecurity through a variety of programs and partnerships.

Speakers included:

- Stacia Levenfeld, CA Association of Food Banks
- Maria Houlne, CA Association of Food Banks

Public Comment

Following the presentation, one individual provided public comment.

- Kelvin Garvanne, 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 presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PANEL DISCUSSION – Food Assistance and Farmers

The Board heard a panel discussion with farmers, Certified Farmers' Market Associations and agricultural groups on food assistance initiatives during COVID-19.

Speakers included:

- Stephen Gutwillig, Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles
- Allen Moy, Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association
- Paul Towers, Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Steve Brazeel, SunTerra Produce

Public Comment

Following the panel discussion, one individual provided public comment.

- Kimble Deleon, 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.

(9) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

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

MOTION: Board Member Ashley Boren moved to authorize the Board President to send a letter on behalf of the Board to Governor Newsom concerning programs of CDFA's Office of Farm to Fork. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board members Helene Dillard, Eric Holst, Martha Montoya, Joy Sterling and Andy Thulin were not present for the vote.

No further discussion or recommendations occurred.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at approximately 1:20 p.m.