

**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  
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**MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2021**  
**Video Conference Meeting**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 6, 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  
Bryce Lundberg  
Helene Dillard  
Martha Montoya  
Eric Holst

Nancy Casady  
Joy Sterling  
Jeff Huckaby  
Rachelle Arizmendi

Andrew Thulin  
Donald Bransford  
Crystal Hayling  
Ashley Boren

**Absent:**

Christopher Valadez                      Mike Gallo

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Crystal Hayling moved to approve the minutes of the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Board member Andy Thulin seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (13-0) carried the motion.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included information related to the Office of Farm to Fork, current water conditions, as well as plant pest/animal disease activity. Other items included CDFA's work on budget proposals related to the Governor's May Revise, recently held listening sessions on Farmer and Rancher Led Climate Solutions and ongoing collaborations and partnerships regarding farmworker vaccinations.

The Secretary concluded by mentioning the formation of the Sustainable Pest Management Workgroup, which was launched last month in partnership with Department of Pesticide Regulation. The workgroup will assist in the acceleration of systemwide adoption of safer, sustainable pest control practices.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD - California Water Update**

The Board received a California Water Update by the Department of Water Resources. The update focused on current water conditions and actions being taken by the Administration to address a critical dry summer period as it relates to water supply.

Speaker

- Director Karla Nemeth, CA Department of Water Resources

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD - Decade of Ag**

The Board heard a presentation from the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action concerning the opportunity for the nation's agriculture sector to have a shared vision for a sustainable food system.

Speaker:

- Erin Fitzgerald, U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action

MOTION:

Board member Joy Sterling moved to authorize the Board President, on behalf of the Board, to send a letter of endorsement on the Decade of Ag to the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers in Action. Board member Rachelle Arizmendi seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (12-0) carried the motion. Board member Helen Dillard was not present for the vote.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD –  
Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation and Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis Update**

The Board heard a presentation and update by CDFA's Science Advisor on the Department's recent listening sessions on Farmer and Rancher Led Climate Solutions. The presentation also included an overview of the work and role of CDFA's Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis.

Speaker:

- Amrith Gunasekara, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(8) PANEL DISCUSSION – Integrated Pest Management**

The Board held a panel discussion on integrated pest management. The discussion focused on opportunities and innovations to advance biologicals in pest management and plant health.

Speakers included:

- Mark McLoughlin, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Andrew Cline, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Pam Marrone, Primary BioAg Innovations and Global BioAg Linkages
- Paul Walgenbach, Bayer US Crop Science

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(9) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – USDA Climate Update**

The Board heard an update from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on plans for engagement with national agricultural stakeholders on climate opportunities within the agricultural and forestry sector.

Speaker:

- Robert Bonnie, Climate Advisor – U.S. Department of Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (10) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS**  
No further discussion or recommendations occurred.
- (11) PUBLIC COMMENT**  
No public comments were received.
- (12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**  
The meeting concluded at approximately 1:45 p.m.