

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 MAY 4, 2021
Video Conference Meeting

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 4, 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
Mike Gallo

Andrew Thulin
Donald Bransford
Crystal Hayling
Christopher Valadez

Absent:

Ashley Boren

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Nancy Casady moved to approve the minutes of the April 6th meeting. Board member Rachelle Arizmendi seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (14-0) carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Undersecretary Jenny Lester Moffitt provided a brief update to the Board. The update included an announcement that the Governor's May Revision will be released next week and that projected increased in state revenues allows for the potential of one time investments in key state economic sectors. The Undersecretary also provided an overview of the Governor's Drought Proclamation related to the regional state emergency in the Russian River watershed.

The Undersecretary concluded remarks in thanking employees as part of Public Service Recognition Week.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PANEL DISCUSSION - California Port Congestion (Opportunities/Challenges)

The Board held a panel discussion with representatives from California's freight industry discussing opportunities and challenges related to current freight congestion and delays.

Speakers included:

- Gene Seroka, California Association of Port Authorities
- Mike Jacob, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
- Weston LaBar, Harbor Trucking Association

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PUBLIC COMMENT

Following the panel discussion, the following individuals provided public comments.

Speakers included:

- Cyrus Ramezani, CalPoly San Luis Obispo
- Michael Harris, California Black Agriculture

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

Public comments concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Freight Planning Ports

The Board heard presentations from state officials concerning current port and freight issues as well as an overview on long term freight planning.

Speakers included:

- Frank Ramirez, Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development
- Eric Fredericks, California Department of Transportation

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PUBLIC COMMENT

Following the presentation, the following individual provided public comment.

Speaker:

- Rayne Thompson, Sunkist

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

Public comments concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Agricultural Transportation Coalition

The Board heard a presentation by the Agricultural Transportation Coalition concerning a national perspective on current port congestion issues.

Speaker:

- Peter Friedmann, Agricultural Transportation Coalition

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) PANEL DISCUSSION – Agriculture/Retail and California Ports

The Board held a panel discussion on the current port/freight situation. The discussion focused on perspectives from agricultural and retail stakeholders.

Speakers included:

- Rayne Thompson, Sunkist Growers
- John Larrea, California League of Food Producers
- Steve McCarthy, California Retailers Association

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

After presentations and discussions, the Board took the following action:

MOTION: Board member Nancy Casady moved to authorize the Board President to send a letter, on behalf of the Board, to state officials concerning harvest trucking weight allowances. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (8-0) carried the motion. Board members Arizmendi, Dillard, Gallo, Hayling, Holst, and Sterling were not present for the vote.

No further discussion or recommendations occurred.

(12) PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

(13) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at approximately 1:45 p.m.