

**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 JULY 6, 2021**  
**Video Conference Meeting**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on July 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

Nancy Casady  
Joy Sterling  
Christopher Valadez  
Rachelle Arizmendi

Mike Gallo  
Donald Bransford  
Eric Holst  
Ashley Boren

**Absent:**

Crystal Hayling

Jeff Huckaby

Andrew Thulin

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Ashley Boren moved to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2021 meeting. Board member Mike Gallo seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (10-0) carried the motion. Board members Rachelle Arizmendi and Don Bransford were not present for the vote.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Karen Ross provided an update to the Board following Agenda Item 6.

The update included a report on the work of the State's Interagency Drought Task Force; USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services' Environmental Quality Incentives Program Conservation Incentive Contract (EQIP-CIC) which aims to expand long term on-farm conservation management; and progress towards finalization of a State Budget. The Secretary also mentioned a visit to the CalCannabis office in Eureka to thank staff for their work in establishing program operations in Humboldt and surrounding counties. CalCannabis operations will transition to a new Department of Cannabis Control as part of the proposed budget.

The Secretary concluded remarks by mentioning ongoing international engagements by the Department in several areas. One key highlight is the discussions between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), CDFR, US/FDA and California Leafy Green Marketing Agreement concerning pre/post-harvest testing requirements of romaine lettuce shipped to Canada.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Russian River Update**

The Board heard from a representative from the State Water Resources Control Board concerning current water conditions in the Russian River watershed.

Speaker:

- Samuel Boland-Brien, State Water Resources Control Board

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(6) PANEL DISCUSSION: California Drought – Drinking Water**

The Board held a panel discussion with statewide and regional stakeholders on drought impacts to safe and affordable drinking water.

Speakers included:

- Jessi Snyder, Self Help Enterprises
- Sargent Green, California Water Institute
- Emily Rooney, Agricultural Council of California

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Updates**

The Board heard a presentation concerning SGMA and GSP updates by the California Department of Water Resources. The department recently released its first round of assessments associated with GSPs developed by local agencies.

Speaker:

- Craig Altare, California Department of Water Resources

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(8) PANEL DISCUSSION: California Drought – Local Response**

The Board held a panel discussion with local water officials and stakeholders concerning local drought response.

Speakers included:

- Pamela Jeane, Sonoma Water
- Kristin Sicke, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Federico Barajas, San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(9) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following Board Discussion, action was taken on the following items.

- Broadband
- Transportation

**BOARD ACTION:** Board member Joy Sterling moved to authorize the Board President to send a letter to the Governor and Legislature reiterating the Board’s previous position in support of Broadband infrastructure and “middle mile” networks. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (8-0) carried the motion. Board members Rachelle Arizmendi, Eric Holst, Martha Montoya, and Helene Dillard were not present for the vote.

BOARD ACTION: Board Member Nancy Casady moved to authorize the Board President to send a letter to the California State Transportation Agency concerning overweight agricultural permits. The letter could be sent at the discretion of the Board President depending on status of current ongoing stakeholder discussions. Board member Joy Sterling seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (8-0) carried the motion. Board members Rachelle Arizmendi, Eric Holst, Martha Montoya, and Helene Dillard were not present for the vote.

No further discussion or recommendations occurred.

**(10) PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

Public comments concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

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