

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

**Location:** Video Conference - GoToWebinar  
In-Person Location: CDFA  
1220 N Street – Main Auditorium  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Contact:** Joshua Eddy, Exec. Director  
**Office:** (916) 654-0462

**MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2021**  
**Video Conference/Hybrid Meeting**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on August 3, 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	Mike Gallo
Bryce Lundberg	Joy Sterling	Donald Bransford
Helene Dillard	Eric Holst	Andrew Thulin
Martha Montoya	Rachelle Arizmendi	Ashley Boren
Jeff Huckaby		

**Absent:**

Crystal Hayling	Christopher Valadez
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**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Rachelle Arizmendi moved to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2021 meeting. Board member Andy Thulin seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (12-0) carried the motion. Board member Ashley Boren was not present for the vote.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board.

The update included an announcement on the appointment of Michael Flores as Deputy Secretary at CDFA. Mr. Flores portfolio includes working with California's Fairs and Expositions. In addition, the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry approved the nomination of Jenny Lester Moffit as USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. The nomination is currently pending full consideration by the Senate.

Other updates included federal funding opportunities under portions of HR 133 (COVID Stimulus and Relief) as well as continuing budgetary discussions at the state level. The Secretary also mentioned Board Member Christopher Valadez's hosting of HHS Secretary Becerra last month in Salinas to visit a COVID-19 clinic for farm workers and their families supported by the Grower-Shipper Association and Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas.

The Secretary concluded remarks by mentioning the detection of Africa Swine Fever in the Dominican Republic (first detection in the Western Hemisphere in 40 years) and a pending visit by USDA Secretary Vilsack to California.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Organic Market Overview**

The Board heard a presentation from a national trade organization on current issues and trends within the U.S. organic sector.

Speaker:

- Angie Jagiello, Organic Trade Association

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Organic Agriculture in California**

The Board heard presentation from representatives of California's organic industry concerning issues and trends within the California organic sector.

Speakers included:

- Brise Tencer, Organic Farming Research Foundation
- Kelly Damewood, CCOF

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD: Food Safety Modernization Act and Organic Agriculture**

The Board heard a presentation concerning the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and considerations for organic agricultural production.

Speaker:

- Shelley Phillips, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(8) BREAK**

**(9) PANEL DISCUSSION: Organic and Resilient Agriculture**

The Board held a panel discussion with organic agricultural stakeholders and academic institutions concerning latest developments, key issues and innovations related to organic, resilient and regenerative agriculture.

Speakers included:

- Jeremy Johnson, Traditional Medicinals
- Claire Balint, CalPoly Sustainability Center
- Houston Wilson, UC Organic Institute
- Cynthia Daley, Center for Regenerative Agriculture

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(10) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following issues were discussed:

- Executive Director Report
  - Trucking – The Board was informed by staff that the action item taken at the July 6 meeting was deferred given the Board President's discretion and ongoing discussions among state government agencies.
  - Broadband – the Board was informed by staff that the action item taken at the July 6 meeting was deferred given recent legislative action.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT)**

- Ag Vision – Staff continues work to implement the strategic planning process and is currently coordinating small group sessions with stakeholders.
- Ports – Staff continues to be engaged with stakeholders related to the issue.
- Water Committee Update
  - Committee Chair Don Bransford reported that with pending water actions/decisions a Water Committee meeting will be scheduled soon to look at various water issues impacting agriculture.
- September Meeting
  - The Board considered cancelation of the September 7th meeting as a result of the Labor Day holiday, but it was decided to continue with the meeting as scheduled.

No further discussion or recommendations occurred.

### **(11) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Following the Board discussion, the following individual provided public comments.

Speakers included:

- Michael Harris, California Black Agriculture

No further public comments were received. Public comments can be viewed at:

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

Public comments concluded without formal action by the Board.

### **(12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

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