

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

**Location:** California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street – Main Auditorium  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Contact:** Joshua Eddy, Executive Director  
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**MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at approximately 10:00 a.m., President Craig McNamara presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Helene Dillard	Craig McNamara	Ashley Boren
Don Cameron	Ben Drake	Nancy Casady
Donald Bransford	Bryce Lundberg	Mary Holz-Clause
Eric Holst		

**Absent:**

Mike Gallo	Miles Reiter	Martha Montoya
Joy Sterling		

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 5, 2016**

Board member Ashley Boren moved to approve the minutes of the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Board member Ben Drake seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board member Eric Holst was not present for the vote.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Undersecretary Jim Houston provided a brief update to the Board. The update included an overview of CDFA’s 2016-17 budget as proposed in the Governor’s Budget Summary. As part of the budget proposal, CDFA would receive \$75 million in Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds to support dairy digesters (\$35 million), the State Water Enhancement and Efficiency Program (\$20 million), and Healthy Soils (\$20 million). In addition to the budget update, Undersecretary Houston also discussed the Medical Cannabis Cultivation Program and increased expenditure authority for the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) program.

Following the discussion the Board took the following actions:

**MOTION:** Board member Ashley Boren moved that the Board authorize the President to send a letter to the Governor on the proposed Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds associated with agricultural sector. The letter should recommend that proposed funding, while appreciated, is not sufficient to meet the needs within agricultural sector – specifically in regards to dairy digesters. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (10-0) carried the motion.

**MOTION:** Board member Bryce Lundberg moved that the Board authorize the President to send a letter to the Secretary concerning General Fund Support for food banks in the state. Board member Nancy Casady seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (10-0) carried the motion.

The Board took no further action on this agenda item.

(5) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD –National Organic Program**

The Board heard a presentation from a representative of the USDA’s Agriculture Marketing Service on the National Organic Program.

Speaker:

- Miles McEvoy, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (via videoconference)

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board

(6) **PANEL DISCUSSION – California State Organic Program**

The Board heard from various representatives of state agencies, local government and a department advisory committee concerning the California State Organic Program. The discussion was preceded by a presentation by Scott Renteria with CDFA on the California State Organic Program.

Panelists included:

- Rick Jensen, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Brian Leahy, California Department of Pesticide Regulation
- Jane Reick, California Department of Public Health
- Stacy Carlsen, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner\*
- Melody Meyer, California Organic Products Advisory Committee\*

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board

*\* Submitted comments/presentations by Stacy Carlsen and Melody Meyers included within the minutes (Attachment A)*

(7) **BREAK**

(8) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California State Organic Program**

The Board heard presentations from representatives of the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) on the California State Organic Program.

Speakers included:

- Cathy Calfo, CCOF
- Kelly Damewood, CCOF
- Phil LaRocca, Chair – CCOF’s Board of Directors

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board

*\*Submitted comments by Dale Coke, Coke Farm (invited speaker) are include within the minutes (Attachment A)*

(9) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Three individuals provided public comment:

Hezekiah Allen, California Growers Association provided a brief update to the Board on legislative issues related to Medical Marijuana programs and how the impact the growing community.

Casey O’Neill, California Growers Association commented on the need to create a third party certification program for cannabis farmers and looks forward to participating in the California State Organic Program as a grower.

Micah Flause, Small Farmers Association commented on the need for a medical cannabis program to have resources available such as best business practices, growing standards, residue testing and tracking of pesticide use.

(10) **BOARD DISCUSSION/OTHER BUSINESS**

No Other Business was discussed.

(11) **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.