

**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  
**Office:** (916) 654-0462

**MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2018**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Don Cameron	Joy Sterling	Bryce Lundberg
Nancy Casady	Martha Montoya	Ashley Boren
Frank Muller	Donald Bransford	Mike Gallo

**Absent:**

Eric Holst	Rachelle Arizmendi	Helene Dillard
Crystal Hayling	Jeff Huckaby	Andy Thulin

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board member Nancy Casady moved to approve the minutes of the May 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote (8-0). 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 a status report on the continuing investigation related to E. coli in romaine lettuce originating from Arizona. As a result of the outbreak a Leafy Green Food Safety Task Force has been established to assess and address issues associated with the outbreak. Other updates included additional Huanglongbing (HLB) finds in backyard citrus; ongoing budget discussions and a reminder that California fair season has started.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – USDA Farm Service Agency**

The Board heard a presentation from the state executive director for the USDA Farm Service Agency on the agencies work and future plans for the coming years.

Speaker:

- Aubrey Bettencourt, USDA Farm Service Agency

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – USDA Rural Development (Broadband)**

The Board heard from a representative from USDA Rural Development on federal initiatives/programs to expand broadband connectivity within California.

Speaker:

- Robert Tse, USDA Rural Development

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Rural Broadband**

The Board heard from a representative of the Rural County Representatives of California on issues related to broadband and rural communities.

Speaker:

- Greg Norton, Rural County Representatives of California

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)**

The Board heard from representatives from the CPUC on broadband access within the Central Valley.

Speakers included:

- Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, CPUC
- Robert Wullenjohn, CPUC

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) **BREAK**

(10) **PANEL DISCUSSION– Broadband Perspectives**

The Board heard from national media representatives that have covered broadband issues in rural agricultural communities on common issues they have observed.

Speakers included:

- Kaleigh Rogers, Motherboard – Vice Magazine (via Skype)
- Sam Bloch, New Food Economy (via Skype)

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) **PANEL DISCUSSION– Broadband: Options at the State Level**

The Board heard from representatives of a non-profit corporation and a stakeholder group concerning state level options related to broadband.

Speakers included

- Sunne Wright McPeak, California Emerging Technology Fund
- Robert Gore, Ag Tech Roundtable

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(12) OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed the following issues:

- STAFF DRAFT letter – USDA/USTR (trade)
- STAFF DRAFT letter – SB 623 (support)
- STAFF DRAFT letter – Governor (trade)

After Board discussion and a preliminary motion to approve all STAFF DRAFT letter in one motion, it was determined to consider each STAFF DRAFT letter individually.

**MOTION:** Board member Joy Sterling moved that the Board approve the STAFF DRAFT letters on an individual vote. Board member Martha Montoya seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote (9-0).

**VOTE: (APPROVED)** STAFF DRAFT letter – USDA/USTR (trade)

PASS: (9-0)

Ayes: Boren, Bransford, Cameron, Casady, Gallo, Lundberg, Montoya, Muller, Sterling

Noes: None received

**VOTE: (APPROVED)** STAFF DRAFT letter – SB 623 (support)

PASS: (7-2)

Ayes: Boren, Bransford, Cameron, Gallo, Montoya, Muller, Sterling

Noes: Casady, Lundberg

**VOTE: (APPROVED)** STAFF DRAFT letter – Governor (trade)

PASS: (9-0)

Ayes: Boren, Bransford, Cameron, Casady, Gallo, Lundberg, Montoya, Muller, Sterling

Noes: None received

Action by the Board on ‘Other Business’ concluded.

**(13) BOARD DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following Board discussion on issues related to rural broadband connectivity the following action was taken.

**MOTION:** Board member Joy Sterling moved that two STAFF DRAFT letters be developed for consideration at the Board’s next meeting. The first letter will be a STAFF DRAFT to the PUC on broadband issues; the second letter will be a STAFF DRAFT to the Federal Communication Commission on the importance of broadband to rural agriculture. Board member Bryce Lundberg seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote (9-0).

**(14) PUBLIC COMMENT**

One individual provided comment:

- Trish Kelly, Valley Vision

Comments can be seen at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

No further public comments were provided

**(15) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:10 p.m.