

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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2020
Video Conference Meeting

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 1st at approximately 10:00 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron
Bryce Lundberg
Ashley Boren
Martha Montoya
Mike Gallo

Nancy Casady
Joy Sterling
Helene Dillard
Eric Holst

Andrew Thulin
Donald Bransford
Christopher Valadez
Rachelle Arizmendi

Absent:

Crystal Hayling

Jeff Huckaby

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board member Mike Gallo moved to approve the minutes of the August 4th meeting. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (12-0) carried the motion. Board member Eric Holst was not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included a progress report on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distribution, specifically masks, as results a COVID-19 and the ongoing wildfires. The primary current focus has been on masks distribution to farmworkers for smoke protection (N95) and coordination is occurring with local community-based organizations in partnerships with county agricultural commissioners. The Secretary also reported that the Housing for the Harvest Program was launched in Fresno and San Joaquin Counties and that these counties were the first local partners in the program. Additional updates included ongoing progress on the Farm to School Program in partnership with the First Partner's Office, the Governor's Executive Order on broadband, and the USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box Program.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Workforce Development & Training

The Board heard a presentation from the California Department of Industrial Relations on programs related to apprenticeships and career technical education. The presentation focused on opportunities to further engage agricultural entities into related programs.

Speaker:

- Eric Rood, California Department of Industrial Relations

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) PANEL DISCUSSION– California Community Colleges (Ag Workforce)

The Board held a panel discussion with community college representatives on agricultural workforce and training programs as well as career technical education focusing on the agricultural sector.

Speakers included:

- Nancy Gutierrez, Reedley College
- Holly Correa, Ventura College
- Zachary Zweigle, Shasta College

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PUBLIC COMMENT

Following the panel discussion, the Board received one public comment:

Speaker:

- Dr. Stuart Van Horn, West Hills Community College

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

Public comment concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) BOARD DISCUSSION – Agricultural Workforce Development

Following the presentations, the Board held a discussion with agricultural stakeholders on the importance of agricultural workforce training to address future needs within the industry and regional economic development.

Speakers included:

- Glenda Humiston, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Elliott Balch, Central Valley Community Foundation
- Rick Tomlinson, California Strawberry Commission
- Board Members

No formal action was taken by the Board on items contained within the agenda.

(9) BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

No further discussion or recommendations occurred.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

One public comment was provided.

Speaker:

- Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Rural County Representatives of California

Public comments can be viewed at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

Public comments concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at approximately 1:00 p.m.