

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

Location: San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
2375 Northside Drive, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92108-2700

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
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MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2015

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 1st at approximately 9:00 a.m., President Craig McNamara presiding.
- (b) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Bryce Lundberg	Nancy Casady	Mike Gallo
Ashley Boren	Joy Sterling	Eric Holst
Rodney Taylor	Don Cameron	Ben Drake
Craig McNamara	Martha Montoya	Helene Dillard
Mary Holz-Clause		

Absent:

Miles Reiter	Donald Bransford
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(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 3, 2015

Board member Ashley Boren moved to approve the minutes of the February 3rd meeting. Board member Ben Drake seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief departmental update. Today, Governor Brown will be attending the final snowpack survey of the year at Echo Summit and we anticipate announcements to follow. On the departmental side, avian influenza outbreaks continue to occur in the United States and California's most recent detection was in Stanislaus County last month. As result of migratory birds and the Pacific Flyway this could be an issue we are dealing with over the next couple of years.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Agricultural Trade

The Board was provided an overview of federal agricultural trade policy and current negotiations related to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The presentation also covered the importance of Trade Promotion Authority.

Speaker:

- The Honorable Darci Vetter – Chief Agricultural Negotiator
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (via teleconference)

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (6) **GROUP DISCUSSION/PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD – Agricultural Trade**
The Board held a group discussion, with presentations, that included several agricultural entities focusing on international trade development.

Speakers included:

- Dennis Collins, California Milk Advisory Board
- Philip Finiello, Almond Board of California
- Rayne Thompson, Sunkist
- Jake Lewin, CCOF Certification Services
- Linsey Gallagher, Wine Institute

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (7) **BREAK**

- (8) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Agricultural Workforce**

The Board was provided an overview on agricultural workforce and immigration issues related to the H2A program and its use by California’s farmers and ranchers.

Speaker:

- Jason Resnick, Western Growers

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (9) **GROUP DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Agricultural Workforce**

Following a presentation and overview on agricultural workforce and immigration issues, the Board held a group discussion with several users of the H2A program in California.

Speakers included:

- Jeanne Malitz; Malitz Law, Inc.
- Susan Quale, Sierra Cascade Nursery
- Steve Scaroni, Fresh Harvest/Scaroni Family Companies
- Carmen Ponce, Tanimura and Antle
- David Singh, West Coast Tomato Growers
- Luawanna Hallstrom, Collaborative Communications

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (10) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Farm to Food Bank Donations

Board Member Bryce Lundberg mentioned the Board’s ongoing commitment to double farm contributions to food banks and asked that all members reach out to associated agricultural associations. Mr. Lundberg continues to work with the California Association of Food and Banks on stakeholder outreach and encouraging farmers to participate in the program.

Food Donations Tax Credit

President McNamara informed the Board about current legislation that would expand the tax credit for farm donations to food banks. President McNamara explained that efforts were underway to expand the list of eligible farm commodities within the program as well as enlarge the tax credit provided.

MOTION: President McNamara moved that the Board authorize the President to send a letter, on behalf of the Board, to Secretary Karen Ross supporting initiatives that expand the tax credit associated with farm donations to food banks. Board member Bryce Lundberg seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

No further action was taken by the Board.

(11) PUBLIC COMMENT

One individual provided public comment.

Wehtahnah Tucker, California Correctional Health Care Services, provided an overview of the Farm and Rehabilitation Meals (FARM) program at Richard J. Donovan Correction Facility. The program operates within the correctional facility with the goal of providing inmates with education opportunities, skills, and improved health through farming.

No further public comments were provided.

(12) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:05 p.m.