

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

Location: Dollarhide Community Center
301 N. Tamarind Avenue
Compton, CA 90220

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
Office: (916) 654-0462

MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 5, 2014

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 5th, 2014 at approximately 10:11 a.m., President Craig McNamara presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by President McNamara
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Craig McNamara	Bryce Lundberg	Nancy Casady
Ashley Boren	Miles Reiter	Eric Holst
Rodney Taylor	Martha Montoya	Don Cameron
Mike Gallo		

Absent:

Charles Boyer	Joy Sterling	Ben Drake
Donald Bransford	Daniel Dooley	

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 1, 2014

Board member Don Cameron moved to approve the minutes of the July 1st meeting. Board member Bryce Lundberg seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included information related to the drought (58 percent of the state is an extremely critical drought); groundwater management discussion; and the reported impact of the drought on California's economy - \$2.2 billion. This included the loss of 17,100 seasonal and part-time jobs, the fallowing of 428,000 acres, and \$0.5 billion in additional pumping cost.

The Secretary also discussed the Governor's trade mission to Mexico and the Memorandum of Agreement between Governor Brown and the Minister of Labor to work on establishing a good recruiter pilot for farm labor. Other updates included a report on the dairy task force, information on the Aggie Bond farm loan program, and an overview of the Lean Six Sigma program within state government.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – City of Compton

The Board heard presentations from representatives of the City of Compton concerning food access issues in the community and the City's Blue Line Farmers' Market.

Speakers included:

- G. Harold Duffey, City Manager for the City of Compton
- Iris Hernandez, Blue Line Farmers' Market
- Frank Tamborello, Hunger Action Los Angeles

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Food Access Initiatives**

The Board heard presentations from non-profit groups and other organizations concerning food access initiatives in the Los Angeles area.

Speakers included:

- Robert Egger, L.A. Kitchen
- Neelam Sharma, Community Services Unlimited
- Tiffany McDaniel, Community Health Council, Inc.
- Michael Prelip, UCLA Center for Population Health

The presentations concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Urban Farming/Aquaponics**

The Board heard a presentation on urban farming and aquaponics from a representative of the Aquaponics Association.

Speaker:

- David Rosenstein, EVO Farm

The presentations concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) **BREAK**

(9) **PANEL DISCUSSION– California Freshworks Fund**

The Board heard a presentation from Kaiser Permanente concerning the public-private partnership loan fund created to improve food access within impacted regions throughout California.

Speaker:

- Andrea Azuma, Kaiser Permanente

The presentations concluded without formal action by the Board.

Please note that this agenda item was moved as a result of technical difficulties associated with the posted agenda item scheduled for this time.

(10) **PANEL DISCUSSION– Supplier Perspective**

The Board heard a presentation from a produce supplier located within Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market who provided an overview of the work and assistance of produce businesses in addressing food access issues within the Los Angeles region.

Speaker:

- Jin Ju Wilder, Valley Produce

The presentations concluded without formal action by the Board.

Please note that this agenda item was moved as a result of technical difficulties associated with the earlier agenda item.

(11) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD– Retailer Perspective**

The Board heard a presentation from Whole Foods Market concerning the company's work and experience in addressing food access issues within Detroit, Illinois.

Speaker:

- Amanda Musilli, Whole Foods Market (VIA SKYPE)

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

Please note that this agenda item was moved as a result of technical difficulties.

(12) PANEL DISCUSSION – Next Steps

The Board held an discussion with representatives of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council and the Los Angeles Food Bank concerning next steps in addressing food access issues within Southern California.

Speakers included:

- Alexa Delwiche, Los Angeles Food Policy Council
- Clare Fox, Los Angeles Food Policy Council
- Michael Flood, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(13) OTHER BUSINESS

Following the presentations and discussions concerning food access issues, the Board took the following actions:

CARB Letter on Rice Cultivation Projects: The Board requested to table the draft letter to CARB until a future date. The draft letter was developed following an approved motion at the July 1st Board Meeting.

Water Bond Discussion: Following up on the Secretary’s update to the Board concerning drought status, the Board discussed sending a letter to the Governor supporting a Water Bond agreement that would include funding for storage and the implementation for the California Water Action Plan. Following Board discussion a motion was made.

MOTION: Board member Bryce Lundberg moved that the Board authorize President McNamara to write a letter to the Governor supporting a Water Bond agreement that includes funding for storage and implementation of the California Water Action Plan. Board member Don Cameron seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

No further action was taken by the Board.

(14) PUBLIC COMMENT

Two individuals provided public comment:

Paula Daniels, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, commented on exploring other sectors of the agricultural economy to address issues of food access. Ms. Daniels mentioned the importance of minimizing food waste, developing urban aquaculture, and the conversion/utilization of gray water in agricultural production.

Reginald Fagan, Timbuktu Resource Center, commented on the organizations work with community colleges (vendors/sourcing), encouraging interaction and involvement with the community, and of increasing the use of science to improve and create sustainable home and community gardens. Mr. Fagan further commented that the synergies surrounding this meeting should not be abandoned and the individuals participating in the meeting should collaborate more on common goals.

No further public comments were provided.

(15) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.