

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

**Location:** Old Sugar Mill  
35265 Willow Ave – Barrel Room  
Clarksburg, CA 95612

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

**MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 31, 2018**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at approximately 10:05 a.m., Executive Director Joshua Eddy presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Don Cameron	Mike Gallo	Helene Dillard
Ashley Boren	Joy Sterling	Crystal Hayling
Eric Holst	Rachelle Arizmendi	Andy Thulin
Ben Drake		

**Absent:**

Nancy Casady	Donald Bransford	Bryce Lundberg
Martha Montoya		

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 5, 2017**

Board member Ben Drake moved to approve the minutes of the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Board member Andy Thulin seconded the motion and a vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board member Ashley Boren arrived late and did not participate in the vote.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Deputy Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt provided a brief departmental update to the board. Secretary Karen Ross was attending the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) meeting and was not in attendance. The update included the announcement of Rachelle O'Brien as CDFA's new Assistant Secretary for Legislation. Rachelle previously worked with the Agricultural Council of California. Deputy Secretary Moffitt also provided an overview of the Governor's proposed budget for CDFA, which included a total \$488 million in funding. In addition, Cap and Trade funding was made available to support CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture programs. Other updates included: invasive pest findings, CalCannabis track and trace status, as well as safe and affordable drinking water.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(5) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Delta Perspectives**

The Board heard from four individuals representing perspectives on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Speakers included:

- Supervisor Skip Thomson, Delta Protection Commission
- Mark Pruner, Delta Protection Advisory Committee
- Stephen F. Heringer III, Heringer Wine Estates Family Vineyard & Winery
- Tim Neuharth, Steamboat Acres

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Delta Watermaster**

The Board heard a presentation from the State Water Resources Control Board – Delta Watermaster. The presentation covered the role of the Delta Watermaster and a perspective on issues impacting the Delta.

Speaker:

- Michael George, State Water Resources Control Board

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California EcoRestore**

The Board heard a presentation from the California Natural Resources Agency on the California EcoRestore program.

Speaker:

- Kris Tjernell, California Natural Resources Agency

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Seven individuals provided public comment. One individual provided written public comment for the record (attached).

- Melinda Terry, North Delta Water Agency
- Michael Harris, California Black Farmers and Agriculturalist Association
- Ken Payne, Auburn Dam Council
- Mark Wilson, Wilson Farms
- Gilbert Cosio, MBK Engineers
- Tim Neuharth, Steamboat Acres
- Delta Resident

Public comment concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) **OTHER BUSINESS**

No Other Business was discussed

(10) **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting concluded at approximately 1:21 p.m.

**BOARD TOUR:**

Following the conclusion of the Board meeting, the Board took a tour of Delta Communities viewing farming operations and habitat restoration projects. The tour occurred from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and was facilitated by the Delta Protection Commission.

SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENT- JAN 31st MEETING

Public Comment:

January 31, 2018

From: "daniel witte" <[boatboy@pacbell.net](mailto:boatboy@pacbell.net)>

Date: Jan 30, 2018 10:09 PM

Subject: comment for tomorrow's meeting

To: <[deltaactioncommittee@gmail.com](mailto:deltaactioncommittee@gmail.com)>

The California Delta is very important for agriculture in California for many reasons. First off, the majority of vegetables grown in California come from Delta farms. Given that there are so many crops grown on these farms, this means that the Delta farmers make a lot of money. Secondly, Delta farming is a very healthy form of farming in California because the water is returned to the rivers naturally after it is used. While the farmers irrigate with the Delta water, it will eventually soak back into the dirt and return to the Delta, unlike water that is diverted away from the Delta which doesn't return.

If the Delta has insufficient fresh water flowing through it, as the result of diversions above the Delta, salt water from the Bay will intrude farther up into the rivers. If salt water intrudes up into the Delta the farmers cannot farm because the salt water would kill their crops. If the Delta farmers cannot farm, they will have no money to feed their families. In addition to that, California residents would be unable to buy vegetables grown within the state. As a result, more vegetables would have to be shipped to California which would increase pollution in the air and water.

Over all, the California Delta is very important for DELTA farming. Given that, this important resource should not be sacrificed to farm thirsty crops " a dry area like the Central Valley.

Daniel Witte