

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

Location: CA Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 'N' Street – Main Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
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MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 25, 2009

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, March 25, 2009, at approximately 9:05 a.m. Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by President Al Montna.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Al Montna	Michael Darnell	Arlan Van Leeuwen
Ashley Boren	Luawanna Hallstrom	Craig McNamara
Daniel Dooley	Adan Ortega, Jr.	David Wehner
Marvin Meyers		

Absent:

Karen Ross	Kerry Tucker	Donald Valpredo
Thomas Deardorff II	Donald Bransford	

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 25, 2009

MOTION: Board member Daniel Dooley moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2009 meeting. Board member Craig McNamara seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Kawamura provided a departmental update to the Board. Topics included: California Agriculture Day, letter from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the California Congressional Delegation on the retaliatory trade sanctions enacted by Mexico and the need for data on the economic impacts of the drought on the agricultural industry.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD

The Board had one presentation focusing on the current statewide drought and the estimated economic impacts to the agricultural industry.

Speakers included:

- Wendy H. Martin, California Department of Water Resources

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) **AGRICULTURAL UPDATE – CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE**

The Board had one presentation from the California Legislature focusing on water issues and the policy interests of the California Senate Committee on Food and Agriculture.

Speakers included:

- The Honorable Dean Florez, Senate Majority Leader, 16th District

The agricultural update concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD**

The Board had four presentations focusing of diverse aspects of the agricultural industry.

Presentation topics included: food nutrition programs in California, the California Agricultural Vision, the California Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and agricultural education programs.

FIRST PRESENTATION

The first presentation focused on food nutrition programs in California and was presented by the California Research Bureau. The bureau is currently working on a research paper to document food nutrition programs in California.

Speakers included:

- Pam Martin, California Research Bureau
- Brian Sala, California Research Bureau

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

SECOND PRESENTATION

The second presentation focused on the California Agricultural Vision and was presented by American Farmland Trust. The organization is interested in partnering with the Board on the California Agricultural Vision.

Speakers included:

- Ed Thompson, Jr., American Farmland Trust

MOTION: Board member Daniel Dooley moved to have CDFA staff work with American Farmland Trust to pursue a work plan for the California Agricultural Vision. Board member Adan Ortega seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

THIRD PRESENTATION

The third presentation focused on the California Specialty Block Grant Program. The presentation included an overview of the current grant program, a success story on a previously funded Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and expectations for the 2009 funding cycle.

Speakers included:

- Christi Heintz, Project Apis. (PAM)
- Kathy Alameda, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Casey Walsh Cady, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD (CONTINUED)

The Board had four presentations focusing of diverse aspects of the agricultural industry. Presentation topics included: food nutrition programs in California, the California Agricultural Vision, the California Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and agricultural education programs.

FOURTH PRESENTATION

The last presentation focused on an agricultural education program in the Central Valley. Students from the Center for Advance Research and Technology (CART) provided an overview of their educational experience at the center.

Speakers included:

- Staci Bynum, Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART)
- CART students

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

Following the conclusion of the presentations to the Board and the agricultural update, President Al Montna entertained motions and any of the above items.

MOTION: Board member Adan Ortega moved to have staff, on the Board’s behalf, develop and send a follow-up letter to the California Congressional Delegation regarding the retaliatory trade sanctions enacted by Mexico. Board member Daniel Dooley seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

MOTION: Board member Marvin Meyers moved to have staff, on the Board’s behalf, develop and send a letter to California’s agricultural commissioners regarding drought reporting as requested by the California Department of Water Resources. Board member David Wehner seconded the motion and unanimous vote carried the motion.

(9) AG VISION DISCUSSION

The Board conducted a discussion on the California Agricultural Vision that included: the Ag Vision Framework, the operation plan on how the process will move forward and how to address the regulatory climate. The Board also viewed a trailer to an upcoming film entitled, *Food Inc.*, which addresses messaging in the agricultural industry.

MOTION: President Al Montna moved to entertain a motion to have staff work with the California Research Bureau to discuss research options related to the regulatory climate. Board member Luawanna Hallstrom made the motion, seconded by Board member Ashley Boren. A unanimous vote carried the motion.

(10) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public comment was provided.

(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:24 p.m.