

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

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

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

**MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2018**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10:11 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Don Cameron  
Nancy Casady  
Eric Holst

Bryce Lundberg  
Joy Sterling  
Rachelle Arizmendi

Andy Thulin  
Crystal Hayling

**Absent:**

Donald Bransford  
Mike Gallo

Helene Dillard  
Ashley Boren

Ben Drake  
Martha Montoya

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 31, 2018

Board member Mike Gallo moved to approve the minutes of the January 31<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Board member Rachelle Arizmendi seconded the motion and it was approved on a unanimous vote (8-0).

February 1, 2018

Board member Mike Gallo moved to approve the minutes of the February 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Board member Joy Sterling seconded the motion and it was approved on a unanimous vote (8-0).

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update included a short statement on the court decision related to the programmatic environmental impact report for the Department's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services division. Other updates included information on the Federal Milk Marketing Order; CDFA's work on antibiotic use on livestock; the creation of an Environmental Audit Unit to address FSMA implementation; and an update on the CalCannabis Program. Secretary Ross concluded with the introduction of Rachael O'Brien as CDFA's new assistant secretary for legislation.

(5) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD- California Invasive Species Council Update**

The Board heard a presentation from a representative from the California Invasive Species Council related to recent work of the Council.

Speaker:

- John Kabashima, UC Cooperative Extension, Orange County

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) **PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD – California Invasive Pest Update**

The Board heard from representatives of CDFA’s Plant Health and Pest Service Division and individual pest programs related to invasive pest issues.

Speakers included:

- Stephen Brown, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division
- Nick Condos, Citrus Disease and Pest Prevention Program
- Roger Spencer, Pierce’s Disease Control Program

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **BREAK**

(8) **PANEL DISCUSSION– Pierce’s Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter**

The Board heard from representatives of CDFA’s Pierce’s Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter related to program structure, management and implementation.

Speakers included:

- Robert Wynn, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Ryan Metzler, Fruita Del Sol.

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) **PANEL DISCUSSION– Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing**

The Board heard from agricultural stakeholder representing the citrus sector on the threat of Huanglongbing to citrus production and the citrus nursery industry.

Speakers included:

- Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual
- Jim Gorden, Citrus Research Board/Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
- Aaron Dillon, Four Winds Growers

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(10) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD- California Bee Safe Program**

The Board heard a presentation from a representative from CDFA's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division related to pollinator health activities.

Speaker:

- Courtney Albrecht, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(11) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Six individuals provided public comment and one written public comment was provided for the record. Public comments can be viewed at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

Public Comments:

- Bob Curtis, Almond Board of California
- Jackie Park-Burris, California State Beekeepers Association
- Andrea DiNapoli, San Francisco Resident (written public comment also provided)
- Derek Casady, Climate Mobilization
- Deanna van Klaveren, Generation Growers
- Terry Oxford, Urban Bee Impact

Public comment concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(12) OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

**(13) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:16 p.m.

To: The California Senate Agriculture Committee

Re: The March 6th Senate Agriculture Meeting and The impact of Hobbyist Honey Beekeeping in Cities, Towns and Residential Neighborhoods.

Date: February 28th, 2018

Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

The recent interest in hobbyist beekeeping has caused a proliferation of honey bees in residential areas in California and throughout the US. In some areas this can be constructive, but it can have a negative impact for residents and bees.

Many people who obtain honey beehives for a hobby are not truly educated on the complexity of beekeeping. Many cities do not require training. Some Cities have policies in place to allow hobbyist beekeeping and to protect the citizens.

Towns and cities across California are experiencing an uncontrolled amount of hobbyist honey bees coming into residential areas. Cities such as San Francisco have a dense population with apartments and row houses. Many residents who live near hobbyist beehives are experiencing a large amount of honey bees coming into their property and also the bee droppings of several thousand bees making it impossible to enjoy outdoor living. (See photos page 2-4) There has also been the side effect of the Zombie Fly disease making bees attracted to light at night and coming into homes. This is having a negative impact on residents.

I am a member of a work group to try to develop some sort of regulation for the densely populated city of San Francisco. I am also a victim of living near a large amount of hobbyist beehives.

Hobbyist Beekeeping has become a fad and many Bee groups are approaching cities to get them to loosen their policies or to allow unmonitored honey bees into residential neighborhoods. There is no agriculture in these areas. They never mention the possible impact on neighbors or the native bee. Having an uncontrolled amount of hobbyist honey bees on one block is not "saving" the bee.

I would like you to address this issue and ask your opinion on cities allowing an uncontrolled amount of hobbyist honey bees in residential neighborhoods and if this is helping save the bee?

I have included a link below to a website that some residents of San Francisco made to address our problem, but this can happen in any neighborhood in any County near beehives.

Please take these concerns into consideration when discussing the current state of bees in California.

You can get more info and see more photos and a video of a swarm coming into a residents yard at: [www.urbanbeeimpact.com](http://www.urbanbeeimpact.com)

Sincerely,

Andrea DiNapoli  
[andrea@urbanbeeimpact.com](mailto:andrea@urbanbeeimpact.com)

Photos on pages 2-4..

This car shows the accumulation of Bee excrement (yellow dots). This is how much lands on our homes, cars, outdoor living space and fixtures in just a month. It does not wash off with a hose. The droppings can corrode paint and other outside fixtures. **It also lands on our clothes and bodies when outside.** This usually occurs if the homes are near a beekeeper.



A resident's window. This is only a few weeks after the owner had to use a scraper to get the bee excrement off. You can imagine what a few months would look like.



Here are photos of what is inside each of the drawers of a hive. Many hobbyist beekeepers have several more hives that are taller with more drawers. Beekeeping is complex and many people buy hives without the proper training or regard for neighbors. Bees will find a flight path and the unlucky neighbor will feel the impact. There was a time when Beekeeping was limited to rural Agricultural Zones.

