

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

Location: Video Conference
GoToWebinar

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MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2020
Video Conference Meeting

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 5th at approximately 10:00 a.m., President Don Cameron presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Don Cameron
Bryce Lundberg
Ashley Boren
Andrew Thulin
Jeff Huckaby

Nancy Casady
Joy Sterling
Mike Gallo
Martha Montoya
Crystal Hayling

Rachelle Arizmendi
Donald Bransford
Helene Dillard
Eric Holst
Christopher Valadez

Absent:

All Board members were in attendance.

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 15, 2020

Board member Nancy Casady moved to approve the minutes of the April 15th meeting. Board member Joy Sterling seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (12-0) carried the motion. Board members Eric Holst, Martha Montoya and Andrew Thulin were not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The update focused on current CDFA operations (telework) and commending staff for their continued work and dedication through the telework transition. The Secretary also provide an update on current statewide activities surrounding COVID-19 including: PPE sourcing/availability status, rural testing sites, industry guidance for the food sector (cross-agency collaboration), federal tracking of USDA programs, Farm-to-Family Program, fairground activation and budgetary challenges, as well FEMA reimbursements for senior food programs. Other updates included the Secretary's work with CA GROWN to reinforce to retailers and consumers that buying local helps our communities and economy. In closing, state budgetary updates to stakeholders will most likely be occurring soon.

The update concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (5) **BOARD DISCUSSION – Governor’s Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery**
The Board held a discussion and heard perspective from agricultural representatives on the Governor’s Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery.

Panelist included:

- Theodore Balestreri, Chair – California Restaurant Association
- Amelia Ceja, Ceja Vineyards
- Ron Fong, California Grocers Association
- Garrett Patricio, Westside Produce
- Elaine Trevino, Almond Alliance
- Teresa Romero, United Farm Workers
- Fred Ruiz, Ruiz Foods – joined with Kim Ruiz Beck (CEO).

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (6) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Looking Forward (Agricultural Sector)**
The Board heard perspective from stakeholders on challenges and opportunities on recovery efforts regionally and statewide for the agricultural sector.

Panelist included:

- Glenda Humiston, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Dennis Donohue, Western Growers
- Trish Kelly, Valley Vision

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

- (7) **BOARD DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS**
Following the presentations and discussion by Board members the following actions were taken:

BOARD ACTION: Letter to the California Congressional Delegation on Broadband Issues. Board member Don Bransford moved that staff draft a letter for Board consideration highlighting the need for broadband funding, and other projects, in future economic recovery legislation. Board member Rachelle Arizmendi seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (13-0) carried the motion. Board members Joy Sterling and Crystal Hayling were not present for the vote.

BOARD ACTION: Letter in support of AB 2956
Board member Nancy Casady moved that staff draft a letter for Board consideration supporting AB 2956. Board member Chris Valadez seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (13-0) carried the motion. Board members Joy Sterling and Crystal Hayling were not present for the vote.

The Board took no further actions.

(8) PUBLIC COMMENT

One individual provided public comment:

- Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Rural County Representatives of California

Comments can be viewed at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/LiveMediaStream.html>

No further public comments were provided.

(9) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

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