

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

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MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, September 5th at approximately 10:05 a.m., President Craig McNamara presiding.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Craig McNamara	Don Cameron	Nancy Casady
Ben Drake	Mike Gallo	Eric Holst
Helene Dillard	Donald Bransford	Joy Sterling
Martha Montoya		

Absent:

Ashley Boren	Bryce Lundberg
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(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 8, 2017

Board member Don Bransford moved to approve the minutes of the August 8th meeting. Board member Mike Gallo seconded the motion and a unanimous vote (9-0) carried the motion. Board member Joy Sterling was not present for the vote.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Karen Ross provided a brief update to the Board. The updated included an overview of recent U.S. Department of Agriculture nominations which included Bill Northey (Iowa Secretary of Agriculture) for the position of undersecretary of farm production and conservation as well as Greg Ibach (Nebraska Director of Agriculture) as the undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs. In addition, Secretary Ross also announced new CDFA positions including Richard Parrot, director of CalCannabis and Nick Condos, as interim director for CDFA's Citrus Disease and Pest Prevention Program. Stephen Brown will serve as acting director for CDFA's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services division.

The update also included the announcement that California's cap and trade program was extended by the Legislature and as part of this extension CDFA will be hosting Compliance Offset Protocol Task Force meetings for the agricultural sector (processed food) to discuss new offset opportunities. Other announcements included the finalization of California's Farm Bill priorities; the upcoming release of the Strategic Growth Council's Transformative Climate Communities program; and the 10 year anniversary of the California Leafy Green Marketing Agreement. The Secretary concluded with an overview of the CA GROWN trip to Mexico which included discussions with the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGRAPA).

Following discussion with the Board, the following action was taken:

ACTION: Board member Don Bransford moved to have staff prepare a letter for Board consideration focusing on support for international trade agreements (NAFTA/KORUS). Board member Don Cameron seconded and the motion was passed by consent.

The update concluded without further action by the Board.

(5) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Farmland Conservation Trends**

The Board heard from two panelists regarding statewide farmland conservation trends and government programs focused on protecting agricultural lands.

Speakers included:

- Kathryn Lyddan, California Department of Conservation
- Suzanne Hague, California Strategic Growth Council

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(6) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Farmland Conservation Issues**

The Board heard from two panelist who discussed policy issues and barriers associated with farmland conservation.

Speakers included:

- Chris Scheuring, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Tim Snellings, Butte County Department of Development Services

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **BREAK**

(8) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Land Water Intersection in the San Joaquin Valley**

The Board heard a presentation by a representative of American Farmland Trust providing an overview of a recent report that quantified map patters of agricultural land quality and water resource stress.

Speaker:

- Ed Thompson, Jr., American Farmland Trust

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Farmland Conservation Perspectives**

The Board heard from two panelist who discussed recent work preserving farm and rangeland within the state.

Speakers included:

- Nita Vail, California Rangeland Trust
- R. Scott Spear, Sequoia Riverlands Trust

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Following the discussions, the Board took the following actions as part of Other Business.

ACTION: Board member Joy Sterling moved to have staff develop a letter in support of DACA for Board consideration. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and the motion was passed by consent.

No further business was conducted.

(11) **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were provided.

(12) **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:30 p.m.