

**MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE-
BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) PRODUCER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)**

Location: California Department of Food and Agriculture
Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Division
2895 N Larkin Avenue, Suite A
Fresno, CA 93727

Contact: Thea Rittenhouse, Farmer
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MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on Monday, November 13, 2023, at approximately 10:05 a.m., Thea Rittenhouse, Farmer Equity Advisor opening the meeting.

(2) ROLL CALL

Present:

Hung K. Doan	Dennis Hutson	Kenneth Sparks (Virtual)
Tania Zuniga	Arshdeep Singh	Minkah Taharkah (Virtual)
Emily Burgueno	Qi Zhou	Mireya Contreras (Virtual)
Donald Sherman	Javier Cruz (Virtual)	

Absent:

Natalie Solares

(3) CDFA SECRETARY ADDRESS/ CDFA DIVISION DIRECTOR UPDATES

CA Secretary of Agriculture, Karen Ross joined the session virtually and addressed the group to acknowledge their work. Undersecretary Christine Birdsong attended the meeting in person and provided a brief welcome and update to the Committee. Several Division Directors and other staff from CDFA attended the meeting virtually and provided a short overview of their roles and program. Among attendees were Arima Kozina, Deputy Secretary of Administration and Finance, Rachael O'Brien, Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Virginia Jameson, Deputy Secretary for Climate and Working Lands, Justin Hopper, Office of Civil Rights Chief, Tawny Mata, OEFI Director, Natalie Krout-Greenberg, Inspection Services Director, Kathy Diaz, Marketing Services Director, Victoria Hornbaker, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program Director, Andrew Cline, Acting Director for Plant Health, and Pest Prevention Services.

(4) PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE: Bagley Keene Act

Mary Horst, Counsel from CDFA's Legal Office led a presentation to the Committee on the Bagley Keene Act for Public Open Meetings. The presentation included provisions that the BIPOC Advisory Committee must follow in order to comply with the Bagley Keene Act. These provisions require all state boards and commissions to publicly notice their meetings, prepare agendas, accept public testimony, and conduct their meetings in public unless specifically authorized by the Act.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Committee.

(5) PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE: Farmer Equity Act 1348

CDFA Farmer Equity Advisor Thea Rittenhouse presented the background and history of the Farmer Equity Act (AB 1348) enacted by legislature in 2017. The presentation detailed the importance of the Act, which directs CDFA to ensure resources, outreach, technical assistance,

and decision-making power to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Both BIPOC Producer and Small-Scale Producer Advisory Committees are a result of AB 1348 to help inform CDFA on how to better serve the needs of these producers.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Committee.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE: SGC's Ag Land Equity Task Force

Sean Kennedy, from the Strategic Growth Council attended the meeting virtually to provide a brief overview of SGC's California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force. The Task Force purpose is to develop policy recommendations to equitably increase access to agricultural land for food production and traditional tribal agricultural uses. The Task Force was created in statute, and mandates that there be one representative from the CDFA BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee to serve as the liaison to the Task Force. The purpose of the SGC presentation was for the BIPOC Advisory Committee to vote to appoint a Liaison between the Committee and the Ag Land Equity Task Force.

Voting Outcome: By a majority of votes, the Committee voted to appoint Qi Zhou as the Ag Land Equity Task Force Liaison.

(7) DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: Seeking Self-nominations to Chairperson position of the BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee

A discussion was held to inform Committee members of the importance and purpose of appointing a person to serve as committee chairperson. As a follow-up item, a document outlining the duties of the chairperson will be shared with committee members and they are asked to submit self-nominations to the chairperson position including a brief description of their experience and interest by the end of the week. Secretary Ross will appoint the chairperson after reviewing the nominations received.

Speaker:

- Thea Rittenhouse, Farmer Equity Advisor

Action Item: Members of the Committee are to review Duties of the Chairperson document and submit self-nominations via email by the deadline of November 17th. After reviewing the self-nomination letters received, Secretary Ross appointed Hung K. Doan, UCANR Small-Farm Advisor to the position of Chairperson of the CDFA BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee.

(8) PANEL DISCUSSION/ ACTION ITEM: Identifying priorities of Committee. UC DAVIS Survey participation and/or Interview

To help inform CDFA of BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee's priorities, members are asked to participate in an anonymous survey and/or interview that will be administered by a group of students from UC Davis. Members are advised to participate as this survey is important to better understand committee members' priorities moving forward. Other items discussed were members' preferred weekday availability and time of day to meet quarterly.

Speaker:

- Thea Rittenhouse, Farmer Equity Advisor

Action Item: Committee members are asked to respond to UC Davis's request to complete anonymous survey and/or interview.

(9) CDFA BIPOC PRODUCER ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

As formalization instrument of the BIPOC Producer Advisory Committee, CDFA staff will work internally to create a draft by-law document to help guide the organization of all future meetings. Committee members are asked to review and consider the content of the draft by-laws document and provide comments/edits and guidance. The by-laws are to be discussed and finalized during the next meeting of the Committee.

Speaker:

- Thea Rittenhouse, Farmer Equity Advisor

Action Items: Farmer Equity Office Staff will share a draft version of by-laws by the first week of December 2023. Committee members are asked to review the draft document and be ready to provide comments/ input during the February 2024 meeting.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

The Committee heard public comment for items not on the agenda. One individual provided public comment:

- Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, UCANR

(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:15 p.m.