

California Department of Food & Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
BROOMRAPE BOARD
3294 Meadowview Rd
Sacramento CA 95832
Plant Pest Diagnostics Conference Room
December 19, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Toshi Aoki*
Rick Blankenship*
Ron Dalforno
David Kiehn**
Scott Schmidt*
Scott Spitzer*
Tony Turkovich
David Viguie
Gene Miyao
Daniel Bays**
Frank Coelho Jr*

*Participated via Zoom

**Arrived late

MEMBERS ABSENT

Derek Azevedo
Michael Newton

CDFA PERSONNEL

Andrew Boren
Michelle Dennis
Victoria Hornbaker*
Drew Gilberti*
Lexi Wilson*

GUESTS

Zack Bagley, California Tomato Research Institute
Mike Montna, California Tomato Growers Association
Neil McRoberts, University of California, Davis
Humberto Izquierdo, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner*
Delia Cioc, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner*

CALL TO ORDER

The Broomrape Board Meeting was convened at 10:00 am by Board Chairman, and introductions were made.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT

The meeting was held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the Board meetings that took place on October 10th, 2025, and November 6th, 2025, with a minor correction to the October 10th minutes.

MOTION:

Tony Turkovich moved to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2025, Board meeting, with a minor correction. The motion was seconded by David Vigue and was passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Toshi Aoki
Rick Blankenship
Ron Dalforno
Scott Schmidt
Scott Spitzer
Tony Turkovich
David Vigue
Gene Miyao
Frank Coelho Jr

MOTION:

David Vigue moved to approve the minutes from the from the November 6, 2025, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Tony Turkovich and was passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Toshi Aoki
Rick Blankenship
Ron Dalforno
Scott Schmidt
Scott Spitzer
Tony Turkovich
David Vigue
Gene Miyao
Frank Coelho Jr

CDFA PROGRAM UPDATE

None.

BUDGET

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) staff provided a program update and presented a budget proposal for the board's review. The board discussed expense details on salaries, and how funds are held within the Agriculture Fund. A brief update was provided by California Tomato Research Institute (CTRI) regarding future research projects for consideration.

MOTION: David Vigue moved to accept and approve the financial documents and the FY 25-26 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Tony Turkovich and was passed unanimously.

VOTES:

YES

NO

ABSTENTION

Toshi Aoki
Rick Blankenship
Ron Dalforno
David Kiehn
Scott Schmidt
Scott Spitzer
Tony Turkovich
David Vigue
Gene Miyao
Daniel Bays
Frank Coelho Jr

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – DETECTION

No update.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – ENAGEMENT, EDUCATION, AND COLLABORATION
SCHEDULE BOARD AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR UPCOMING YEAR

The Board confirmed the scheduling of Board meetings every third Wednesday each month. The Board also confirmed scheduling research subcommittee meetings every fourth Wednesday of each month, and financial/budget subcommittee meetings scheduled every second Thursday of each month. The meetings may be cancelled if unnecessary. The board discussed having full board meeting locations alternate between the California Farm Bureau and CDFA Fresno, and all subcommittee meetings at the California Farm Bureau.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ENACT PROTOCOLS

D) CONFIDENTIALITY & REPORTING OPTIONS.

CDFA staff gave a presentation of a digital application that could be developed to report broomrape sightings to the program. Discussion followed regarding whether this data could be subject to Public Records Act requests, and that CDFA does not publish point data outside of a 1 square mile radius.

CDFA staff gave a presentation on CDFA confidentiality and public records policies.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – RESEARCH

B) OTHER RESEARCH

University of California, Davis staff gave a presentation on ways to strategically use a growing degree day phenology model. Discussion followed.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 - ADVOCATE

California Tomato Growers Association (CTGA) staff discussed a tomato industry event on 1/13 and requested for the program to attend to give an update to the industry and get their feedback.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Research

Compliance agreements: The subcommittee provided an update of discussions on updating compliance agreement language.

T2: #4-It was discussed that the subcommittee needs more information about how the washing process went, how it could improve, and whether changes to the compliance agreement for this time were needed or warranted.

P2: #4-Same thoughts as T2, as they relate to processors.

P1: #7- Same thoughts as P2 and T2, as they relate to processors.

G1: #1-It was discussed that a clear standard other than “no soil or plant debris” may be needed to inform enforcement. Suggestions discussed included changing language to “virtually”/ “reasonably” free from soil and plant debris or setting a performance standard based on board recommended best management practices (BMPs). It was discussed that BMP documents could include photo examples of what acceptable or unacceptable examples of cleaning would look like.

G1 #2-It was discussed that some growers expressed interest in moving equipment from a G1 field to a common wash station to reduce mud and seed accumulation in the field. Current language does not allow this. It was discussed that there may not be enough research on the risk of moving uncleaned equipment and that it may be best to leave as-is until more research is available.

G1 #8-It was discussed that the solarization requirement in G1 may cause more harm than good, as the clear bags for solarization are prone to tearing and may accidentally spread seed material. It was discussed that removal and containment of broomrape material is most important, and that #7 could instead direct suspect broomrape plants be removed per board approved BMPs.

G1 #13-It was proposed that a “G3” exhibit is needed for after a G1 field is harvested. This could include a limited set of requirements to decrease the risk of spreading broomrape if the field is unplanted or planted with a different commodity in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 21st, at 10:00 at CDFA Fresno (2895 N Larkin Ave, Suite A Fresno, CA).

ADJOURN

The Board Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:29 pm

Zack McCormack
Secretary to the Board

DRAFT