

California Department of Food & Agriculture  
Integrated Pest Control Branch  
**BROOMRAPE BOARD**  
2895 N Larkin Ave, Suite A  
Fresno CA 93727  
Conference Room  
**November 6, 2025**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Toshi Aoki\*  
Rick Blankenship  
Ron Dalforno  
David Kiehn\*  
Michael Newton  
Scott Schmidt\*  
Scott Spitzer  
Tony Turkovich\*  
David Viguie

\*Participated via Zoom

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Derek Azevedo  
Daniel Bays  
Frank Coelho Jr  
Gene Miyao

**CDFA PERSONNEL**

Kaitlyn Beames  
Andrew Boren  
Adam Chang  
Michelle Dennis  
Zack McCormack  
Chris Ogawa

**GUESTS**

Zack Bagley, California Tomato Research Institute  
J Beauchamp\*  
Tad Bell, California Seed Association\*  
Glenn Fankhauser\*  
Humberto Izquierdo\*  
Peton Massa\*  
Mike Montna, California Tomato Growers Association  
Katy Soden, California Crop Improvement Director of Business\*  
Lisa Herbert, Sutter County Agricultural Commissioner\*  
Vausske, Glenn County Agricultural Commissioner\*  
Craig Leathers, Campbells Soup\*

**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.

**WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS**

The Board Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the Broomrape Board mission statement.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the Board meeting that took place on March 20, 2025, and April 23, 2025, and September 10, 2025.

### **MOTION:**

**Tony Turkovich moved that the Board approve the minutes from the March 20, 2025 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by David Viguie, and passed unanimously.**

### **VOTES:**

#### **YES**

Toshi Aoki  
Rick Blankenship  
Ron Dalforno  
David Kiehn  
Michael Newton  
Scott Schmidt  
Scott Spitzer  
Tony Turkovich  
David Viguie

#### **NO**

None

#### **ABSTENTION**

None

### **MOTION:**

**David Viguie moved that the Board approve the minutes from the April 23, 2025 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael Newton, and passed unanimously.**

### **VOTES:**

#### **YES**

Toshi Aoki  
Rick Blankenship  
Ron Dalforno  
David Kiehn  
Michael Newton  
Scott Schmidt  
Scott Spitzer  
Tony Turkovich  
David Viguie

#### **NO**

None

#### **ABSTENTION**

None

### **MOTION:**

**Tony Turkovich moved that the Board approve the minutes from the September 10, 2025 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by David Viguie, and passed unanimously.**

### **VOTES:**

#### **YES**

Toshi Aoki

#### **NO**

None

#### **ABSTENTION**

None

Rick Blankenship  
Ron Dalforno  
David Kiehn  
Michael Newton  
Scott Schmidt  
Scott Spitzer  
Tony Turkovich  
David Viguie

### **CDFA PROGRAM UPDATE**

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) provided a program update and presented an overview of roles and responsibilities for Board members.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – DETECTION**

No update.

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

The Board discussed scheduling Board meetings every third Wednesday each month. The Board further discussed scheduling subcommittee meetings every fourth Wednesday of each month, and financial budget meetings scheduled every second Thursday of each month. The meetings may be cancelled if unnecessary.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 ENACT PROTOCOLS**

#### **A) INDUSTRY IMPLEMENTATION OF VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS UPDATE**

California Tomato Growers Association (CTGA) provided a brief update on industry compliance with the voluntary compliance agreements implementation. The processors were 100%, haulers were 100%, and growers were 96.17%.

Discussion followed.

#### **B) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**

The Board Chairman provided that the program implementation timeline will continue to stay an agenda item.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – RESEARCH**

#### **A) EQUIPMENT/TRAILER CLEANING PROTOCOLS**

The Board Chairman provided that there was discussion on equipment/trailer cleaning protocols at the previous research subcommittee meeting. A brief update was provided by California Tomato Research Institute (CTRI) and discussion followed.

#### **B) OTHER RESEARCH**

The Board reported that Brad Hansen has been given approval to work with Branch Broomrape but not Egyptian Broomrape in his containment area. The Board put forward a motion to show support for the permitting of Egyptian Broomrape for the purposes of research for this program.

**MOTION:**

Rick Blankenship moved it is vital to the program success to allow research of Egyptian Broomrape for the purpose of supporting the CDFA Broomrape program. The motion was seconded by Michael Newton and passed unanimously.

**VOTES:****YES**

Toshi Aoki  
Rick Blankenship  
Ron Dalforno  
David Kiehn  
Michael Newton  
Scott Schmidt  
Scott Spitzer  
Tony Turkovich  
David Viguie

**NO**

None

**ABSTENTION**

None

CTRI presented a potential list of research that has been submitted to CTRI for funding and may be considered by the Broomrape Board once a budget is approved.

CTRI further asked CDFA what was needed for a contract or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a pending in-field detection project. CDFA provided an update that the MOU is out of the branch and with the Department's Administration unit.

**C) (BEST) MANAGEMENT PRACTICES UPDATE**

No update.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 -ADVOCATE**

No update.

**SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

Outreach - CTGA is continuing to field questions from commodities and growers about Broomrape.

**BUDGET****A)2025/26 REVENUE PROJECTION**

CDFA provided a brief update on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/2026 Revenue Projection. In September 2025, the program collected \$600,000, and in October 2025, the program collected \$400,000. The 2025/2026 revenue projection estimate is \$1.4 million.

**B)2025/26 BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

CDFA provided a brief update on the FY 2025/2026 Budget Framework. There is currently an indirect charge from when the Broomrape program first started with 7

personnel years assigned that is still being disputed. CDFA recommended the Board having a finance committee meeting to work through the budget.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tad Bell with California Seed Associations (CSA) provided an update regarding the detection of Broomrape in a sunflower seed planting field this year. The CSA Board of directors supports immediate outreach of biosecurity in the field regardless of being a part of the program or not as there's a lot of seed grown in the Sacramento valley. CSA is navigating through fundamental work to ensure everything is in place before officially bringing sunflower seed under the program's umbrella for consideration.

### **NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS**

- Confidentiality reporting options
- Add 3C Enforcement under the Strategic Priority 3 -Enact Protocols

### **ADJOURN**

The Board Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:03 pm

Andrew Boren for Zack McCormack  
Secretary to the Board