

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Minutes

of the Meeting/Video Conferencing
of the Nursery Advisory Board (NAB)
Held on Thursday, September 18, 2025
1220 N Street, Room 133
Sacramento, CA 95833

NURSERY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Voting Members Present: David Cox, Mike Doiron, Michael Frantz, James Hessler, Dustin Hooper, Bruce Jensen, Daniel Waterhouse

Voting Members Absent: Jay Jensen, Phillip Johnson, David Kirby, Carl Pongs, Josh Puckett

Ex Officio Nonvoting Members Present: John Keller

Ex Officio Nonvoting Members Absent: Kamal Bagri, Jolene Dessert, Loren Oki, Isabella Quinonez, Emily Robidart Rooney, Wolfgang Schweigkofler, Gerry Spinelli

OTHER ATTENDEES*

Brenda Lanini, Michael Paule, Cathy Roache, Kristina Weber

*As self-reported in the GoTo Meeting application

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

David Cox, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. and conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Cox welcomed everyone and reviewed the topics of discussion.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ACREAGE FEE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Weber presented the acreage fee proposal that was discussed at the Acreage Fee Committee meeting on August 22, 2025. The intent of revising the acreage fee chart is to create a more equitable fee structure for nurseries. CDFA and the Board must consider Food and Agricultural Code Section 6723 while amending the fees.

Board Motion #1

The Board recommends that the Secretary amend the acreage fee established pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 6723 as follows:

Acreage	Fee
0.00 – 1.00	\$0.00
1.01 – 35.99	\$25.00 per acre
36.00 +	\$900

Motion: Michael Frantz
Second: Dan Waterhouse

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: David Cox, Mike Doiron, Michael Frantz, James Hessler, Dustin Hooper, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen, Phillip Johnson, David Kirby, Carl Pongs, Josh Puckett

FAC 242 UPDATE

Cox presented data showing that FAC § 242 had not been adhered to for over a decade. The data was found to include Pro Rata costs that should be excluded from the data set. Cox proposed writing a letter to Secretary Ross directly addressing this issue.

Board Motion #2

The Board approves Board Chair David Cox to write and send a letter to the Secretary on behalf of the Board regarding CDFA's continued non-compliance with Food and Agricultural Code Section 242.

Motion: Michael Frantz
Second: James Hessler

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: David Cox, Mike Doiron, Michael Frantz, James Hessler, Dustin Hooper, Daniel Waterhouse

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bruce Jensen, Jay Jensen, Phillip Johnson, David Kirby, Carl Pongs, Josh Puckett

BOARD VACANCIES UPDATE

Weber noted that board member term expiration dates were not in compliance with NAB bylaws. NAB bylaws stated that 50% of board members' terms should expire every two years. The Board agreed to realign the current two terms expiring January 31, 2026 to end with an effective date of January 31, 2027.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

- Cotton seed bug update
- Cotton Jassid in the Southeast update
- Deregulation of RIFA by USDA

- Alternative pathways for nematode certification

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michael Paule, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Nursery Services Program
California Department of Food & Agriculture

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