

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Minutes
of the Meeting/Video Conferencing
of the Navel Orangeworm Action Committee (NOWAC)
Held on Monday, March 25, 2025
1785 N Fine Ave.
Fresno, CA 93727

NAVEL ORANGEWORM ACTION COMMITTEE BOARD MEMBERS

Members Present: Tom Coleman, John Diener, Mike Kelley, Ed Kuykendall, Gary Martin, Ted Sheely

Members Absent: Kristen Camarena, Kevin Collins, Hal Crain, Bob Driver, Dan Errotabere, Jeffery Gibbons, Rob Goff, Joe Mendonca, Galen Miyamoto, Doug Mueller, Rod Stiefvater

OTHER ATTENDEES*

Ex-Officio: Matthew Aubuchon, Joe Coelho, Michelle Dennis, Lauren Fann, Katie Filippini, Joe Grant, Roger Isom, Joseph Munyaneza, Stephen Vasquez

Earl Andress, Charles Burks, Keith Colpetzer, Michael Garvey, Devon Gaydos, Christopher McGlothlin, Adalberto Perez de Leon, Cameron Poole, Shailaja Rabindran, Kristian Rondeau, Joel Siegel, Chang-Lin Xiao

*As self-reported in the GoToMeeting application or sign-in sheet

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Ted Sheely, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05AM and conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chair Sheely welcomed everyone and reviewed the topics of discussion.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Chair Sheely directed the Board to review the draft minutes prepared by program staff for the May 24, 2024, meeting. A copy of the draft minutes had been distributed to the Board members and posted on the Department's website prior to the meeting. Chair Sheely opened the floor for any changes or corrections, none were suggested.

Board Motion

The Board approved May 24, 2024, NOWAC meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Mike Kelley
Second: Ed Kuykendall

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: John Diener, Mike Kelley, Ed Kuykendall, Gary Martin, Ted Sheely

Against: none

Abstain: Tom Coleman

Absent: Kristen Camarena, Kevin Collins, Hal Crain, Bob Driver, Dan Errotabere, Jeffery Gibbons, Rob Goff, Joe Mendonca, Galen Miyamoto, Doug Mueller, Rod Stiefvater

Additional Public Comments: none

UPDATE ON NOWAC AD HOC STATUS

Michelle Dennis, Branch Chief for the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Integrated Pest Control Branch provided an update on the NOWAC. The Board will be an Ad Hoc Committee under CDFA moving forward.

NAVEL ORANGEWORM PROGRAM DATA

Dr. Michael Garvey with the United State Department of Agriculture's (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) presented data on the efficacy of the sterile insect technique (SIT) for the control of navel orangeworm (NOW) damage in almond and pistachio crops. Based on data collected as part of the NOW Program, SIT is reducing NOW damage.

NAVEL ORANGEWORM PROGRAM UPDATES & DISCUSSION

Matthew Aubuchon with USDA-APHIS-PPQ presented on the NOW Operation Plan for 2025. The Board was directed to review the draft NOW Operation Plan for 2025 prepared by USDA-APHIS staff. A copy of the draft Operation Plan had been distributed to the Board members and posted on the Department's website prior to the meeting. The highlights of the 2025 Now Operational Plan are as follows:

- Update project area from 8 project sites consisting of 4 ~640-acre blocks of almonds and 4 ~640-acres blocks of pistachios to 32 project sites consisting of 16 160-acre blocks of almonds and 16 160-acres blocks of pistachios. This change is to increase the number of grower plot to improve the robustness of SIT data analysis.
- Conduct damage assessment of both almonds and pistachios in order to evaluate NOW damage. In 2024, only almond damage assessments were conducted.
- Tree varieties will consist of nonpareil almonds and kerman pistachios based on pest-risk for NOW.
- CDFA will prepare a cooperative agreement for growers participating in the NOW Program.

Board Motion

The Board approved the NOW Operation Plan for 2025 as presented.

Motion: Ed Kuykendall
Second: John Diener

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Tom Coleman, John Diener, Mike Kelley, Ed Kuykendall, Gary Martin, Ted Sheely

Against: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Kristen Camarena, Kevin Collins, Hal Crain, Bob Driver, Dan Errotabere, Jeffery Gibbons, Rob Goff, Joe Mendonca, Galen Miyamoto, Doug Mueller, Rod Stiefvater

Additional Public Comments: none

QUESTIONS FOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following questions were brought to the Technical Advisory Committee:

- Determine the optimal time to begin SIT release for pistachios based on current constraint of one magazine being released daily.
- Review delivery methods for SIT moths and provide recommendations on efficacy and cost for each release method.

NEXT MEETING/AGENDA

The next Board meetings were set for July 15, 2025, and November 18, 2025. Meetings will be held in person and via GoToMeeting video conferencing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32AM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Katie Filippini, EPM I
Integrated Pest Control Branch
California Department of Food & Agriculture