

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Minutes

of the Meeting

of the Seed Advisory Board (SAB)

Held on Thursday, November 6, 2024

SEED ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Members Present: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Bill White

Members Absent: Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Greg Orsetti

OTHER ATTENDEES*

Riad Baalbaki, Cheryl Bloomquist, Kelley Clark, Jillian Hagenston, Adam Holmes, Nicole Hostert, Imtiyaz Khanday, Umesh Kodira, Emi Kuroiwa, Brenda Lanini, Alex Lysak, Jasmine Minhas, Erica Pearson, Marcie Skelton, Kevin Stoffel, Allen Van Dynze, Connie Weiner, Hana Yokoyama-Hatch

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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Kraig Kuykendall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 am and Nicole Hostert conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Kuykendall welcomed everyone and introduced Sue DiTomaso as the newest board member. He then reviewed the topics of discussion.

REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Cassel directed the Board to review the draft minutes prepared by the program staff for the May 9, 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 meetings. Kuykendall opened the floor for any changes or corrections. The Board reviewed minutes, and no changes or corrections were made.

Board Motion #1

The Board approves the minutes from the May 9, 2024 meeting.

Motion: Greg Cassel

Second: Tom Hearne

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Bill White

Against: None

Absent: Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Greg Orsetti

Abstain: None

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY DISCUSSION

The Nominating Committee discussed their review of the open board seats and recommended the reappointment of Greg Cassel, Justin Davis, and Tom Hearne. They also informed the Board that Scott Emanuelli and Emily Clay would not be returning to the Board and their seats would need to be posted.

Board Motion #2

The Board recommends the reappointment of Greg Cassel, Justin Davis, and Tom Hearne to the Seed Advisory Board.

Motion: Bill White
Second: Mike Campbell

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Bill White
Against: None
Absent: Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Greg Orsetti
Abstain: None

CDFA SEED LABORATORY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Dr. Riad Baalbaki presented the CDFA Seed Laboratory report for the 23/24 FY. He provided a brief overview of the different laboratory functions, and the estimated time allocated to different activities in the lab. In his report, Dr. Baalbaki discussed regulatory and service testing metrics, violation percentages for regulatory samples, prohibited noxious weed findings, and research and trainings the seed lab had conducted

Board Motion #3

The Board accepts the CDFA Seed Laboratory activities update.

Motion: Greg Cassel
Second: Tom Hearne

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Bill White
Against: None
Absent: Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Greg Orsetti
Abstain: None

UC DAVIS SEED BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER REPORT

Dr. Allen Van Deynze and Dr. Kelley Clark presented the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center (SBC) report. Dr. Van Deynze reported on the recent Plant Breeders Academies, Seed Business 101, and upcoming SBC courses. He discussed research being conducted on tomato seed vigor, and on monocots. Dr. Clark reported on the Collaboration for Plant Pathogen Strain Identification (CPPSI), including

updates on available CPPSI materials. Dr. Van Deynze asked the board to consider renewing the CDFA Seeds Services grant of \$250,000 per year over three years to the SBC. He explained what the money will be used for and the importance of the funds to the SBC. Dr. Van Deynze discussed the \$2 million endowment and how those funds were being used, of which 90% was earmarked for seed-related research. Return on investment for grants received by the SBC is estimated to be at 20:1.

Board Motion #4

The Board accepts the report from the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center.

Motion: Tom Hearne

Second: Bill White

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Bill White

Against: None

Absent: Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Greg Orsetti

Abstain: None

SEED SERVICES PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Nicole Hostert updated the Board on the Seed Services Program activities and financial updates. Hostert also gave a brief overview of registered firms, the Seed Subvention Program, and the Seed Law Enhancement Program. She discussed Seed Services staff detection of Canada Thistle, a prohibited noxious weed, in a lot of sampled seed and an upcoming regulation change to align with the Federal Seed Act, regarding noxious weed seed testing in vegetable seed containers over one pound.

Board Motion #5

The Board accepts the Seed Services Program activities update.

Motion: Greg Cassel

Second: Sue DiTomaso

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Bill White

Against: None

Absent: Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Greg Orsetti

Abstain: None

PROPOSED BUDGET AND FUND CONDITION UPDATE AND FUTURE SEED PROGRAM REVENUE DISCUSSION - SEED ASSESSMENT, LICENSING AND PENALTY FEES

Erica Pearson presented the Board with the proposed FY 2024/25 budget and fund condition. The increase in budget due to salary increases was discussed and she

reviewed the ending reserve balance for FY 2023/24. The Board discussed raising seed registration application fees from the current rate of \$40 per year. Members expressed support for amending Food and Agricultural Code Section 52352 to give the Secretary the authority to increase seed registration application fees to a maximum of \$300 per year and expressed support for a fee of \$100 for the first year, with increases of \$50 per year until the \$300 cap was reached. Nicole Hostert presented the Board with the current FY assessment projections, as well as projections for potential assessment increases at \$0.02 increments up to the statutory maximum of \$0.40 per \$100 of seed sold.

Board Motion #6

The Board declined to recommend the Seed Services Program's proposed spending plan as presented. The Board requests an audience with Department's decision makers to come to a long term solution that couples potential increases in revenue with a reduction in costs.

Motion: Greg Cassel
Second: Mike Campbell

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Bill White

Against: None

Absent: Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Greg Orsetti

Abstain: None

Board Motion #7

The Board recommends continuing funding the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center for a new three-year agreement for \$250,000 per year, starting in FY 2025/26.

Motion: Bill White
Second: Tom Hearne

In Favor: Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Kraig Kuykendall, Bill White

Against: None

Absent: Justin Davis, Scott Emanuelli, Greg Orsetti

Abstain: None

TREATED SEEDS LABELING REQUIREMENT UPDATE

Nicole Hostert discussed the current label requirements for treated seeds and the additional labeling requirements that will begin January 1, 2027, due to the passage of AB 1042.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

The Board proposed the following agenda items for the next board meeting:

- Updates on treated seed labeling requirements

The next regularly scheduled Seed Advisory Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 7, 2025 at 9:00 am at the Seed Biotechnology Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Kuykendall adjourned the meeting at 12:58 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Nicole Hostert, Senior Environmental Scientist
Seed Services Program
California Department of Food & Agriculture