

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Minutes

of the Meeting/Video Conferencing
of the Seed Advisory Board (SAB)
Held on Wednesday November 5, 2025
3294 Meadowview Rd, Conference Room A
Sacramento, CA 95832

SEED ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Members Present: Grant Baglietto, Mike Campbell, Justin Davis, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Doug Iten, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Ann Walker

Members Absent: Greg Cassel, Bill White

OTHER ATTENDEES

Riad Baalbaki, Cheryl Bloomquist, Jolene Desert, Nicole Hostert, Emi Kuroiwa, Brenda Lanini, Alex Lysak, Jasmine Minhas, Erica Pearson, Jillian Pendrake, Kevin Stoffel, Connie Weiner, Hana Yokoyama-Hatch

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Kraig Kuykendall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. and conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Kuykendall welcomed everyone and reviewed the topics of discussion.

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER 6, 2024, AND MAY 7, 2025 MINUTES

Kuykendall directed the Board to review the draft minutes prepared by program staff for the November 6, 2024, and May 7, 2025, meetings. The Board reviewed the minutes, and no changes or corrections were made.

Board Motion #1

The Board approved the minutes from November 6, 2024, and May 7, 2025.

Motion: Greg Orsetti

Second: Justin Davis

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Grant Baglietto, Mike Campbell, Justin Davis, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Doug Iten, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Ann Walker

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Greg Cassel, Bill White

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS AND SEALERS ASSOCIATION (CACASA) UPDATE

Jolene Desert, chair of the Nursery, Seed, and Apiary Committee, presented the CACASA update to the Board. She discussed the sunset of the Seed Subvention program in July 2027; the committee will be looking for a sponsor for a bill to extend the program. Desert also discussed a Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) presentation and workshop regarding pending regulations regarding treated seeds.

TESTING NATIVE SEEDS DISCUSSION

Dr. Riad Baalbaki presented on the complexities of testing native seeds for label compliance. Currently, California Seed Law does not regulate native seeds, and to do so would require extensive research into native seed standards and development of seed testing rules.

SEED SERVICES PROGRAM ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Nicole Hostert, Seed Services Program supervisor, gave an update on the current year's registrants as well as a 5-year licensing and assessment trend. She noted that three board member terms would be ending March 2026, and the Nominating Committee would be holding a meeting in January 2026 with a board meeting scheduled for February 2026 to elect new board members. Hostert reviewed the Seed Law Enhancement Program and gave a brief recap of the DPR workshop on treated seeds.

PROPOSED BUDGET AND FUND CONDITION UPDATE

Erica Pearson presented the Seed Services Program's proposed spending plan and fund condition statement (attached SAB Budget and Fund Condition). Projected increases in expenditures were due to increases in overhead cost, contracts, and administrative staff salaries, leading to an expected decline in the ending reserve balance for FY 26/27.

Board Motion #2

The Board recommended accepting the 26/27 budget as presented.

Motion: Justin Davis

Second: Ann Walker

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Grant Baglietto, Mike Campbell, Justin Davis, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Doug Iten, Greg Orsetti, Ann Walker

Against: Kraig Kuykendall

Abstain: None

Absent: Greg Cassel, Bill White

ASSESSMENT REVENUE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Nicole Hostert gave a brief update on the potential increase in registration and assessment fees and discussed the impact on the budget. The Board discussed other sources of funding and possible budget cuts, including not renewing the Seed Biotechnology Center funding in FY 28/29, if the budget is still in a deficit. Kuykendall

suggested that the Board should form a revenue assessment committee to consider new funding sources.

Board Motion #3

The Board recommended amending California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Section 3906 to increase the assessment fee by \$0.02 to \$0.32 per one-hundred dollars (\$100) gross annual dollar volume sales.

Motion: Justin Davis

Second: Greg Orsetti

Details of Board Vote

In Favor: Grant Baglietto, Mike Campbell, Justin Davis, Sue DiTomaso, Tom Hearne, Doug Iten, Kraig Kuykendall, Greg Orsetti, Ann Walker

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Greg Cassel, Bill White

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING/PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting was set for May 6, 2026, at the Seed Biotechnology Center (SBC) and proposed agenda items discussed included:

- Seed Subvention Program
- SBC Program Update
- Treated Seed Update

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nicole Hostert, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

Seed Services Program

California Department of Food & Agriculture