California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Minutes
of the Meeting/Video Conferencing
of the Seed Advisory Board (SAB)
Held on Wednesday May 6, 2026
Seed Biotechnology Center
1050 Ext Center Drive
Davis, Ca 95616

SEED ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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

Members Absent: Greg Orsetti

OTHER ATTENDEES

Riad Baalbaki, Cheryl Bloomquist, Kelley Clark, Jolene Desert, Jovan Djordjevic, Nicole Hostert, Emi Kuroiwa, Brenda Lanini, Alex Lysak, Imtiyaz Khanday, Jasmine Minhas, Erica Pearson, Jillian Pendrake, Kevin Stoffel, Allen Van Dynze, Connie Weiner, Hana Yokoyama-Hatch

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Kraig Kuykendall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 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.

UC DAVIS SEED BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER (SBC) UPDATE

Dr. Allen Van Dynze updated the Board on the members of the SBC team, the Seed Central activities and the research being conducted at the SBC. Dr. Jovan Djordjevic presented the ongoing and upcoming Plant Breeding Academy Courses. Dr. Kelley Clark gave updates on the Collaboration for Plant Pathogen Strain Identification program, including disease research on tomatoes, cucurbits, leafy greens and peppers.

.

SEED LAW ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (SLEP) FUNDING UPDATE

Jolene Desert, the chair of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) Nursery, Seed and Apiary Committee, updated the Board that AB 2778 was proposed to extend the sunset of County Seed Subvention funding to July 2032. She discussed the impact that both Seed Subvention and SLEP have on the counties, and voiced support for continuing the program.

CDFA SEED LABORATORY UPDATE

Dr. Riad Baalbaki presented the seed lab functions which included:

- Label Compliance

- Services Testing
- Feed Mill Inspections
- Seed Identification
- Investigations and Consultations

He then discussed regulatory sampling, and the differences in label violation occurrences between California and out-of-state labelers.

SEED SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE

Nicole Hostert presented a fiscal update to the Board, and reviewed county participation in the Seed Law Enhancement and Seed Subvention programs. She updated the Board on a seed complaint, regulation changes, and bills that proposed to extend the sunset date for Seed Subvention and increase the annual seed seller registration fees.

ASSESSMENT AND REVENUE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Hostert updated the Board on the seed assessment increase process. The program expected that both the registration fee and assessment increases would take effect for FY 27/28.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING/PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting was set for November 3, 2026, at the Seed Biotechnology Center (SBC) and proposed agenda items discussed included:

- California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) treated seed proposed regulations update
- Assessment increase update

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Nicole Hostert, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
Seed Services Program
California Department of Food & Agriculture