

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Minutes

of the Meeting

of the Seed Advisory Board (SAB)

Held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025

SEED ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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

Members Absent: 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, Chris Zanobini

*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 9:00am and conducted roll call. A quorum was present for the Board.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Kuykendall welcomed everyone and reviewed the topics of discussion. Nicole Hostert introduced the new board members: Grant Baglietto and Ann Walker.

CDFA SEED LABORATORY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Dr. Riad Baalbaki presented the CDFA Seed Laboratory report for FY 2024/25. 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 staff had conducted.

UC DAVIS SEED BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTER UPDATE

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. Dr. Clark reported on the Collaboration for Plant Pathogen Strain Identification (CPPSI), including updates on available CPPSI materials.

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 and the Seed Subvention Program. The Seed Law Enhancement Program funding ended in 2024; any remaining funds will be portioned out at \$180,000 per year with the approval of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA). Hostert updated the board on AB 1042 and the upcoming changes in Seed Law to meet the requirements of this bill.

ASSESSMENT REVENUE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Hostert reviewed the year-to-date revenue for the Seed Services program and discussed the current budget as of March 2025. The board members discussed possible legislation changes to raise the seed registration application fee from the current maximum of \$40 to a new maximum of \$300, with a new fee starting at \$100 and being raised \$50 per year at the discretion of the Secretary.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Update on the UC Davis Seed Industry Study

The next regularly scheduled Seed Advisory Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 5, 2025 at 9:00 am at the CDFA Meadowview conference room with a tour of the State Seed Lab to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Kuykendall adjourned the meeting at 12:08 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

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