

**California Seed Advisory Board (CSAB) Meeting  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832**

**1. Roll Call**

Joe Baglietto  
Michael Campbell  
Greg Cassel  
Sandy Ellis  
Scott Emanuelli  
Gagan Gill  
Greg Hinton  
Randi Jiminez

Kelly Keithly  
Brenda Lanini  
John McShane  
Greg Orsetti  
Carlos Ortiz  
Robert Simas  
Bill White

**2. Opening Remarks and Housekeeping**

Brenda Lanini called the meeting to order at 8:10 am.

**3. CACASA Proposal for Increased Seed Law Enforcement and Discussion on County Subvention Program**

Greg Hinton, Colusa County Agricultural Commissioner, presented a plan on behalf of the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) to augment the county seed subvention contracts with funding from unclaimed gas tax (UGT). Hinton noted \$300,000 from UGT was available to supplement the \$120,000 in the seed subvention program. The extra funds would be used to fund county staff training, additional premise inspections and label reviews, purchase county seed sampling equipment, and support quarantine seed inspection and enforcement for counties without high risk contracts, as well as establish a reserve fund for unanticipated needs.

The Board asked about the availability of UGT funds in the future. It was noted that the amount of money available to supplement the subvention program will diminish after 3 years, when the amount that will collectively be available for both Nursery and Seed activities will be \$300,000. It was also noted that unused funds may carry over to future years. John McShane expressed concerns regarding the long-term effect on the subvention program budget and noted that the intake of UGT money would be beneficial in the short-term but may spur an increase in assessment fees in the long-term. Hinton clarified that the initial spending would be on non-recurring costs such training, equipment, and supply purchases. The Board asked how the funds would be allocated. Lanini stated the allocation of money would be adjusted according to county needs and seed enforcement activities. It was noted that funding for seed enforcement has diminished while the county workload has remained the same.

The Board asked if high-risk inspections included hemp. Hinton explained that high-risk inspections

are for incoming agricultural products transported by mail, trucks, boats, etc. Counties are contracted to inspect agricultural products upon arrival into California.

The Board asked if the cost of THC testing was included in county hemp inspections. Hinton clarified that hemp growers pay for THC testing, but the county is required to be present during testing. Testing fees may be collected from hemp growers to cover costs in certain counties. Lanini stated that hemp seed will be included in California Seed Law when the proposed changes to the regulations go in to affect. A person(s) selling hemp seed would have to be registered and pay an assessment fee.

The Board asked if increasing the subvention program funding would reduce the workload for CDFA Seed Services personnel. Lanini stated the funding and county trainings would not decrease CDFA's workload in most counties in the short-term. The Board discussed the importance of training and the transition of sampling duties from the counties to CDFA in 2005 at the Board's recommendation.

The Board discussed the UGT amount will exceed the subvention funds for the next three years. Thereafter, the UGT fund will diminish at an unknown rate. The board would need to review the allocation plan before moving forward with agreeing to this proposal.

John McShane moved to recommend that statutory authority for the seed subvention program (California Food and Agricultural Code §§ 52323-52325) be extended for an additional three years, sunseting on June 30, 2023. Greg Cassel seconded the motion. Motion carried with the following votes:

Yes: Joe Baglietto, Mike Campbell, Greg Cassel, Scott Emanuelli, John McShane, Greg Orsetti, Bob Simas, Bill White

No: None

Abstained: None

It was noted that counties will be provided with a projection of the future available funds from both the subvention and UGT funds

#### **4. Additional Public Comments**

It was noted that Doug Sumpter had resigned from the Seed Advisory Board.

#### **5. Next Meeting/Agenda Items**

**Tentative schedule:** 8:00am-12:00pm on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA. (Room number TBD)

#### **6. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Erica Moore, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
CDFA, Seed Services Program