California Department of Food and Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
APIARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
April 29, 2026
Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
3800 Cornucopia Way
Modesto, CA 95358

Members Present

Brock Ashurst*	Jackie Park-Burris*	Matt Stayer*
Matt Beekman	Tim Pelican	

*Attended virtually

Members Absent

Jackie Park-Burris left the meeting after the first motion was passed and was absent during motions 2-4.

CDFA Personnel

Missy Amaya*	Michelle Dennis*	Victoria Hornbaker*
Jennifer Berger	Daniel Dickason*	Canh Nguyen
Kyle Beucke*	Adriaan Gilis*	

*Attended virtually

Guests

Jolene Dessert*	John Haasbeek*	Aron Lindgren*

*Attended virtually

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Matt Beekman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

The meeting was held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, pursuant to Government Code Sections 11120-11132.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from January 7, 2026, were presented to the board for approval.

Motion: 1. Mr. Tim Pelican moved to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jackie Park-Burris. The motion passed unanimously.

Yes	No	Abstention
Matt Beekman, Chair	None	None
Brock Ashurst		
Matt Beekman		
Jackie Park-Burris		
Tim Pelican		

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no public comments on items that were not on the agenda.

CDFA PROGRAM UPDATES

The Apiary Protection Program (APP) communicated that the current revenue is $112,255 in the apiary registration fund. Forty-seven of the total forty-eight County Cooperative Agreements have been fully executed and will be eligible for reimbursement for work upon submission of invoicing.

Bryan Ashurst and Harold “Buzz” Landon were recommended to the Apiary Advisory Board (AAB) by the California State Beekeepers Association. Application packets from the candidates were received by the APP, a third application from candidate Cedric Thomas was received as well. Candidates will be presented during the agenda item: Board Member Vacancies.

Kyle Beucke, CDFA Primary Entomologist, presented on the process of the pest rating system and the two “A” rated Tropilaelaps mites, significant to the apiary industry.

Border Protection Stations (BPS): Adriaan Gilis provided an update of apiary shipments during the FY25 season. A total of 4,619 shipments, representing approximately 1.9 million colonies of commercial honey bees, entered California through the state’s BPS. Of the 13 stations that processed commercial honey bee shipments through the Warning Hold Notice Form 66-008, the Truckee station recorded the highest volume, handling approximately 40% of all shipments. Kern County was the leading destination county, followed by Madera, Stanislaus, Fresno, and Merced. The FY25 shipping season resulted in the detection of 75 actionable pests, a reduction from the 131 actionable pests identified in FY24. Despite this increase, the number of shipments containing pests or found to be in violation of quarantine requirements increased from 131 in FY24 to 143 shipments in FY25. The AAB Chair requested a monthly shipment notification to the board and that the Annual Apiary Report to be posted online.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION (DPR)

Aron Lindgren, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) with DPR provided a presentation on definitions and the regulation process of the Pesticide Registration Branch. Pesticide product applications may be submitted concurrently to both DPR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this request process is available through the Department’s website. Please contact DPR if there is a request to expedite the product application process as this may require a formal letter to the Director of DPR, this request can come from Industry.

Mr. Lindgren provided his contact information: Aron.Lindgren@cdpr.ca.gov

CACASA UPDATE: APIARY

Jolene Dessert provided discussed the Warning Hold Notice #66-008 and using the information to assist in confirming beekeeper registration. John Haasbeek, developer of the BeeWhere website, provided an update on current enhancements within the system. The enhancements discussed were Bee check notifications, bee broker access, login functions for individuals with both CalAg Permits and BeeWhere accounts, and additional online payment functions.

TROPILAELAPS

CDFA APP provided an overview of the process when bee swarms are found on ships bound for California. Industry is concerned with rats at ports as potential carriers of the mite. Discussion followed regarding buffers around ports and process to change protocols associated with swarm removal at ports.

HIVE THEFT AND PREVENTION

No update provided.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES

There are currently two vacant industry positions on the AAB. Three candidates submitted applications packages to the APP, these were received and reviewed by the AAB. The candidates are listed below for the current vacancy considerations:
Bryan Ashurst
Harold Buzz Landon
Cedric Thomas

Motion: 2. Mr. Tim Pelican moved to submit application packages from Bryan Ashurst, Harold Buzz Landon, and Cedric Thomas to the Secretary for consideration in filling in the two remaining board vacancies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brock Ashurst. The motion passed unanimously.

Yes	No	Abstention
Trevor Tauzer, Chair Brock Ashurst Matt Beekman Tim Pelican	None	None

MITICIDE TREATMENTS

Mr. Matt Beekman reported on a meeting with Izzy Hill and the Bee Health Regulatory Consortium (BHRC) to work on ways to possibly fast track miticide products for the commercial honey bee industry. Mr. Matt Beekman presented a letter to the Board in support of BHRC engaging with CDFA in an effort to assist the beekeeping industry with tools to help manage bee health. (Attachment 1).

Motion: 3. Mr. Brock Ashurst moved that CDFA become the product registrant for bee health products, including miticides. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Stayer. The motion passed unanimously.

Yes	No	Abstention
Trevor Tauzer, Chair	None	None
Brock Ashurst		
Matt Beekman		
Tim Pelican		

Motion: 4. Mr. Matt Beekman moved the California Apiary Board to support the Office of Pesticide Consultation and Analysis' offer to perform a risk-benefit analysis to better understand the implications on the commercial bee industry in the absence of a sufficient number of efficacious, affordable products registered to support bee health in California. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tim Pelican. The motion passed unanimously.

Yes	No	Abstention
Trevor Tauzer, Chair	None	None
Brock Ashurst		
Matt Beekman		
Tim Pelican		

NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be posted onto the CDFA's APP website and the CDFA Meetings page. The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center at CDFA Meadowview.
Calendar hold notices will be sent out for future meetings.

Apiary Advisory Board
2026 Meeting Schedule:

August 19, 2026- Plant Pest Diagnostics Center at CDFA Meadowview
October 28, 2026- TBD

Future Agenda Items

Grizzly Bear Reintroduction

Adjourn

Chairman Beekman adjourned the meeting at 12:21p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jennifer Berger
Secretary to the Apiary Advisory Board
California Department of Food & Agriculture