

**MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

**Location:** CA Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 'N' Street – Main Auditorium  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Contact:** Joshua Eddy, Executive Director  
**Office:** (916) 654-0462

**MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2011**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at approximately 10:00 a.m. Craig McNamara, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by President McNamara.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Craig McNamara	Donald Bransford	Luawanna Hallstrom
Michael Darnell	Kerry Tucker	Kiran Black
Ashley Boren	Adan Ortega, Jr.	Daniel Dooley
Ben Drake	Marvin Meyers	

**Absent:**

Arlan Van Leeuwen	Sean McNally	David Wehner
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**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 26, 2011**

Board member Dan Dooley moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2011 meeting. Board member Ben Drake seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary Ross provided a departmental update to the Board. The update focused on the CDFA budget and current efforts by the department to address General Fund reductions. In addition, Secretary Ross introduced Dr. Annette Whiteford as the State Veterinarian for California.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – CDFA Budget**

The Board heard from departmental staff on the current progress regarding budgetary reductions identified within the Governor's 2011-12 budget. Within the proposed budget, the Secretary of Food and Agriculture is directed to convene key agricultural and industry individuals to look at the long-term viability of state programs and to determine solutions to limit the need for General Fund resources.

Speakers included:

- Nate Dechoretz, CDFA Deputy Secretary
- Bob Wynn, Statewide Coordinator, Pierce's Disease Control Program

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Fairs & Exposition**

The Board heard from the Western Fairs Association concerning the Governor’s 2011-12 budget proposal which eliminates General Fund support for the Network of California Fairs – A permanent decrease of \$32 million as a result of removing state funding for support of the fairs.

Speakers included:

- Stephen Chambers, Western Fairs Association

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Water**

The Board heard from Thomas Howard, Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board on the Delta Watermaster’s report and other key issues impacting the agricultural community.

Speaker:

- Thomas Howard, Executive Director, California State Water Resources Control Board.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(8) BOARD DISCUSSION – Ag Vision**

The Board discussed the Ag Vision process and the twelve recommended strategies contained within the “*California Agricultural Vision: Strategies for Sustainability*” report.

Speakers included:

- Edward Thomas, Jr., American Farmland Trust
- Eric Manke, California Association of Food Banks

MOTION: Board member Kerry Tucker moved that staff draft a letter of support for Board approval on AB 6 and the concept of AB 152 to Secretary Ross. Board member Marvin Meyers seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

MOTION: Board member Ashley Boren moved that the March meeting of the Board include discussions on the Delta and AB 32. Board member Kiran Black seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

MOTION: Board member Don Bransford moved that Board member Ashley Boren work with the Little Hoover Commission concerning the committee’s upcoming review of California’s regulatory environment. Board member Luawanna Hallstrom seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

**(9) OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board discussed two items of business concerning subcommittee recommendations.

- Water Subcommittee

Water Subcommittee Chair Marvin Meyers reported on the water subcommittee’s February 18, 2011 meeting and provided two action items for Board consideration.

- Draft letter to the State Water Resources Control Board concerning the Delta Watermaster’s report.

MOTION: Board member Dan Dooley moved that the draft letter be approved as amended. Board member Don Bransford seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

➤ Draft White Paper on Agricultural Conservation and Efficiency

MOTION: Board member Marvin Meyers moved that the draft white paper be approved by the Board and distributed to the secretary and governor. Board member Ben Drake seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

**(10) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Two individuals provided public comment:

Louie Mendoza, Yuba County Agricultural Commissioner & Sealer, congratulated Secretary Ross and President McNamara on their respected appointments to the department and board. Mr. Mendoza also updated the board on the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) legislative trip to Washington, D.C. Mr. Mendoza also stresses CACASA's willingness to continue their work with the Board.

Michael Dimock, Roots of Change, updated the Board on the various food policy roundtables occurring throughout the state and offered to provide a more comprehensive update at a future Board meeting. Mr. Dimock also expressed his enjoyment of the energy and mood connected to the California Ag Vision process.

**(11) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

In closing, two Board members provided brief updates:

Board Member Dan Dooley announced that Cal Poly has a new president – Dr. Jeffrey Armstrong. Dr. Armstrong will be a great addition to higher education in California. Mr. Dooley also provided an overview of the University of California budgetary situation.

Board Member Don Bransford wanted to alert the Board to a situation in Northern California dealing with water exchange contractors. As litigation continues on the water contracts between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Northern California water districts, uncertainty on statewide water rights will remain a key issue.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.