

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

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

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

**MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2015**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

(a) The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at approximately 10:10 a.m., President Craig McNamara presiding.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

**Present:**

Bryce Lundberg  
Ashley Boren  
Don Cameron  
Joy Sterling

Mary Holz-Clause  
Helene Dillard  
Ben Drake  
Donald Bransford

Eric Holst  
Craig McNamara  
Nancy Casady

**Absent:**

Miles Reiter  
Rodney Taylor

Mike Gallo

Martha Montoya

**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 2, 2015**

Board member Ben Drake moved to approve the minutes of the June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Board member Nancy Casady seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

In consideration of speaker time constraints, a departmental update was not provided.

**(5) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Drought Update**

A member of the State Water Resources Control Board provided a drought update to the Board which covered issues related to the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP), curtailment response rate, salinity control, fisheries and the water rights system.

Speaker:

- Dorene D’Adamo, State Water Resources Control Board

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Invasive Pest Update**

The Board heard a presentation from a representative from the California Department of Agriculture providing an update on invasive pest issues within the state.

Speaker:

- Nick Condos, California Department of Food and Agriculture

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Agricultural Land Trends**

The Board conducted a panel discussion with representatives from the banking, asset management and real estate services sectors concerning agricultural land trends.

Speakers included:

- Erik Roget, American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (California chapter)
- Cornelius Gallagher, California Bankers Association – Agricultural Lending Committee
- Mark Burrell, The WestMark Group, LLC

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) **BREAK**

(9) **PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)**

The Board heard a presentation on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act from a representative of the California Water Foundation. The presentation outlined the need for safe drinking water, better water markets, infrastructure investment and a globally competitive agricultural sector.

Speaker:

- Lester Snow, California Water Foundation

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(10) **PANEL DISCUSSION – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)**

The Board continued the discussion on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act with representatives from the Department of Water Resources' SGMA Water Advisory Groups.

Speakers included:

- Gary Bardini, California Department of Water Resources
- Vito Chiesa, California State Association of Counties
- Lauren Noland-Hajik, Kahn Soares and Conway, LLP
- Eric Osterling, Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region

The discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

(11) **OTHER BUSINESS**

Rancho California Water District

Board member Ben Drake discussed the release of a new drought focused tool for the Rancho California Water District (MyWaterTracker) that allows customers to see how their individual water use compares to their water budget for the current billing period. A copy of a district memo was provided to Board members, demonstrating the information provided to individual customers.

Rice Cultivation Carbon Offset Protocol

Board member Eric Holst reported on California's Air Resources Board approval of the rice cultivation carbon offset protocol as part of California cap-and-trade program. The California Rice Commission and the Environmental Defense Fund previously reported on progress of this initiative to the Board.

Rodale Institute/Urban Bee Farming

Board member Nancy Casady reported on opportunities and issues in regards to urban bee farming in Southern California and also commented on the Rodale Institute's recent report 'The Farming Systems Trial - celebrating 30 years.'

Quinoa Field Day

Board member Bryce Lundberg reported on Lundberg Farms upcoming Quinoa Field Day in which farmers interested in growing quinoa were invited to participate in a field tour and discussion on the crop.

No further business was discussed and no formal action was taken by the Board.

**(12) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

One individual provided public comment:

Rick Pickering, Chief Executive Officer of the California Exposition & State Fair, provided a preview of the 2015 California State Fair to the Board. Mr. Pickering spoke about a variety of exhibits and marketing associated with the fair and encourage participation of Board members.

No further public comments were provided.

**(13) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.