

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 – Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Joshua Eddy, Executive Director
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MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 24, 2010

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at approximately 10:05 a.m. Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by President Montna.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Joshua Eddy, Executive Director.

Present:

Al Montna	Craig McNamara	Donald Bransford
Ashley Boren	Michael Darnell	Kiran Black
Kerry Tucker	Marvin Meyers	Arlan Van Leeuwen
David Wehner	Adan Ortega, Jr.	

Absent:

Daniel Dooley	Luawanna Hallstrom
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(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 17, 2010

Board member Craig McNamara moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting. Board member David Wehner seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

Secretary Kawamura provided a departmental update to the State Board. Topics included: California Agriculture Day at the Capitol; update on the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) Environmental Impact Report (EIR); the 2010 Commodity Classic meeting in Anaheim; and the meeting of the California Agriculture Communicators.

(5) OTHER BUSINESS

Board member Kerry Tucker reported on the need to better align food assistance programs of community organizations with California's agriculture production. In particular, the state board should focus on the 'Farm to Family' program which is being implemented by California's food bank network.

MOTION: Board member Kerry Tucker moved to form a sub-committee of the Board focusing on food assistance issues. Board member Ashley Boren seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

President Al Montna appointed the following Board members to the sub-committee: Kerry Tucker (Chair), Ashley Boren, Michael Darnell and Craig McNamara.

(6) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Australian Water Management

The Board heard from two speakers concerning Australia’s drought, water management and water use efficiency.

Speakers included:

- David Downie, General Manager, Department of Sustainability and Environment – State of Victoria, Australia
- Murray Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(7) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Central Valley Operations

The Board heard from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on managing water in the Central Valley Project.

Speaker:

- Donald R. Glaser, Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(8) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – California’s Water Situation and Allocations

The Board heard from the California Department of Water Resources concerning California’s drought and water allocations.

Speaker:

- Director Mark Cowin, California Department of Water Resources.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(9) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Following the remarks of Regional Director Glaser and Director Cowin, President Montna opened the meeting to public comments. Two individuals provided public comments:

Joseph Moreo, Modoc County Agricultural Commissioner, provided comments concerning the impact of drought on farmers within the Klamath Valley Basin (Modoc County). Mr. Moreo informed the Board that a county disaster declaration would be forthcoming.

Patrick Griffin, Siskiyou County Agricultural Commissioner, provided comments concerning the impact of drought on famers within the Klamath Valley Basin (Siskiyou County). Mr. Griffin indicated that Siskiyou County is working on a county disaster declaration.

(10) PANEL DISCUSSION – State of the Westside Central Valley

The Board conducted a panel discussion with local water districts, authorities and agencies concerning ongoing impacts of water allocations to the Westside of the Central Valley.

Speakers included:

- Thomas Birmingham, General Manager, Westlands Water District
- Daniel Nelson, Executive Director, San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority
- Brent Walthall, Assistant General Manager, Kern County Water Agency

MOTION: Board member Adan Ortega moved to explore the possibility of an Australian Water Tour to raise awareness on water use efficiency and to understand the long term impact of drought on agricultural production. Board member Michael Darnell seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(11) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Farm Loan and Disaster Assistance Programs

The Board heard from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency concerning a variety of programs to assist farmers.

Speaker:

- Val Dolcini, State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(12) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The Board heard from CDFA’s Federal Funds Management Office and representatives from the California Garden Bar Project concerning California’s Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

Speakers include:

- Kathy Alameda, California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Judy Hirigoyen, California Garden Bar Project.

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

(13) OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business was discussed by the Board.

(14) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no additional public comments.

(15) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.