

**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 AUGUST 25, 2010**

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, August 25, 2010, at approximately 10:00 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	Marvin Meyers	Luawanna Hallstrom
Michael Darnell	Kerry Tucker	Kiran Black
Ashley Boren	Adan Ortega, Jr.	Daniel Dooley
David Wehner	Ben Drake	Donald Bransford
Arlan Van Leeuwen		

**Absent:**

Craig McNamara	Sean McNally
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**(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 28, 2010**

Board member Dan Dooley moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2010 meeting. Board member Marvin Meyers seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

**(4) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE**

Secretary A.G. Kawamura announced the formation of the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming authorized by California Food and Agricultural Code Section 568. Appointments to the advisory panel include: Al Montna, Montna Farms; Adan Ortega, Jr., Water Conservation Partners Inc., Dr. Thomas Smith, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; and Cindy Tuck, California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA).

**(5) STATE BOARD UPDATE**

The Board heard updates from two of its subcommittees at the August 25, 2010 meeting:

**Ag Vision**

Board member Luawanna Hallstrom provided an update on the California Agricultural Vision 2030 project. The comment period for the Ag Vision 2030 draft options has been extended until mid-September.

### **Water Subcommittee**

Board member Adan Ortega provided an update on the Water Subcommittee and congratulated Board member Marvin Meyers for a recent media profile that highlighted his groundwater-banking project.

**(6) PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD – Agricultural Sustainability**

The Board heard from six speakers concerning agricultural sustainability with focus on agricultural production and environmental stewardship.

Speakers included:

- Daniel Dooley, Agricultural and Natural Resources – University of California
- Howard-Yana Shapiro, MARS, Inc.
- Neilson Conklin, Farm Foundation
- Pamela Ronald, University of California, Davis
- Michael Scuse, USDA Deputy Undersecretary, Farm & Foreign Agricultural Services
- Jason Clay, World Wildlife Fund

The presentations concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(7) PANEL DISCUSSION – Agricultural Technology/Practices**

Board member Kerry Tucker conducted a facilitated discussion with all speakers concerning perspectives on agricultural technology and the adoption of sustainable farming practices.

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(8) PANEL DISCUSSION – Agricultural Policy**

Board member Kerry Tucker conducted a facilitated discussion with all speakers concerning agricultural policy, policy reform and public perception.

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(9) PANEL DISCUSSION – Performance Metrics**

Board member Kerry Tucker conducted a facilitated discussion with all speakers concerning performance metrics for agricultural stewardship and sustainability.

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(10) PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD – Discussion Summary**

The Board heard from one speaker representing SureHarvest who provided an overview of the discussion on agricultural sustainability and the complexity of issues surrounding the topic (agricultural technology, public policy, and performance metrics).

Speaker:

- Jeff Dlott, SureHarvest

The presentation concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(11) PANEL DISCUSSION – California Agriculture’s Role**

The Board heard from three speakers representing agricultural production within California. The panel discussed the role of California’s farmers and ranchers in meeting the agricultural production demands of the future.

Speakers included:

- Tom Nassif, Western Growers
- Emily Robidart Rooney, Agricultural Council of California
- Michael Dimock, Roots of Change
- Chris Zanobini, California Grain and Feed Association

The panel discussion concluded without formal action by the Board.

**(12) OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board had three action items for consideration.

Draft Letter to Governor Schwarzenegger on food nutrition programs: As part of the Ag Vision process, the Board approved five immediate action items at its June 30 meeting. The letter to Governor Schwarzenegger addresses the recommendation by the Ag Vision advisory committee concerning ‘Better Food Access for California Families in Need.’

MOTION: Board member Don Bransford moved that the draft letter be approved by the Board and sent to the Governor for consideration. Board member Adan Ortega seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

Draft Letter to Governor Schwarzenegger on immigration reform: As part of the Ag Vision process, the Board approved five immediate action items at its June 30 meeting. The letter to Governor Schwarzenegger addresses the recommendation by the Ag Vision advisory committee concerning ‘Fairness to Agricultural Workers and Employers.’

MOTION: Board member Marvin Meyers moved that the draft letter be approved by the Board and sent to the Governor for consideration. Board member Kiran Black seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

Draft Letter to Secretary Kawamura concerning invasive species: During the June 30 meeting of the Board, California Citrus Mutual made a formal request concerning invasive species and the role of CDFA. The letter to Secretary Kawamura addresses the request by California Citrus Mutual.

MOTION: Board member Dan Dooley moved that the draft letter be approved by the Board and sent to Secretary Kawamura for consideration. Board member Luawanna Hallstrom seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

**(13) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

President Montna opened the meeting to public comments. Three individuals provided comments:

John Kautz, Ironstone Vineyards, commended the Board for its choice of speakers and meeting discussion. Mr. Kautz also spoke on the environmental stewardship practices of California farmers and ranchers – indicating that on his farming operations Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been practiced since 1970. Overall, any metrics on sustainability must be scientifically based and accepted within the scientific community

Neil Van Alfen, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences – University of California, Davis. Dean Van Alfen also commended the Board for the wonderful discussion. Dean Van Alfen commented that a lot of the discussion focused on technology and the need for science to assist in meeting our future production needs. Dean Van Alfen also commented that University of California, Davis ranks second in the nation (behind USDA) for the output of agricultural research. However, because of budget cutbacks agricultural research is suffering. We should not lose sight of our long term challenges and we need to fund technology to meet our future demands.

Jean-Mari Peltier, President of the National Grape and Wine Initiative, stressed the critical importance of agricultural research. Continued research is needed and we need to double the amount of funding to agricultural research. In addition, agricultural extension services need our support.

**(14) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Board member Adan Ortega moved that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of Jack V. Pandol (June 20, 1923 – August 4, 2010). Board member Marvin Meyers seconded the motion and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.