

California Walnut Board and Commission

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An Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider



CALIFORNIA WALNUT BOARD & CALIFORNIA WALNUT COMMISSION BOARD OF DIRECTORS JOINT MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2025

10:00 am

Marriott Hotel
SF/Sacramento Ballroom
11211 Point East Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA

Contact: Suzanne Wuehler 916-932-7070 or swuehler@walnuts.org

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Board Members

Jack Marani, Chairperson

William D. Carriere

Ben Walsh

Greg Wiersma

Brent Barton

Michael Machado

Eric Heidman

Mike Poindexter

Frank Guerra

Rachael Goodhue

Board Alternates

John Aguiar

Jeff Gallagher

Michael Petz

Benjamin Crane

Vacant

Vacant

Dick Wolf

Vacant

Brock Middleton

Vacant

Commission Members

R. Davin Norene, Chairperson

Ashley McKenzie

Craig Knight

Jay Colombini

Darrell Cordova

Vacant

Jimmy Simonian

Andrew Bloom

Charles Crain

Brian Dunning

Robert Lea

Jack Mariani

Rachael Goodhue

Commission Alternates

R. Donald Norene

Jack Vickrey

Sean Sullivan

Manny Johal

Ray Perez

Gordon Heinrich

Paul Stanfield

Gurjant Khosa

William Crain

Jeffrey Sleeper

Matt Langford

William D. Carriere

Vacant

C.	CWB Approval of Prior Minutes of:	November 6, 2024	CWB Action
D.	CWC Approval of Prior Minutes of:	November 6, 2024	CWC Action
E.	CEO Report (R. Verloop)		
F.	Committee Reports		
	1. CWB/CWC Marketing, Promotions & Business Development Committee (P. Gravier)		CWB Action
	2. CWB Grades & Standards Committee (E. Heidman/Ng)		CWB Action
G.	Report of the CWB/CWC Audit Committees		
	1. Annual Audit Review FY 2023/2024 – CWB (Matt Krehe)		CWB Action
	2. Annual Audit Review FY 2023/2024 – CWC (Matt Krehe)		CWC Action
H.	CWB Budget and Assessment Approval for 2025/2026 (R. Verloop)		
	1. Resolution Recommending Approval by the Secretary a Budget of Expenses, Assessment Rate, and Authority for the Executive Director to execute contracts for the 2025/2026 Marketing Year (Page 4)		CWB Action
	2. Recommendation of Administrative Services Agreement between CWB and CWC for 2025/2026		CWB Action
I.	CWC Budget and Assessment Approval for 2025/2026 (R. Verloop)		
	1. Review budget recommendation, establishment of assessment rate, and authority for CEO to execute contracts for the 2025/2026 marketing year		CWC Action
	2. Recommendation of Administrative Services Agreement between CWB and CWC for 2025/2026		CWC Action
J.	CWB Delegation of Authority to Committees for 2025/2026		CWB Action
	1. Delegate Authority to CWB Research Committee to Approve Production and Post-Harvest Research Proposals		
	2. Delegate Authority to CWB Audit Committee to make housekeeping and legal changes to Policies & Procedures and Employee Handbook		
	3. Delegate Authority to CWB Marketing & Promotions Committee to approve marketing programs		
	4. Delegate Authority to CWB Executive Committee to approve staffing matters		
K.	CWC Delegation of Authority to Committees for 2025/2026		CWC Action
	1. Delegate Authority to CWC Audit Committee to make housekeeping and legal changes to Policies & Procedures		
	2. Delegate Authority to CWC Marketing & Promotions Committee to approve marketing programs		
L.	California Walnut Board Resolution Recommending Approval by the Secretary a Compliance Plan for the 2025/2026 Marketing Year (Page 5)		CWB Action

- M. Approval to Allow the Executive Director to Obtain Outside Legal Counsel for Personnel Matters and General Contracts for 2025/2026** **CWB Action**
- N. Q & A**
- O. Other Business**
- P. Time and Place of Next Meeting**
- Q. Executive Session (California Walnut Board) / Closed Session (California Walnut Commission)**
Closed Session regarding pending litigation and/or the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of an employee pursuant to California Government Code Section 11126(a)
- R. Adjournment**

NOTE: Each of the agenda items listed above will include discussion and possible action by the Board. Room assignments are subject to change.

The California Walnut Board (CWB) and California Walnut Commission (CWC) prohibit discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital/familial/parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance programs (not all bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations, alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, American Sign Language, large print, audiotape, etc.) or special meals should contact Suzanne Wuehler at (916) 932-7070 at least five days prior to the meeting. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or write a letter with all information requested in the form and either send to USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, fax to (202) 690-7442, or email to program.intake@usda.gov. CWB/CWC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

NOTE: Each of the Agenda Items above will include discussion and possible action by the Commission. All meetings of the California Walnut Commission are open to the public and subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. All interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting. Time will be allowed for members of the public to make comments on each Agenda item. This time may be limited to two minutes per person for each Agenda item.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations should contact Dana Hull, Executive Assistant, California Walnut Commission, at (916) 932-7070 at least five days prior to the meeting.

This Meeting Notice and Agenda is available on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Website at www.cdffa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/meeting.html. For further information regarding the Agenda for this meeting, please contact the California Walnut Commission at (916) 932-7070.

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE
SECRETARY A BUDGET OF EXPENSES, ASSESSMENT RATE, AND AUTHORITY
FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR THE 2025/2026
MARKETING YEAR**

WHEREAS, Section 984.68 of Marketing Order No. 984, as Amended, provides that the California Walnut Board shall submit to the United States Secretary of Agriculture its recommendation as to the expenses which are reasonable and likely to be incurred by it during each Marketing Year for the maintenance and functioning of the Board, for such purposes as the Secretary may, pursuant to the provisions of said Order, determine to be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Section 984.68 of said Marketing Order, as Amended, further provides that the Board shall include with its recommendation of expenses its recommendation of a rate of assessment to be fixed by the Secretary.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CALIFORNIA WALNUT BOARD IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED, that the Board adopt and recommend for the approval of the Secretary, a budget of expenses in the amount of \$19,608,000 for the 2025/2026 Marketing Year, with the estimated line items on the accompanying schedule and as supported by a budget report to be prepared by the Executive Director; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Executive Director shall have the authority to transfer funds, between budget items for good cause, provided the total budget is not exceeded.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the assessment rate during the 2025/2026 Marketing Year shall be \$.0125 per inshell pound of product received.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Executive Director shall be authorized to enter into and execute all contracts for the Board, subject to all conditions of the Order.

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL BY THE
SECRETARY A COMPLIANCE PLAN FOR THE 2025/2026 MARKETING YEAR**

WHEREAS, Section 984.44 of the Order provides that the Board shall investigate compliance with the provisions and recommend rules and regulations for the purpose of administrating the program.

WHEREAS, the California Walnut Board on April 10, 2025, has concluded that the accompanying compliance plan would assist the industry in carrying out compliance with the said rules and regulations.

RESOLVED BY THE CALIFORNIA WALNUT BOARD IN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED, that the Board adopt and recommend for the approval of the Secretary the accompanying compliance plan for the 2025/2026 marketing year. Board staff is authorized to make minor changes to Board approved compliance plan for the 2025/2026 marketing year if requested by the Secretary.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolutions unanimously adopted by the CALIFORNIA WALNUT BOARD on April 10, 2025.

Signed: _____
Robert Verloop, Executive Director

Date: _____