California Walnut Board and Commission
110 Woodmere Road, Suite 250, Folsom, CA 95630-4776
(916) 932-7070 Main (916) 932-7071 Fax
info@walnuts.org

CALIFORNIA WALNUT BOARD & CALIFORNIA WALNUT COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' JOINT MEETING

Thursday, November 12, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Marriott Hotel Sacramento – Rancho Cordova
San Francisco. Sacramento Ballroom
11211 Point East Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA

Contact: Suzanne Petersen 916-932-7070 or spetersen@walnuts.org

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Board Members	**Board Alternates**
Jack Mariani, Chairperson	John Aguiar
William D. Carriere	Jeff Gallagher
Ben Walsh	Michael Petz
Greg Wiersma	Benjamin Crane
Brent Barton	Daniel Bays
Michael Machado	John Heier
Eric Heidman	Dick Wolf
Vacant	Aaron Martella
Frank Guerra	Brock Middleton
Public Member – Vacant	Public Alternate – Vacant

Commission Members	**Commission Alternates**
R. Davin Norene	R. Donald Norene
Ashley McKenzie	Jack Vickery
Kali Dittrich	John Heier
Jay Colombini	W. Henry Gilbert
Darrell Cordova	Gurjant Khosa
Neil Jolliff	Gordon Heinrich
Andrew Souza	Vacant
Everett Souza	Vacant
Charles Crain	William Crain
Brian Dunning	Jeffrey Sleeper
Matt Langford	Vacant
Jack Mariani	William D. Carriere
Public Member – Vacant	Public Alternate – Vacant

C. USDA Anti-Trust Statement

D. CWB Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2026 **CWB Action Item**

E. CWC Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2026 **CWC Action Item**

F. Appointment of Gavin Hartley to fill the handler alternate seat for District 2 **CWC Action Item**

G. CEO Report (Verloop)

a) **2026 CA Marketable Walnut Position Report - update**

H. Marketing Order Administration Topics (MARKETING POLICY STATEMENT) CWB ACTION ITEMS G, (a-h)

a) Acceptance of the NASS (on-tree) objective measurement crop forecast
b) Est handler reported inventory (Sept 1, 2026)
c) Est. walnuts in production Land IQ acreage report (August 2026)
d) Est. projected trade demand
e) Est of desirable handler inventory (Sept 1, 2027)
f) Parity statement
g) Marketing policy statement

I. Health & Nutrition Research, Outreach/Communications Update

J. US Retail, Foodservice, FMI and Consumer Marketing Update

K. Industry and Government Affairs Update

L. DFA – Topline Quality report (Initial 2026 Harvest observations)

M. Grades & Standards Committee Update

a) CWC – **NEW Seasonal Grade Standards – under authority of CDFA**
b) CWC - California Premium Brand Program

N. Public Comment

O. Other Business

P. Time and Place of Next Meeting – To be determined

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 Petersen 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 Suzanne Petersenl, 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.cdfa.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.