MEETING MINUTES
CALIFORNIA PISTACHIO RESEARCH BOARD
Board of Directors Meeting

February 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

Western Agriculture Processors Association

Roll Call

Chairman Tom Coleman called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A complete board roster is shown below with an * indicating those in attendance. A quorum was established.

Members	Alternates	Advisory Committee
* Tom Coleman, Chairman	1st Alternate	*Robert Beede
* Gerrid Climer	* Joseph Coelho	Carl Fanucchi
Jeremy Blackwell	2nd Alternate	*Todd Fukuda
* Rob Goff	Clay Beck	Mike Harvey
* Joey Mendonca	3rd Alternate	*Brad Higbee
* Brian O'Neill	Todd Tracy	Anthony Rabo
* Zack Raven	4th Alternate	Rod Stiefvater
Mike Smith	* Michael Naito	
* Erik Wilkins		
* Christine Milgrom (Public Member)		

*Indicates those members, alternates and advisors in attendance.

Others Present: Ben Kardokus (CDFA), Cindy Dean, Stephen Vasquez, Laura Larsen, Kirk Squire, Richard Kreps, Peter Allbright, Andrew Howe, Giulia Moreno

Approval of the June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Board Motion 2025-2-13 #1

It was moved by Brian O'Neill and seconded by Gerrid Climer to approve the June 20, 2024; minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

No Comments

CDFA Report

Ben Kardokus CDFA representative had nothing to report.

Manager's Report

Stephen Vasquez went over the following:

1) Steve spoke at Pistachio Day with approximately 450 in attendance.
2) Met with Secretary Ross, concerning the SIT Program. She will gather a committee to review the program and report directly to her.
3) Attended the Resnick Ag Foundation event at UC Davis. There were lots of interesting proposals presented.
4) Rod Stiefvater Foundation will be donating land and money to the pistachio root stock / breeding program.
5) Met with Secretary Ross's staff regarding the CDFA Inspection Service and Food Safety Inspection Audits. Growers can have a pre-audit done with no penalty to prepare for the actual audit.

Proposal Presentations

1) Steve quickly went over ED-2025-51 proposal from Alissa Kendall, who was not able to be present for the presentations on 2/5-2/6/25. This is year 2 of 2 for this proposal.
2) Steve gave an overview of Dr. Brar Off Cycle HP-2024-51 research project noting that the results are not complete and due to the sensitive nature of the project are not to be shared. He then went over the HP-2025-41 proposal submitted. The board discussed and asked questions.

Review and Funding of the Proposals

The 2024-2025 approved budget allocates $4,250,000 for research ($3,000,000 – standard research, $350,000 -- research contingency, $400,000 -- Education and Outreach, $250,000 -- Food Safety). The Board received fifty (51) proposals, requesting funds totaling a little over $3.8 million. This year researchers presented their proposals in person to the board. Today the Board reviewed these proposals deciding which projects to fund. The Board granted funding for 33 of the proposals. A total of $2,647,678.50 was allocated to fund research ($65,952.00 – Education & Outreach; $74,090.00 – Food Safety; $2,056,106.89 – Standard Research). For detailed funding see exhibit A – 2024 Proposal Chart.

Board Motion 2025-02-13 #2

It was moved by Erik Wilkins and seconded by Joey Mendonca that the board allocate $2,196,148.89 to fund the approved research proposals (Exhibit A). The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Topics for Future Consideration

None

Scheduling of Future Meetings

Tentative future meeting schedule:

- 3/2025 or 4/2025 meeting to discuss additional off-cycle research projects
- 7/21-7/22/2025 (ACP & CPRB Board) Breeding Program tour
- 2/4-2/5/26 Proposal Presentations (Kingsburg Historical Park)
- 2/9/2026 CPRB Proposal Funding (WAPA)

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37am.

Certification

I, Stephen Vasquez, Executive Director of the California Pistachio Research Board, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is a true and correct account of the meeting of the California Pistachio Research Board conducted on February 13, 2025.

Date: _____ _____

Stephen Vasquez, Executive Director - California Pistachio Research Board

2025 Proposals - Exhibit A

Project #	Principal Investigator	Proposal Title	Amount Requested	Amount Funded 2/13/25	Comments
Education					
ED-2025-1	**Julia Stover Blackburn**	California Pistachio Research Board Event Facilitation.	$15,000.00	$15,000.00	
ED-2025-2	**Julia Stover Blackburn**	Wildeye Weather Station Data Management and Integration	$7,500.00	$7,500.00	
ED-2025-51	**Alissa Kendall**	Environmental Benefits and Impacts in a Rapidly Solarizing California Pistachio Industry	$43,452.00	$43,452.00	
Entomology					
ENT-2025-3	**Raman Bansal**	Evaluating natural products-based chemicals for controlling navel orangeworm and Gill's mealybug	$18,692.00	$18,692.00	
ENT-2025-4	**Raman Bansal**	Evaluating entomopathogenic fungi for controlling Gill's mealybug	$18,586.00	$18,586.00	
ENT-2025-5	**Raman Bansal**	Preserving the effectiveness of chemicals for controlling Gill's mealybug	$18,586.00	$18,586.00	
ENT-2025-6	**May Berenbaum / Joel Siegel**	Enhancing Pest Management for *Carpophilus truncatus* in California Pistachios; Determining Rearing Requirements, Host Preferences, and Phytochemical Attractants	$97,095.00	$0.00	not funded
ENT-2025-7	**David Crowder / Houston Wilson / Jhalendra Rijal**	Developing a decision support system for naval orangeworm	$21,075.00	$21,075.00	
ENT-2025-8	**Reza Ehsani**	Enhancing the speed and efficiency of Pistachio Mummy Nut Removal using a novel continuous canopy shaker	$74,935.00	$74,935.00	
ENT-2025-9	**David Haviland**	pistachios	$32,878.00	$32,878.00	
ENT-2025-10	**Marion Le Gall**	Optimizing Navel Orangeworm Artificial Diets Using the Geometric Framework for Nutrition: A Cost-Effective Approach for Enhanced Pest Management	$63,200.00	$0.00	not funded
ENT-2025-11	**Marion Le Gall**	Mapping Navel Orangeworm (Amyelois transitella) generational preference for different nut species and varieties using the Geometric Framework for Nutrition	$99,091.00	$0.00	not funded
ENT-2025-12	**Neil Morrison**	Friendly™ Navel Orangeworm: Identification of the Optimal Wild-Type Strain for Future High Performance and Cost-Effectiveness in Mass-Rearing.	$145,252.00	$0.00	not funded
ENT-2025-13	**Joel Siegel**	efficacy and reducing application volume using organosilicone adjuvants	$75,000.00	$75,000.00	
ENT-2025-14	**Robert Van Steenwyk**	Evaluation of currently registered insecticides for Carpophilus truncatus control	$76,828.00	$0.00	not funded / revise / reconsider
ENT-2025-15	**Spencer Walse**	Postharvest Control of Carpophilus truncatus	$155,131.00	$0.00	not funded ACP?
ENT-2025-16	**Spencer Walse**	Initial screening of Gill's mealybug pheromones	$17,575.00	$17,575.00	
ENT-2025-17	**Houston Wilson**	Ecology, Monitoring and Management of Carpophilus Beetle	$74,524.00	$74,524.00	
ENT-2025-18	**Houston Wilson / Kent Daane**	Optimizing New Commercial Lures for Monitoring Leaffooted Bug (Coreidae: Leptoglossus zonatus)	$61,787.00	$61,787.00	
ENT-2025-19	**Houston Wilson**	Development of sterile insect technique for navel orangeworm	$96,479.00	$96,479.00	
ENT-2025-20	**Houston Wilson**	Determining the Relative Value of Sterile Insect Technique as a New Control Strategy for Navel Orangeworm	$61,192.00	$0.00	not funded
Food Science					

FS-2025-21	**Themis Michailides**	Identification of sources of and factors affecting ochratoxin A (OTA) contamination in California pistachios and its	$74,090.00	$74,090.00	
Horticulture: Agronomy					
HA-2025-22	**Douglas Amaral**	Comparing the Efficiency of Different Foliar-Applied Zinc Formulations on Bud Development in Pistachio (Year 2)	$68,763.00	$68,763.00	
HA-2025-23	**Douglas Amaral**	Improving Potassium Use Efficiency in Pistachio Trees for Improved Nut Yield and Quality	$43,713.00	$0.00	not funded
HA-2025-24	**Douglas Amaral**	Rapid, eco-friendly and cost-effective assessment of nutrient content in pistachio leaves via portable X-ray fluorescence spectrometry: a contribution for smart farming agriculture	$80,053.00	$45,000.00	***Smaller amount funded (difference 35,053.00)
HA-2025-25	**Phoebe Gordon**	needs, year 4	$67,500.89	$67,500.89	
HA-2025-26	**Tomo Kumahira**	Advanced Water Decision Support System for California Pistachio Production Under SGMA Constraints	$35,000.00	$0.00	not funded
HA-2025-27	**Bruce Lampinen**	Evaluating new training systems for pistachio	$85,729.00	$85,729.00	
HA-2025-28	**Giulia Marino**	Combining Proximal and Remote Water Stress indicators to optimize Pistachio Water Use	$74,692.00	$74,692.00	
HA-2025-29	**Tobias Oker**	Evaluating the effectiveness of nanobubble technology to improve water infiltration and leaching of saline-sodic soils	$23,944.00	$23,944.00	
HA-2025-30	**Tobias Oker**	Evaluating the effects of limited irrigation on male pistachio trees	$79,953.00	$0.00	not funded
HA-2025-31	**Li Tian / Louise Ferguson**	Composition and efficacy analyses of horticulture oils for reliable applications	$59,228.00	$0.00	not funded
HA-2025-32	**Daniele Zaccaria**	Continue measuring evapotranspiration (ET) and crop coefficients (Kc) of well-watered, young pistachio grown on winter cover cropped versus clean-cultivated orchard floor for use in water resource planning and irrigation scheduling	$117,300.00	$0.00	not funded / revise add kern cover cropping reconsider later
HA-2025-33	**Daniele Zaccaria**	Continue investigating the effects of winter cover cropping on the radiation balance, soil-water dynamics, and waterproductivity of mature, micro-irrigated pistachio orchards over the crop season 2025	$121,800.00	$0.00	not funded / commercial possibly for next year
HA -2025-34	**Daniele Zaccaria**	Validating a pistachio production function to predict nut yield response to soil properties, tree canopy features, and meteorological parameters for micro-irrigated orchards in the San Joaquin Valley of California	$123,000.00	$0.00	not funded
HA-2025-35	**Daniele Zaccaria**	Investigating knowledge and perceptions on actual and acceptable accuracy of pistachio evapotranspiration (ET) estimated with Satellite Remote Sensing methods through a stakeholder survey	$71,000.00	$0.00	not funded
Horticulture: Genetics					
HG-2025-36	**Pat J. Brown**	Collaborative Pistachio Rootstock Breeding	$150,341.00	$150,341.00	
HG-2025-37	**Pat J. Brown**	Pistachio Improvement Program	$249,083.00	$225,000.00	(difference 24,083.00)
HG-2025-38	**Giulia Marino**	develop field evaluation trials with Existing Commercial Rootstocks	$21,442.00	$0.00	not funded
HG-2025-39	**Grey Monroe**	Next-generation genomic tools for the pistachio industry	$94,660.00	$94,660.00	
Horticulture: Physiology					
HP-2025-40	**Barbara Blanco-Ulate**	How Bloom Time and Seasonal Temperatures Affect Nut Growth and Quality ? Focus on modeling "Golden Hills" and "Gumdrop"	$98,680.00	$98,680.00	

HP-2025-41	**Gurreer Brar**	Understanding migration and distribution of systemic pesticide residue in pistachio nut tissues	$100,000.00	$100,000.00	
HP- 2025-42	**Georgia Drakakaki**	Effect of 1-aminocyclopropane carboxylic acid (ACC) application on fruit abscission and harvest optimization	$101,123.00	$101,123.00	
HP-2025-43	**Georgia Drakakaki**	Understanding pistachio nut blanking, embryo development and IKD occurrence in relation to phytohormone towards improving nut quality and yield	$89,587.00	$0.00	not funded
HP-2025-44	**Reza Ehsani**	technique	$54,929.00	$0.00	not funded
HP-2025-45	**Giulia Marino**	Pollen-parent effects on fruit set and nut quality in Pistachio	$71,412.00	$71,412.00	
HP-2025-46	**Li Tian**	Leveraging gene expression markers for precision bud-break enhancement in pistachios	$89,613.00	$89,613.00	
Pathology					
PA-2025-47	**Themis Michailides**	Quantification and management of fungicide resistance in Alternaria populations causing Alternaria late blight in California pistachio orchards	$79,459.00	$79,459.00	
PA-2025-48	**Themis Michailides**	Management of aflatoxin contamination in pistachio using atoxigenic strains of *Aspergillus flavus* biocontrol technology: Improving the efficacy of biocontrol treatments, including area-	$91,924.00	$91,924.00	
PA-2025-49	**Florent Trouillas**	Characterization and management of Phytophthora crassamura and Phytophthora nicotianae, two new and emerging crown and root rot pathogens of pistachio trees in California	$78,149.00	$78,149.00	
PA-2025-50	**Andreas Westphal**	Protecting current and future rootstocks from damage by plant-parasitic nematodes	$65,389.00	$0.00	not funded
			$3,835,414.89	**$2,196,148.89**	

	Requested	Funded	Not funded	
Education	$65,952.00	$65,952.00	$0.00	
Entomology	$1,207,906.00	$510,117.00	$697,789.00	
Food Science	$74,090.00	$74,090.00	$0.00	
Horticulture Agron	$1,051,675.89	$365,628.89	$686,047.00	
Horticulture Genet	$515,526.00	$470,001.00	$45,525.00	
Horticulture Physic	$605,344.00	$460,828.00	$144,516.00	
Pathology	$314,921.00	$249,532.00	$65,389.00	
	$3,835,414.89	**$2,196,148.89**	$1,639,266.00	**$3,835,414.89**