

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

<b>RED BLOSSOM FARMS, INC.,</b>	)	Case No. <b>2024-CE-003</b>
	)	
Respondent,	)	
	)	
and,	)	<b>ORDER DISMISSING AS MOOT</b>
	)	<b>GENERAL COUNSEL’S APPLICATION</b>
<b>GRISELDA GARCIA GUZMAN,</b>	)	<b>FOR SPEICAL PERMISSION TO</b>
	)	<b>APPEAL ORDER DENYING FULLY</b>
Charging Party.	)	<b>VIRTUAL HEARING</b>
	)	
	)	
	)	
	)	<b>Administrative Order No.: 2026-02</b>
	)	
	)	(March 6, 2026)

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On February 20, 2026, pursuant to Board regulation 20242, subdivision (b), the General Counsel of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB or Board) filed an application for special permission to appeal an order of Administrative Law Judge Steven Wyllie (the ALJ) in the above-captioned unfair labor practice case involving respondent Red Blossom Farms, Inc.<sup>1</sup> The special appeal challenged the February 12, 2026 ruling of the ALJ granting in part and denying in part the General Counsel’s motion for a fully virtual hearing. The order permitted agricultural employees and supervisors to testify virtually but required other witnesses and hearing participants to attend in-person.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Board’s regulations are codified in Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, section 20100 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> While the Board generally favors in-person proceedings, ALJs have the discretion to order partially or fully virtual hearings for good cause shown. In support of the special appeal, the General Counsel argued there was good cause for a fully virtual hearing. The General Counsel cited factors including the publicized activities of federal immigration enforcement agencies, recent changes to federal policy, which permit immigration enforcement at and around courthouses, and the potential for detentions based in part on apparent ethnicity and use of Spanish or other non-English languages (See *Noem v. Perdomo* (2025) 606 U.S. (conc. opn. of Kavanaugh, J.)). Such factors warrant serious consideration and may justify a fully virtual hearing

On March 5, 2026, the ALJ issued an order following a conference with the parties to discuss the hearing format. The ALJ found that, based upon changed circumstances, the totality of the circumstances established good cause for a fully virtual hearing.

The ALJ's March 5, 2026 order directing a fully virtual hearing renders the General Counsel's application for special permission to appeal moot, and, accordingly, it is DISMISSED.

**ORDER**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the General Counsel's application for special permission to appeal the ALJ's February 12, 2026 ruling on the General Counsel's motion for a fully virtual hearing is DISMISSED as moot.

IT IS SO ORDERED

DATED: March 6, 2026

Victoria Hassid, Chair

Isadore Hall, III, Member

Barry D. Broad, Member

Ralph Lightstone, Member

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notwithstanding the acknowledged technical difficulties that virtual hearings present and even where another party objects. Nevertheless, each request for a partially or fully virtual hearing must be evaluated under the facts and circumstances specific to the case.