



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 05:00 P.M**

**Thousand Oaks Room
Oxnard Performing Arts Center
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard, CA, 93030**

Board Members: Chair: Victoria Hassid,
Members: Barry Broad, Isadore Hall and Ralph Lightstone
Executive Secretary: Santiago Avila-Gomez

Technical Support: Satyadarshini Mathan

Court Reporter: Marlee Nelson

Spanish Interpreters: Frida Perales Blum and Michael Wilson

Open Session

1. Call to Order

- Chair Hassid called the meeting to order at 5:18 P.M.
- Board Members Present: Board Member Broad, Board Member Hall and Board Member Lightstone.

2. Approval of Minutes from Public Board Meeting, March 4, 2026.

- Board Member Broad moved to approve the minutes from the Public Board Meeting from March 4, 2026.
- Board Member Hall seconded the motion.
- Motion approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report – Presented by Chair Hassid

- Chair Hassid opened by sharing highlights from a recent visit to Oxnard, including tours of local farms and packing operations, and meetings with regional staff and community members. She expressed appreciation to staff and partners who helped organize and facilitate the visit.

- She then acknowledged recent disturbing and tragic allegations connected to individuals historically associated with the farmworker movement. She recognized the emotional impact these revelations may have on workers, communities, and staff, emphasizing the importance of supporting those affected.
- Chair Hassid reaffirmed the core mission and values of the organization supporting workers' rights, collective action, and safe workplaces. She noted the importance of continuing to center worker voices and addressing harm within workplaces.
- Finally, she introduced an upcoming panel discussion focused on strengthening collaboration between public and private entities, improving partnerships, and enhancing support for underserved communities.

4. Panel Discussion

- The panel brought together representatives from Miracle Group and Swap Meet Justice, along with community leaders, agricultural employers, and government partners, to talk about ongoing efforts to support farmworkers in Ventura County. Speakers included Vanessa Frank, Claudia Bautista, Juvenal Solano, Irene De Barraicua, Yissel Barajas, and Amalia Lommel.
- Panelists shared that their collaboration began around 2015 after surveys revealed concerns about farmworker conditions. Since then, partnerships between growers, advocates, and public agencies have helped create practical solutions, such as supervisor trainings, resource centers, and more accessible education and support services.
- A major focus of the discussion was the success of "one-stop" community events. These events bring together legal, immigration, healthcare, and social services in familiar places like colleges and swap meets. Panelists noted that offering services in one location has made it easier for farmworkers to access support and has helped build trust within the community.
- They also discussed how this approach has been used in other counties, especially during COVID-19, to provide outreach, testing, vaccinations, and workplace education.
- Throughout the discussion, panelists emphasized the importance of listening to farmworkers, building relationships, and being mindful of language and cultural differences. They also pointed out the need for continued support at the state level, including flexible funding and resources that encourage collaboration and expand access to legal services.
- The group acknowledged that immigration enforcement has created fear, which can sometimes prevent people from seeking services. Even so, organizations have continued their outreach efforts by focusing on education, clear communication, and being present in the community.

- Overall, the panel highlighted that working together and meeting people where they are has made a meaningful difference, improving access to services and strengthening trust over time.

4. Public Comment

- Farmworkers shared concerns about working conditions and the impact of immigration enforcement. They emphasized the need for access to legal information, services, and support to understand and exercise their rights.
- Speakers highlighted the importance of collaboration between farmworkers, community organizations, and government, noting it strengthens the community. They also underscored their economic contributions and the importance of protecting opportunities for their children's education and future.
- Some workers described challenges such as wage theft, retaliation, and fear of speaking out. Many expressed appreciation for accessible, community-based services especially those offering legal support and language access and thanked organizers and partners for their ongoing support.

5. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.