



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 10:00 A.M**

**ALRB Hearing and Conference Room
1325 J Street, Suite 1900, Sacramento, CA 95814**

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

Board Counsels: Chief Board Counsel: Laura Heyck, Board Counsels:
Scott Inciardi and Thomas Barnes

Technical Support: Satyadarshini Mathan

Open Session

1. Call to Order

- Chair Hassid called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.
- Board Members Present: Board Member Broad, and Board Member Lightstone.

2. Approval of Minutes

- No Minutes to approve.

3. Chair's Report- Presented by Victoria Hassid

- Labor Rights Week: The Chair clarified that the current week is Labor Rights Week and acknowledged that ALRB staff are actively participating in outreach events. Staff are partnering with the Mexican Consulate at various offices throughout the state to provide information about workers' rights and explain ALRB processes. Staff are also participating alongside other state agencies in these Labor Rights Week activities.

4. Executive Officer's Report on Elections, Unfair Labor Practice Complaints, and Hearings – Presented by Santiago Avila-Gomez

- On August 30, 2026, United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 8 – Golden State served a petition for certification on J & F Martins Dairy, seeking to represent approximately six workers.
- The petition was docketed by the Visalia Regional Office on August 31, 2026.
- The dairy is located in Laton, Fresno County, approximately 20 miles south of Fresno.
- No election date has been established yet. The Executive Officer will provide the Board with additional information once available.

5. Litigation Report – Presented by Laura Heyck

- Olive hill Greenhouse/Western Growers Association and Wonderful Nursery matter: No change. The consolidated case in the Eastern District Court remains pending a ruling on the motion to dismiss.
- Ocean Mist Farms, Case no: 8054281: This matter is before the Sixth District Court of Appeal. Ocean Mist Farms petitioned for review of an April 16, 2026, order. The petitioner filed its opening brief in July, and ALRB filed its respondent's brief on September 1. Ocean Mist Farms may now file a brief reply, generally due within 25 days.
- Olive Hill Greenhouses – Mandatory Mediation Case: Olive Hill filed a petition for writ of mandate on August 28 challenging the constitutionality of the appellate bond requirement under Labor Code § 1164.5(d) and requested an immediate stay. The court granted a temporary stay shortly afterward. ALRB's informal response is due September 8, after which the court is expected to establish a briefing schedule for the remaining issues. The Attorney General's Office is representing the ALRB in this matter.
- Tri Fanucci Farms LLC – Chapter 12 Bankruptcy: Tri Fanucci filed for Chapter 12 bankruptcy in May. ALRB filed its proof of claim on June 29 and an amended claim on July 22. On August 25, Tri Fanucci filed its Chapter 12 plan and an objection to ALRB's proof of claim. ALRB must:
 - Respond to the objection to its claim by September 29; hearing expected in mid-October.
 - File any objection to plan confirmation by October 7; hearing scheduled for October 21.
 - The case is in the Eastern District of California Bankruptcy Court, Case No. 26-12426.

- The Attorney General's Office Business Litigation Section is representing the ALRB in this matter.

6. General Counsel's Report – Presented by Julie Montgomery

Settlements:

- Region 1 – Ventura County: ALRB reached a post-complaint bilateral settlement with James H. Cowan & Associates involving an agricultural worker who alleged retaliation after complaining about inaccessible restrooms, limited equipment access, and treatment of workers.
- The company agreed to pay \$62,249 in back wages and \$1,751 in civil penalties. Worker notices will also be mailed.
- No reading was required because the company closed in December 2025 and has no existing employees to read the notice to.

Outreach Activities:

- Staff participated in Labor Rights Week activities throughout the state, including tabling, worker presentations, and distribution of labor-rights materials.
- Outreach included presentations at consular offices and mobile consulates serving farmworkers in various communities.
- Sacramento General Counsel staff participated in outreach activities in the Sacramento area.
- Rural Strategic Engagement Program (RSEP) staff Tabled and distributed materials at a one-stop clinic hosted by CBDIO in Salinas.
- Participated in a monthly citizenship and social justice fair hosted by SWAP Meet Justice in Oxnard.
- Attended El Dia Del Trabajador Agricola hosted by Monterey County Office of Education in King City.
- Additional outreach included speeches, tabling, presentations, and informational sessions conducted both in person and through Facebook Live.
- A more comprehensive report of Labor Rights Week activities will be provided at the next Board meeting, with outreach highlights also expected to be shared through social media.

7. Legislative

- No report provided.

8. Public Comment

- None

Closed Session

- The Board recessed into closed session at 10:15 A.M and returned at 11:14 A.M.

9. Announcements

- The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 16, 2026, in Sacramento.

10. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 11:14 A.M.