



California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Fertilizing Materials Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)

HYBRID TELECONFERENCE MEETING

2399 Gateway Oaks, Ste. 200, Sacramento, CA 95833

May 30, 2024
9:00 AM
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Cook
Dave McEuen
Daniel Rodrigues
Dr. Ehsan Toosi
Dr. Franklin Gaudi
Dr. Jairo Diaz
Dr. Sebastian Saa
Dr. Mike Almasri
Dr. Rob Mikkelsen*
Dr. Tom Bottoms
*Participated remotely

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Charlotte Decock

CDFA STAFF

Dr. Amadou Ba*
Dr. Emad Jahanzad
Karen Adler
Mark Cady
Nicole Nunes

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Tom Bottoms, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Dr. Bottoms requested the subcommittee review the minutes of the January 19, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: Franklin Gaudi moved to approve the January 19, 2024, meeting minutes as submitted; Dr. Mike Almasri seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 10-0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba discussed retirements in the branch; from the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP), Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), Dr. Martin Burger and Environmental Scientist, Patrick Barbree retired in the last two months. Special Investigator Mike Gingles' plans to retire in August 2024. New hire announcements: Liam Erskine will be working as an Environmental Scientist with the

FMIP's Registration staff and Joseph O'Donohue will start in June 2024 as an Agricultural Aide for FREP.

At the Department level, Dr. Ba discussed the Governor's order for state workers to return to the office, effective June 17, 2024. Sacramento CDFA staff will be working a minimum of two days per week in the office. The budget shortfall is currently estimated at \$27.6 billion. The Governor ordered 10,000 unfilled positions be eliminated and requested agencies make 8% across the board cuts to operational costs.

On legislative matters, Dr. Ba stated that Assembly Bill (AB) 2902 for Organic Waste Diversion will impact our Feed Program, as some of the required diversions could go to animal feed. The Feed Program also is watching Senate Bill (SB) 1367 regarding feed licensing, including the Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program, which has a sunset date every five years and will need to be extended to keep the program going. SB 1522, regarding fertilizing materials, amends the law to include Plant Bio-stimulants and other beneficial substances and will address ingredients in organic product registration and mill assessments.

The State of the Science Summit in May 2024 was attended by CDFA, UC Davis, Spark Education, and USDA; topics including animal breeding for reducing enteric methane emissions were well received.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Mark Cady announced the upcoming annual FREP Conference in October 2024, including a field trip preceding the meeting. The conference will take place October 29 – 30, 2024 at the Embassy Suites in Seaside, California. A report on the Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative (NII) will be available in June 2024 and TASC members will be included in the distribution. Cady reported on FREP's Certified Crop Advisers (CCA) Focus Group meetings to assist FREP in improving the way the program can provide more assistance to the industry. Some of the take-home messages from those meetings include focusing on the California Fertilization Guidelines as an important tool for CCAs, improving FREP's project database, including industry advice in grant program priority setting, improving marketing for the FREP conference, and creating informational products on irrigation management.

2024 REGULAR FULL PROPOSALS

Dr. Bottoms led the discussion in reviewing and voting on the six submitted full proposals. After discussing each full proposal, five were recommended to be funded:

- Determination of crop N-removal coefficient values for the Imperial and Coachella Valleys cropping systems - *Montazar, A., Geisseler, D., Smith, R.*

- A science-based and interactive website for nutrient management in organic crop production - *Geisseler, D., Lloyd, M., Decock, C., Muramoto, J.*
- Monitoring and assessing variability of nutrient status in almond orchards with hyperspectral satellite imagery empowered by artificial intelligence - *Jin, Y., Brown, P., Pourreza, A.*
- Equity in Nutrient Management Education on the Central Coast of California - *Harkleroad, N., Fraide, A., Murphy, L., Peterson, A., Brown, K., Colfer, G.*
- Development of Three Citrus Modules in The Decision Support Tool CropManage for Orange, Mandarin, and Lemon - *Miller, K., Ikemiya, D., Cahn, M., Singh, M., et al*

TASC voted No on the following full proposals:

- Developing Nutrient Requirements for Young Walnut Orchards after Whole Orchard Recycling - *Reyes, C., Holtz, B.*

TASC BYLAWS

Cady discussed updating the TASC bylaws. TASC received a copy of the document with proposed changes and each edit was discussed by the group.

MOTION: Dan Rodrigues moved to approve the TASC Bylaws with edits; Dr. Sebastian Saa seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 10-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next TASC meeting agenda will include a review and update of project priorities and possible recommendations from industry and commodity groups. A presentation on the nursery industry's current and evolving issues and challenges may be on the agenda as well. TASC members requested a brief update on currently funded projects and any milestones that have been achieved.

NEXT MEETING

The meeting will be scheduled in August or September 2024, before the autumn FIAB meeting.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dr. Mike Almasri moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Cook seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY MARK CADY

Mark Cady
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
Fertilizer Research and Education Program

Date: 06/05/2024