



California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)

HYBRID TELECONFERENCE MEETING

2399 Gateway Oaks, Suite 203, Sacramento, CA 95833

September 20, 2024

9:00 AM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Cook
Dr. Ehsan Toosi
Dr. Jairo Diaz
Dr. Sebastian Saa
Dr. Tom Bottoms
Daniel Rodrigues
Dr. Mike Almasri

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave McEuen
Dr. Franklin Gaudi
Dr. Charlotte Decock
Dr. Rob Mikkelsen

CDFA STAFF

Dr. Emad Jahanzad
Jenna Leal
Jennifer Harmon
Karen Adler
Maria Tenorio Alfred
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 APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Bottoms requested the TASC review the minutes of the May 30, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Mike Almasri moved to approve the May 30, 2024; meeting minutes as written; Dan Rodrigues seconded. The motion passed by present members with a vote of 7 - 0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, BRANCH, AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Jenna Leal introduced herself as new branch chief for the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS), as her predecessor, Dr. Amadou Ba, retired in August. Leal discussed a few legislative bills; Senate Bill (SB)1522, the changing of label registration cadence to every four years, and SB1367, the Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) program sunset, was extended by six years. Leal also discussed 8 percent budget cut within the division/programs.,

Leal also updated the TASC on a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak that has impacted six to seven Central Valley dairies. FFLDRS is working with the Animal Health

Branch to assist where needed. The SAFE TASC meeting is set to review Bovaer, a feed supplement that blocks an enzyme involved in methane formation, so less methane is generated in dairy cattle.

Leal updated on personnel in FFLDRS; two rounds of interviews have been conducted for the Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) positions overseeing registration staff for the Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP) and the Organic Input Materials (OIM) Program. Leal's former position, Environmental Program Manager I for the CFRP is now vacant and will be advertised soon. Two retirements were also announced: Dale Rice, retired annuitant for FMIP and Chris Hansen Special Investigator for CFRP.

Mark Cady updated on FREP program activities. Maria Tenorio Alfred joined the FREP team full time in August. Nicole Nunes will be going on maternity leave late October and will come back at 25% time in January 2025.

The grants approved in spring by TASC and the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB) have been processed and moved forward to the Office of Grants Administration. Cady mentioned upcoming outreach events being attended by FREP staff, including FREP/Western Plant Health (WPH) Nutrient Management Conference, Black Farmers Conference, Crop Consultant Conference, Native American Day at the Capital, Latino Farmers Conference, California Association of Pest Control Advisers Conference, Almond Conference, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and Plant and Soil Conference in 2025.

TASC APPLICATIONS

TASC discussed the submitted applications for the four available member positions for 2025. The current members voted unanimously to recommend the reappointment of the three current members (Dr. Tom Bottoms, Dr. Jairo Diaz, Dr. Ehsan Toosi) and to recommend that Dr. Chris Shogren, Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor, be appointed to the remaining seat. These recommendations will move forward to be reviewed by the FIAB and approved by the Secretary of the Department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The October TASC meeting will include a presentation by Dr. Gerry Spinelli highlighting California's nursery industry research needs and challenges, and a review and update of FREP's request for proposals document, including grant program priorities.

NEXT MEETING

Following the FREP Conference on October 30, 2024, at 12:30 PM in Seaside, CA.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dr. Mike Almasri moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Rodrigues seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY MARK CADY

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

Date: September 25, 2024