



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

HYBRID TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Embassy Suites, Seaside, CA

**October 30, 2024**  
**12:45 PM**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dan Cook  
Dave McEuen  
Dr. Franklin Gaudi  
Dr. Charlotte Decock  
Dr. Ehsan Toosi  
Dr. Jairo Diaz  
Dr. Sebastian Saa  
Dr. Tom Bottoms  
Daniel Rodrigues  
Dr. Mike Almasri

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Rob Mikkelsen

**CDFA STAFF**

Dr. Emad Jahanzad  
Jenna Leal  
Jennifer Harmon  
Karen Adler  
Maria Tenorio Alfred  
Mark Cady

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Tom Bottoms, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm. Introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

**REVIEW AND APPROVED SEPTEMBER 20, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Bottoms requested the TASC review the minutes of the September 20, 2024, meeting.

**MOTION:** Dan Rodrigues moved to approve the September 20, 2024; meeting minutes as written; Sebastian Saa seconded. The motion passed by present members with a vote of 10 - 0.

**DEPARTMENT/DIVISION/BRANCH UPDATES**

Jenna Leal updated the TASC on a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak that has now impacted 278 Central Valley dairies to date. The Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services (FFLDRS) Branch is working with the Animal Health Branch to assist where needed and to implement biosecurity procedures. Leal briefly discussed mandated budget cuts across the department and how that is impacting each program.

Leal informed the TASC that feed, and fertilizer regulation changes are moving through the system. Personnel updates include Evelyn Ndiaye and Yanhong Li both being promoted into supervisory positions with commercial fertilizer and organic input material programs.

Mark Cady updated on FREP personnel changes, stating that Nicole Nunes will be on maternity leave until January 2025, and will return to work at 25% time. Cady further informed the TASC that Maria Tenorio Alfred joined the FREP team full time. The applications for new TASC members were approved by the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board and will be sent to the Secretary for appointment.

### **PRESENTATION**

Dr. Gerry Spinelli gave a presentation highlighting California's nursery industry research needs and challenges.

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

The TASC reviewed the current Request for Proposal (RFP) document. A discussion was held regarding the award amount for the grants and whether it could be increased, or whether different award amounts could be offered for research proposals versus outreach proposals. Dan Rodrigues suggested adding nitrogen management for grapevines biomass recycling. FREP staff discussed requiring Principal Investigators (PI) to include travel costs for FREP conference attendance in their budget.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

TBD

### **NEXT MEETING**

A Doodle poll will be sent out; the next meeting will be held mid-February 2025.

### **ADJOURN**

**MOTION:** Dan Rodrigues moved to adjourn the meeting; Mike Almasri seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

### **ORIGINAL SIGNED BY MARK CADY**

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

Date: November 18, 2024