



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

2233 Cesar Chavez Blvd., Fresno, CA 93721

Thursday, October 30, 2025

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Ehsan Toosi

INTERESTED PARTIES

Chris Gallo, FIAB member

CDFA STAFF

Dr. Emad Jahanzad
Jenna Leal
Jennifer Harmon
Karen Adler
Maria Tenorio Alfred
Natalie Jacuzzi

*Attended remotely

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Tom Bottoms, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Introductions were made and a quorum was established.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, TASC MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Bottoms requested TASC review the minutes of the September 16, 2025, meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Gaudi moved to approve the September 16, 2025, meeting minutes as submitted. Dr. Shogren seconded; the motion passed with a vote of 9-0. Dan Rodrigues abstained.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Jenna Leal updated TASC on the board meetings attended in October for both the Fertilizer and Feed programs. Leal also noted that on November 5, 2025, both program boards will be having a joint meeting to discuss moving program funding from Bank of America to an internal, state account. Leal also discussed the upcoming Second Ag

Expert Panel that the Water Board was convening on October 31, 2025. FREP is scheduled to give a presentation on the history of the program and how FREP is providing research, education and outreach through grants and the Nitrogen and Irrigation Initiative to support growers in reducing nitrate discharges from their operations to groundwater. Leal mentioned attending an Association of Plant and Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) meeting where a proposed federal “minibus” bill was discussed to untangle agriculture, the military and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) funding. Leal also stated that the soybean farmers may soon get some relief from government tariffs to export countries. Finally, Leal explained that the federal funding our division receives was appropriated last year and is not affected by the current government shutdown.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Natalie Jacuzzi updated on the annual Nutrient Management Conference that finished earlier that day, including the field tour of Mid Valley Disposal’s compost facility and the integration of CDFA’s sister programs in the networking session following day one. Jacuzzi also discussed the presentation she will be giving to the Second Ag Expert panel along with the Office of Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability (OARS).

REVIEW 2025 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) DOCUMENT

Dr. Bottoms introduced the possibility of a change for the 2026 RFP cycle; in lieu of FREP’s annual RFP document, which solicits proposals on various research and outreach topics including improving nutrient and irrigation management practices or filling knowledge gaps, Dr. Bottoms proposed that the TASC discuss a special RFP for one topic; NO_x. Concerns over NO_x as a potent greenhouse gas have been increasing in the agricultural community in recent years, and the current research studies are over 25 years old. This idea stemmed from a recent FIAB meeting where the need to have updated research on NO_x was prioritized.

TASC consensus was to not review the current RFP document and to move forward with developing a special RFP to solicit NO_x research for the 2026 cycle. Dr. Gaudi suggested the possibility of forming an expert panel to discuss and choose the most qualified researchers to conduct a new study. Based on the discussion with TASC members, Dr. Bottoms recommended that FREP work with authors of the Subject Matter Expert Review Panel (SMERP), convened by the California Air Resources Board, which recently completed a literature review and released a report with NO_x research recommendations, such as Dr. William Horwath and Dr. Martin Burger. FREP will use their input to identify specific knowledge gaps, define the scope of the research solicit recommendations of researchers to carry out the work, and clarify the financial feasibility and costs associated with research on NO_x. FREP will bring these findings to TASC in a future meeting to develop a special RFP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

A special RFP will be discussed in a future meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled in early January 2026, following a doodle poll.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dr. Shogren moved to adjourn the meeting; Dan Rodrigues seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY NATALIE JACUZZI

Natalie Jacuzzi

Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)

Feed, Fertilizer, Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch

Date: 10/30/2025