



**Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)**
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 900-5022

**November 16, 2018
1:00 PM**

MINUTES

TASC Members

Dr. Jerome Pier
Dr. Tom Bottoms
Dr. Eric Ellison
DD Levine
David McEuen
Jenny Rempel

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Dr. Martin Burger
Mark Cady
Nicole Crouch
Brooke Elliott
Natalie Jacuzzi

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jerome Pier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM and welcomed the subcommittee. Rex Dufour, Dr. Suduan Gao, Chuck Hornung, Dr. Marja Koivunen, and Dr. Steve Petrie were not able to attend the meeting. Self-introductions were made and a quorum was established.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Dr. Pier requested the subcommittee review the minutes of the August 7, 2018, meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Eric Ellison moved to approve the August 7, 2018, minutes; David McEuen seconded. Dr. Tom Bottoms abstained. The motion passed by present subcommittee members with a vote of 5 – 0.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba briefly introduced the new TASC members who were approved by CDFA Secretary Karen Ross: DD Levine from Michael L. Johnson, LLC; Tom Bottoms of Timothy and Viguie Farming; and Suduan Gao of United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service. Each TASC member will serve a three-year term.

When the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board (FIAB) met in September 2018, it reviewed finances and found approximately 11 million dollars in reserve. For the fertilizer program, the mill assessment may be lowered from the current two mill to one or 1.5 mill. This plan will be presented to the board in February 2019. FREP currently has three million dollars in reserve. Given the amount of funding FREP requires for grants, the FREP mill assessment will not change.

FREP will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2019. A Special RFP may be released if there is a necessity due to specific gaps in current knowledge. The Special RFP is different because concept proposals are not requested; only full proposals are required for submissions.

In 2019, there will be a new governor and CDFA executive staffing could change. More will be known about new staff in late January.

2019 GRANT PRIORITIES

Dr. Pier began the discussion of the grant priorities described in the RFP. Priorities must be aligned with what is needed for sustainable agricultural practices. TASC discussed the priorities and changes were recommended.

In Section 1, "Improving Input Management," cover crops and behavioral studies were removed. Section 1 will focus more on implementing strategies to overcome barriers. In Section 2, "Understanding Soil-Plant Processes," lettuce and high-density crops were consolidated to one category, and pima cotton was removed. Knowledge gaps for crops were added, including transplanted crops, cane berries, blueberries, and olives. Section 3, "Charactering Loss Pathways" previously focused on nitrate in the root zone. It will include all nitrogen loss pathways.

FREP staff will make the recommended changes and present the final document to TASC. The 2019 RFP will be released in December 2018.

PROCESS FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Dr. Pier explained the process for reviewing changes made to full proposals. If TASC makes minor recommendations for full proposals, changes must be made by submitters before the proposals are considered for approval. Currently, the updated proposals are sent to the TASC chair for approval. However, recommended changes are frequent, so the process will change to share the workload among TASC members. Each full proposal will be assigned to a different member for review.

In addition, concept proposal formatting requirements will be included in the RFP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mark Cady announced that the next meeting agenda may include a presentation about agriculture in the Central Coast by Richard Smith, a Farm Advisor in Monterey County. Funding for the Special RFP will be discussed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled in late January via Doodle poll.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dr. Jerome Pier moved to adjourn the meeting; David McEuen seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 6 – 0.

Dr. Pier adjourned the meeting at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed by Mark Cady

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

Date