

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (CDFA)  
ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SERVICES (AHFSS)  
MEAT, POULTRY AND EGG SAFETY BRANCH (MPES)  
RENDERING INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD (RIAB)  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 13, 2021**

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 173  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Michael Koewler, Chair, called the RIAB meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and a quorum was established.

**(2) ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Mr. Michael Koewler.

**Committee Members Present:**

Michael Koewler  
D.O. "Spike" Helmick Jr.  
James (Jimmy) Andreoli, II  
Jared Trawick

Tyson Keever  
Brad Fleeman  
Abel Mendoza

**Interested Parties:**

Tad Bell  
Beatrice Poroli  
Paul Sousa  
David Isen  
Michael Payne  
Terry Wigglesworth

Nick Pisca  
David Belt  
Doug Smith  
Sharon Simpson  
Mike Lefever  
Joe Boyd

**CDFA:**

Dr. Annette Jones  
Paula Batarseh  
Michael Abbott  
Laura Barlow  
Han Lai

David Schurr  
Irene Sanchez  
Andrew Halbert  
Marc Shaw  
Penny Arana

Andy Femino  
Ricardo Gaitan

Dr. Gustavo Soberano

(3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from January 20, 2021.

**Motion #1:** Mr. Helmick made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Fleeman seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) **BRANCH UPDATES**

Mrs. Batarseh gave an update on MPES' branch activities. She stated there is going to be an update on the MPES data system referred to as ET, the Rendering area is being reviewed to provide improvements and enhancements to the system to better serve the program. There is a consultant in place to help MPES identify the areas needing the updates. MPES has also been working on composting projects ( Food and Agricultural Code Section 19348.1), in which the State Veterinarian is authorized to approve temporary research projects for the purpose of determining whether the alternative methods of animal tissue disposal are capable of destroying organisms that cause diseases. There are currently two projects being reviewed: one in Siskiyou County and the other in Yuba County. There are also two additional projects in the proposal stage which include the Edgewood in Siskiyou County and Foster Farms in Merced County for poultry mortality composting

Mrs. Batarseh stated that she attended the Pacific Coast Rendering Association and San Joaquin Veterinarian Medical Association meetings.

Mrs. Batarseh also stated that Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved Senate Bill 1383 Regulation in November 2020, the regulation will go into effect on January 1, 2022. CalRecycle has been hosting regional and statewide webinars to share this information and help solid waste facilities, organic waste recycling businesses or others that may be impacted by the regulation.

(5) **ENFORCEMENT/OUTREACH UPDATES**

Mr. Shaw gave a brief update on the Rendering License Renewals for 2021. He stated that there are forty-seven (47) Renderers (IKG and General), forty-three (43) Collection Centers (IKG and Animal Material), two hundred and seventy-one (271) IKG Transporters (Commercial), five (5) IKG Transporters (Personal), and thirty-five (35) Dead Animal Haulers.

He stated that CDFFA staff will be contacting those companies that did not renew to confirm their status for 2021. There are fifty (50) transporters that have not renewed by the end of 2020, but some companies only need to submit additional paperwork.

Mr. Shaw gave a brief update on compliance and enforcement. He stated that there were \$31,246.00 in civil penalties assessed in 2020 and \$15,796.00 civil penalties assessed in 2021.

Also, he stated there are five (5) cases ready for the assessment panel review:

- Two (2) theft of IKG by another transporter
- One (1) illegal collection center
- Two (2) illegal slaughter cases

**(6) CARCASS MANAGEMENT/ ENFORCEMENT/BARBITURATES**

Mrs. Batarseh stated that carcass management related to rendering disruptions has resulted in small group meetings continuing following the December 2020 Kick-off Meeting. One action item that resulted from the meeting is creating a survey for the four (4) renderers that accept carcasses to better understand their challenges. There is also a similar survey being created for the dead animal haulers. CDFA has continued to work with regulatory agencies such as CalRecycle, Regional Board and California State Water Resources Board to discuss rendering disruptions and explore future viable alternative options.

Mr. Femino gave a brief overview on livestock carcass disposal in California. The Animal Health Branch Emergency Preparedness Unit is developing a carcass disposal plan for each district.

Mr. Halbert stated that both he and Mrs. Arana have been working on the rulemaking package for marking of euthanized animals. The final rulemaking text is not substantially different from the emergency one, other than to cover the requirement that all carcasses or animals euthanized with barbiturates are not comingled with animals that have died from natural causes or by other methods. This package should go to OAL by late May 2021.

**(7) LICENSING CRITERIA FOR RENDERING TECHNOLOGIES**

Mrs. Lai gave a brief overview of the Licensing Criteria for Rendering Technologies Workgroup Meeting held on February 19, 2021. The discussion was to potentially work on regulation to define “free of microorganisms that are pathogenic to humans and animals” taking into consideration the scientific research, the direction of other states and federal agencies and the ultimate use of the product.

Mrs. Batarseh stated that in the future, it may be necessary to invite other regulatory agencies and expand the workgroup depending of the issues to be discussed.

**(8) MANIFEST ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE**

Mrs. Batarseh shared the legal opinion regarding the definition of delivered manifest under 3 CCR, Section 1180.24. The legal opinion stated that Inedible Kitchen Grease

(IKG) Transporters are permitted to provide an electronic delivery of manifests and offer their clients a portal to access electronic receipts, provided that all parties have agreed to the electronic format. She also emphasized that copies of the manifests must be provided to CDFA, upon request, pursuant to 3 CCR section 1180.24g.

**(9) CURBSIDE RESIDENTIAL IKG REGISTRATION**

Mr. Shaw raised the issue of contracted waste haulers collecting IKG from residences. This issue came to light as government entities are asking private waste haulers to include the collection of residential IKG in their contract agreements. Questions regarding registration requirements for those entities were asked of CDFA staff and staff felt it was appropriate to raise the issue with the RIAB since it is likely that the trend will continue. Under existing regulations and statute, the waste haulers meet the definition of IKG transporters and their transfer stations meet the definition of a collection center.

During the ensuing discussion, several potential concerns were voiced. Specifically, Mr. Koewler and Mr. Helmick commented that significant strides have been made over the years to get all IKG regulated and accounted for. Changing the regulations or creating exemptions for waste haulers operating under contract could pose issues with manifest, transporter and collection center rules. Mr. Keever added that traceability for every gallon collected would be needed and it would be difficult for companies to complete the required manifest forms. Mr. Andreoli stated that it is important that all licenses are kept equitable. He expressed that if exemptions are crafted for only certain businesses, it would pose an unfair advantage and would disadvantage the companies who are not exempt.

Mrs. Simpson clarified that government entities are asking for these programs in their waste hauler contracts because they are trying to divert the material away from landfills and to prevent incidents of IKG ending up in the trash or down the drain.

Mrs. Batarseh stated that this process should count towards the diversion goals under SB 1383 regulations because specific language has been included in the regulation specifying that materials diverted to rendering would be considered recycling and should count towards the diversion goals. She also added that the baseline year of 2014 must be taken into consideration when looking at the diversion goals.

Mr. Trawick stated that it would be important to have CalRecycle discuss the next steps in this process at the next RIAB meeting.

Mr. Koewler suggested that interested parties submit comments to Mr. Shaw that can be compiled and considered in the next RIAB meeting to cover all aspects of this program. He stated all comments should be submitted by June 18, 2021.

**(10) ELECTION OF RIAB OFFICER**

Mr. Koewler stated that it is incumbent that RIAB elect a Vice-Chair with the prospect of becoming the Chair of RIAB soon. He stated that anyone who would like to be considered for the Vice-Chair position to contact Mrs. Batarseh.

(11) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

(12) **FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Future agenda items:

- SB 1383|diversion goals
- Carcass management/barbiturates
- Licensing criteria for rendering technologies
- Other: Enforcement, outreach, and branch updates

(13) **UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES**

The next RIAB meeting will be September 2021 at 10:00 a.m. It will be held in Sacramento, at the Gateway Oaks location.

(14) **FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Koewler, Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion #2:** Mr. Helmick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Andreoli seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.