

**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
September 8, 2022**

*****Minutes are considered “draft” until approved by the RIAB at the next meeting*****

California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room 133
Sacramento, CA 95814

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Michael Koewler, Chair, called the RIAB meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and a quorum was established.

(1) ROLL CALL

Roll was taken by Mr. Michael Koewler

Board Members Present:

Michael Koewler
D.O. “Spike” Helmick Jr.
James (Jimmy) Andreoli, II

David Isen
David Belt

Interested Parties:

Kevin Abernathy
Nick Pisca
Mark De Bie
Martin Perez
Dan Dolph
Paulina Lawrence

Noel Richmond
Terry Wigglesworth
Kate Wilkins
Michael Payne
Andy Black
Paul Sousa

CDFA:

Dr. Annette Jones
Paula Batarseh
Marc Shaw
Hilda Favela
Han Lai
Brittany Cardoza

Penny Arana
Olivia Call
Tuan Nguyen
Logan Bartley
Andrew Halbert
Dana Brady Yount

(2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Michael Koewler asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from April 27, 2022.

Motion #1: Spike Helmick Jr. made a motion to accept the minutes and David Isen seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(3) **BRANCH UPDATES**

Ms. Batarseh began with an overview of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak in commercial and domestic birds. With detections in several counties, CDFA's Animal Health Branch (AHB) has taken the lead in emergency response and is working closely with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Meat, Poultry, and Egg Safety Branch (MPES) has been assisting AHB with the emergency response and approximately 100 employees from CDFA and USDA have been deployed.

She asked for everyone to ensure their biosecurity protocols are effective and take preventative steps to assist in minimizing the spread of the disease. She further stated that CDFA held a webinar raising awareness about HPAI for CDFA staff in an effort to increase overall awareness.

(4) **SENATE BILL 1383 / INEDIBLE MATERIAL**

Ms. Batarseh explained that CDFA continues to work closely with CalRecycle regarding SB 1383 and recycling of Inedible Materials. Since the regulations are now effective, CalRecycle has moved into an enforcement mode and has created a new Jurisdiction and Agency Compliance Branch, which is headed by Ashley Lee. This new branch works closely with the Local Assistance Branch. Both branches are working with jurisdictions to ensure compliance. CalRecycle will be completing waste stream characterization activities at generator and transfer facilities.

CDFA has also been working closely with CalRecycle on removing obsolete or inaccurate documents on inedible materials from the CalRecycle website. Currently, updated documents have been posted on the website to ensure that everyone understands the need to segregate inedible materials and get the materials to rendering and other authorized locations.

David Isen motioned to create a subcommittee to work with CalRecycle and CDFA to make sure that inedible materials being diverted from landfills are reported correctly. Jimmy Andreoli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

(5) **ENFORCEMENT/OUTREACH UPDATES**

Marc Shaw introduced this item by welcoming Hilda Favela as a new Special Investigator for CDFA.

He continued by suggesting a possible amendment to Collection Center regulations (3 CCR 1180.3.1) that would create a new category for “Tank Only” Collection Centers. This would allow for facilities only storing collected IKG in a tanker truck to pay a reduced registration fee than that of a full-scale Collection Center.

Mr. Shaw also proposed potential amendments to dead animal hauler regulations, specifically, language that would require dead animals are not visible to other motorists as they are transported to rendering facilities or landfill (3 CCR 1180.17). A second amendment (3 CCR 1180.18) would also allow for the use of a CA number in lieu of the full address of the dead animal hauler on the side of their registered vehicles.

Specific language for the proposed amendments will be drafted and provided to the Board.

(6) CARCASS MANAGEMENT AND RENDERING DISRUPTIONS

Ms. Batarseh stated that during the recent heatwave in early September, communication between CDFA, other regulatory agencies, the renderers and producers has been very good.

MPES finalized an advisory and a quarantine notice from Dr. Annette Jones to allow for alternative disposal options during the heat emergency. The documents were distributed to renderers, dairy groups, regulatory agencies, Ag Commissioners, and other interested parties.

She stated that using landfills as an alternative option has proven to be expensive and not feasible, and CDFA has been focusing on more onsite options. CDFA has also been in close communication with the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and CalEPA.

Lastly, she announced that two carcass management positions were approved through the Budget Act. This will give more support to the program.

(7) COORDINATION WITH OTHER REGULATORY AGENCIES

Since there are many misconceptions among the public and among environmental justice groups against the rendering industry, Jimmy Andreoli requested assistance with outreach to regulatory agencies such as the Water Board and the Air Quality Management Board about the true nature and benefits of rendering.

(8) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

(9) FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items:

- Outreach with Regulatory Agencies

(10) UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES

The next RIAB meeting will be scheduled for March 2023. CDFA staff will send a poll to determine the date and will notify all concerned once it is finalized.

The initial SB 1383 / Inedible Materials subcommittee meeting will occur prior to the next RIAB meeting. David Isen will coordinate the date and advise CDFA staff once it is finalized.

(11) FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Koewler asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion #2: Jimmy Andreoli made a motion to adjourn the meeting and David Isen seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.