

**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
March 16, 2023**

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

California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room 333
Sacramento, CA 95814

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Michael Koewler, Chair, called the RIAB meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum was established.

(1) ROLL CALL

Roll was taken by Mr. Koewler

Board Members Present:

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

Brad Fleeman
David Isen
David Belt

Interested Parties:

Tim Koewler
Nick Pisca
Vanessa Acuna

Andy Black
Valerie Pisca

CDFA:

Paula Batarseh
Brittany Cardoza
Han Lai
Tuan Nguyen

Dr. Fernando Umayam
Penny Arana
Andrew Halbert
David Schurr
Logan Bartle

(2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Michael Koewler asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from September 8, 2022.

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

(3) BRANCH UPDATES

Branch Chief Paula Batarseh began by explaining that starting in the beginning of July 2023, the exemptions from the Bagley-Keene requirements will no longer be in effect. These

exemptions were put in place, initially, because of the outbreak of COVID-19 and are no longer necessary. She further explained that a remote option will continue to be available for Board Members if their physical location is accessible to the public and compliant with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Mr. Andreoli inquired if CDFA could provide a second location for future RIAB Meetings in the Southern part of the state. Ms. Batarseh said she would look into a potential location for future meetings in the Ontario area.

Ms. Batarseh continued her report to the Board on new positions and promotions within the Branch. She introduced Dr. Fernando Umayam, who was recently promoted to Assistant Branch Chief. Additionally, Han Lai received a promotion to a Senior Environmental Scientist (ES) Supervisory. The Branch also hired a new Senior ES, Dr. Chandrasekar Venkitasamy who has backfilled Han's old position for Carcass Management. Lastly, Brittany Cardoza recently promoted to the Senior Special Investigator (Supervisory), replacing Marc Shaw.

Ms. Batarseh stated that she was able to travel and participate in the International Production and Processing Expo and was able to attend the International Rendering Symposium. The important message from the symposium was the importance of Rendering and how to engage with the community more.

(4) SENATE BILL 1383 / INEDIBLE MATERIAL

Ms. Batarseh explained that CDFA is working closely with CalRecycle to make sure that the diverted material from landfills is accurately accounted for and is included in waste characterization studies. CalRecycle is continuously working with the different jurisdictions to help them put strategies and policies in place for compliance. Further, CDFA is constantly working with CalRecycle and having discussions.

Ms. Batarseh told the Board that if there are specific issues or instances where they need assistance from CDFA, the Department can reach out to CalRecycle and other agencies.

She thanked the Board for bringing things to CDFA's attention, since there is much confusion with the cities or local jurisdictions because of mixed or inaccurate messages.

David Isen inquired about the possibility of including rendered products, which includes biofuels, to be counted towards the procurement target of 20% organic waste products diverted from landfills as required by Senate Bill 1383. Currently, these materials do not count towards the procurement target and cities are having difficulty fulfilling the 20% target. He believes that if the Rendering Industry were to assist, it would help cities and municipalities achieve their climate goals. Mr. Andreoli added that the rendered products from recycling used cooking oil into ingredients for animal feed should also be considered. CDFA will reach out and connect with CalRecycle and CDFA Inspection Services Feed Program to discuss a course of action for this subject.

(5) ENFORCEMENT/OUTREACH/2023 RENEWAL UPDATES

Brittany Cardoza began by giving a brief history of her CDFA career before taking on the Supervisor role in the Rendering Program. She explained that the completion of the 2023 renewals is being held up by delayed Motor Carrier Permits at the Department of Motor

Vehicles (DMV). The Program had notified everyone before and during the renewal season, but there are a few transporters that did not comply. CDFA is offering extensions for any registrant that is undergoing the process and who has maintained regular contact with CDFA on updates and proof where they are at with DMV process.

The Program Totals for the 2023 Renewals are listed below:

Total Vehicles Registered: 1403
Inedible Kitchen Grease Transporter – Commercial (IKC): 332
Inedible Kitchen Grease Transporter – Personal (IKP): 5
Dead Animal Haulers: 48 (86 vehicles)
Renderers, Inedible Kitchen Grease (IKG): 28
Collection Centers (IKG): 52
Renderers (General): 22
Collection Centers (Animal): 9

Enforcement Totals are listed below:

Notice of Violation's (NOV's) Issued: 11
Civil Penalty (CP) Amounts from Sep 2022 – Feb 2023: \$31,144

Additionally, the Program is looking into numerous cases of theft in Los Angeles County, as well as a statewide issue of unlicensed collection centers.

CDFA has been contacted by cities and municipalities reporting oil leakage from IKG Transport vehicles, which is impacting storm drains. Due to this, CDFA will start with an educational approach to expand the knowledge of the illegal collection center regulation, as the lack of knowledge behind this regulation is a contributing factor to these leaks.

Brittany Cardoza explained that the Rendering Program will have two new Special Investigators beginning in April. Additionally, the Rendering Program will be continuing routine inspections, however, there will be a higher focus on facilities and companies with ongoing issues and problems.

Further, RIAB and CDFA will have further discussion on the topic of a regulation revision, regarding the creation of a "Tank Only Collection Center", which would reduce fees for enforcement. Further, the regulations requiring all Dead Animal Hauler vehicles to display the full address of the company will also be revised. This revision would allow the industry to display their Carrier Identification Number OR the full facility address only.

Ms. Batarseh will work with Ms. Cardoza and Andrew Halbert on the draft language for the regulation change and will present to RIAB, prior to the next meeting.

(6) CARCASS MANAGEMENT AND RENDERING DISRUPTIONS

Ms. Batarseh began by stating that CDFA has been dealing with the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and there are currently (18) affected premises under quarantine.

Of these quarantined, (17) of these premises have been released from quarantine and all control areas have been closed as of February 23, 2023.

Further, nationally there has been (797) confirmed affected premises with almost (58) million domestic birds being affected. In California, there has been (35) confirmed affected premises and approximately (800,000) domestic birds were affected.

She explained, CDFA attempts to avoid landfill as a means of disposal, but with the volume of carcasses, some landfills and composting were necessary to dispose of the carcasses. She added that CDFA is continually working on rendering disruptions. Ms. Batarseh reported that CDFA has received funding for extreme heat. In addition to heat, CDFA has dealt with the flooding issues these past weeks due to the storms. Staff are monitoring the situation and reporting on any impacts to any operations to the Department.

She explained that the Barbiturate regulations are currently being finalized at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), where they have 30 days to review. The Board requested a copy of the proposed regulation changes that were submitted to OAL.

(7) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

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

Future agenda items:

- Coordination with Regulatory Agencies
- CalRecycle SB 1383 Procurement Target
- CARB: Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF_ – Electric Vehicle Discussion
- Regulation Language – Barbiturates
- Regulation Changes – tank only collection centers, marking on the vehicle of licensed dead animal haulers

(9) **UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES**

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

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

Motion #2: James 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 11:23 a.m.
Respectfully submitted:

Logan Bartley