

**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 29, 2020**

California Department of Food and Agriculture  
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 101  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Item  
No.

**(1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Michael Koewler, Chair, called the RIAB meeting to order at 9:05 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

**Interested Parties:**

Beatrice Poroli  
Morgan Cara  
Kevin Abernathy  
Matt Henigan  
Michael Payne  
Jenna Leal

**CDFA:**

Paula Batarseh  
Michael Abbott  
Laura Barlow  
Han Lai

David Schurr  
Irene Sanchez  
Andrew Halbert  
Dr. Annette Jones  
Marc Shaw  
Paul San Gregorio  
Daisy Alcantar  
Javon Williams  
Lisa Quiroz

(3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from June 3, 2020.

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

(4) **BRANCH UPDATES / NEW STAFF**

Mrs. Batarseh stated that due to COVID-19, MPES has stepped up the use of virtual technology across all three (3) functional areas of MPES (Meat and Poultry, Egg Safety and Quality Management Program and the Rendering Program). Egg Safety and Quality Management Program (ESQM) used to have small producer workshops throughout California, which is now transitioning to a virtual workshop. MPES has also made significant progress in the compliance and enforcement arena. MPES is working closely with the CDFA Legal Office on Notices of Proposed Actions for ESQM and the Rendering Program. Mrs. Batarseh also noted that CDFA is working closely with the University of Maine on an emergency carcass composting course expected to be available in February or March 2021.

(5) **SENTATE BILL (SB) 1383**

Mrs. Batarseh gave a brief update on SB 1383. She stated that CalRecycle has received comments from the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and at this time, they are working on minor modifications to the language to add clarity and necessity issues. The expectation is to return the revised final package to OAL prior to the November deadline. All the comments received during the public comment period will be available and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant once the package is approved. MPES has also stepped up the outreach on the inedible materials by creating a flyer and presentation with the intent to ensure that everyone understands that the inedible materials should not be comingled with other organic waste then sent to composting or other unauthorized locations.

Mr. Schurr presented the RIAB with the outreach flyer. Mr. Schurr stated that the flyer has been sent to the California Grocers Association, who has agreed to distribute the flyer to their organizational members, and they will distribute to the grocery stores. CDFA Inspection Services is going to incorporate this information into their outreach program for animal feed. CalRecycle is also going to incorporate their directional language on their website to direct it to CDFA's website concerning this material. He has also contacted the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) regarding this matter.

(6) **ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 2959 / SOLID WASTE BYPRODUCTS**

Mr. Andreoli provided a brief overview of AB 2959. He stated that this bill was a proposed change to some of the laws regarding rendering products and used cooking oil and has unclear language. Mr. Andreoli would like to work with CDFA to clarify the language and put it in the 2021 legislative season. He suggested that CDFA work on defining rendering as a preferred means, a vital public service and to recognize the benefits to the environment and greenhouse gases. He also suggested that CDFA and CalRecycle work together to ensure the product continue to be recycled.

(7) **ENFORCEMENT / OUTREACH UPDATE**

Mr. Shaw provided a brief summary on the following enforcement and outreach updates.

Enforcement Updates

- Summary of Civil Penalty Assessments
- Civil Penalties
- Current Investigations

Shifting Focus

- Quarterly Compliance
- IKG Transporters
- Interceptor Trap Grease

Preparing for 2021

- Newly hired special investigator
- Use of case log and case number
- Revision of forms and letters for 2021 renewals
- Migration to more streamlined/automated processes (iPads)
- Dead Animal Hauler program (will use decals in 2021)
- Interceptor grease trap enforcement
- Expanded relationships with industry leaders

(8) **CARCASS MANAGEMENT / BARBITURATES**

Mrs. Batarseh began the discussion of carcass management / barbiturates by thanking everyone who provided comments to the Rendering Disruption Plan, the idea is to incorporate the comments into the draft plan, then have a meeting with all interested parties to provide feedback.

Mr. Abernathy stated that there needs to be a workable solution that the rendering industry supports. Mr. Payne stated that if rendering were to go away in California that would be a threat to several commodities, therefore needing to make rendering a stable and sustainable business especially in terms of regulatory issues. Mr. Andreoli reiterated that the rendering industry needs the support of CDFA, when it comes to rendering issues.

Dr. Jones agreed that rendering is a critical infrastructure and has wondered why it is not valued as one. Dr. Jones also stated that she will convey this discussion to the CDFA Secretary.

Dr. Jones outlined three (3) carcass management scenarios during which CDFA has a role: natural disasters, disposal of carcass to control disease, and rendering disruption events, e.g., mechanical breakdowns. She stated that with natural disasters and disposal of carcasses to control disease there are well-developed plans in place which include governmental authority for carcass management. Typically, during rendering disruption events, it is the animal owner's responsibility to dispose of the carcasses. Unfortunately, during these disruption events, there are issues beyond the producer's ability to control, which is why everyone needs to work together to resolve them.

Mr. Abernathy suggested creating a technical working group to address carcass management issues.

Mr. Koewler asked for volunteers to sit on this technical group. Mr. Andreoli, Mr. Abernathy, Mrs. Lai, and Mr. Shaw volunteered for this group. Mr. Koewler stated that he would reach out to Mr. Fleeman, Mr. Bell, Mr. Sousa and Mrs. Emily Rooney to volunteer for this technical working group as well.

Mrs. Batarseh gave a brief overview on barbiturates. She stated that emergency regulations were adopted that became effective as of July 30, 2020, this is for the veterinarian performing euthanasia to mark the forehead of the carcass with a "B." Mrs. Batarseh also stated that Mr. Fleeman wanted to know how this process was working and if the "B" was being applied correctly to the forehead, it seems like it is not always being applied correctly. He asked if efforts can be stepped up to inform the veterinarians that the "B" on the forehead is a better approach and more visible.

Mr. Halbert gave a brief overview on the administrative component of the regulation. He stated the emergency regulation will be in place for one (1) year. The rulemaking process will need to be completed in order to get regulation in place while the emergency regulation is still in effect, it is critical that CDFA receive input by the industry.

(9) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

(10) **FUTURE RIAB AGENDA ITEMS**

Future agenda items:

- Carcass Management
- SB 1383
- AB 2959
- Barbiturates / Dairy Industry
- Digester Project
- Other: Enforcement, outreach, and branch updates

(11) **UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS**

The next RIAB meeting will be December 2020 at 9:00 a.m. It will be held in Sacramento, at the Gateway Oaks location.

(12) **ADJOURN**

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

**Motion #2:** Mr. Andreoli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Trawick seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 am.