

**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
January 20, 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
Kevin Abernathy
Michael Payne
Matt King
Paula Lawrence
Terry Wigglesworth

CDFA:

Dr. Annette Jones
Paula Batarseh
Michael Abbott
Laura Barlow
Han Lai
David Schurr
Irene Sanchez
Andrew Halbert
Marc Shaw
Penny Arana
Lisa Quiroz

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from September 29, 2020.

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 stated Mr. Andrew Halbert has been promoted to the Legal Liaison for the Division of AHFSS. He will be working closely with AHFSS branches, legal and legislative offices on legal and legislative issues. Mrs. Penny Arana has also been promoted to an Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA) for the MPES' Rendering Enforcement Program.

Mrs. Batarseh stated the first Rendering Disruption Technical Work Group took place in December 2020. Since the meeting, MPES has had brief discussions and solicited feedback from various stakeholders. Few stakeholders voiced concerns regarding the large list of participants making it difficult to get into in-depth and candid discussions on all the complex issues. Moving forward CDFA will be having focused discussions with smaller groups then circling back to the bigger group.

(5) SENTATE BILL (SB) 1383/ INEDIBLE MATERIALS/ SOLID WASTE BYPRODUCTS

Mrs. Batarseh stated that the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the CalRecycle regulations in November 2020 and the regulations will go into effect in January 2022. CalRecycle has released a new SB 1383 webpage that includes documents from the rulemaking package as well as frequently asked questions. They will also be hosting regional and statewide webinars on SB 1383 beginning on February 2 through March 30, 2021.

CDFA has been working closely with CalRecycle to update the Assembly Bill (AB) 1826 page by adding rendering information, such as the “Guide for Segregating and Recycling Packinghouse Waste” to their website. Mr. Schurr stated that CDFA has also reached out to several groups to share with them outreach materials on packinghouse waste.

(6) **ENFORCEMENT / OUTREACH UPDATE**

Mr. Shaw provided a brief update on the 2021 license renewal effort and highlighted that due to CDFA’s operational constraints all 2020 license decals were extended until January 31, 2021; extension information was posted on CDFA’s Rendering website. He also informed the group that there is no “grace” period allowed and that late fees would still be applicable for all renewals postmarked after January 1, 2021.

Mr. Shaw shared with the group that the Compliance & Enforcement Unit (CEU) plans to focus in 2021 on inspections of transporters in order to ensure proper licensing, safety compliance and verification that IKG is being transported to licensed collection centers or renderers. He alerted the group that there has been a rise in illegal slaughter cases; investigators are working with the Livestock Identification Branch and MPES Inspectors on enforcement. He also stated that as a result of long-term investigation, surveillance is scheduled for two (2) habitual offenders (both with revoked transporter licenses).

Mr. Koewler stated that with COVID-19 it has been difficult to obtain signatures for companies they are servicing. He asked if the procedure of acquiring signatures can be amended to allow for an electronic signature. Mr. Trawick stated CCR 1180.24 requires companies to document and track the collection, transport and receipt of IKG. CCR section 1180.24(g)1(B) states a copy of the manifest should be given to the generator at the time of the IKG collection or provided within 45 calendar days of collection. He suggested modifying the language to make the manifest available to the generator upon request.

Mr. Keever stated that in April 2017, he received a written response from Mrs. Laura Barlow stating that the CDFA’s Legal Office has already opined on the definition of “delivered” for manifests. Based on the legal opinion, electronic copies of manifests are permitted if an agreement is established with the customer for providing digital access to the manifests upon request. MPES will search the records for the legal opinion and get back to the RIAB members.

(7) **BARBITURATES**

Mr. Halbert provided an update on the outreach effort for the marking of euthanized animals regulations. This included reaching out to several groups including the United States Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Medical Board, accredited Equine Veterinarians, and the University of California, Davis. Outreach materials were also posted on CDFA’s website. Mr. Halbert stated that MPES is moving forward with the formal rulemaking package for euthanized animals and soliciting feedback from industry members to incorporate into the final rulemaking package.

Mrs. Batarseh stated it is important as the regulations are finalized to work closely with the Renderers to better understand the practices and draft meaningful regulations. Mr. Fleeman stated there are several “B” markings on a cow, but he has not seen any on the forehead of a cow. Mr. Sousa stated that a “B” has been used commonly on the hip for several other reasons.

(8) LICENSING CRITERIA FOR RENDERING TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Lai provided a comprehensive overview of federal, state, and local requirements pertaining to land application and pathogen reduction. Mr. Trawick suggested establishing a rendering licensing work group to explore the rendering licensing criteria in detail with the licensed Renderers. Mr. Andreoli is in full support of the work group and Mr. Fleeman agreed. It was agreed that Mr. Trawick, Mr. Andreoli and Mr. Fleeman will participate on the work group, and Mr. Trawick will chair the work group.

(9) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

(10) FUTURE RIAB AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items:

- SB 1383
- Barbiturates
- CDFA Legal office updates regarding manifest electronic signatures
- Budget funds within California for new trucks and technology
- Other: Enforcement, outreach, and branch updates

(11) UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

The next RIAB meeting will be in April 2020 at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive in Sacramento and via Zoom. A doodle poll with possible dates/times will be sent out by Mrs. Laura Barlow.

(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 11:24 am.