

**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 27, 2022**

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

Brad Fleeman
David Belt
Chris Friberg

Interested Parties:

Kevin Abernathy
Nick Pisca
Michael Payne
Martin Perez

Terry Wigglesworth
Kate Wilkins

CDFA:

Dr. Annette Jones
Paula Batarseh
Marc Shaw
David Schurr
Han Lai
Ricardo Gaitan
Paul San Gregorio

Penny Arana
Tuan Nguyen
Logan Bartley
Andrew Halbert
Michael Abbott
Brittany Cardoza
Lisa Quiroz

(2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Koewler, Chair, asked RIAB to review the meeting minutes from September 22, 2021.

Motion #1: David Belt made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Andreoli seconded the motion. All members agreed with no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

(3) **INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Koewler introduced David Isen as a new Board Member. Mr. Isen provided a brief self-introduction.

(4) **BRANCH UPDATES**

Paula Batarseh began by introducing Ms. Mae Abbott as the Rendering Enforcement Program's new Staff Services Analyst (SSA). Further, she stated the 2022 Emergency Composting Training Course went well and that CDFA has been working with the University of Maine and other national experts on this project. She also added that CDFA is currently monitoring the constructed compost piles and working with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (regional board) to collect samples.

Ms. Batarseh also explained that High-Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) has spread to several states including: Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota, where millions of chickens have already been euthanized because of the virus. CDFA has drafted a quarantine notice, in case HPAI is detected within the state. Furthermore, other precautions are being taken to reduce the risk of the virus getting into California. She also stated that Mr. Marc Shaw attended the Pacific Coast Renderers Association's annual meeting held in Dana Point in March of this year and provided the group with an update on the rendering and investigative work CDFA has been doing.

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

Ms. Batarseh started by explaining that there has been misleading information being drafted and distributed by some local jurisdictions and municipalities regarding segregation and recycling of inedible materials. CDFA reached out to municipalities to ensure they understand CDFA's requirements and to provide accurate guidance on their websites, which has led to some success with this initiative with a number of the municipalities.

She explained that packinghouse waste (inedible material) must be segregated and placed in distinct containers and ultimately recycled through CDFA licensed renderers or pet food processors. Packinghouse waste must not be mixed with other organic waste. CDFA has been working with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and are providing suggested updates to the information contained on the CalRecycle website. CalRecycle has been very helpful with this initiative, including posting Dr. Annette Jones' message and a flyer clarifying that inedible materials must be segregated, as explained in the previous RIAB meeting.

(6) ENFORCEMENT/OUTREACH UPDATES

Marc Shaw introduced this item by sharing a summary of 2021 Civil Penalty Assessments and the investigations conducted. He added that the Renewals for 2022 were complete as of February 28, 2022.

Mr. Andreoli inquired if all vehicles that haul inedible materials are required to have the decal sticker on their vehicles or if there was an exemption for smaller businesses. Mr. Shaw responded that there are no exemptions and that all vehicles must have decals.

(7) CARCASS MANAGEMENT AND RENDERING DISRUPTIONS

Ms. Batarseh stated that CDFA will be working with other state regulatory agencies on identifying regulatory pathways for onsite composting and onsite use of the compost during rendering disruptions.

Ms. Han Lai explained that in preparation for the summer heat wave, CDFA has been working with stakeholders and industry to draft an emergency disposal advisory to be activated in case of an emergency. She stated that the advisory will include alternative pathways and methods of disposing carcasses. Ms. Lai continued that the Animal Health Branch (AHB) has been working on Regional Carcass Disposal plans and are being the front-line communicators with local agencies. In addition, AHB has been maintaining and updating a list of county landfills which might accept carcasses during an emergency, this list will be included in the draft advisory as well. MPES is continuing to work with the Carcass Composting Workgroup along with other state agencies to further the discussion regarding onsite composting and the use of the composting material onsite, during rendering disruptions. Ms. Lai stated that CalRecycle has finalized a guidance document titled "Carcass Composting Regulatory Pathway During a Declared Emergency". The guidance is intended to provide some options to assist the producers with the management of animal carcasses during an emergency. Additionally, that guidance also discusses some of the key points and limiting factors for each of the options laid out in the guidance document.

Ms. Lai gave a brief overview of the CDFA Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) document and some of the key findings. She stated that the 2021 Emergency Disposal Advisory, BSE document, and CalRecycle emergency composting regulatory guidance were all shared with the regional board for their comments and feedback. The regional board has also agreed to set aside a special session with their bi-weekly dairy industry meeting, inviting CDFA and perhaps other EPA agencies as well, to provide an update on when the final guidance document will be ready.

Mr. Andreoli requested that CDFA send the RIAB documents submitted to the regional board. Paula replied that CDFA would send the RIAB members the documents that have been finalized. Mr. Andreoli requested that when CDFA conducts its research, that it includes research involving a comparison between different technologies regarding the impacts to air quality. He stated that assistance is needed to prove to the air quality districts that rendering is the most environmentally friendly method. Michael Payne and

Kevin Abernathy inquired if CDFA had the research results and data collected to monitor air emissions on the compost piles from the Tulare Composting Research conducted and completed in 2008/09. A portion of the research conducted included pathogen degradation and air emission testing by utilizing flux chamber.

(8) FUNDING FOR RENDERING/RESEARCH

Mr. Andreoli stated that Baker was currently drafting a document with funding concepts that will be finalized and shown to other industry members and will also forward a copy to Ms. Han Lai in CDFA. The primary focus of this document is the Farm Bill and Agricultural Legislation.

(9) PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was a public comment inquiry, asking if CDFA is allowing homeowners to transport inedible kitchen grease without having to become licensed with the Department. Andrew Halbert stated that the purpose of licensing is not to target individual homeowners trying to transport Inedible Kitchen Grease (IKG) to a collection center, but rather those entities that use the inedible kitchen grease to be repurposed as alternative fuel sources.

Additionally, another concern was that waste collection companies could be transporting IKG from household curbsides to their collection facilities, without required tracking or responsibility. It was requested that CDFA work with waste management and regulatory agencies to ensure that tracking of used cooking oil is being carried out, as required. Concern was expressed that once homeowners set out their IKG at their curbside, it would be an environmental threat and an issue with regulating transports. CDFA will be following up on this item.

(10) FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items:

- Working with Local Agencies/Outreach

(11) UPCOMING RIAB MEETING DATES

The next RIAB meeting will be scheduled in September 2022. A date will be chosen at a later time.

(12) FUTURE RIAB MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.