



FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD VACANCIES

Agenda Item 3

Press Release Announcement

News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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CDFA ANNOUNCES VACANCIES ON FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD



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SACRAMENTO, September 16, 2024 — The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has announced three vacancies on the Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board. The board advises the CDFA secretary on CDFA's Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program (FMIP), which ensures fertilizing materials are safe, effective, and meet quality guarantees.

As part of the program, FMIP inspectors and investigators located throughout the state conduct routine sampling and inspections, respond to consumer complaints, and enforce laws and regulations that govern the manufacturing and distribution of fertilizing materials. FMIP is funded by fertilizing materials licenses, product registration fees, and mill assessments.

There are three board member positions available. The term of office for board members is up to three years. Board members receive no compensation but are entitled to reimbursement of necessary travel expenses in accordance with the rules of the California Department of Human Resources. Board member applicants must hold a current fertilizing materials license or be a representative of a licensed firm.

Individuals interested in a board appointment must submit a resume and a completed Prospective Member Appointment Questionnaire (PMAQ). The PMAQ is available on the CDFA website at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/fmip/pdfs/PMAQ_Fertilizer_IAB.pdf. Both the resume and PMAQ are due by November 25, 2024.

FIAB Terms Expire December 31, 2024

Vacant

Greg Cunningham

Jake Evans

APPLICANT AND LOCATION	ASSOCIATION AND TITLE	YEARS IN INDUSTRY	EDUCATION	CERTIFICATION	RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
Dr. Phani Raja Kumar Madam Dublin, CA	Madam Bio-Genetix LLC <i>Owner</i> Chamberlin Agriculture <i>Director of Innovation & Sales</i>	17	PhD - Crop Genetics and Plant Breeding, Agronomy, Molecular Physiology & Molecular biology MS – Agricultural Science BS – Agricultural Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poppy Advisory Control Board Tasmania • Asia Pacific Seed Association • International Society of Horticulture Science • Agri-Business Association of Australia • National Farmers Federation • American Society of Agronomy • California Association of Pest Control Advisors • Chief Editor for Scholars Academic & Scientific Society • Washington Farm Bureau 	Current responsibilities as Director of Innovation & Sales include the responsibility of 26M sales in crop nutrition, regulatory and state registrations in California and Washington. Prior employment with Wilbur Ellis as a Branded Technologies Manager. Responsibilities included: creating product sales support materials, support development and implementation of internal and external marketing programs and developed new nutrition product 7-0-7. Prior employment with J R Simplot as a Field Portfolio Manager Nutrition, Biostimulants & Organics. Duties included: vetted of different products, product evaluation and research trials, maintained CU's ad per CDFa and updated product registrations in Agrarian, developed protocols for research trials, field development reps and marketing, sales and regulatory groups, and drafted product labels and modifications. Served as an Agronomist prior to Manager role with JR Simplot. Prior Chief Scientist at Crop Bio Life in Australia. Worked with EPA in product registrations and developed protocols for fertilizer residue testing. Prior National Sales & Export Manager at Terranova Seeds (South Pacific Seeds).
<p><i>Dr. Raj Madam interest to serve on the board "I want to represent the Agricultural Community to be a voice of farmers and ranchers, advocate for the interests of California's fanners, ranchers, and agricultural businesses, serve as a liaison between the agricultural community and the state government, help drive economic growth and job creation in the agricultural sector, shape agricultural policy in developing and implementing policies that support the state's diverse agricultural sector, and promote environmentally sustainable agricultural practices and contribute to a more resilient food system."</i></p>					

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Tucker Salles Fresno, CA	Helena Agri Enterprises, LLC Western Division Fertilizer Manager	3	BS – Finance	• N/A	Currently serving as the Western Division Fertilizer Manager at Helena Agri Enterprises, LLC, overseeing fertilizer purchasing in California and Arizona. Proven track record in studying both local and global fertilizer markets to make informed purchasing decisions. Adept at managing large-scale operations and ensuring optimal supply chain efficiency. Current employment as Manager, responsibilities include assisting in forecast supply by product, facilitating management of division/location inventory, maintaining relationship with suppliers to ensure adequate source of supply, ensuring transportation of fertilizer with all providers, keeping management informed of issued related to supply, market movement and pricing information, etc., overseeing Plant Managers, working with Business, Area and Division Managers to allocate expenses associated with fertilizer storage and movement, and managing fertilizer distribution for all location.
<p><i>Tucker Salles interest to serve on the board "Serving on the CDFA FIAB would allow me to advocate for the agricultural industry, promote good practice, network with industry leaders, grow personally and professionally, and an opportunity to represent my community."</i></p>					

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Victor Lopez Brawley, CA	Rockwood Ag Services, Inc. President and CEO	15	BS – Agribusiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAPCA San Diego • CAPCA Desert Valleys • CCA Desert valleys/ California Seed Trade Association • The Fertilizer Institute (Via IAP) • California Wheat Commission Board/ California Ag Leadership Program Class 51 • Imperial County Farm Bureau Board • Yara fertilizers / Nutrien • Produce Business 40 under 40 2013 • DPR PCA, QAL License • ASA CCA License 	President and CEO of the company, reporting to the board of directors, overseeing all business operations, personnel and departments. Focus Fertilizer and Crop protection products. Maintaining and developing relationships with suppliers, customers, local, regional and federal authorities. In charge of creating the sales Salespeopletary plan and cooperating with CPA on getting accurate financial reports. Managing and actively participating on sales and sales strategy with companies PCAs/ Salespeople. Prior employment as a Senior Sales Agronomist with Yara North America, Sales & Marketing Manager for SoCal Crop Production Services, Inc., General Manager for West Coast Tomato Growers, LLC, General Manager for Nature's Pride Produce, General Manager for Gowan Semillas SA de CV Gowan Group LLC.
<p><i>Victor Lopez interest to serve on the board "As a Certified Crop Advisor, PCA and now leading our company into the future, I am very interested in being involved in the responsible task of keeping everyone safe, making sure quality standards are met by manufacturers and retailers, and safe protocols are followed by end users. I believe I am a good fit as on a day to day I deal with both manufacturers and end users. I see first hand the entire fertilizer industry chain. In addition to being a good steward of the industry I challenge myself to being a good advocate for it as well."</i></p>					

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Jake Evans Spreckels, CA	True Organic Products, Inc. <i>President and CEO</i>	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior Assembly Bill 856 Subcommittee Member, CDFA • Prior Organic Fertilizer Input Committee, Organic Trade Association • Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board • Western Growers Association • Organic Trade Association • Fresno County Farm Bureau • Monterey County Farm Bureau • Agricultural Personnel Management Association • Grower-Shipper Association • Vistage 	Current President and Chief Executive Officer of True Organic Products, Inc., since 2003. Founded and built a multi-million-dollar manufacturing Business; oversaw the growth of a team from 2 to over 150 employees; developed and implemented new strategies and policies to establish long-term business objectives and provide strong and sustainable organizational leadership; developed innovative sales team while implementing effective strategies to facilitate business expansion; mitigated regulatory risks by overseeing adherence to government regulations; conducted research on emerging trends within industry and capitalized on finds to develop new products, services and strategies.
<p><i>Jake Evans interest to serve on the board "I am interested in contributing to the discussions so we as a fertilizer industry can improve fertilizer production standards and quality in California."</i></p>				

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Greg Cunningham Dublin, OH	The Scotts Company <i>Regulatory Director 2019-Present Manager 2013-2019</i>	21	BS – Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDFA Fertilizer Inspection Advisory Board 2019-Present • Industry participant (committees & work groups) for the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) 2013-current • The Scotts Company's lead representative for the Unites States Composting Council (USCC) 2018-Present • The Ohio Compost Association Member of the Ohio Composting Council (OHOC) 	Current employment with Scotts Company - Director of the Gardens, Lawns and Hydroponics Regulatory group responsible for compliance, registration, certifications, and maintenance of over 200 active product names which encompass organics, soils, mulches, plant foods, and controls; support regulatory teams Of General Hydroponics, Sunlight and Botanicare, the market leaders in Consumer and Professional Hydroponics input materials; collaborate with members of Regulatory group in coordinating fifty-state approvals for mulch, organics, and plant food products; act as a brand liaison between marketing and regulatory by attending weekly cross-functional meetings and establishing myself as a point of contact for the marketing team; contribute to generation of solutions and strategies for responding to state questions and requests in response to our product registration submissions.
<p><i>Greg Cunningham interest to serve on the board "Through the last few years, while on the CDFA FIAB, I have been vocal in issues I feel strongly about but at the same time keeping in mind what is best for both the industry and the CDFA. I also feel it is important in representing the retail and hydro fertilizer market as I am one of the few on the Board that represents these segments. Through my Twenty-one years of employment in the Fertilizer and Soil Amendment Industry, I have extensive experience in both the regulation and operations sides of the industry. I also represent The Scotts Company and its affiliates which includes The Hawthorne Gardening Company. Between these companies we maintain over 500 active fertilizer/soil amendment registrations in the State of California, including 94 OIM registrations. Additionally, I have a good working knowledge of the National Organic Program and how organic inputs are consistent with these regulations."</i></p>					