

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (Department)
FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB)**

**Piccadilly Inn Airport
5115 E McKinley
Fresno, CA 93727
(559) 375-7760**

**February 25, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Chris Gallo
David McEuen
Doug Graham
Ed Needham
Gary Silveria
Greg Cunningham
Jake Evans
Jay Irvine
Melissa McQueen, Chair

CDFA

Amadou Ba
Barzin Moradi
Brittnie Sabalbro
Carla Sanchez
Dale Woods
Emad Jahanzad
Mark Cady
Martin Burger
Maryam Khosravifard
Natalie Jacuzzi
Natalie Krout-Greenberg
Nick Young

INTERESTED PARTIES

Daren Stemwedel
Ehsan Toosi
Miranda Driver
Rebekah Finn
Renee Pinel

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melissa McQueen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Self-introductions were made, and a quorum was established.

Chair McQueen announced at the last FIAB meeting that board terms were expiring for David McEuen, Jay Irvine, and Steve Spangler. The board made recommendations to the secretary to appoint board members for the following term. Chris Gallo, McEuen, and Irvine were appointed; however, Spangler was not reappointed to serve another term. Chair McQueen asked for board recommendations to elect a Vice Chair in replacement of former Vice Chair Spangler.

MOTION: Jay Irvine moved to recommend Gary Silveria as Vice Chair; David McEuen seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 9 - 0.

APPROVE OCTOBER 1, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Chair McQueen requested the board review the minutes from the October 1, 2019 FIAB meeting.

MOTION: Greg Cunningham moved to approve the minutes; Gary Silveria seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 9 - 0.

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba announced that Natalie Krout-Greenberg is currently attending a meeting regarding environmental issues caused by polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Dr. Ba reported that the Governor's Budget for fiscal year (FY) 2020/21 includes a \$10 million baseline funding for the Farm to School Program, a program focused on extending the availability and access to food change in the California school food system. A \$20 million proposal for the State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program, a financial grant assistance program to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on the state's agricultural operations, and an \$18 million proposal for the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) are a few items included in the Governor's Budget. Dr. Ba stated an \$188,000 funding within the Governor's Budget calls for the hiring of one Feed program staff position regarding diversion of organic material and repurpose for potential animal feed versus landfills.

Dr. Ba announced that several regional and state agencies, including the Department, are heavily involved in navigating an ongoing issue with on-farm composting. A working group was established to study the environmental benefits of the on-farm composting and identify potential regulatory issues.

Dr. Ba announced the HSP is currently accepting grant applications for its Incentives Program and Demonstration Projects.

Dr. Ba announced at the last Feed Inspection Advisory Board meeting, the Feed Board had approved the lab budget with qualifiers and tasked the Feed program and the Department's Center for Analytical Chemistry (CAC) to consider outsourcing assays to external labs such as the University of California (UC) Davis Analytical Laboratory (Anlab) and the California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory System (CAHFS). Two meetings have been held with the CAHFS and UC Davis Anlab; both will attend the next Feed Board meeting and present associated costs for the board to evaluate and determine if outsourcing is pursuable.

Vice Chair Silveria asked about the Feed's level of achievement by outsourcing to external labs, and if it is sustainable and agreeable to customers. He asked what the impact would be on CAC's workload for the Fertilizer program if Feed ultimately outsourced their assays. Dr. Ba replied that CAC is in the process of identifying additional services to compensate the services currently provided to the feed program; the CAC should be prepared to present to the board the associated costs and what the turnaround time will look like at the next FIAB meeting.

Ed Needham advised that Feed look at the capabilities of private labs for an equal comparison and timeline. Dr. Ba agreed that Feed can look at private labs. He noted that there are limitations due to present laws and regulations which can only be addressed through law or regulation changes.

Dr. Ba gave a food safety update on romaine lettuce and stated that the Department, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), have been engaged on traceback issues which led to multiple fields. The Department, FDA, CDC, and CDPH are doing their due diligence to perform the root cause analysis by including biological soil amendment of animal origin (BSAAO) such as compost.

The Department's Produce Safety Program, within the Inspection and Compliance Branch (ICB) has received funding from the FDA. The FDA has identified certain soil inputs as potential risks for produce contamination deeming it a program necessity to look at compost material. Due to ICB having zero authority on fertilizer, it was necessary to house two program positions under the Fertilizer program. FDA has granted and fully funded the Fertilizer program with two environmental scientist positions on a two-year limited term basis, to look at soil input materials.

Jake Evans asked for clarification on the focus of the positions and the need to include materials regulated by CalRecycle. Dr. Ba stated the positions will focus on wherever FDA identifies an issue where a product regulated by the Department is enhancing microbial growth and viewed as a potential growth medium for pathogenic organisms, but the focus will be mainly on BSAAO such as composts registered with the Fertilizer program. CalRecycle and the Local Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) are engaged with the Department and working together on harmonizing sample collection processes; however, nothing is final as to the scope of work for the two positions.

Dr. Dale Woods stated there had been discussion with CalRecycle and the Department's management about an arrangement of what can be done under the Fertilizer program's regulatory purview.

Greg Cunningham asked whether this would create leverage with the federal government to possibly change the standards of testing microbes and bacteria. Dr. Woods stated that it is industry standard and as a result, the old food safety standards of testing are being reviewed; changes to testing could happen, but from a national level.

Discussion ensued regarding regulatory authority and standards of conventional composts.

FUND CONDITION / MILL ASSESSMENT / TONNAGE REPORTING

Dr. Woods reported, as of July 1, 2018, the beginning balance combined total for the Commercial Fertilizer and Organic Input Material (OIM) program was about \$10.9 million; total revenue was about \$6.6 million; expenditures were about \$5.9 million; and encumbrances were \$337,721 with an adjusted balance of about \$11.2 million.

Dr. Woods announced that the proposed rulemaking packet to reduce the mill assessment to one and half mill (\$0.0015) went through the channels of approval, except for the Department of Finance (DOF). The Fertilizer program will begin the final submission process to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) after DOF review and approval.

The beginning balance for the Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) was about \$4.5 million, revenue was about \$2.8 million, expenditures were about \$2.1 million, and encumbrances were about \$738,539 with a total adjusted balance of about \$4.5 million.

Dr. Woods presented the mill assessment trends, highlighting the first six months of the current FY 2019/20 and the total to date of \$5.2 million.

Evans asked how the potential of Feed outsourcing lab work would impact the Division, suggesting that there be a discussion with both the Feed and Fertilizer programs to invest in and make CAC the most efficient lab for the future. Chair McQueen responded stating that Evans questions and concerns may be addressed when CAC presents lab updates later in the meeting.

Kristopher Gulliver gave a tonnage report update announcing that the older tonnage reports were removed from the Department's website and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant reports are posted. He noted that changes have been made to the database to reduce errors in reporting tonnage. Gulliver stated the audit for the 2019 tonnage data is complete and the publication process is anticipated by the end of March. Gulliver presented preliminary data trends for liming materials, gypsum, and OIM compost, as well as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium for non-farm use.

Steve Spangler arrived at 9:53 a.m.

Chair McQueen announced former Vice Chair Spangler has been with the board for 18 valuable years honoring Spangler's service. Dr. Ba gave appreciation for, and recognized on behalf of the Fertilizer program and board, Spangler's availability, guidance, and expertise on fertilizer over the many years.

Spangler stated that throughout his time on the board, the discussions and decisions made have impacted people within state who seek to comply with the laws and regulations. Spangler expressed the importance of the board ensuring regulations are understandable and reasonably compliable at a farm level. Spangler commended the

board throughout his many years of involvement offering his expertise in the future and extended thanks to the Department for the experience and support over the years.

BIOSTIMULANT WORKING GROUP FOLLOW UP / PROGRAM UPDATES

Dr. Woods announced that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a draft guidance. He stated a copy of the biostimulant report from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that was submitted to Congress is included in the meeting materials. The FIAB Biostimulant Working Group met on February 14, 2020. Dr. Woods reported that the Fertilizer program anticipates that it will continue to register biostimulant product labels as fertilizing materials specific as to what the products are portrayed.

Nick Young presented the six recommendations in the USDA's report to Congress: (1) states adopt existing guidance for beneficial substances under the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO), (2) the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture facilitates state-by-state approach and coordinates with AAPFCO to create a model bill of state regulations, (3) USDA facilitates bills for state legislation, (4) Congress enact legislation for a national definition and directs EPA to amend current pesticide regulations and excludes biostimulants as Plant Growth Regulators, (5) Congress pass a "Plant Biostimulant Act" and grants USDA, EPA, or another federal agency to regulate biostimulants, and (6) create a voluntary, fee-for-service, non-regulatory approach of on-site verification of producers by a third-party.

Young stated over 1,600 attended the Biostimulant World Congress held in Spain on November 18 - 21, 2019. The European Union (EU) regulation is not as seamless as purported because the EU's "Principle of Mutual Recognition" is complex, the market is not assured, and availability of harmonized standards are not guaranteed. A broader approach to claims and product reliability appears to be desired. Regulatory registration fees are not harmonized; each member state has different registration. Additional conflict included that in some countries products are not allowed to mix two organic ingredients. Finally, language barriers impact labeling. There is no timeframe for EU registration, but it is anticipated to be no more than six months; analysis and field trials could increase up to three years.

Young presented the "Black Box" of state regulations, particularly the desire by industry for consistency in labeling. There is a myriad of different states' labeling of classifications. Young reported that having attended the last AAPFCO meeting, a new committee was formed and will remain active as the issues are incrementally addressed. The committee will be chaired by Young and Eddie Simons, Registration Specialist from the Washington Department of Agriculture, and will consist of industry representatives and control officials. The charge of the committee is to look at the comprehensive package of the term - and definition of - "biostimulant" to be in alignment with the USDA definition and a model bill for states to reference.

Dr. Martin Burger reported 800 firms were represented at the Biostimulant World Congress, highlighting that discussions were mainly focused on the terms seaweed

extract, protein hydrolysate, humic substances, and microorganisms. There was a discussion of studies identifying which component affected plant parameters and screening methodologies on microorganisms to discover which were most effective in having a positive impact on plant physiology. There were also innovative studies that included phosphorus formulation designed to respond to microbial and plant extracts.

Dr. Burger summarized a discussion of interest about bacteria and their interplay with plant regulators of stress response. Burger relayed examples of presented research on biostimulants and plant stress. Dr. Burger emphasized an appreciation of how biostimulants work by looking at different biostimulants with each plant response.

Dr. Burger stated that discovering how biostimulants work, how they will fit into the market in Europe, and how they will be regulated are still at the beginning stage. He reported that biostimulants will be recognized based on claims of what they do. The next Biostimulant World Congress will be in 2021 in North America.

Jay Irvine reported that a conference call was held with industry, the Western Plant Health Association (WPHA), the Fertilizer Institute, the Biostimulant Coalition, and the Biological Products Industry Alliance; 25 companies were represented throughout the US and Canada. The focus of the call was to obtain feedback from industry about the USDA EPA guidance.

Renee Pinel, WPHA's Chief Executive Officer, stated the companies were representatives from retail, conventional fertilizer, biopesticide and nutrient side. All were complimentary of Young having a leadership role on biostimulants discussions and agree with California's recognition of better defining biostimulants versus what is presented in table four of the EPA guidance.

Irvine reported that the Biostimulant Working Group seeks to continue work with Young's leadership role with AAPFCO, to craft language that will help users to have access to the largest markets, and have uniformity across all 50 states. Irvine commented that UC Davis Dr. Patrick Brown, Chairman of the Biostimulant World Congress and an expert in the field of biostimulants, would be a great resource for the Department. Dr. Brown has credibility, understands biostimulants from a global perspective, and is an active leader in the realm of biostimulants.

Young reported a total of 1,292 samples were collected with a 15 percent violation rate, which is relatively low. The program is transitioning to completing lab reports via the database with assistance from the Department's Office of Information Technology Services. This will allow for data to be reported more efficiently. Young reported on the 2019 complaint summary, stating a total of 68 formal complaints were received: 51 OIM, 17 conventional, and 39 website-related. Out of the 68, 58 were resolved and seven are pending. To date, there are 16 complaints filed in 2020. Young gave an update on the violation's matrix rulemaking packet stating that the 3rd 15-day notice and comment period ended on December 21, 2019; the program received one comment. The program was granted a 120-day extension with a plan to submit the rulemaking shortly.

Ecocert OIM training has been updated; Leo Campos and Kevin Wall, Environmental Scientists of the Fertilizer program, hosted three 4-hour webinar trainings for several different countries. Young attended the AAPFCO Winter Annual Conference on February 17-18, 2020, in Louisiana. The AAPFCO Official Publication, will be sent to the board. All email communications with AAPFCO will transition to an online service by the end of 2021 specific to members who are on AAPFCO committees. Young announced the OneDrive file sharing application is now available for the program, which allows field staff access to lab reports. The program has worked with CAC to develop a Soluble Silicon Investigational Allowance which will be forthcoming; a notice to industry will be released. A new electronic sample data sheet has been created to eliminate redundancy with information inputted by CAC and program staff.

Dr. Burger presented end of the year registration data, reporting the total approved registrations for each product type in conventional and OIM products in 2018 and 2019. He introduced a line graph illustrating the long-term trends of conventional fertilizer and OIM approvals and new applications received from January of 2018 through January 2020.

Dr. Burger announced that the Fertilizer program has prepared a proposed rulemaking for biotics, biochar, and tackifiers. The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is for greater transparency for the end users.

Chair McQueen asked for clarification as to why the Fertilizer program initiated the proposed rulemaking. Dr. Woods stated that the program is now requiring firms provide substantiation for inclusion of microorganisms on labels which will make clear what firms are required to provide.

Cunningham asked the program for clarification on the proposed section regarding the concentration in percentage of each organism by-product. Dr. Woods stated that the proposed section was in the regulations for many years and is unsure why it was there as it has never been applicable. As the term by-product already existed in regulation, the program wants to ensure the verbiage is consistent with microorganisms, enzymes, and microorganism by-product.

Dr. Burger presented the program's proposal to adopt a section for biochar which would require all feedstocks greater than ten percent to be listed in order of decreasing amounts present and lab analysis results to be no more than five years old at the time of registration/renewal approval. The program has proposed to amend the section of packaged soil amendments, as it was unclear where the term "tackifiers" should be included on the label, and to add a definition of the term "tackifier." Dr. Woods stated that the board may forward any comments to the program while in preparation for this rulemaking.

Mark Cady presented water quality regulatory updates. The Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-term Sustainability's (CV-SALTS) Salinity and Nitrate Control Program regulations, developed through a stakeholder process, were accepted by OAL. The Central Valley stakeholders in the next year-especially in nitrate impaired areas-will

have to be individually regulated where all permits must be changed or they must join a management zone. This includes every discharger, such as farms, food processing facilities, and cities that apply wastewater to land.

The cons are that it adds another layer of regulations for nitrate; this one would be for agricultural interests. Membership in the management is covered through their coalitions. Instead of individual farms regulated for the amount of nitrate that may escape the root zone and into groundwater, they would be regulated on a zone which is a sub basin.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) released the draft of Agricultural Order 4.0 with a 45-day public comment period. These draft regulations have the potential to affect fertilizer use in the central coast and viability in farm organizations. Cady stated that there may be a larger role for third parties, such as coalitions in the central valley, but there have not been the same coalitions in the central coast. The potential to have coalitions in the Central Valley is not clearly defined in the Order yet.

A special request for proposal (RFP) was released in December of 2019 primarily to focus on research for Nitrogen (N) accumulation and removal for Central Coast crops. The CCRWQCB had identified that it had little or no basis in research for establishing an N removal for 21 crops. FREP received one proposal; the proposal was to put together a database of N movement values based on actual data from commercial harvest from the field included in 35 crops.

Natalie Jacuzzi reported on FREP's 2020 grant process timeline for both regular and special RFPs. The Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC) will meet to review and recommend regular concept proposals to determine which proposals move to the next phase; full proposal research will begin January 1, 2021. Jacuzzi presented a bar graph summarizing the 35 concept proposals and one special proposal received by priority. If the special RFP proposal is approved, grant agreement paperwork will be completed with an anticipated research date of July 1, 2020.

The Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Training hosted by the Department will be transitioning to online interface trainings, which will consist of exams and webinars. The final in-person CCA training will be held March 3 – 4, 2020 in Fresno, California. The annual Nutrient Management Conference hosted by FREP and WPHA, will be held on October 27 – 29, 2020 in Modesto, California. The conference will consist of an on-farm tour and presentations by the principal investigators.

CENTER FOR ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY (CAC) LAB UPDATE

Maryam Khosravifard reported CAC's progress with sample turnaround time since the last FIAB meeting, highlighting that 72 percent of samples were analyzed within 15 days. The average turnaround time for assays is nine days. The lab has implemented

the majority of the technologies; only three of nine are in the final stages of implementation.

At the last FIAB meeting, the board directed CAC to evaluate enhancing lab efficiency by reducing sample turnaround time and potentially outsourcing to external labs, and maintain data quality. CAC has identified areas for improvement in their business model and considered several options including the subcontracting of assays to reduce cost on procurement of instruments. CAC has concluded subcontracting would not be a viable option due to the CAC's inability to ensure same data quality between the labs as well as added quality control costs. CAC's focus to reduce sample turnaround time is to eliminate labor-intensive inefficient assays and continue complex assays that can be performed by CAC's highly skilled scientific staff; consolidate methodologies to reduce the number of assays by applying advanced technologies to reduce sample analysis time; streamline CAC process by applying the Lean Six Sigma elements in process to remove unnecessary steps.

CAC met with the Fertilizer program and developed a new sample data sheet to remove duplication of efforts to generate data sheets and transcription errors. Khosravifard stated CAC will separate routine analysis from method development and continue to analyze fertilizer samples.

Khosravifard presented method development projects not requiring a contract that are underway which CAC will eventually analyze as a routine once method developments are completed. The methods for humic acid, calcium carbonate, and carbon (biochar) require areas of improvement in method development and a separate contract for CAC to continue analysis. CAC will discontinue analysis for isotope, microscopy, mercury, organic matter, salinity, and soluble calcium.

Overall, CAC is finalizing an agreement on assays with the Fertilizer program to determine total program costs. As part of the changes in the business model, CAC must change the process for service requests. CAC will continue to work closely with the program to establish priorities and identify method developments. CAC's new business model and services will be presented to the program in a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The changes include service request process, quarterly billing, cap on the number of assays, and assay turnaround time. In addition, Khosravifard stated that CAC routinely reruns about 30 percent of analyses and that there has been a new initiative and discussion of rerun analyses as CAC has determined that a practical solution is needed; the solutions on reruns will affect the MOU and budget.

Needham asked for clarification on outsourcing assays not being a viable option due to CAC's ISO certification and the purpose of having a contract process. Khosravifard stated that outsourcing assays requires an extensive contract process to oversee the quality of the outsourced analysis. To be of the same quality, the external lab needs to be ISO 17025 accredited and follow the same quality assurance and quality control programs as well as methodologies.

Needham emphasized the importance of having a plan in place for the possibility of a catastrophic situation, especially if outsourcing is not an option.

Dr. Barzin Moradi stated that CAC's data quality system is designed to generate data of known and documented quality, so that it withstands court scrutiny. CAC does not have authority to oversee an external lab and that there are additional costs for quality assurance (QA), which is what CAC is considering while improving efficiencies. Based on ISO accreditation, CAC is required to create redundancy in measurements within the lab. With these requirements, results in additional costs per sample, compromised sample turnaround time due to QA oversight, and approval of data are reasons why outsourcing might not be a viable option.

Needham reiterated that the lab needs to be more specific in responding to the board members' questions and it is imperative to have a backup plan in place anyway to help protect ourselves and the industry. Dr. Moradi agreed, stating that CAC will look into other possible alternatives to continue analyzing samples in case of an emergency.

Evans agreed with the importance of having a backup plan in place asking what CAC's overall goal is and accomplishments are for Feed and Fertilizer. Dr. Moradi stated as a regulatory lab, CAC's number one goal is to produce reliable data results. Goal two and three are turnaround time and cost effectiveness with respect to the quality of data produced.

Chair McQueen stated that in the last few years CAC has evolved immensely with the transition to new technology and has demonstrated improvements since the last FIAB meeting with more improvements to come.

Vice Chair Silveria asked how many samples are feed versus fertilizer. Khosravifard stated CAC generally runs more fertilizer samples versus feed. Dr. Ba stated Feed typically runs about 1,000 samples and Fertilizer runs from 1,200 to 1,400 samples.

Vice Chair Silveria asked the turnaround time requirement for Feed. Dr. Moradi reported Feed's turnaround time requirement can be from a few days to 10-15 days, depending on the assay. Some expectations on turnaround time might be harder for a reference lab, but probably more doable for a commercial lab.

Chair McQueen asked if Feed outsourced their assays, would their assays be removed entirely from the CAC realm or does CAC have QA oversight? Chair McQueen also wanted to know how it would impact Fertilizer. Dr. Moradi stated CAC is working on two separate models to:

- 1) Have CAC continue performing major assays frequently requested by Feed program and the program outsource those less frequent assays. CAC has identified 30 assays that have not been requested for years, but the lab has been maintaining instrument, expertise, standards, consumables, etc.

or

2) Outsource Feed assays entirely.

Dr. Moradi stated there would not be a major impact to Fertilizer. CAC is looking into complementing Fertilizer-type assays with other projects and contracts from other state agencies, as well as with other programs within the Department. CAC is taking a holistic approach combining technology and staff expertise to run any sample which would eliminate redundancy between different programs in terms of technology and staff.

Dr. Moradi acknowledged that an overview of the lab structure, an understanding of CAC's purpose, the other programs involved, how CAC operates, and how Feed and Fertilizer are shared in terms of resources, instruments, and staff was requested at the last FIAB meeting. CAC will present the lab structure and how the lab is run for the Feed and Fertilizer programs at the next FIAB meeting.

Cunningham stated it appears CAC has made progress based on data presented. From a registration standpoint, sample grinding is one of the most important. Scotts Miracle-Gro Company never questioned ISO certification at a time when the company was in violation, but questioned the receiving records process and sample retention. Cunningham complimented CAC's improvement advising that those records continue to be part of process improvement.

Dr. Ba stated that CAC should continue exploring workable budgetary or process changes if Feed decided to outsource to UC labs; he suggested researching other venues to supplement the lab work process and budget. With the potential of Feed outsourcing, a transition period would occur that would give Fertilizer a leeway to see CAC's progress.

Dr. Ba agreed that CAC should have a contingency plan and stated the best way to address the plan could be through a subcommittee that could report back to the board, allowing the board and program be up-to-date with CAC's process advancement.

Chair McQueen agreed suggesting the board have a liaison to interact and obtain CAC updates and progress and be able to report back to the board.

Irvine suggested CAC simplify work processes to create clarity for the board and volunteered Joceline Alfaro, Supervisor of Lab & Product Development at Mar Vista Resources, as a liaison for the Fertilizer board. Irvine also volunteered to be the liaison who can report to the board. Irvine stated there are ways to utilize an external lab under contract but there must be control of the standards and methodologies.

Dr. Moradi stated that the challenges are to be able to ensure quality standards bought from ISO approved vendors at reasonable costs. Strong internal lab processes are needed to maintain standards under appropriate conditions and maintain quality of services to assist program enforcement efforts.

Irvine responded that a contractual agreement with the external lab must be in place so that CAC can litigate if the agreement is broken. Irvine stated that it is a process, but it takes time; he emphasized the value of protecting industry in case there is an issue.

Vice Chair Silveria asked the Fertilizer program if it would be possible to have the next FIAB meeting at CAC's location to tour the lab. Dr. Moradi replied that CAC could host the next FIAB meeting and give a tour of the lab.

Dr. Ba agreed with having liaisons from the Fertilizer board and Irvine's recommendation for a technical expertise; he recommended that Needham also be a liaison and work with Alfaro. Dr. Ba requested the board make a motion to approve Needham and Alfaro as liaisons for the Fertilizer board to communicate with CAC, advising that a conference call may be sufficient to respond timely to questions.

MOTION: Gary Silveria moved to approve lab liaison's Ed Needham and Joceline Alfaro as recommended; Doug Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 9 - 0.

Needham expressed the importance of streamlining CAC's processes in the most efficient way possible and asked for a tour of CAC. Dr. Moradi stated that CAC can provide a tour before the lab liaison meeting.

Evans asked if CAC is requesting an approval from the board. Dr. Woods stated there is no request; CAC is simply presenting an update. He stated that some proposals are currently in discussion with the Fertilizer program.

Chair McQueen expressed that the board consider CAC's proposal of eliminating assays or having additional costs for assays. She suggested that if assays are necessary and part of the requirement for Fertilizer program needs, that the board help determine whether it is best to eliminate those assays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Chair McQueen asked for agenda items for the next FIAB meeting.

Evans asked that a Division update on the use of isotope testing and organic fertilizer be an agenda item.

Needham asked that limestone requirements specific to limescore be on the agenda, requesting a discussion about limestone and limescore label requirements to help communicate and educate growers who are buying materials based on limescore. He stated that the requirements are inconsistent on the database compared to what is labeled on the product.

Dr. Woods stated that limescore is not a Department requirement, but firms are allowed to include it on the label; however, a firm seeking to put limescore on their label must

include it in a specific format. Limescore is not a program requirement because it is not in the current laws and regulations, but the program could discuss and identify options.

NEXT MEETING

The next FIAB meeting will be on June 2, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., at CAC's location in Sacramento, California.

MOTION: Jake Evans moved to adjourn the meeting; Doug Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a 9 - 0 vote.

Chair McQueen adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY DALE WOODS

Dr. Dale Woods

02/25/2020

Date

Environmental Program Manager I
Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program