

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (Department)
FERTILIZER INSPECTION ADVISORY BOARD (FIAB)
2399 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, SACRAMENTO / HYBRID**

**December 9, 2024
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS

Andrew Larson
Chris Gallo, Vice Chair
Gary Silveria, Chair
Greg Cunningham
Melissa McQueen
William Oglesby

CDFA STAFF

Brittnie Williams
Evelyne Ndiaye
Jenna Leal
Mark Cady
Nick Young
Nicole Smith
Yanhong Li

INTERESTED PARTIES

Renee Pinel

MEMBERS ABSENT

David McEuen
Jake Evans

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Silveria, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and self-introductions were made.

ROLL CALL – ESTABLISH QUORUM

Roll was taken and a quorum was established. David McEuen and Jake Evans were absent.

FIAB VACANCIES

Nick Young announced this meeting was called for FIAB to specifically review board applicants and make recommendations to the secretary prior to FIAB terms expiring December 31, 2024. Five applicants are interested in serving on the board.

Jenna Leal announced Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act requirements may revert to in person centered meetings beginning January 1, 2025. An in-person quorum must be established and those attending remotely will be required to notice their physical location. This is subject to change. The program will notify FIAB if changes occur.

Chair Gary Silveria announced FIAB terms expire on December 31, 2024, for Jake Evans, Greg Cunningham and Gus Olson. Chair Silveria requested FIAB review all five board applicants and make comments and/or recommendations. Chair Silveria inquired

about whether the five applicants had applied in the past. Young responded, stating aside from Greg Cunningham and Jake Evans, Victor Lopez has applied in the past. All five applicants hold a current fertilizing materials license.

FIAB reviewed and commented on the following five applicants:

- 1) Dr. Phani Raja Kumar Madam, Director of Innovation and Sales for Chamberlin Agriculture and Owner of Madam BioGenetix LLC
- 2) Tucker Salles, Western Division Fertilizer Manager for Helena Agri Enterprises, LLC
- 3) Victor Lopez, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Rockwood Ag Services, Inc
- 4) Jake Evans, President and CEO for True Organic Products, Inc
- 5) Greg Cunningham, Regulatory Director for the Scotts Company

Vice Chair Chris Gallo commented, stating he knows Dr. Raj Madam, Director of Innovation and Sales for Chamberlain Agriculture, during their employment at J.R. Simplot Company, but that their current employer Chamberlain Agriculture is a Pacific Northwest company. Vice Chair Gallo expressed concern that their interest may be more directed towards outside of California.

Vice Chair Gallo commented, stating he knows Tucker Salles, Western Division Fertilizer Manager for Helena Agri Enterprises, who is eager to get involved and be a part of the fertilizer industry. Vice Chair Gallo advocates in favor of Tucker Salles. Melissa McQueen added that she also knows Tucker Salles who backfilled prior FIAB member Timothy Howard's position at Helena Agri Enterprises. McQueen also advocates for Tucker Salles.

Chair Silveria commented, prior FIAB member Timothy Howard held many years of great representation from Helena Agri Enterprises.

Vice Chair Gallo commented, Victor Lopez, President and CEO for Rockwood Ag Services, Inc., represents Imperial Valley which would be great representation on the FIAB as some of the board topics pertain to that area since FIAB is mostly Central Valley and Central Coast focused. Rockwood Ag Services Inc is seeking more involvement as a company in the fertilizer industry.

William Oglesby agreed with Vice Chair Gallo's comment regarding Victor Lopez.

McQueen expressed Jake Evans does an excellent job representing the organic fertilizer sector on the FIAB.

Greg Cunningham expressed appreciation for serving on the FIAB as most of their business takes place in California and being one of the few consumer-based representatives on the FIAB.

Chair Silveria stated Cunningham represents a very large portion of the business and has represented the business very well over the years. Chair Silveria expressed appreciation of Cunningham's input on the various topics that have been discussed with this board. McQueen agreed with Chair Silveria's comments stating that despite not living in California, Cunningham has had consistent attendance, participation and contribution to the FIAB. McQueen advocates for Greg Cunningham.

Chair Silveria requested a motion from the board to recommend three applicants to the secretary.

MOTION: William Oglesby moved to approve Greg Cunningham, Jake Evans and Tucker Salles as board applicant recommendations to the secretary; Chris Gallo seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 5 to 0. Greg Cunningham abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

No agenda items were mentioned.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, in Fresno, California.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 PM.

MOTION: Andrew Larson moved to adjourn the meeting; Chris Gallo seconded. The motion passed unanimously by all board members present with a vote of 6 to 0.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY NICK YOUNG

Nick Young
Environmental Program Manager I
Fertilizing Materials Inspection Program

12/09/2024
Date