



**Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP)
Technical Advisory Subcommittee (TASC)**

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 900-5022

**December 2, 2015
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

MINUTES

TASC Members

Dr. Jerome Pier, Chair
Dr. Marc Los Huertos, Vice Chair
Dr. John Bushoven
Mr. Rex Dufour
Mr. Charles Hornung
Ms. DD Levine
Dr. Barzin Moradi
Mr. Steven Spangler

CDFA Staff

Dr. Amadou Ba
Mr. Mark Cady
Ms. Brooke Elliott
Dr. Marja Koivunen
Dr. Doug West

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jerome Pier called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM and welcomed the subcommittee. Dr. Eric Ellison and Dr. Robert Mikkelsen were not able to attend the meeting. Self-introductions were made and a quorum was established.

DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, AND BRANCH UPDATES

Dr. Amadou Ba announced that the State Water Quality Control Board will soon release their responses to the Central Valley Agricultural petitions. Once released, it is open for 60 days for public comments.

At the Branch level, there are several bills that were signed during the last legislative session, but none have a direct impact on FREP. Senate Bill (SB) 27 limits the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in livestock for specified purposes, in order to limit the proliferation of antimicrobial resistant organisms. A Budget Change Proposal is needed to determine the funding for the provisions of the bill.

At the Division level, the Medical Cannabis Program is being established in California after the Governor's signing of Assembly Bill (AB) 243, AB 266, and Senate Bill 643. The Division will be responsible for issuing licenses for the cultivation of medical

cannabis and disseminating the licensing regulations for indoor and outdoor cultivation sites. There is \$10 million available from the General Fund as a start-up loan. Other state departments are involved, including the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the State Water Resources Control Board.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES

Dr. Pier requested the subcommittee review the minutes of the June 10, 2015, meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Marc Los Huertos moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Charles Hornung seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 8 – 0.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

At the TASC meeting on June 10, 2015, Mr. Jack Wackerman, the previous Chair, announced that he would not reapply for TASC when his term ended in 2015. Therefore, the position of Chair was open. Dr. Pier was the Vice Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Steve Spangler moved to nominate Dr. Jerome Pier as Chair. Mr. Charles Hornung seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 8 – 0.

Dr. Pier asked who was interested and capable of assuming the Vice Chair position. The Vice Chair is responsible for acting as Chair when necessary.

MOTION: Dr. Jerome Pier moved to nominate Dr. Marc Los Huertos as Vice Chair. Mr. Rex Dufour seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 8 – 0.

UPDATE OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dr. Barzin Moradi recounted the Strategic Planning Working Group meetings of 2015. All four meetings included presentations by experts of different areas, followed by group discussions.

Dr. Michael Cahn explained CropManage, a FREP-funded nutrient and irrigation management scheduling tool. Mr. Parry Klassen of East San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition, the Central Coast Water Quality Coalition, and Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship, presented the challenges for water quality coalitions in managing nitrogen fertilizer issues and the new waste discharge

requirements. Mr. Chris Rose heads the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program of the Central Coast Water Board. Mr. Rose presented data on the total mass nitrogen applied by fertilizers, amendments, and irrigation water in the Central Coast region, and discussed how growers can be motivated to further refine nutrient management. Dr. Mark Lubell, the final speaker for the year, is a social scientist at UC Davis Department of Environmental Policy and Behavior. He spoke about the social factors that influence nutrient management decision making and methods of outreach to growers.

Based on the information gleaned from the working group meetings and from other discussions and brainstorming with agricultural experts, FREP staff developed goals and objectives relevant to the current agricultural knowledge, practices, and technology. The three main goals were presented and discussed:

1. Research: Identifying and addressing knowledge gaps,
2. Education: Serving as a resource for nutrient management, and
3. Outreach: Promoting adoption of sound practices developed from research studies.

To address these goals, a list of specific objectives was presented. These sets of objectives will provide long-term direction for FREP activities. Discussion ensued about the objectives and projects that will help achieve the goals.

UPDATE OF THE CENTRAL COAST INITIATIVE

FREP has created an initiative to reach out to Central Coast stakeholders and groups to learn about barriers to implementation of best management practices and how to facilitate implementation. A series of stakeholder meetings will be held in multiple locations across the Central Coast. Discussion ensued about issues and solutions.

2016 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Dr. Moradi presented the FREP RFP for TASC to discuss.

A. PRIORITY AREAS

Two new priorities for the 2016 RFP are “Addressing Challenges and Barriers to Adoption of Management Practices” and “The Role of Soil Organic Matter and Organic Fertilizing Materials on Nutrient Management.” Addressing barriers to adoption requires social science experts and peer reviewers. The RFP will be distributed to a wider audience that includes social scientists and agricultural experts.

B. TIMELINE

TASC agreed on the RFPs and timeline, and it was decided that additional comments and suggestions about the priorities were due December 3, 2015.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The focus of the next meeting is discussion and recommendation of the concept proposals. Those concept proposals that receive favorable review will be invited to be submitted as full proposals on March 15, 2016.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 29, 2016, at 9 AM, in Sacramento.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Dr. Jerome Pier moved to adjourn the meeting; Dr. Marc Los Huertos seconded. The motion passed unanimously by present subcommittee members with a vote of 8 – 0.

Dr. Pier adjourned the meeting at 12:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Barzin Moradi
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
Fertilizer Research and Education Program

Date