TITLE 3. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION

MEAT INSPECTION

MOBILE CUSTOM LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) proposes to adopt, amend, and repeal the proposed regulations described below in the Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action. Publication of this notice commences a 45-day public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Department has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Department will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or their authorized representative, no later than 15 days before the close of the written comment period.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person, or their authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to:

Dr. Fernando Umayam, Jr., Assistant Branch Chief Department of Food and Agriculture Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (909) 730-0571 Email: fernando.umayam@cdfa.ca.gov

Comments may also be submitted by email to CDFA.MPES_Feedback@cdfa.ca.gov.

The written comment period begins on **August 16**, **2024** and closes on **September 30**, **2024**. The Department is not required to respond to comments that are outside the scope of this Notice or comments that are not received or postmarked during the written comment period. When commenting, please indicate the proposed rulemaking action to which your comment refers.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) section 14 authorizes the Department to adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Additional authority vested in the FAC grants the Department Secretary the authority to amend or repeal rules and regulations.

FAC section 407 authorizes the director to adopt such regulations as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this code which they are directed or authorized to administer or enforce.

FAC section 9562 specifies that:

(a) Subject to the rights and procedures established pursuant to Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and in accordance with regulations adopted pursuant to this code, the State Veterinarian shall impose a quarantine if he or she believes, upon any basis reasonably supportable by standard epidemiological practice or credible scientific research, that a population of domestic animals or food product from animals has contracted, or may carry, an illness, infection, pathogen, contagion, toxin, or condition that, without intervention, could transmit an illness that could kill or seriously damage other animals or humans, including, in addition to the original condition, those clinically plausible secondary illnesses, infections, pathogens, contagions, toxins, or conditions arising from the effects of the original.

(b)(1) Because the authority conferred by this section is designed to protect the health and safety of the citizens of this state, the authority shall be interpreted broadly to give full effect to the purpose of protecting the public health and safety and shall be construed to include the imposition of quarantines in the circumstances of natural disaster, whether occurring or imminent, or declared emergencies.

(2) In furtherance of the objectives of the quarantine, the State Veterinarian may impose restrictions not only on the affected animals themselves and the uses to which those animals may be put, but on products produced from, by, or with those animals in order to minimize the risk or spread of food-borne illness.

(3) The State Veterinarian's quarantine powers set forth in this section expressly include the power to order movement, segregation, isolation, or destruction of animals or food products, as well as the power to hold animals or food products in place.

FAC section 18693 specifies that the regulations which are adopted pursuant to this chapter shall conform, so far as possible, to the rules, regulations, and standards of the United States Department of Agriculture which govern the inspection, preparation, and processing of livestock and livestock products and poultry and poultry products.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the director may adopt, by regulation, standards and requirements equal to those of the federal acts, including, but not limited to, standards and requirements of inspection, sanitation, reinspection, preparation, processing, buying, selling, transporting, storing, identification, recordkeeping, registration, and labeling. The regulations shall not be less restrictive than state statutory requirements. The director may enter into cooperative agreements with the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States to enforce such standards and requirements in this state.

FAC section 18735 specifies that the director may adopt, by reference or otherwise, such provisions of the rules and regulations under the federal acts, with such changes therein as they deem appropriate to make them applicable to operations and transactions subject to this chapter, which shall have the same force and effect as if promulgated under this chapter, and promulgate such other regulations as he deems necessary for the efficient execution of the provisions of this chapter.

FAC section 18736 specifies that the director may appoint and prescribe the duties of such inspectors and other personnel as he deems necessary for the efficient execution of the provisions of this chapter.

FAC section 18960 authorizes the director to adopt, by regulation, standards and requirements relating to inspection, sanitation, facilities, equipment, reinspection, preparation, processing, buying, selling, transporting, storing, identification, recordkeeping, registration, and labeling, and marking for carrying out the purposes of this chapter.

FAC section 18961 authorizes the director, by regulations, to adopt provisions of the rules and regulations made under federal acts with such changes therein as he or she deems appropriate to make them applicable to operations and transactions subject to this chapter.

FAC section 18962 specifies that the department may adopt, by regulation, provisions to examine applicants for the positions of licensed livestock meat inspector and licensed processing inspector.

FAC section 18973 specifies that:

(a) Licensed livestock meat inspectors, licensed processing inspectors, and department inspectors are authorized to supervise the operations of licensed establishments, to order the establishments not to operate until required standards are met, and to cease operations when the standards are violated. These persons are also authorized to require withholding from movement, sale, or the delivery of products that may be unfit, because the products were derived from unfit animals or processed in unsanitary conditions and to require denaturing and condemnation of the unfit products.

(b) The department may immediately withdraw or refuse to provide inspection services to any establishment under this chapter that fails to cease operations, hold any retained product, or destroy any condemned product in accordance with the order of a department inspector or licensed livestock meat inspector or licensed processing inspector. It is unlawful to violate any such order.

FAC section 18980 specifies that:

(a) The application fee for a livestock meat inspector's license or a processing inspector's license is one hundred dollars (\$100). If an applicant for a license does not take the examination within one year after the date of the receipt of the application by the secretary, the application expires. Reexamination requires the payment of an additional application fee.

(b) Each license shall expire on the last day of the calendar year for which it is issued. The fee shall not be prorated.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2027, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2027, deletes or extends that date.

FAC section 18981 that:

(a) Application for renewal of a license accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be made on or before its expiration. Applicants for renewal of a license who have not paid the renewal fee by the expiration date of the license shall be assessed a twenty-five dollar (\$25) penalty. Failure to pay the renewal fee plus the penalty within 90 days of expiration shall cause a revocation of a license.

(b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2027, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2027, deletes or extends that date.

FAC section 18982 specifies that the department shall conduct periodic training for licensed livestock meat inspectors and licensed processing inspectors to maintain and increase their competence in the performance of their official duties.

FAC 18983 specifies that Licensed livestock meat inspectors and licensed processing inspectors shall participate in annual training meetings sponsored by the department to maintain and increase their competence in the performance of their official duties. Failure to participate may be a cause to revoke their license.

FAC 18991 specifies that:

(a) A licensed livestock meat inspector, in accordance with regulations adopted hereunder, shall conduct antemortem examination of each animal to be slaughtered in a licensed establishment and shall permit the slaughter of apparently healthy animals and withhold from slaughter all animals suspected, as well as those plainly showing evidence, of a disease. Animals so withheld shall be examined by a department employee who shall order the disposition of the animal pursuant to the regulations adopted hereunder.

(b) The licensed livestock meat inspector shall conduct a postmortem examination and make dispositions of carcasses and parts thereof in accordance with regulations adopted hereunder.

(c) A licensed livestock meat inspector shall conduct a sanitation inspection before the establishment commences operations for the day, and make periodic inspections throughout the day.

(d) The licensed livestock meat inspector shall order the establishment not to begin operations or to cease operations at any time that the establishment sanitation fails to meet the requirements of this chapter and the regulations adopted thereunder, or at any time any product is not handled, retained, condemned, or disposed of in violation of this chapter or the regulations thereunder.

(e)(1) Passed carcasses and parts of cattle, sheep, swine, and goat shall be stamped by the licensed livestock meat inspector or under his or her supervision with an approved California identification number.

(2) Passed carcasses and parts of fallow deer slaughtered and prepared for transportation or sale shall be stamped with an approved mark of inspection.

FAC section 19014 specifies that plant sanitation, sanitary dressing procedures, processing procedures, vehicle equipment, facility standards, and sanitation, including transportation and storage of products, shall follow procedures which may be set forth in regulations or operations manuals adopted by the department.

FAC section 19020 specifies that:

This chapter does not apply to any of the following:

(a) Owners who slaughter, on their own premises, livestock of their own raising where the meat is not for sale, but used exclusively by the owners, members of the owner's household, the owner's employees, and nonpaying guests.

(b) A mobile slaughter operator who provides services to an owner as specified in subdivision (a) where the slaughter occurs on the owner's premises and the meat is thereafter transported for the owner to an establishment for further processing.

(c)(1) A mobile slaughter operator who provides services to an owner of livestock and slaughters multiple livestock from multiple owners, if the slaughter occurs on the premises of one of the owners of the livestock or on the premises of the producer, subject to the following conditions:

(A) Before the slaughter, if the livestock slaughtered are cattle, the cattle are inspected pursuant to Section 21051.

(B) After the slaughter, the meat is transported for the owner to an establishment for further processing.

(C) The meat is not for sale, but is used exclusively by the owner, members of the owner's household, the owner's employees, and nonpaying guests.

(D) The producer that has mobile slaughter operations conducted on their premises shall register with the department and maintain records pursuant to this chapter.

(E) The mobile slaughter operator shall be licensed as a custom livestock slaughter operation with the department pursuant to this chapter.

(F) The mobile slaughter operator shall be licensed as a livestock meat inspector with the department pursuant to this chapter and shall complete annual training as provided by the Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch of the department.

(G) The mobile slaughter operator licensed with the department shall maintain records pursuant to this chapter and the records shall be made available, upon request, to a department inspector, investigator, or peace officer.

(H) The premises or the mobile slaughter facility where slaughter is conducted shall have an adequate sewer, facilities, and potable water.

(2) The exemption in paragraph (1) shall apply to the slaughter of more than one head of livestock on a single premises in a calendar year.

(3) Slaughter activities conducted, including the proper disposition of inedible materials, pursuant to the exemption in paragraph (1) shall comply with all other applicable state and federal environmental and zoning laws.

(4) For purposes of this article, the following terms shall apply:

(A) "Livestock" means any cattle, sheep, goat, and swine used for human food.

(B) "Producer" means the person who owned and was responsible for feeding and caring for the livestock before its sale and slaughter on the person's premises.

(d) Persons solely engaged in cutting, wrapping, and otherwise processing farm or custom slaughter livestock or the processing and sale of fresh meats derived from United States Department of Agriculture inspected carcasses, except the curing, smoking, and preparing of cooked or smoked sausages or cooked pork products that are not exempted under subdivision (b) of Section 18814.

(e) Livestock slaughter and meat and poultry processing inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture.

FAC section 19021 specifies that:

(a) A mobile slaughter operator performing the service of slaughtering livestock pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 19020 shall be licensed with the department as both of the following:

(1) A custom livestock slaughter operation pursuant to Sections 19010 and 19022 and is subject to Section 19023. The department shall establish a license fee and a renewal fee to cover costs associated with oversight and inspection of mobile slaughter operators. The fees shall not exceed the reasonable regulatory costs of the department and in no event shall be more than five hundred dollars (\$500).

(2) A livestock meat inspector pursuant to Sections 18980 and 19022 and subject to Section 19023.

(b)(1) The producer of the livestock who conducts multiple slaughter operations on their premise pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 19020 shall be registered with the department pursuant to Section 19022 and is subject to Section 19023. The one-time registration fee shall not exceed the regulatory costs of the department and in no event shall be more than one hundred dollars (\$100).

(2) The producer shall reregister with the department if the producer moves locations or if the operation changes ownership. The reregistration fee shall be the same amount as the registration fee specified in paragraph (1).

FAC section 19022 specifies that:

(a) A mobile slaughter operator performing the service of slaughtering livestock pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 19020 shall file an application for a license that shows the names and addresses of the owners of the mobile slaughterer and any other information the secretary may require.

(b) The producer shall file a registration with the department that shows the name and address of every location where the slaughter of livestock will occur.

(c) The registration or license shall be filed with the Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch of the department before a mobile slaughter operator may slaughter livestock pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 19020.

(d) After notice and hearing, the secretary may cancel the registration of any producer or the license of a mobile slaughter operator operating pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 19020 for failing to comply with this section or Section 19023.

FAC section 19023 specifies that:

(a) A mobile slaughter operator that slaughters livestock pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 19020 shall keep and maintain all of the following records expressly for that purpose for at least one year:

(1) The date of slaughter of all livestock.

(2) The name, address, and telephone number of producer of the livestock that are being slaughtered.

(3) The address or other location identifier of where the slaughter occurred.

(4) The number of each livestock slaughtered at the address on the date of slaughter.

(5) All ear tag numbers and all identification markings, if available, on all livestock slaughtered, and, if no identification number or marking is present, record "no identification number or marking."

(6) The name, address, and telephone number of the owner for each livestock slaughtered.

(7) The name and address of the facility that each carcass was transported to for processing.

(b) Every producer that produces livestock that are slaughtered by a mobile slaughter operator pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 19020 shall keep and maintain all of the following records for at least one year:

- (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the buyer.
- (2) All ear tag numbers and all other identification markings of all livestock.
- (3) The price paid for each livestock.
- (4) A purchase receipt for each livestock.
- (5) The date of purchase of each livestock.

(6) The date of slaughter of each livestock.

(c) All records maintained pursuant to this section shall be available on the demand of any inspector or peace officer

FAC section 19030 specifies that the director may, after a hearing conducted pursuant to Section 11346.8 of the Government Code, refuse to issue a license or renew a license and may revoke or suspend any license for any violation of or failure to comply with any provision of this chapter or any of the regulations thereunder. However, if the director finds evidence of willful or repeated violations, he or she may immediately suspend the license pending a final disposition of the matter.

FAC section 19032 specifies that any person that violates any provision of this chapter, or any regulation that is issued pursuant to it, is liable civilly for a penalty in an amount not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) for each such violation. If the court finds that the violation of this chapter

was a serious violation, or that the violation is a second or subsequent violation, the person is liable civilly for a penalty not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for each such violation.

FAC section 19040 requires that:

(a) All fees, charges, and collections collected pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund.

(b) All fees, charges, and collections collected pursuant to this chapter shall be used for the enforcement of this chapter and shall be for a specific benefit or privilege conferred directly to the payer and such benefit or privilege shall not be provided to those not charged.

(c) Fees shall not exceed the reasonable costs associated with issuing the license or permit, performing investigations, inspections, and audits, enforcing provisions pursuant to the license or permit, and administrative enforcement and adjudication thereof.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

This rulemaking action clarifies and makes specific requirements for Mobile Slaughter Operation Licensing and Livestock Producer Registration with the Department.

This rulemaking action proposes to amend the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 3, Division 2, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, Article 1 (sections 900, 900.1, and 900.3), Article 2 (sections 901, 901.3, 901.4, 901.7, 901.8, and 901.9), Article 3 (sections 902.2, 902.8, 902.9, 902.10, 902.11, and 902.14), Article 4 (section 903.1), Article 5 (section 904.6), Article 8 (section 907), Article 9 (sections 908.5, 908.10, and 908.11), Article 11 (sections 910.4 and 910.11), and Article 14 (section 913); repeal Article 3 (sections 902.1 and 902.15), Article 9 (sections 908.8 and 908.9), and Article 11 (section 910.7); and adopt sections 901.9.1 and 901.9.2 of Article 2, and Article 15 (section 914) to establish fees and make technical and organizational changes to the regulations as specified below.

The proposed regulations create a new registration and licensure program for a previously unregulated practice to ensure that animals are safely and humanely slaughtered. It is also meant to set effective requirements and standards to achieve food safety for the end consumer as well as to ensure there is an oversight of animal welfare and environmental impact during slaughter and transport conducted by a Mobile Slaughter Operator licensed as a Mobile Slaughter Operation and a Livestock Meat Inspector with MPES.

Other proposed actions to the regulation are to make technical and organizational changes so that the program can maintain the regulation's consistency and to ensure only pertinent information is included in the regulation.

Summary of Existing Laws and Effect of the Proposed Action

On January 1, 2022, a new law, Assembly Bill (AB) 888 (Levine) (Chapter 378, Statutes of 2021) pertaining to Mobile Slaughter Operators of livestock animals, came into effect. AB 888 amended section 19020, and added sections 19021, 19022, and 19023 to the statutes pertaining to Mobile Slaughter Operator requirements, licenses, and renewal fees as well as the one-time Livestock Producer registration fee. This rulemaking action is to set Mobile Slaughter Operator requirements, licenses, and annual renewal fees as well as a one-time Livestock Producer Registration. A newly created fee structure will be used to set clear registration requirements and the fees will be utilized to cover the program's regulatory oversight and inspection cost to ensure

the safe and humane slaughter of livestock as defined in Food and Agricultural Code section 19020 (c)(4)(A) in California. The forms and fees that each Mobile Slaughter Operator and Livestock Producer will have to submit are itemized and listed below under "the Cost impact on a representative private person or business."

The revision and adoption of the statutes mentioned above require the program to take regulatory actions and make necessary amendments so the program can carry out its core mission of providing inspectional oversight to protect food safety, animal welfare, and the environment while promoting the opportunity for livestock producers to market their livestock directly to consumers who are interested in purchasing livestock for their own personal use and consumption.

OBJECTIVES AND ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

The benefits anticipated by the proposed regulation are expanded opportunities for Livestock Producers and consumers to utilize direct marketing and purchase so that consumers can directly purchase livestock sold for harvest from registered producers for personal use and consumption under the proposed regulatory actions that aim to enhance food safety assurance for the end consumer.

EVALUATION OF INCONSISTENCY/INCOMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING STATE REGULATIONS

The Department determined that this proposed regulation is not inconsistent or incompatible with existing regulations. After conducting a review for any regulations that would relate to or affect this area, the Department has concluded that these are the only regulations that concern Mobile Slaughter Operation Licenses and Livestock Producer Registration requirements.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Branch has made the following initial determinations:

Mandate on local agencies or school districts: None.

Cost or savings to any state agency: None.

Cost to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code sections 17500 through 17630: None.

Other non-discretionary costs or savings imposed on local agencies: None.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None.

Cost impact on a representative private person or business: The Department anticipates there will fees for the licensure, renewal, and registration. Applications and fees that need to be submitted prior to being licensed and/or registered are listed and itemized below:

An initial Application fee of \$500 (MPES Application for Mobile Slaughter Operation License Form 79-021B) and an annual renewal fee of \$500.

• An initial Application fee of \$100 (MPES Livestock Meat Inspector License Application 79-008A) and an annual renewal fee of \$100.

• A one-time registration fee of \$100 for each Livestock Producer who are required to register with MPES (MPES Livestock Producer Form 79-021A). If the Livestock Producer relocates and/or changes ownership, the Livestock Producer will have to resubmit a new registration form and fee of \$100.

Significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other state: The Department has made an initial determination that the proposed regulatory action will not have any significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting California businesses including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

Significant effect on housing costs: None.

Small Business Determination: The Department has initially determined that the proposed adoption of this regulatory action would affect small businesses.

The Department has made the initial determination that the proposed regulations would have a positive impact on the general public by protection of public health and safety, the creation of new small businesses, and the expansion of small businesses currently doing business within this state that would significantly affect a private person or small business. The proposed regulations would exclusively affect small businesses, primarily Mobile Slaughter Operations and Livestock Producers under FAC sections 19020-19023.

Expanding direct sales of locally supplied meat, from locally produced livestock will be the result of Mobile Slaughter Operation regulations and will be an effective way to promote the fair and equitable marketing of meat products from livestock producers. Therefore, this regulation will contribute to an already robust body of statutory and regulatory precedent which will promote consumer confidence in the local food supply chain, the California livestock Industry and enhance the conditions for an equitable marketplace, thereby supporting continued growth of California's "Farm to Fork" approach to food. Conversely, if these regulations are not promulgated, enforcement activities would lack the tools to ensure that the sale of locally produced livestock meat products is free of fraud, deception and food safety issues. This could lead to a lack of consumer confidence and could be harmful to the animal industry.

RESULT OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ANALYISIS

The Department concludes that it is: (1) unlikely that the proposal will eliminate jobs, (2) likely that the proposal will create an unknown number of jobs for individuals and/or businesses interested in becoming a Licensed Mobile Slaughter Operation and a Registered Livestock Producer pursuant to FAC section 19020-19023, (3) unlikely that the proposal will eliminate any existing businesses, (4) unlikely that the proposal will result in the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state, and (5) likely that this proposal will enhance enforcement activities that will protect animal welfare, general public safety, food safety, the environment, and the industry.

Benefits of the Proposed Action: Consumers of California will be assured that when they purchase live animals and have them slaughtered in their absence, minimum standards outlined in the regulations are being met. Livestock Producers will have a consistent standard applied equally across the industry for those that have multiple livestock slaughtered for multiple owners on their property sold to California consumers. Additionally, a fee structure, and licensure and registration system will set clear standards that all producers and Slaughter Operators will equally adhere to.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Department must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

The Department invites interested persons to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulation during the written comment period or at the public hearing, if one is held.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries concerning the proposed action may be directed to:

Dr. Fernando Umayam, Jr., Assistant Branch Chief Department of Food and Agriculture Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch 1220 N St, Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (909) 730-0571 Email: fernando.umayam@cdfa.ca.gov

The backup contact persons are:

Han Lai, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory) Department of Food and Agriculture Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch 1220 N St, Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 204-4438 Email: han.lai@cdfa.ca.gov

David Schurr, Senior Environmental Scientist Department of Food and Agriculture Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch 1220 N St, Sacramento, CA 95814 Telephone: (916) 996-1159 Email: david.schurr@cdfa.ca.gov

Please direct requests for copies of the proposed text of the regulation, the Initial Statement of Reasons, the modified text of the regulation, if any, or other information upon which the rulemaking is based to Dr. Fernando Umayam, Jr., using the contact information above.

AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND INFORMATION AND TEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

The Department will have the entire rulemaking file available for inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its office at the above address. As of the date this Notice is published in the California Regulatory Notice Register, the rulemaking file consists of this Notice, the proposed text of the regulation, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and the documents relied

upon which at this time is the UC Davis White Paper on Small Harvest review. Copies may be obtained by contacting Dr. Fernando Umayam, Jr., using the contact information above.

AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Upon its completion, copies of the Final Statement of Reasons may be obtained by contacting Dr. Fernando Umayam, Jr., using the contact information above.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Department may amend the proposed regulations substantially as described in this Notice. If the Department makes modifications, which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text (with changes clearly indicated) available to the public for at least 15 days before the Department adopts the regulations as modified. Please sent requests for copies of any modified regulations to the attention of Dr. Fernando Umayam, Jr., at the address listed above. The Department will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are made available.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS ON THE INTERNET

Copies of this Notice, the proposed text of the regulation, and the Initial Statement of Reasons can be accessed on the Department's website at:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/MPES/Meat_Poultry.html