

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES****Wednesday, July 30, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.**Advisory Committee Members

Jasmine L. Berrios  
Jolena M. Grande  
Maggie McMillan  
Kenneth Nathaniel Beard  
Rev. Jason E. Bense  
Kirk Jeffrey Gilles  
Eloise Kaeck

Stakeholder Members

Andrew Johnson  
Ashley Pyne  
Chris Winter  
Douglas Goodreau  
Haley Morris  
J. Tuttle  
Matthew Peralta  
Mayra  
Monique May  
Serena Trexler  
Shari Wolf  
Steve Crawford  
Tamela Mease-Van Vactor

DCA Staff

Michael Kanotz  
Elizabeth Dietzen-Olsen  
Sarah Irani

Cemetery and Funeral Bureau (Bureau or CFB) Staff: Gina Chiaverini Sanchez, Bureau Chief, and Almer Generoso, Legislative Analyst.

**1. Opening Remarks/Roll Call of Members.**

Bureau Chief, Gina Sanchez, called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance. Ms. Sanchez indicated that the meeting is open to the public in Sacramento and available via WebEx and teleconference platforms. Ms. Sanchez provided stated that this meeting would be an introduction to the regulatory that is being introduced and will more of an informal meeting. Ms. Sanchez conducted roll call of committee members along with welcoming new members.

**2. Public Comment on Items Not on Agenda**

Members of the public attending via WebEx or in attendance in Sacramento attending in person were provided the opportunity to comment.

**3. Review Draft Regulatory Language and Application for Reduction Facility License**

- Ms. Sanchez provided a brief overview on the format of the regulatory text with edits and omitted/amended sections. Then defining what reduction is since, reduction is very similar to cremation and hydrolysis and any residue must be unrecognizable as human remains.

Public Member Mr. Cohen asked if the price of the fee is justified by the complex nature of the procedure along with the added review of additional documents.

Ms. Sanchez answered that the fee was set at the specific price due to the cost to operate the business while deterring raising the price further in the future.

Committee Member Ms. Grande mentioned that certain grammar in the text can be cleaned up. In addition, adding if maintenance records must be recorded for every remains that are placed in them.

Ms. Sanchez responded that she would review the text and regarding reduction chambers she will also review the records as the ones in operation as of this meeting, only four are in use.

Ms. Sanchez opened the meeting for additional comments. The Advisory Committee members and the public members had no comments.

- Ms. Sanchez previewed the Reduction Facility License Application detailing its needed information both physical and online formats.

Public member Mr. Cohen asked if LLC are eligible to operate and own reduction facilities.

Ms. Sanchez responded LLC can only own cemeteries.

Ms. Sanchez detailed that a crematory manager will be designated to oversee the reduction facility since it still a method of reducing human remains.

Committee member Ms. Grande commented that there is a typo on the application along with a clarification of adding a corresponding document prior to submission.

Ms. Sanchez thanked Ms. Grande for her observation and will have her team review and fix the document for any grammatical errors along with reviewing with her staff if the supplemental document is already present or needed.

Committee member Mr. Beard had a question for zoning.

Ms. Sanchez clarified the zoning permits and requirements.

Committee member Ms. McMillan added to the clarification of zoning with city and county ordinances. Followed up

Ms. Sanchez opened the meeting for comments. The Advisory Committee members and the public members had no comments.

- Ms. Sanchez detailed more requirements for the application for reduction facilities within the text and its required permits/needs along with the California Department of Public Health's requirements as well.

Committee member Grande asked if the language of this section could be simplified.

Ms. Sanchez responded that although she agrees however, this bill is statutory and cannot be changed.

Public member Mr. Cohen commented about the date of death and interment

timeframe.

Ms. Sanchez clarified the interment and date of death and its written contract with the family.

Committee member McMillan added to the conversation reinforcing documents should be in writing.

Public member Ms. Trexler thanked CFB for the date of death clarification within the reduction text.

Committee member Ms. Grande mentioned the conservation area and cemetery contracts should be inclusive in addition changing some of the verbiage to match previous text.

Ms. Sanchez made note of Ms. Grande's comments and will address the text with her team.

Committee member Ms. McMillan wanted clarification on what a chamber is.

Ms. Sanchez clarified what a chamber is citing what CDPH views as a reduction chamber.

Committee member Ms. Grande wanted to clarify the partnership wording within the text due to it making it sound like a conflict.

Ms. Sanchez thanked Ms. Grande and corrected the mistake.

Ms. Sanchez opened the meeting for comments. The Advisory Committee members and the public members had no comments.

- Ms. Sanchez did a brief overview of the managers section within the regulation and the newly added text citing that it is very similar to current verbiage of what managers are/do within the hydrolysis and cremation facilities.

Committee member Ms. Grande wanted to know if crematory managers are certified or licensed by the Bureau.

Ms. Sanchez took note of Ms. Grande's comment and will discuss it with her team.

- Ms. Sanchez moved onto the abandonment of application of reduction facilities and provided a brief overview of the timeframe of abandonment of license and its reapplication.
- Ms. Sanchez discussed the newly added section of reduction facility sanitation and its juxtaposition to retorts and hydrolysis facilities. Stating that consumers want to sit in while their loved ones are in the vessels. Ms. Sanchez defied what clean and orderly is.

Committee member Mr. Beard asked if a placard is required to inform the public that the processing is happening and should be private.

Ms. Sanchez responded that the public could come into the facilities there are still sections of the facilities that are off limits to the public.

Committee member Ms. Grande thanked the Bureau for writing the clean and orderly section. She further stated if the Bureau will make it clear what clean and orderly is since there is already verbiage from existing text. Along with clarifying what are caution indicators.

Ms. Sanchez had stated that clean and orderly in the reduction text will only apply to reduction facilities but will review the format to ensure it is clear moving forward. Regarding caution indicators, since facilities have heavy equipment operating during business hours, Ms. Sanchez stated that it is to inform the public and steer them away from any injury.

Committee member Ms. McMillan added to the conversion that the wording is fine and should be left up to the facilities.

Public member Ms. Trexler asked if a NOR facilities also must be a funeral establishment to allow the public in viewing of the reduction process.

Ms. Sanchez stated that cremators in CA, consumers can work directly with the reduction facilities, although rare, it is allowed. She also aired on the side of caution since it can cross into providing funeral care.

- Ms. Sanchez briefly went over section 2339.2 which is Form and Content of Reduction Contracts saying its requirements.

Committee member Mr. Beard stated that this contract requirements overlap the contracts on a funeral director

Ms. Sanchez agreed and will look at the contract with her team.

Public member Ms. Trexler added the information individuals who did not go into school for funeral directing are still able to do arrangements/prearrangements.

Committee member Bense commented on the licensing number on vessels.

Ms. Sanchez clarified that each vessel would have an identification system for each pod/vessel but will also follow up with CDPH for this specific information.

Committee member Ms. Berrios asked if there is a minimum volume to trigger a cremation.

Ms. Sanchez responded that she will add it to the questions she had taken down and get back to her and the committee.

Committee member Ms. McMillan asked the contracts from the crematory must be clearly explained what the charges are and must be clearly explained in the contracts.

Ms. Sanchez thanked Ms. McMillan and will review the contracts along with its

statutes.

Public member Mr. Douglas had technical difficulties.

Public member Ms. Trexler wanted to thank Ms. Sanchez and the Bureau for their effort in writing the reduction package.

No public members had additional comments.

**4. Adjournment** – meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.