



**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AND
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES**

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Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES

March 5, 2012

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Conference Room H/I
10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Carlos Estacio III	Tom Orvis
John Herlihy	Ed Perry
Arby Hoobyar	Wayne Zipser

Board Members Absent:

Sherman Boone	Lisa Funk
Roger Duncan	

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Supervisor Jim DeMartini – Present	Diana Waller, USDA-NRCS - Absent
Supervisor Vito Chiesa (Alternate) – Present	Rowe Barney, DER & Parks - Present
Gary Caseri, Ag Commissioner – Present	

Others Present:

Lisa Alamo, USDA-NRCS	Rick Gibson, Stanislaus Co Planning
Susan Azevedo, Ag Commissioner's Office	Raul Mendez, CEO
Javier Camarena, Stanislaus Co Planning	Monica Nino, CEO
.Horacio Ferriz, DER	Daniel O'Conner, American Farmland Trust
Angela Freitas, Stanislaus Co Planning	Milton O'Haire, Ag. Commissioner's Office

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Roundtable introduction of attendees

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE December 5, 2011 MEETING

It was M/S/P (unanimous), to approve the December 5, 2011 minutes.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STANISLAUS COUNTY NEW CEO

Monica Nino, recently appointed Chief Executive Officer for Stanislaus County, introduced herself to the members and gave a brief background of her experience. Board members asked about the county's budget and how agriculture will fare. Ms. Nino gave a brief synopsis of the budget and stated that the Agricultural Commissioner & Cooperative Extension will remain at the same base budget as

issued last year. Although no budget cuts are anticipated, the departments would need to absorb any retirement or health insurance increases for the upcoming fiscal year. She also noted that several labor unions have not come to an agreement regarding salary reductions which could affect the salary savings departments have been able to realize in the current fiscal year.

V. SUSTAINABLE GROWTH STRATEGIES

Dan O'Conner from American Farmland Trust gave a presentation on the analysis of urban growth areas proposed by Stanislaus County cities. Members expressed concerns that cities should be growing up, not out into prime farmland. Preservation of natural resources should always be the top concern. Perhaps some type of farming incentive is needed. Some suggested that the logical path for land preservation may have to come through LAFCO. Supervisor DeMartini stated that LAFCO will meet on March 28, 2012 and suggested that members from this group attend. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

VI. GROUNDWATER ORDINANCE UPDATE

Ag Commissioner Caseri gave a brief status update, stating that a meeting was held recently with County Counsel, Supervisor DeMartini, and members of the CEO & Environmental Resources offices to discuss the draft. Changes need to be made to more clearly define what they are trying to do; outside attorney and County Counsel will come back with some draft revisions. Commissioner Caseri stated he hopes to have another meeting with the subcommittee group to go over changes.

VII. TRUCK PARKING IN THE AGRICULTURAL ZONE

Angela Freitas and Javier Camarena from the Stanislaus County Planning Department provided information regarding proposed ordinance amendments to truck parking in the agricultural zone and requested input from the Ag Advisory Board.

Handouts were provided explaining the ordinance amendments. The Use Permit Ordinance Amendment (2nd version) requires a use permit and environmental review for a parking facility containing four (4) to twelve (12) tractor-trailer combinations. The Home Occupation Ordinance Amendment allows up to three tractor-trailer combinations through the issuance of a "Home Occupation" business license. Copies of both handouts are attached.

There was no uniform message presented by this Board, however the following comments were noted:

- There are currently not enough places for operators to park their trucks; the ordinance amendment is meant to help smaller operations that just need a place to park. Larger businesses should be located in industrial areas.
- Trucks parked on the side of the road are a hazard, but dislikes agricultural land being used as parking.
- Twelve trucks, twenty-four trailers is a lot which causes concern for road conditions, noise for neighbors, and can be unsightly. The effectiveness of sound walls was questioned.
- Concerns regarding issues other than the 80,000 LB rigs, such as bobtails, small trucks and tow trucks.
- Concerns about code enforcement and whether current staffing levels could handle violations, illegal operations.

VI. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

Due to a County furlough, there will be no meeting in April. The next scheduled meeting is **Monday, May 7, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Conference Room H/I

B. Agenda Items

✓ None

Please contact John Herlihy, Gary Caseri or Susan Azevedo with items you wish placed on the agenda.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman John Herlihy adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully
Submitted,

Susan Azevedo
Ag Commissioner's Office
Stanislaus County

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