



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

Gary Caseri
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite B
Modesto, California 95358
Phone: 209.525.4730 Fax: 209.525.4790

Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES

March 1, 2010
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Conference Room H/I
10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

John Herlihy	Tom Maring	Tom Orvis
Ray Prock, Jr.	Ed Perry	Norman Kline
Wayne Zipser	Richard Gibson	Alan Cover

Committee Members Absent:

Rowe Barney John Azevedo

Ex-Officio:

Supervisor Jim DeMartini – Present
Supervisor Vito Chiesa (Alternate) - Present
Gary Caseri, Ag Commissioner – Present

Others Present:

Javier Camarena, Stan Co Planning Dept	Sonya Harrigfeld, Dept of Environ. Resources
Cynthia Darmstandler, Ag Comm Office	Raul Mendez, Stan Co. Chief Executive Office
Angela Freitas, Stan Co Planning Dept	Garner Reynolds, City of Newman
Tom Lutterman, DWR	Walt Ward, Modesto Irrigation District
Denny Hoeh, Ag Commissioner's Office	

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 4, 2010 MEETING

The minutes from the January 4, 2010 meeting were approved.

**IV. GROUNDWATER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF
PROPOSED GROUNDWATER ORDINANCE FOR APPROVAL AND
RECOMMENDATION FOR ADOPTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Chairman John Herlihy opened by stating that since there have been numerous comments and interested parties regarding the proposed draft groundwater ordinance, CEO Rick Robinson requested that the comment period be extended another 45-60 days. John said that it is up to the Ag Advisory Board to continue with

the closed comment period or to consider extending the comment period for an additional 60 days to end April 30, 2010.

It was M/S/P (unanimous) that the comment period for the proposed draft groundwater ordinance be extended for 60 days.

Chairman Herlihy asked if anyone wished to make comments. Walt Ward from Modesto Irrigation District, thanked the Ag Advisory Board for taking the previous action. He said he would like to see an expanded public participation in the crafting of the ordinance and offered his expertise. Mr. Ward said that he would be submitting written statements but also mentioned some points: he felt that the definition of the problem needs to be more clearly stated, that historical operation criteria need to be clarified, that the mining definition is incomprehensible, that the radius of influence at the property line is impossible, and that local effects of this proposed ordinance are significant. Garner Reynolds from the City of Newman also spoke and stated that he agreed with Mr. Ward's comments and that this proposed ordinance has caused a "firestorm". Mr. Reynold commented that he supports the intent, but this is not the right tool. Supervisor Chiesa stated that he agrees with the written comments from TID. He also said that he is concerned about the selling of Stanislaus County groundwater to another area.

Chairman Herlihy closed this item by stating that the groundwater subcommittee would be meeting later in March to continue to study the matter, and to work on how to best include stakeholders in the process.

V. REPORT ON THE DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR TRUCK PARKING IN THE AG ZONE

Angela Freitas, Stanislaus County Planning, distributed a report to update the Ag Advisory Board on the "Truck Parking in the Ag Zone" issue. (See Attachment*) Angela explained that the truck parking issue first came to the Ag Advisory Board in late 2008, and that ultimately it was pulled back into a County-wide committee, however, she wanted to update the Ag Advisory Board of the progress. Angela reported that the Draft Ordinance proposed to the Planning Commission on February 18, 2010 was approved and is now recommended to be presented to the Board of Supervisors with options for addressing concerns raised at the Planning Commission meeting.

Sonya Harrigfeld, Director of Environmental Resources (DER), stated that the enforcement process on the truck parking in the ag zone is complaint-driven only and that DER staff does not go out and look for violations. Supervisor DeMartini commented that this proposed ordinance is restrictive and it wasn't intended to please everyone. While it does allow for trucks in the ag area, it does not allow every use. Chairman Herlihy thanked Angela for updating the Ag Advisory Board.

*Please Note:

Re: Attachment, Truck Parking in the Agricultural Zone Update:

The Planning Commission meeting date should read "February 18, 2010", not "February 18, 2009" as indicated in Attachment.

VI. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next scheduled meeting is **Monday, April 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.**
at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Conference Room H/I

B. Agenda Items

- ✓ Alternative Buffers, if applicable
- ✓ Groundwater Subcommittee Update

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman John Herlihy adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully
Submitted,



Cynthia Darmstandler
Confidential Assistant IV
Stanislaus County