



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

**Gary Caseri**  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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**Agricultural Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**

July 12, 2010  
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center  
Conference Room H/I  
10:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

|              |                |                |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| John Herlihy | Tom Maring     | Tom Orvis      |
| Lisa Funk    | Kathy Anderson | Richard Gibson |
| Wayne Zipser |                |                |

**Board Members Absent:**

Norman Kline                      Alan Cover

**Ex-Officio Board Members :**

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Supervisor Jim DeMartini – Absent           | Chris Hartley, USDA-NRCS - Absent |
| Supervisor Vito Chiesa (Alternate) – Absent | Rowe Barney, DER - Present        |
| Gary Caseri, Ag Commissioner – Present      |                                   |

**Others Present:**

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Bill Carlson, Stan Co. Planning      | Arby Hoobyar                                 |
| Cynthia Darmstandler, Ag Comm Office | Ed Perry, Retired Director – UC Coop Ext.    |
| Denny Hoeh, Ag Commissioner's Office | Raul Mendez, Stan Co. Chief Executive Office |

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 7, 2010 MEETING**

It was M/S/P (unanimous), to approve the June 7, 2010 minutes.

**IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

At the June 2010 Ag Advisory Board meeting, John Herlihy was nominated for the position of Chairman and Tom Orvis was nominated for Vice-Chairman.

It was M/S/P (unanimous) that John Herlihy be elected to Chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Board for the term beginning July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

It was M/S/P (unanimous) that Tom Orvis be elected to Vice-Chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Board for the term beginning July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

## V. ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL BUFFERS

Bill Carlson of Stanislaus County Planning introduced the application for expansion of a Sikh temple located on an 11.25 acre parcel outside the city of Hughson. There is an existing 5 acre almond orchard to the west. The applicant is proposing a buffer to consist of the existing chain link fence and natural vegetation. Small canopy shade trees, such as mayten tree and evergreen pear are proposed closest to the church, 150 feet from the western property line.

It was M/S/P (unanimous) that the buffer should be on the full western property line and the buffer should consist of evergreen trees based on a list of suitable evergreen trees and specifications developed by Ed Perry, retired UC Cooperative Extension Director/Farm Adviser.

## VI. GROUNDWATER SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

It was reported that stakeholder comments on the latest draft are due July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The final draft will be presented to the Ag Advisory Board at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. A vote to recommend that the draft be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors is tentatively scheduled for September. It was mentioned that Dr. Horacio Ferrez has been instrumental in assisting with the draft and is out of the country and slated to return August 14. It is possible that the timeline may be revised, based on feedback received.

## VII. SISKIYOU COUNTY WATER ISSUE

Gary reported that Pat Griffin, Siskiyou County Ag Commissioner, sent information on a water issue that is going on in his area. Fish & Game is warning farmers who are diverting water for irrigation that they would be subject to possible civil and criminal penalties should they fail to file for a Section 1602 streambed alteration permit. Permits from Fish & Game are running from \$224-\$4,500. CEQUA fees range from \$12,000-\$27,000. This decision could have ramifications for all of agriculture, if a precedent setting decision is made. Gary will forward information regarding this issue to the Ag Advisory Board members.

## VIII. NEXT MEETING

### A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next scheduled meeting is **Monday, August 2, 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.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman John Herlihy adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully  
Submitted,



Cynthia Darmstandler  
Confidential Assistant IV  
Stanislaus County