



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

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Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES

January 10, 2011
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Conference Room H/I
10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Richard Gibson	Tom Maring	Ed Perry
John Herlihy	Tom Orvis	Wayne Zipser
Arby Hoobyar		

Board Members Absent:

Kathy Anderson	Lisa Funk
Alan Cover	Norman Kline

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:

Roger Duncan, UC Cooperative Extension	Debbie Wohld, Ag Commissioner's Office
Angela Freitas, Stanislaus County Planning	Rachel Wyse, Stanislaus County Planning
Milton O'Haire, 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 THE DECEMBER 13, 2010 MEETING

It was M/S/P (unanimous), to approve the December 13, 2010 minutes.

**IV. ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL BUFFER
UP 2010-15, WAC 2010-02 – COPPER MOUNTAIN SOLAR**

Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development has received an application to establish a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility creating an aggregate peak power capacity of 13 megawatts of electricity on 127+ acres of a 4,147+ acre site, located west of the guard shack on Diablo Grande Parkway, north of the Diablo Grande Development, in the Diablo Grande area. The applicant has proposed an alternative buffer consisting of 10-feet from the property line to the edge of the array along the southwestern project boundary lines. Rachel Wyse, Stanislaus County Planning Department, stated that only 400 feet will not meet the 150-foot wide

required buffer. The Planning staff had some concern regarding security fencing; however, this was considered to be an ownership issue. The residential development that exists to the south in the Diablo Grande Community is under common ownership. Due to the non-intensive nature of the project, the terrain, and the use of the area as grazing land, the planning staff feels the Ag Advisory Board could support this buffer.

It was M/S/P (Richard Gibson abstained), to accept the alternative buffer as stated.

V. AG ELEMENT REVIEW

Supervisor DeMartini began by stating that he feels it is time to update the Ag Element document. One area of interest is under Water Resources, which includes groundwater uses. Also mentioned were buffer and setback guidelines and greenhouses. It was noted that there are areas which were not anticipated at the time the document was written, so changes may need to be made. Adoption of this document includes a commitment to review it every five years. The document was adopted in December 2007, and will be up for review and update in December 2012. It was noted that the Ag Element is part of the Stanislaus County General Plan, which is also subject to a comprehensive update. It was decided that there should be a subcommittee who would review certain areas of the Ag Element document and then report back to the Ag Advisory Board. Wayne Zipser volunteered to chair the subcommittee. He will coordinate with Angela Freitas from the Planning Department. Chairman Herlihy then asked if there were others willing to serve on this subcommittee. Subcommittee volunteers were: Supervisor DeMartini, Supervisor Chiesa, Ag Advisory Board Chairman John Herlihy, Agricultural Commissioner Gary Caseri, Tom Maring, Tom Orvis, and Ed Perry. Wayne Zipser will be the coordinator of the meetings.

VI. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next scheduled meeting is **Monday, February 7, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Conference Room H/I

B. Agenda Items

- ✓ Alternative Buffers, if applicable

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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman John Herlihy adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully
Submitted,

Debbie Wohld
Ag Commissioner's Office
Stanislaus County