



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

Gary Caseri
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Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES

May 3, 2010

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

Board Members Present:

John Herlihy
Ray Prock, Jr.

Tom Maring
Ed Perry

Tom Orvis
Richard Gibson

Board Members Absent:

Norman Kline
Wayne Zipser

John Azevedo
Alan Cover

Ex-Officio Board Members :

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

Chris Hartley, USDA-NRCS - Absent
Rowe Barney, DER - Absent

Others Present:

Nicole Damin, Dept of Environ. Resources
Cynthia Darmstandler, Ag Comm Office
Horacio Ferriz, Dept of Environ. Resources
Angela Freitas, Stan Co Planning Dept
Denny Hoeh, Ag Commissioner’s Office

Arby Hoobyar, Farm Bureau Director
Raul Mendez, Stan Co. Chief Executive Office
Milton O’Haire, Ag Comm Office
Chris White, Central Calif Irrigation Dist.
Rachel Wyse, Stan Co Planning Dept

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 1, 2010 MEETING

It was motioned and seconded to approve the minutes, but since a quorum was not present at the time of the vote, approval will be moved to the next meeting agenda.

IV. GROUNDWATER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman John Herlihy gave an update on the progress of the subcommittee since receiving the charge from the Chief Executive Officer to study the matter. Numerous comments have been received on the preliminary draft ordinance and have been taken into consideration by the subcommittee. Recently, Dr. Horacio Ferriz worked with Denny Hoeh to develop a revised draft. On May 20, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Farm Bureau, a stakeholders meeting will be held regarding the draft groundwater

ordinance. Prior to that on May 14th, the subcommittee expects to send a current draft of the proposed groundwater ordinance via email to stakeholders.

Chris White of Central California Irrigation District, stated that he met with Supervisors DeMartini and Chiesa. He emphasized that this is a very complicated issue and stated that his organization has policies that work and can offer creative solutions. Both Supervisors echoed the sentiment that it is important to get this right rather than to strive for expediency. It was noted that the approval path for a groundwater ordinance would begin with the subcommittee, then move to approval by the Ag Advisory Board, the Planning Commission, and ultimately the Board of Supervisors.

V. ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURAL BUFFER PROPOSAL FOR USE PERMIT NO. 2010-03 FINK ROAD SOLAR FARM

Rachel Wyse stated that the applicant for the Fink Road Solar Farm has requested an alternative agricultural buffer, to be located on Fink Road, west of Interstate 5 in the Newman area. The construction will be accomplished in phases, with each phase consisting of approximately 1,400 trackers. The applicant is proposing an alternative buffer of 40-feet from the property line to the tracker edge, on 25% of the boundary areas. No vegetative screening is proposed. Fencing will consist of the existing post and wire fencing, which may be modified to cyclone fencing for security purposes.

It was M/S/P (unanimous), to accept the proposed alternative buffer because it is a non-people intensive use.

VI. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next scheduled meeting is **Monday, June 7, 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