



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
& WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Linda Pinfeld  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

David J. Singh  
ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

**Stanislaus County  
Agricultural Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**

March 4, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Caitie Diemel  
Carlos Estacio III  
Jennifer Heguy  
Gordon Heinrich  
Jim Mortensen  
Tom Orvis  
Ed Perry  
Stan Sinclear

**Members Absent:**

Brandi LoForti

**Ex-Officio Board Members:**

Robert Kostlivy, Environmental Resources – Present  
Linda Pinfeld, Agricultural Commissioner – Present

Rose Collins, USDA-NRCS – Absent  
Supervisor Vito Chiesa – Present

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Upon request of Chairperson Tom Orvis, the attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

**IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 11, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 11, 2023, meeting were presented by the Chairperson. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval.

The action was taken as follows:

Motion: Carlos Estacio  
Second: Jim Mortensen  
Vote: Unanimous

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**V. PROP 218 ASSESSMENT UPDATE AND MULTI-BENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING UPDATE  
Mike Tietze, East Turlock GSA (ETGSA)**

The ETGSA is determining funding of services going forward and part of that is Proposition 218 land-based assessment which they are in the process of adopting now. Once that passes, they want to implement an extraction fee as well to pay for their multi-benefit land repurposing program and any projects they have to increase recharge and bring more surface water into the area.

The first presentation covered feedback from TAC and community meetings held in January, highlighted benefit factors and land use factors, and noted updated assessment rates. A copy of the draft assessment ballot was shown and the notice that goes with the ballot which includes a description of the services to be funded by the assessment, a brief description of the benefits received by property owners, the total cost of the assessment, the maximum assessment rates, and an explanation of the process for submitting ballots. An assessment timeline was also provided.

The second presentation covered land suitability assessment for multi-benefit land repurposing in East Turlock Subbasin and asked the question if they have to repurpose land to non-irrigated use, where can they do it so it will have the most benefit and the least disruptive impact. The presentation highlighted long-term goals, strategy and how to incentivize growers. Part of the assessment protocol was to identify landscape characteristics and logistical consideration; find representative GIS data sets and products; iterative data processing and ground-truthing case-study areas; identify suitable acreage for each practice; and quantify potential water-budget impacts. Information on available data and tools to support irrigation management and maximize irrigation efficiency was provided as well as an anticipated timeline of the project.

Copies of the presentations are located at: <https://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm>

**VI. ROUNDTABLE**

Members provided general comments, program updates, and upcoming events and activities in their respective organizations.

**VII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

Next Meeting: It was noted that the April 1, 2024, meeting will be canceled, and the next meeting is scheduled for:

Monday, May 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Azevedo  
Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
Stanislaus County