Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES
June 4, 2012
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Conference Room H/I
10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:
Sherman Boone  Ed Perry
Roger Duncan  Wayne Zipser

Board Members Absent:
Carlos Estacio III  Arby Hoobyar
Lisa Funk  Tom Orvis
John Herlihy

Ex-Officio Board Members:
Supervisor Jim DeMartini – Absent  Diana Waller, USDA-NRCS - Absent
Supervisor Vito Chiesa (Alternate) – Absent  Jami Aggers, DER & Parks - Present
Gary Caseri, Ag Commissioner – Present

Others Present:
Lisa Alamo, USDA-NRCS  Raul Mendez, CEO
Susan Azevedo, Ag Commissioner’s Office  Tracy Miller, Ag Crop Consultant
Horacio Ferriz, DER  Milton O’Haire, Ag. Commissioner’s Office

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
It was noted that there was not a quorum. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Wayne Zipser presided over the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE March 5, 2012 MEETING
In the absence of a quorum, the minutes could not be approved and will be included on the next meeting’s agenda.

IV. Nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for July Vote:
In the absence of a quorum, the nominations did not take place and will be included on the next month’s agenda.

V. GROUNDWATER ORDINANCE UPDATE
A draft copy of the Groundwater Export Ordinance (Regulation) dated May 25, 2012, was handed out at the meeting. Gary Caseri stated that he would schedule a meeting with the groundwater subcommittee to review the draft. A copy of the draft is attached to these minutes.

VI. **LAFCO Agricultural Preservation Policies**
A copy of the Consideration of Draft Agricultural Preservation Policies was handed out during the meeting. Members stated that there is an immediate need for land preservation and there was some discussion regarding the suggestion of using the Storie Index Rating system to determine soil quality. Members stated that it’s important to note that lower quality soil grows great rice and rice grounds grow almonds and walnuts. Salt & water quality is important and irrigation can make a difference. A copy of this handout is attached to these minutes.

VII. **Bylaws/Schedule of Meetings/Membership/Vacancies**
Interest has been shown in filling the District 3 vacancy, but District 4 continues to remain vacant. Rowe Barney has retired from Stanislaus County service, so Jami Aggers will serve as the Department of Environmental Resources representative until she assigns a permanent replacement. The following members’ terms will expire 6/30/12: Wayne Zipser, Lisa Funk, Roger Duncan, Carlos Estacio III, John Herlihy, and Tom Orvis. All six members have expressed interest in being considered for re-appointment.

VIII. **NEXT MEETING**
A. **Meeting Date/Time:**

   The next scheduled meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Monday, July 2, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Conference Room H/I. Depending on agenda items received and the close proximity of the July 4th holiday, this date may change.

B. **Agenda Items**

   ✓ None

   Please contact Gary Caseri or Susan Azevedo with items you wish placed on the agenda.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Wayne Zipser adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Azevedo
Ag Commissioner’s Office
Stanislaus County