



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

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Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES

February 2, 2015

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto
2nd Floor Conference Room
8:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Carlos Estacio III	Tom Orvis
Gordon Heinrich	Ed Perry
Arby Hoobyar	Pamela Sweeten
Jim Mortensen	

Board Members Absent:

Sherman Boone	Wayne Zipser
Roger Duncan	

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Jami Aggers, Environmental Resources - Present	Milton O'Haire, Ag Commissioner – Present
Jim De Martini, Board of Supervisors - Present	Diana Waller, USDA/NRCS - Present

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments made.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 1, 2014 MEETING

It was M/S/P (unanimous), to approve the December 1, 2014 minutes

IV. AGRICULTURAL ELEMENT UPDATE

Kristin Doud with the Stanislaus County Planning Department provided a brief overview of the Stanislaus County General Plan Agricultural Element update process. The Department requested that the Ag Advisory Board review and provide any comments on recent proposed updates to the General Plan as they relate to agricultural issues.

The proposed changes members were asked to consider include language changes to the Agricultural Element regarding groundwater implementation measures. There are also several proposed changes to other groundwater policies and implementation measures included in the Conservation and Open Space Element of the General Plan that apply to agricultural uses. Three additional implementation measures are proposed to be added aimed at addressing the recent groundwater legislation AB 1739. The Planning Department

inquired if members noted any needed changes or missing items; no comments were made at that time.

A copy of the presentation materials will be included on the County's webpage at <http://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm>

V. SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (SED) UPDATE

Herb Smart, Water Resource Analyst for Turlock Irrigation District, provided an updated presentation on the State Water Board's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, Phase 1 SED. Phase 1 seeks to address the San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity. SED's preferred alternative proposes that the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus rivers each dedicate 35 percent of the river's unimpaired flow for environmental benefits from February to June each year to benefit salmon and salinity. Currently, State Water Resources Board staff plans to issue an updated SED in Spring 2015, and it is anticipated that its preferred alternative as a percentage of unimpaired flows will increase. There is concern that requiring 35 percent of unimpaired flow on these rivers has the potential to have catastrophic effects on the region.

Following the presentation and some discussion, a motion was made for the Agricultural Advisory Board to recommend to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to take a position of support for the local districts by expressing concern for the potential economic and socioeconomic effects of the implementation of unimpaired flows in excess of 35 percent. The motion was M/S/P, unanimous.

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VI. ROUNDTABLE

Attendees provided general comments, updates on programs, and upcoming events and activities in their respective organizations.

VII. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 2, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center, Conference Room H/I.

B. Agenda Items

✓ None

Please contact Milton O'Haire or Susan Azevedo at (209) 525-4730 with items you wish placed on the agenda.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Azevedo
Office of the Agricultural Commissioner,
Stanislaus County