



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

**Gary Caseri**  
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite B  
Modesto, California 95358  
Phone: 209.525.4730 Fax: 209.525.4790

**Agricultural Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**

July 16, 2012

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

**Board Members Present:**

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Sherman Boone | Tom Orvis    |
| Roger Duncan  | Ed Perry     |
| Lisa Funk     | Wayne Zipser |
| Tracy Miller  |              |

**Board Members Absent:**

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Carlos Estacio III | Arby Hoobyar |
| John Herlihy       |              |

**Ex-Officio Board Members:**

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Supervisor Jim DeMartini – Present          | 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                      | Anthea Hansen, Del Puerto Water           |
| Susan Azevedo, Ag Commissioner's Office    | Debbie Liebersbach, TID                   |
| Marjorie Blom, Stanislaus LAFCO            | Mitzi Lucas, TID                          |
| Tom Boze, County Counsel                   | Dan Madden, City of Turlock               |
| Barbara Brenner, Outside Counsel           | Joe Marcotte, East Water District         |
| Michael Cooke, City of Turlock             | Sara Lytle-Pinhey, Stanislaus LAFCO       |
| Nicole Damin, DER                          | Raul Mendez, CEO                          |
| Horacio Ferriz, DER                        | Milton O'Haire, Ag. Commissioner's Office |
| Angela Freitas, Stanislaus County Planning | Chris White, CCID                         |

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE March 5, 2012 & June 4, 2012 MEETING**

It was M/S/P (unanimous), to approve the March 5, 2012, & June 4, 2012, minutes.

#### **IV. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE- CHAIRPERSON**

Tom Orvis was nominated for the position of Chairman and Sherman Boone was nominated for the position of Vice-Chairman.

It was M/S/P (unanimous), that Tom Orvis be elected to Chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Board for the term beginning July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.

It was M/S/P (unanimous), that Sherman Boone be elected to Vice-Chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Board for the term beginning July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.

#### **V. AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION POLICY**

Marjorie Bloom and Sara Lytle-Pinhey from Stanislaus County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) gave a presentation on the history and objectives of LAFCO and discussed the Revised Draft Agricultural Preservation Policy that would be going to the Commission on July 25th, copies of which were handed out during the presentation. Members commented that the revisions are needed in order to preserve our agricultural land. Some raised questions regarding the definitions section of the draft and whether the definition of Prime Agricultural Land was accurate. There was concern that certain types of land might be excluded. Blom explained that the definitions come from the State level but new definitions can be added. If the definitions should be expanded, comments need be submitted by July 17th to be included with the Commission's mailed agenda. Comments will also be accepted prior to and at the Commission's July 25th meeting.

Chairman Orvis thanked the guests for their presentation. Copies of the handouts provided during this presentation will be attached to these minutes.

#### **VI. GROUNDWATER ORDINANCE UPDATE**

Gary Caseri stated that a copy of the Draft Groundwater Export Ordinance went out to all Stakeholders and recommended opening a 30-day public comment period. Chairman Orvis opened the floor for comments. Questions were raised as to the role of the Ag Advisory Board in this process, what is delaying this process, how County staff would be impacted by this subject matter, and what would be the economic impact to the County. Stakeholders requested a special meeting with key staff prior to submitting their comments to explain their process of conducting business and how the ordinance would impact them. It was noted the intent of this ordinance was not to interfere with irrigation districts current operations and that comments on this new draft would help provide the best possible ordinance. It was agreed that a meeting with the Stakeholders would be scheduled prior to the next Agricultural Advisory Board meeting.

It was M/S/P (unanimous), that the Ag Advisory Board would open a 30-day public comment period:

The Agricultural Advisory Board will open a 30-day review of the latest version of the Draft Groundwater Export Ordinance on July 16, 2012.

Written comments can be submitted to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office by e-mail to [agcom50@stancounty.com](mailto:agcom50@stancounty.com) or by mail to:

Attn: AAB Comments  
Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner

3800 Cornucopia Way, Ste. B, Modesto, CA 95358

All written comments are due to the Agricultural Commissioner's office by 5:00 p.m. on August 22, 2012. The Ag Commissioner will package all responses received and provide them with the agenda at the next Agricultural Advisory Board meeting being held on August 27, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Agricultural Center.

Copies of both the Draft Groundwater Export Ordinance and the Application for County Authorization for the Export of Groundwater Outside of County Boundaries (provided at the meeting by the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources) will be attached to these minutes.

**VII. Bylaws/Schedule of Meetings/Membership/Vacancies**

The District 3 vacancy has been filled by Tracy Miller. District 4 continues to remain vacant.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING**

A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next scheduled meeting is scheduled for **Monday, August 27, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Conference Room H/I.

B. Agenda Items

- ✓ StanCOG Presentation
- ✓ Groundwater Ordinance Update

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

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully  
Submitted,

Susan Azevedo  
Ag Commissioner's Office  
Stanislaus County