



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

**Gary Caseri**  
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**Agricultural Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**

February 3, 2014  
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center  
Conference Room H/I  
8:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Sherman Boone	Tracy Miller	Ed Perry
Arby Hoobyar	Jim Mortensen	Pamela Sweeten
John Herlihy	Tom Orvis	Wayne Zipser

**Board Members Absent:**

Roger Duncan  
Carlos Estacio III

**Ex-Officio Board Members:**

Supervisor Jim DeMartini – Present	Jami Aggers, DER & Parks - Present
Supervisor Vito Chiesa (Alternate) – Absent	Diana Waller, USDA-NRCS - Present
Milton O’Haire, Ag Commissioner – Present	

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

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 2, 2013 MEETING**

It was M/S/P (unanimous), to approve the December 2, 2013 minutes.

**IV. PRESENTATION –DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN AND LAND IDLING PROPOSAL**

Steve Knell from OID began his presentation by distributing a letter written by Steve Webb, President of the Board of Directors of the Oakdale Irrigation District. He requested that all in attendance read the letter. The letter was an explanation of OID’s proposed Voluntary Drought Idling Program. He then spoke about the relationship between Resources, Districts, Farmers and the Public and noted that if the Resource stays healthy all will stay healthy. He referenced various types of irrigation systems and consumptive use. He addressed fallowing including drought fallowing with or without compensation, and legislature fallowing. He felt the biggest issue currently is drought fallowing with compensation. He concluded his presentation providing information about transfers of surplus water including drought consumptive use transfers. In closing, he mentioned that OID plans to hold workshops this summer regarding water transfers in order to increase understanding of the program.

**V. DROUGHT UPDATE**

Agricultural Commissioner Milton O’Haire gave a brief update on the drought situation which was reported to Ag Commissioners throughout the state. He noted the effect the drought is having in many different areas including cattle, crops, prices, and people.

**VI. FARM SERVICE AGENCY DROUGHT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Jonna Spaletta gave a brief overview about two programs that are available from the Farm Service Agency. The first program is the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) which provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural disasters. The second program was the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) which provides financial assistance to producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought.

**VII. ROUNDTABLE**

Attendees provided comments, updates on programs, and upcoming events and activities in their respective organizations. It was also noted that Supervisor Jim DeMartini would be presenting the 2014 State of the County address at the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors meeting the following day with a notable emphasis on the importance of agriculture in this county.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING**

A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 3, 2014, at 8:00 a.m.  
at the Stanislaus County Ag Center, Conference Room H/I

B. Agenda Items

✓ Special Guest – Thomas Harter, Ph.D, Hydrology

Please contact Milton O’Haire or Susan Azevedo with items you wish placed on the agenda.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Tom Orvis adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully  
Submitted,

Debbie Wohld  
Ag Commissioner’s Office  
Stanislaus County