



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

Milton O’Haire
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

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Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES

November 2, 2015
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Conference Room H/I
8:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Sherman Boone	Arby Hoobyar	Ed Perry
Roger Duncan	Jim Mortensen	Stan Sinclear
Gordon Heinrich	Tom Orvis	Pamela Sweeten

Board Members Absent:

Carlos Estacio III
Wayne Zipser

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Jami Aggers, Environmental Resources – Present	Supervisor Jim DeMartini – Present
Milton O’Haire, Agricultural Commissioner – Present	Diana Waller, USDA-NRCS– Present
Supervisor Vito Chiesa (Alternate) – Absent	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 1, 2015 MEETING

It was M/S/P (unanimous), to approve the June 1, 2015 minutes.

V. SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL ZONE

Angela Freitas, Director of Planning and Community Development, spoke regarding special events in agricultural zones primarily as it relates to wedding venues. She noted that this issue was addressed in 2007 (Ordinance Amendment No. 2007-01) as a request to amend the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance by adding a Chapter that would address public events and outdoor entertainment in the agricultural areas of Stanislaus County. In January 2008 the Board approved the Planning Commission’s Recommendation No. 1 to take no action to adopt the ordinance amendment. Staff was instead directed to develop and implement improvements. Recently the issue of wedding venues on agricultural land has resurfaced. Input was sought from the Agricultural Advisory Board which led to a discussion regarding public events versus private (invitation only) events, Outdoor Entertainment Permits, Agricultural Zoning, Williamson Act, and an exchange of questions and answers.

VI. GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECT AND PROPOSITION 218 ELECTION

Kevin Kauffman, Water Consultant for Eastside Water District, distributed a letter of proposed water charges that was sent to landowners within the District. If approved, the District is seeking to generate approximately \$6 million over a ten year period to fund the cost of construction for currently designed projects. He referenced Proposition 218 which imposes requirements relative to the imposition of certain assessments, fees, and charges by local agencies. The District will follow the provisions of Proposition 218 to fully inform the District's landowners while simultaneously giving them a direct say in the matter. He noted that included in the work efforts funded by these charges is the construction of recharge facilities; implementation of the SGMA (sustainable groundwater management act); securing the right to surface water available from Sand and Mustang Creeks as well as purchase surface water from other local and regional water districts; and to operate and maintain the groundwater recharge facilities for at least the next 40 years. He mentioned that additional information is available on the District website: www.eastsidewaterdistrict.com

VII. ROUNDTABLE

Attendees provided comments (many remarked they were thankful for the recent rain), updates on programs, and upcoming events and activities in their respective organizations. Agricultural Commissioner Milton O'Haire gave a brief update on the Asian Citrus Psyllids detected within the City of Turlock in Stanislaus County. He noted that although the insect was in the County, the disease that it carries was not. Chairman Tom Orvis ended the Round Table by thanking the irrigation districts for the successful irrigation season working together with the growers in the current challenging water situation.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next tentative scheduled meeting/luncheon will be held at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau located at 1201 L Street, Modesto on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 11 a.m. There is a location, date and time change for this meeting.

B. Agenda Items

- ✓ Special Guest – Walter Ward, Stanislaus County Water Resources Manager
- ✓ Special Guest – Herb Smart, TID

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tom Orvis adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully
Submitted,

Debbie Wohld
Ag Commissioner's Office
Stanislaus County