



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

Milton O’Haire
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**Stanislaus County
Agricultural Advisory Board**

MINUTES

February 04, 2019
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA
8:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Sherman Boone Ed Perry
Roger Duncan Stan Sinclear
Gordon Heinrich Wayne Zipser
Arby Hoobyar
Tom Orvis

Board Members Absent:

Carlos Estacio III Jim Mortensen

Ex-Officio Board Members:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

President Orvis welcomed special guest Congressman Josh Harder and his District Director Karen Warner to the meeting. Congressman Harder spoke briefly about some of the ag related projects he’s working on stating he was selected to serve on the Agriculture Committee, specifically the Fruit & Nut and Livestock & Poultry Committeess. Targeted issues are the dairy crisis, avian flu, and water issues. He stated he’s focused on making sure our economy is strong and our ag community is really well respected.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 10, 2018 MEETING

The minutes of were presented by the Chairman. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval, and action was taken as follows:

Motion:	Sherman Boone
Second:	Arby Hoobyar
Vote:	Unanimous

V. SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (SED) UPDATE -TID

Turlock Irrigation District Director of Water Resources and Regulatory Affairs Steve Boyd provided members with an overview of what's happening with the state water board's SED Plan and the Don Pedro relicensing project and how the two are now beginning to come together. In 2010, the state board started the process of updating the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. About the same time, TID and MID started the Don Pedro relicensing process and spent the next several years conducting studies along the Tuolumne River. The Tuolumne River Management Plan was developed and was included in the amended license application filed with FERC for the Don Pedro project.

In a parallel process, the state has been working on the SED as part of the Bay-Delta plan which calls for 40% of unimpaired flows on the Tuolumne and other rivers. In November 2018, Gov. Brown and Governor-elect Gavin Newsome sent the state water board a letter requesting to delay the vote so voluntary settlements could be reached with the water districts. TID, working with state officials and other agencies, developed a framework and presented a voluntary agreement to the state board on December 12th. In a 4-1 vote, the state ended up adopting the SED with the 40% unimpaired flows and gave until March 1st to come back with a project description that the state board can evaluate over this calendar year. The water agencies have filed a lawsuit challenging the Phase 1 of the State Water Board's Bay-Delta Plan.

VI. INDUSTRIAL HEMP REGULATORY STATUS UPDATE – AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Agricultural Commissioner Milton O'Haire stated his department has received several inquiries regarding growing industrial hemp in Stanislaus. He gave a brief description of the differences between cannabis and hemp (hemp cannot contain more than 0.30 THC). Prior to January 2019, industrial hemp was allowed to be grown in California, but only by an Established Agricultural Research Institution (EARI). In October 2018, SB-1409 passed and allowed the commercial production of hemp, not just through an EARI, but citizens could now grow industrial hemp. It also stated that registration through the Ag Commissioner's office is required (EARI's are exempt). Testing must be done prior to harvest by a California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) approved laboratory (currently there is not one). The 2018 Farm Bill passed in December, and took hemp off the Schedule-1 Controlled Substance List and is now defined as an agricultural commodity. CDFA is required to submit a state plan to license and regulate hemp to the USDA (currently, this has not been completed). Mr. O'Haire described the registration process, but noted there are issues regarding activities that are now allowed by law, but state regulations have not been completed. Several counties have put in moratoriums until regulations are in place.

VII. ROUNDTABLE

Members provided general comments, program updates, and upcoming events and activities in their respective organizations.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

The next meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA. If no agenda items, then the next meeting will be April 1, 2019.

B. Agenda Items:

Possible future topics suggested were Healthy Soils and Dairy Digester.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully
Submitted,

Susan Azevedo
Ag Commissioner's Office
Stanislaus County