Stanislaus County
Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES
October 7, 2019
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Conference Room H/I
8:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:
  Arby Hoobyar  Ed Perry
  Brandi LoForti  Stan Sinclair
  Jim Mortensen  Wayne Zipser
  Tom Orvis

Board Members Absent:
  Sherman Boone  Carlos Estacio III
  Roger Duncan  Gordon Heinrich

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

I. CALL TO ORDER
  The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
  There was no public comment.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 5, 2019 MEETING
  The minutes were presented by Chairman Orvis. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval, and action was taken as follows:

    Motion:        Jim Mortensen
    Second:       Brandi LoForti
    Ayes:         Unanimous
V. ROUNDTABLE

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

VI. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADUs) IN AGRICULTURAL ZONING DISTRICT

Kristin Doud and Angela Freitas from Planning and Community Development provided members with information regarding Accessory Dwelling Units. They reviewed Stanislaus County Agricultural Zoning History. They spoke of recent changes to regulations on the Governor’s desk which, if signed, would require ADUs to be approved in the A-2 zoning district. They noted the current allowance for dwellings in the A-2 zone and provided information on the proposed changes to ADUs in the ag zone. They requested input and feedback from those present.

VII. FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING ORDINANCE

Kristin Doud and Angela Freitas reported that the current zoning ordinance allowances are not in compliance with the Employee Housing Act regarding farm employee housing. They explained farm employee housing and defined farm labor camps. They asked for discussion from the members regarding the development of a Farm Employee Housing Ordinance. They stated they would like to develop a subcommittee and asked for volunteers from the Agricultural Advisory Board to provide input for the ordinance. A subcommittee was formed to make recommendations on the Farm Employee Housing Ordinance. At this time, the subcommittee will consist of Milton O’Haire, Brandi LoForti, and either Tom Orvis or Wayne Zipser.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

It was decided to cancel the November 4, 2019 meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for December 16, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, 1201 L Street, Modesto, CA.

B. Agenda Items:

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Wohld
Ag Commissioner’s Office
Stanislaus County