



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

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**Stanislaus County
Agricultural Advisory Board**

MINUTES

October 05, 2020
8:00 a.m.

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA
Harvest Hall Room ABC

Board Members Present:

Roger Duncan	Arby Hoobyar	Ed Perry
Carlos Estacio	Jim Mortensen	Stan Sinclear
Gordon Heinrich	Tom Orvis	Wayne Zipser

Board Members Absent:

Brandi LoForti	RCD (Vacant)
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Ex-Officio Board Members:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 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 3, 2020 MEETING

The minutes of the August 3, 2020, meeting were presented by the Chairman. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval, and action was taken as follows:

Motion:	Gordon Heinrich
Second:	Arby Hoobyar
Vote:	Unanimous

V. **AGRICULTURAL PLANTING SETBACKS**

Staff from the Public Works Department presented materials on agricultural planting setbacks and requested feedback from the board members regarding two proposed ordinance options. They explained that the need for a planting setback is necessary with the increase of new orchard plantings, stating there was an increase of over 57,000 acres of new almonds and walnuts from 2010 to 2018. Many of these orchards have trees with the trunks planted on the right-of-way line and some orchards have entire rows planted within the right-of-way. The two proposed options were as follows:

In order to prevent trees, shrubs and vines from encroaching on County roads, it shall be unlawful to plant, or cause to be planted, a tree, shrub or vine less than ten (10) feet from the edge of the right of way to the drip line or canopy of the tree, shrub or vine. This section also applies to trees, shrubs or vines planted for residential landscaping on roads classified as rural roads but not urban roads.

In order to prevent trees, shrubs and vines from encroaching on County roads, it shall be unlawful to plant, or cause to be planted, a tree, shrub or vine less than ten (10) feet from the edge of the right of way, or ten (10) feet from the drip line or canopy of large tree specimens, whichever is greater. This section also applies to trees, shrubs or vines planted for residential landscaping on roads classified as rural roads but not urban roads. A large tree specimen has a spread greater than 20 feet.

The members provided feedback stating that 20 feet for larger trees, such as walnut trees, seemed excessive and that 15 feet would be more reasonable.

A copy of the presentation materials can be found on the County's website at <http://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm>.

VI. **DRAFT ACCESSORY DWELLINGS (ADU) ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

Staff from the Stanislaus County Planning Department provided information regarding proposed changes to the Accessory Dwellings (ADU) in the agricultural zoning district. They provided a brief zoning history, land use policy issues and the definitions of Accessory Dwellings (ADU) which is a secondary dwelling unit (detached, attached, or repurposed existing space) with complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, and Junior Accessory Dwellings (JADU) which is a maximum 500 square feet in size, contained entirely within an existing single-family structure, efficiency kitchen and may have its own bathroom. Planning requested input from the Ag Advisory Board for the following two items:

1. Number of ADUs /JADUs per parcel?
2. Allowance on Williamson Act Contract (WAC) land?

After some discussion, the response to the first question was the majority recommended to allow as few units as possible while still complying with state law. The majority response to the second question was to recommend to not allow ADUs/JADUS on Williamson Act Contract land.

A copy of the presentation materials can be found on the County's website at <http://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm>.

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 November meeting was cancelled, and the next meeting was scheduled for December 14, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., noting that it would be the annual luncheon meeting. The location for the meeting would be determined at a later date.

B. Agenda Items:

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully
Submitted,

Susan Azevedo
Ag Commissioner's Office
Stanislaus County