Stanislaus County
Agricultural Advisory Board

MINUTES
October 3, 2022
10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:
Caitie Diemel
Jennifer Heguy
Brandi LoForti
Jim Mortensen
Tom Orvis
Ed Perry
Stan Sinclair

Board Members Absent:
Carlos Estacio
Gordon Heinrich
Arby Hoobyar

Ex-Officio Board Members:
Christy McKinnon (sub), Environmental Resources – Present
Rose Collins, USDA-NRCS – Present
Kamaljit Bagri, Agricultural Commissioner – Present
Supervisor Vito Chiesa – Absent

I. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 10:04 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 6, 2022, MEETING
The minutes of the June 6, 2022, meeting were presented by the Chairman. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval, and action was taken as follows:

Motion: Jim Mortensen
Second: Brandi LoForti
Vote: Unanimous

V. IRRIGATION SEASON UPDATES – MID
Staff from Modesto Irrigation District (MID) and Turlock Irrigation District (TID) provided information on Voluntary Agreements (VA) that they, along with the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) have actively pursued with the State. Negotiations are currently in process, so details were not available, but MID provided some background information on the VA
negotiation process. Voluntary agreements focus on “incorporating a mix of flow and non-flow measures that meet or exceed the new and revised water quality objectives and protect fish and wildlife beneficial uses.” MID is collaborating with the State and other water agencies to finalize an agreement that will provide water supply reliability to the community while enhancing the ecosystem.

For more detailed information, a copy of the presentation can be found on the County’s website at http://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm.

VI. NEW PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION EXAM & OTHER UPDATES – AG COMMISSIONER

Ag Commissioner Kamal Bagri announced that the new Private Applicator Certification (PAC) exam is here. Those whose license is expiring this year and do not want to take continuing education classes will be given the new test starting this November. Continuing education classes focusing on the new exam are being developed by staff and will be available at some point. One change to note, growers will no longer be able to purchase vertebrate (i.e., squirrels, gophers) pest control California restricted materials without going through a new sub-category exam. Commissioner Bagri also introduced the new Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, Dave Singh.

VII. ROUNDTABLE

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

VIII. NEXT MEETING

A. Meeting Date/Time:

It was noted that the November 7, 2022, meeting would be canceled, and the December meeting will be changed to December 12, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau located at 1201 L Street, Modesto, CA.

B. Agenda Items:

None noted

VX. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.