



**Stanislaus County  
Agricultural Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**  
December 12, 2022  
11:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Jennifer Heguy  
Arby Hoobyar  
Jim Mortensen  
Tom Orvis  
Ed Perry  
Stan Sinclear

**Board Members Absent:**

Caitie Diemel  
Carlos Estacio  
Gordon Heinrich  
Brandi LoForti

**Ex-Officio Board Members:**

Kostlivy, Robert, Environmental Resources – Present  
Kamaljit Bagri, Agricultural Commissioner – Present

Rose Collins, USDA-NRCS – Absent  
Supervisor Vito Chiesa – Present

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 3, 2022, MEETING**

The minutes of the October 3, 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: Ed Perry  
Vote: Unanimous

**V. BIOSOLIDS AND SEWAGE SLUDGE – PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Staff from the Stanislaus County Planning Department provided a brief history of an ordinance that was approved by the Board of Supervisors back in September 1998. Stanislaus County Code Chapter 9.34 prevents the land application of biosolids and sewage sludge. The ban was adopted at a time when there were unanswered questions regarding the safety and environmental impacts to the land on which materials were applied. Since that time, the State



Water Resources Control Board has certified a programmatic Environmental Impact Report and adopted a General Order establishing the minimum requirements for the land application of biosolids. Recently, the Department of Environmental Resources had been considering an action to repeal Chapter 9.34 in order to support State efforts to reduce the disposal of organic waste by 75% by the year 2025 (Senate Bill 1383 signed into law in 2016), but is holding off and their current stance is to continue to oppose the application of biosolids and uphold the County's current ordinance.

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. AG LIVESTOCK PASS PROGRAM UPDATES – AG COMMISSIONER**

Agricultural Commissioner Kamal Bagri provided updates on the Ag Livestock Pass Program which was approved by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors on November 29, 2022. This program allows commercial livestock owners to apply for a pass that may allow them limited emergency access to restricted areas to care for or evacuate livestock during natural disasters and other emergencies. Her office, in conjunction with other county departments is in the process of finalizing the application process, which includes verifying applicants meet the required qualifications and ensuring proper documentation is provided. Qualified applicants must also complete four (4) hours minimum training in Fire behavior basics as well as annual refresher training. Once all documentation and training has been completed and approved, permits will be issued. She anticipated the first fire training session may be available in April 2023. Detailed information regarding this program can be obtained by contacting the Agricultural Commissioner's office.

**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 is scheduled for January 2, 2023.

B. Agenda Items:

None noted.

**VX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully  
Submitted,

Susan Azevedo  
Ag Commissioner's Office  
Stanislaus County