



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
& WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Linda Pinfold  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

David J. Singh  
ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

**Stanislaus County  
Agricultural Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**  
August 7, 2023  
10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Caitie Diemel  
Gordon Heinrich  
Brandi LoForti

**Ex-Officio Board Members:**

Robert Kostlivi, Environmental Resources – Present  
Linda Pinfold, Agricultural Commissioner – Present

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Upon request of Chairperson Tom Orvis, the attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There was no public comment.

**IV. APPROVAL OF APRIL 3, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 3, 2023, meeting were presented by the Chairperson. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval.

The action was taken as follows:

Motion: Jim Mortensen  
Second: Arby Hoobyar  
Vote: Unanimous

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**V. PAULSELL LATERAL EXPANSION AND SGMA UPDATES**  
**Eric Thorburn, Oakdale Irrigation District**

Eric Thorburn provided an update on the Sustainable Groundwater Act (SGMA) and the Modesto Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan which was submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2022. The County led the first of three workshops in January 2023, which was tailored for landowners in the eastern Modesto Subbasin and focused on overdraft in the NDE and proposed projects to promote groundwater reliability. The second workshop is anticipated for November 2023, and will focus on management areas in other subbasins. Information was also provided on the OID Paulsell Lateral Expansion Project grant application and draft grant award and covered construction components, such as open ditch enlargement and rehabilitation, tunnel enlargement and stabilization, structure checks and replacement, and lateral automation. For more information, a copy of the presentation is located on the County's website at <http://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm>.

**VI. LOT LINE ADJUSTMENTS AND WILLIAMSON ACT UNIFORM RULES**  
**Stanislaus Planning and Community Development**

Staff from the Planning Department presented information on the following topics:

- A. Amendment to the Williamson Act Uniform Rules
  - o Parcel sizes for new contracts pursuant to a lot line adjustment
  - o Add clarifying language to rescission and re-entry section
  - o Allowing parcels with Salida Community Plan (SCP) zoning to enter into a Williamson Act Contract
- B. Criteria for lot line adjustment in the General Agriculture (A2) zoning district

Staff reviewed the existing Uniform Rule language and existing Government Code 51257 and discussed two proposed Uniform Rule amendments and lot line adjustments on A-2 parcels. A copy of the presentation is located is on the County's website at <http://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm>.

**VII. SELECTION OF AG ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2023-2024**

Current AAB Chair Tom Orvis and Vice-Chair Caitie Diemel were nominated to serve in their existing positions for the period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Action was taken as follows:

Motion: Carlos Estacio

Second: Stan Sinclear

Vote: Unanimous

**VIII. ROUNDTABLE**

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

**IX. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

Cancelled: The September 2023 meeting was cancelled  
Next Meeting: Monday, October 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Azevedo  
Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
Stanislaus County