



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
& WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

Linda Pinfold  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER

**Stanislaus County  
Agricultural Advisory Board**

**MINUTES**

February 3, 2025  
10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:**

Jennifer Heguy  
Gordon Heinrich  
Brandi LoForti  
Jim Mortensen  
Tom Orvis  
Ed Perry  
Trent Voss

**Members Absent:**

Caitie Diemel  
Carlos Estacio III  
Stan Sinclear

**Ex-Officio Board Members:**

Robert Kostlivy, Environmental Resources – Present  
Linda Pinfold, Agricultural Commissioner – Absent

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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 general public comment.

**IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16, 2024, MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 16, 2024, were approved.

**V. ETSGSA'S PROPOSED GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE, GROUNDWATER ACCOUNTING PLATFORM, AND PROJECT & MANAGEMENT ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PRESENTATION**

Mike Tietze delivered a presentation on the proposed Eastern Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETSGSA) Proposition 218 groundwater use fee. He explained that the fee is necessary to fund compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

(SGMA) and the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), including the Groundwater Demand Reduction Plan.

An inadequate GSP or failure to implement it effectively could lead to State intervention and loss of local control. To achieve groundwater sustainability and provide pathways for local groundwater users to adapt to the SGMA mandate, funding would come from project and management actions outlined in their Groundwater Sustainability Plan via grants, proposed groundwater use fees and cost share with WTSGSA and from general compliance and administration and management of ETSGSA via SGMA operation assessment. The proposed fee will be used to fund projects and management actions aiming to increase surface water supply and reduce groundwater demand. Program costs to be funded include replenishment water, transitional water, the multi-benefit land repurposing program, rotational land fallowing and well mitigation.

Tietze discussed the basis of the proposed fees, fee structure categories, proposed fee rates, and the implementation process. A copy of the presentation can be found on the Ag Advisory Board webpage at <https://www.stanag.org/ag-advisory-board.shtm>.

**IX. ROUNDTABLE**

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

**IX. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, April 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m. at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Orvis adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

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| Minutes Respectfully Submitted,<br>Susan Azevedo<br>Agricultural Commissioner's Office<br>Stanislaus County |
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