



# STANISLAUS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Stanislaus County Agricultural Center – Room H/I  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA 95358

## MEETING MINUTES

STANISLAUS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, January 12, 2026, 11:00 AM

Meeting location (one-time change): Stanislaus County Farm Bureau – Boardroom  
1201 L Street, Modesto, CA 95354

**Members present:** Tom Orvis, Chair (District 1), Trent Voss (District 2), Jim Mortensen (District 4), Edward Perry (District 5), Brandi LoForti (CA Woment of Agriculture), Stan Sinclear (Ag Financing Institution)

**Members absent:** Caitie Diemel, Vice Chair (Stanislaus County Farm Bureau), Carlos Estacio III (Ag-Related Industry), Jennifer Heguy (UC Cooperative Extension), Gordon Heinrich (District 3)

**Ex-Officio Board Members:** Diana Waller (USDA-NRCS) – Absent, Robert Kostlivy (DER) – Present, Linda Pinfeld (Ag Commissioner) – Present, Supervisor Vito Chiesa (BOS) – Present

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### Summary of Actions Taken

- Approved September 8, 2025, Agricultural Advisory Board meeting minutes.
- Received an informational update on AB 732 – Neglected or Abandoned Crops from the Agricultural Commissioner.
- Received roundtable updates; no Board action taken.

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### Minutes

#### I. Call to Order

Chair Tom Orvis called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

#### II. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Robert Kostlivy.

#### III. Public Comment

No public comments were received. Public comment closed at 11:04 AM.



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## IV. Approval of September 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Jim Mortenson, seconded by Brandi LoForti. Motion carried unanimously. Minutes approved.

## V. Update on AB 732 – Neglected or Abandoned Crops

**Linda Pinfold, Agricultural Commissioner**, provided an overview of AB 732, which establishes an additional enforcement option for addressing pest-related public nuisances associated with neglected or abandoned crops. Key points included:

- Existing authority under the Food and Agricultural Code related to abandoned or neglected plants and crops.
- Limitations, timelines, and costs associated with the current abatement and lien process.
- Overview of the new civil penalty framework, including notice requirements, good-faith compliance standards, appeal rights, and maximum penalty thresholds.
- Emphasis on education, cooperation, and use of resources prior to enforcement.
- Discussion of implementation considerations, funding implications, and the bill's sunset date of January 1, 2035.

No Board action was taken; item was informational.

## VI. Roundtable Discussion

- **Groundwater Sustainability Update, Christy Mckinnon, Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources:** Provided updates on State review of groundwater sustainability plans, development of well mitigation and groundwater accounting programs, stakeholder outreach, and upcoming Board of Supervisors actions. Also noted recent grant funding secured for drought planning efforts.
- **Ed Perry, District 5:** Reported on interviews underway at the UC Cooperative Extension Update to fill two Farm Advisor positions serving Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, including replacement of the long-vacant Stanislaus County tree crops advisor position.
- **Agricultural Commissioner Updates (Linda Pinfold):**
  - Avian influenza activity has been minimal compared to prior years.



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- Pyrethroid detections in regional waterways have increased; outreach letters to growers are being coordinated with neighboring counties and water coalitions.
- Glassy-winged sharpshooter quarantine remains in effect in Turlock, with continued treatments and anticipated expansion.
- Farm Worker Advisory Committee continues to lack eligible farm worker applicants despite outreach efforts.
- **Trent Voss, District 2, Industry Updates:**
  - Almond industry market conditions and outlook.
  - California Women for Agriculture recent activities and legislative engagement.
  - Water infrastructure concerns, including invasive golden mussels, salmon management issues, and County reporting tools for illegal dumping.

No Board action was taken during roundtable discussion.

## **VII. Next Meeting Date and Time**

Potential future meeting dates discussed included February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, or June 6, 2026. The next meeting will be confirmed in the near future.

## **VIII. Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

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**Minutes prepared by:** Corinne Rheinschild, Agricultural Commissioner's Office

**Approved by:** Agricultural Advisory Board on May 4, 2026