



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, May 4, 2026, 10:00 AM

Members present:

Caitie Diemel, Vice Chair (Stanislaus County Farm Bureau), Carlos Estacio III (Ag-Related Industry), Jennifer Heguy (UC Cooperative Extension), Gordon Heinrich (District 3), Trent Voss (District 2), Brandi LoForti (California Women for Agriculture), Jim Mortensen (District 4)

Members absent:

Tom Orvis, Chair (District 1), Edward Perry (District 5), Stan Sinclear (Ag Financing Institution)

Ex-Officio Board Members:

Diana Waller (USDA-NRCS) – Absent, Robert Kostlivi (DER) – Absent, Linda Pinfeld (Ag Commissioner) – Present, Supervisor Vito Chiesa (BOS) – Present

Summary of Actions Taken

- Approved January 12, 2026, Agricultural Advisory Board meeting minutes.
 - Received an informational presentation on statewide air monitoring expansion from the Agricultural Commissioner.
 - Received roundtable updates; no Board action taken.
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Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Brandi LoForti.

III. Public Comment

No public comments were received. Public comment closed at 10:05 AM.



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IV. Approval of January 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion by Jim Mortensen, seconded by Brandi LoForti.

Jennifer Heguy abstained due to absence at the prior meeting.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

V. Air Monitoring Update – California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

Linda Pinfold, Agricultural Commissioner, provided an overview of DPR's Air Monitoring Network (AMN) and proposed statewide expansion efforts. Key points included:

- Review of the 2024 Stanislaus County air monitoring study:
 - Focused on fumigants and ambient air monitoring
 - Detected levels were well below regulatory thresholds
- Statewide expansion efforts:
 - Funding approved for four additional monitoring stations
 - Expansion includes fixed and mobile monitoring units
 - Target implementation by 2027
- Site selection and prioritization:
 - Stanislaus County ranked #2 statewide for potential future monitoring
 - Approximately 13 communities identified based on proximity to pesticide use
 - Potential monitoring locations may include areas near schools
- Public outreach:
 - Public comment period remains open through May 11, 2026

Discussion included expectations that future monitoring would likely reflect similarly low levels and that monitoring data supports both regulatory compliance and public transparency.

No Board action was taken; item was informational.



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VI. Roundtable Discussion

- **Groundwater Sustainability Update** by Christy McKinnon, Department of Environmental Resources:
 - Delta-Mendota Subbasin not placed on probation
 - Modesto Subbasin demand reduction planning underway
 - Consultant procurement in progress
 - Drought planning efforts and potential funding opportunities discussed
- **Industry Updates** by Trent Voss, District 2:
 - Almond crop estimates ranging approximately 2.65–2.8 billion pounds; market conditions dependent on shipments and sales
 - Peach industry experiencing reduced pricing and production
- **Industry Updates** by Gordon Heinrich, District 3:
 - Tariff uncertainty continues to impact export markets
 - Strong water supply outlook due to reservoir conditions
 - Last meeting on AAB, farewell and well wishes
- **UC Cooperative Extension Update** by Jennifer Heguy:
 - Two successful pomology advisor recruitments; New tree crop advisors hired for almond/peach/pistachio/etc. and walnut/cherry/etc. positions supporting Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County
 - Forage systems and nutrient management advisor recruitment unsuccessful; recruitment to reopen
- **CA Women of Agriculture Update** by Brandi LoForti:
 - California Women for Agriculture announced creation of a scholarship foundation
- **Ag-Related Industry Update** by Carlos Estacio III:
 - Discussed ongoing illegal truck parking concerns and acknowledged County enforcement efforts with appreciation



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- **Farm Bureau and Water Quality Coalition Update** by Caitie Diemel:
 - Reported ongoing regulatory engagement and upcoming water board tour
 - Water Quality Coalition noted high compliance rates and continued concerns regarding pyrethroid detections
- **Board of Supervisors – Vito Chiesa:**
 - Provided comments on agricultural market conditions, water supply outlook, and rising fertilizer costs impacting farming operations
 - Noted some acreage may remain fallow this year due to increased costs
- **Agricultural Commissioner – Linda Pinfeld:**
 - Glassy-winged sharpshooter quarantine expanded in Turlock
 - Patterson pesticide incident under investigation; increased public sensitivity around school sites
 - Monitoring of beet leafhopper activity with potential emergency response actions
 - Release of the California Pest Prevention Program Analysis (C3PA) report
- **Board Member Comments:**
 - Recognition and appreciation expressed across the Board for Gordon Heinrich and his years of service on the Agricultural Advisory Board

No Board action was taken during roundtable discussion.

VII. Next Meeting Date and Time

The next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2026, and will include officer elections.

VIII. Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.

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

Approved by: Agricultural Advisory Board on June 1, 2026