

### COUNTY OF PLACER AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS
Tony Aguilar Dan Macon
Patricia Beard William Morebeck
James Brenner John Nitta
Larry Jordan Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard

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#### **MINUTES**

#### PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

July 14, 2008

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patti Beard, Jim Brenner, Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, William

Morebeck, John Nitta, Wayne Vineyard

**Members Absent:** Stewart Perry

**Others Present:** Richard Johnson, Peg Johnson, Paul Ferrari, Alice Ferrari, Tom Rust

- I. CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard. Welcome Dan Macon to Agricultural Commission as the representative for the Livestock Industry.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JULY 14, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR JUNE 9, 2008

  Motion to approve:

  Beard/Aguilar/MPUV
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).
  - 1. Richard Johnson and Paul Ferrari were presented appreciation plaques for their years of service on the Placer County Agricultural Commission.
  - 2. Alice Ferrari thanked the Agricultural Commission for their recognition of Paul.
- IV. NATIONAL PORK BOARD PRESENTATION Steve Weaver, Representative, National Pork Board Pork Industry Update (informational item only)

  Mr. Weaver gave a PowerPoint presentation on the pork industry and handed out information. Mr. Weaver owns and operates a 60–sow operation in Elk Grove. California produces less than half of one–percent of the pork consumed in the United States. Pork is now considered as lean as skinless cuts of poultry.

# V. PROPOSED SECONDARY DWELLING ON AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE 18 – APN 021– 070–007– Alex Fisch, Planning Department

Consider a request from Tracy Douglass for the Agricultural Commission to direct Planning Department staff to provide Building Permit clearance to construct a single-family residence on Assessor's Parcel Number 021-070-007, which is enrolled in Placer County's Williamson Act Program as Agricultural Preserve 18. AGP 18 includes a total of 22 parcels, one of which is developed with a single-family residential home site. All other parcels are without residential or agricultural improvements.

### Motion to continue to August 11, 2008 Agricultural Commission Meeting Unanimous Vote

#### VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities – Nancyjo Riekse

- Sierra Economic Development Meeting in Colfax:
  - Assisted some chefs from the Colfax area in putting together a locally based meal to serve at a Board of Supervisor meeting.
- Have been working with Raley's and Bel–Air to develop ways for them to be supportive of local growers.
- Several Placer County producers have been approved for low–interest loans and have been able to expand their businesses and activity.
- Working to promote some of the local producers that have been limited to doing their own self-promoting so that they become more involved in the County's overall marketing efforts.
- Have only 4500 Agricultural Guides left out of 100,000 produced.
- Putting together a committee to help produce the next newsletter intended to fill the gap between the 2008 Placer County Agricultural Guide and the 2009 guide.
- The Charleston Lavender Farm in Colfax had a successful Open House and Farm Tour on June 29, even though the area was smoky from the fires. They had 110 people this year compared to 35 last year within a four-hour period, and they sold all of their products.
- Put together a contact list of all of the Placer County producers in order to send out important information to them in a timely manner.
- Educating area grocery stores and restaurants on what "local" agricultural products really means.
- B. Economic Development Board (EDB) Update Lyndell Grey No report
- C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor Roger Ingram No report
- **D.** Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor Cindy Fake
  - Placer Farm & Barn Tour has ten sites this year. Invitation to the Commission
    members to help with the tour. Will have two site coordinators at each site so
    that each coordinator will only have to be at the site half the day and will have the
    chance to visit other sites. This will be the last year of the Placer Farm & Barn
    Tour as a one-day event. Will be doing smaller seasonal tours instead starting in
    2009 where producers will be more likely to sell their products.

- Will be doing "Eating Local 101" on Wednesday, July 23, for a limited number of people in order to teach people what eating locally is really all about.
- Putting together a workbook of different topics regarding farming and ranching in Placer County.
- Will be on a nine-month sabbatical leave to Spain, Morocco, and Tunisia to look at their Mandarin production.
- E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas/Minutes Patti Beard No report
- F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update William Morebeck No report
- G. Agricultural Water Supply Subcommittee/Ag Water Waivers Christine E. Turner If growers do not obtain regulatory coverage for their waste discharges from their local Coalition Group or an Individual Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver, they must file a Report of Waste Discharge, and a filing fee, with the Regional Water Board to obtain a grower-specific permit.

## VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Christine E. Turner, Agricultural Commissioner

- Winery Ordinance update: A vote was anticipated at the July 8 Board of Supervisors meeting. Prior to the meeting, the County received a letter challenging the supporting environmental documents for the ordinance. Based on the staffs' recommendation, the Board of Supervisors continued the Winery Ordinance hearing to a future unspecified date.
- Ethics Training update: Commission members can go online to complete the training. Contact Megan Ciafardoni, Clerk of the Board Office, (530) 889-4650.
- Mike Giles, opponent of the proposed Winery Ordinance, filed a complaint with California Fair Political Practices Commission against a previous Agricultural Commission member.
- Invasive Weeds Tour in the Lake Tahoe Basin being offered by the University of California.
- USDA Farm Service Agency deadline for crop insurance is September 16. File with the local service agency in Elk Grove or Yuba City.
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) project, "Rural Urban Connections Strategy," is looking at rural land use issues as a complementary effort to their "Blueprint" project.
- Governor's budget includes a 10% reduction in Williamson Act subventions.
- The Bunch Creek TPZ proposed rezone was continued from the June 24 Board of Supervisors hearing.
- A single cow in two additional dairy herds in Fresno County has been detected with bovine tuberculosis according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture in a June 24, 2008 press release. This brings the current number of herds affected to three in CA.
- An unsigned "Open Letter to Placer County Agriculture Commission" was received by the Department regarding the proposed Winery Ordinance (copies given to the Commission).

- VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEM)
  None.
- IX. ADJOURNMENT There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday**, **August 11**, **2008** at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary tr