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

11477 E AVENUE
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
TELEPHONE: (530) 889-7372
FAX: (530) 823-1698
www.placer.ca.gov

MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 13, 2008

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patti Beard, Jim Brenner, Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, John Nitta, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard, William Morebeck

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Joanne Neft, Tom Rust

I. **CALL TO ORDER –** Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 13, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**
Motion to approve:
Macon/Aguilar

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
Dan Macon introduced Elija, who is an intern on Dan's sheep farm.

IV. **THE NATURAL TRADING COMPANY: POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF AN AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT –** Jennifer Dzakowic, Senior Planner, Placer County Planning Department
Motion to approve:
Morebeck/Nitta/MPUV

V. **REQUEST FROM JAMES AND MARIANNE FRISVOLD TO CANCEL WILLIAMSON ACT CONTRACT NO. 241 (APN 023-200-057) WITHIN THE RIOLO VINEYARD SPECIFIC PLAN AREA –** Jennifer Dzakowic, Senior Planner, Placer County Planning Department
Motion to approve:
Nitta/Macon/MPUV
Pattie Beard recused herself

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities – Nancyjo Riekse – No report

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

- Thanked everyone that helped with the Farm & Barn Tour. The Tour had a higher number of people this year. One ranch had 600 participants and another had 500. Approximately 2–3 thousand total attended the Farm & Barn Tour. Will be working on next year's Farm & Barn Tour, which will be smaller season tours.
- Handed out flyer on how to make comments on the Beginning Farmer and Rancher grant that are in the new Farm Bill. U.C. Davis Coop will be applying for the grants for Ag Futures. Important for USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) to hear that small-scale farming is the way of the future.
- Handed out article by Michael Polland, Professor at Berkeley who writes about food and agriculture. Article was open letter to the next "Farmer in Chief" about current agriculture situation and what needs to be done in the future.
- Farmer Fair – October 18 – Thompson Ranch.
- Forestry Field Day – October 26 – Edwards Family Farm – Colfax.
- Orchard Field Day November 8 – Twin Peaks Orchard – Newcastle.
- Commented on how nice the 2008 Ag Guide looked this year.

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

- Sacramento Valley Water Coalition put out their report for 2008, there are no major water quality problems with agriculture, and managed wetland discharges into the Sacramento River. The Coalition did observe some exceedances. Actions being taken to address the exceedance issue.

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

- Rural Urban Connection Strategy, which is part of SACOG's (Sacramento Area County Government) effort along the line of a blueprint project. Moving ahead and taking SAGOG Board of Director's on tour of all of the Ag areas in the 5–town region that SACOG represents. Tour for Placer County is scheduled for November 13. Interested in land base more than commodities produced.
- Quarantine placed on portion of San Diego County because of a Asian Citurs Psyllid, which poses a threat to citrus industry.

- On September 23, the Placer County Board of Supervisors looked again, at what their position would be regarding the Placer County Conservation Plan. This was a renewal of their commitment to continue to move forward to implement the plan. It was a unanimous vote.
- Attended the meeting regarding Mandarin synephrine bioavailability on September 29 at Persimmon Café. Andrew Brexa presented his findings that there is a presence of natural occurring synephrine in Mandarins. Will benefit Placer County Mandarin Growers.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS (NON–ACTION ITEM)

Dan Macon –

- October 18 – Small Farm Progress Days – Thompson Ranch
- October 26 – Forestry Field Day in Colfax – Edwards Family Farm
- November 8 – Orchard Field Day, Twin Peaks Orchard, Newcastle

Wayne Vineyard –

- Thompson Ranch grapes were retarded from the freeze. Will harvest only about 4.5 tons. Beerwagen Ranch had no apples.
- Two cases of Tuberculosis in cattle in the San Joaquin Valley. Cattle will not be allowed to ship without having two shots first.
- 10% cut to County from Williamson Contracts

Larry Jordan –

- Sierra Pacific Industries will be closed for a few weeks. No lumber is being sold due to the housing/development market. The mill already had enough lumber for at least one year.
- Would like everyone to tour Sierra Pacific Industries to see how they reuse their own biomass to run their mill.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, November 10, 2008** at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary
tr