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

JUNE 8, 2009

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Larry Jordan, William Morebeck, John Nitta, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Patricia Beard, Dan Macon

I. CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 8, 2009 AND MINUTES FOR MAY 11, 2009
Motion to approve:
Jordan/Aguilar/Unanimous

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).
None.

V. Proposed Creation of an Agricultural Preserve and Williamson Act Contract (PAGP 20090124) – Alex Fisch, Planning Department
Pete and Julie Williams requested approval of an Agricultural Preserve and Williamson Act contract covering four parcels, totaling 94 acres, which are used for dry pasture grazing of beef cattle. The Agricultural Commission voted unanimously to support a Williamson Act contract on APNs: 026-072-080, 026-072-081, 026-072-082 and 026-072-082.
Motion to approve:
Nitta/Morebeck

V. Lucero Olive Oil presentation – Dewey Lucero, Owner of Lucero Olive Oil Company
Dewey Lucero gave a PowerPoint presentation on Lucero Olive Oil Company based in Corning, California. The company has been in the olive oil business for 37 years and they purchase olives from Yolo County right now. The company is very interested in growing olive trees in Placer County and they are looking for about 100 acres for planting olive trees in partnership with a landowner.

VII. 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

- Mobil Poultry Processor is 98% finished.
- The annual Ag Tour is this Wednesday, June 10th, and will include a tree nursery and a cattle ranch as well as the DeWitt farmers' market.
- As a University California employee, Cindy Fake was able to take a learning/studying/writing academic sabbatical beginning July 1, 2009 to April 1, 2010. She will be working in Morocco and Spain and surrounding areas learning about Mandarin production practices.

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake – No report

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

- The prior court decision that had not upheld U.S. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) for registering pesticides, including aquatic pesticides and herbicides, and not having them exempt from the National Water Quality Act has created a huge issue for potential human health and safety. Received notice that the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the issuance of mandate in the National Cotton Council case for two years. As a result, persons who apply pesticides to waters of the United States in accordance with the FIFRA pesticide label may continue to utilize U.S. EPA's exemption from the Clean Water Act's NPDES program.

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

- Ethics training reminder.
- Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) detected in the Davis area. A 38-square-mile quarantine zone was established and detection trapping has intensified around the original find site.
- The Central Coast Agricultural Cooperative now has the first fully licensed mobile meat processor unit in operation in California.
- Drought Disaster Declaration – Forage production is 94% of normal and there are no plans to request a Disaster Declaration at this time.
- Handouts for FSA programs.
- Email from Kay Joy Barge, High Sierra RC&D, USDA, said Freedom Fuels approached them regarding the potential of bio-diesel fuels in Placer County. She is going to set a meeting to discuss the idea.

- US Farm Bill – Funding cut from the Pest and Disease Management provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- USDA announced $50 million to encourage more organic agriculture production and make organic food farmers eligible to compete for EQIP funds. Producers are required to apply by June 26, 2009 for assistance in fiscal year 2009.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS (NON–ACTION ITEM)
John Nitta – Ag Directional sign approved. Maybe could be in 2010 Ag Guide.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, July 13, 2009,** at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary
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