

COUNTY OF PLACER AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar
Patricia Beard
James Brenner
Larry Jordan

Dan Macon William Morebeck John Nitta Stewart Perry

Wayne Vineyard

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2010

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patricia Beard, Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, William

Morebeck, John Nitta, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: James Brenner

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2010, AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2009.

Motion to approve: Aguilar/Macon/ MPUV

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. Hand-dug Wells in the Unincorporated County

The issue of retaining hand-dug wells in the Unincorporated County continued to March 8, 2010 meeting to allow Environment Health representative to attend.

V. Zoning Text Amendment (PZTA T20090403) for Fowl and Poultry – Charlene Daniels, Planning Department.

Charlene Daniels provided handout on the proposed revisions to the Fowl and Poultry section of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of chicken hens in:

Single-Family Residential (RS) and Multi-Family Residential (RM) Zone Districts

- Up to three chicken hens
- Prohibits roosters, guinea hens, peacock hens, or other exotic hens
- Administrative Review Permit (ARP) required (\$55)
- Hens to be kept on site

Combining Agriculture Zone District

- No ARP required
- Allows up to six (6) chicken hens on parcels less than ½ acre

Residential Forest Zone District

- No ARP required
- Allows up to twelve (12) chicken hens on parcels less than one (1) acre

Also covered in the handout, the history behind proposed changes, ways to prevent land use conflicts, and animal types currently allowed in RS/RM zones. Shelter and care requirements are covered under separate Animal Control Regulations.

Christine Turner reported that the Granite Bay MAC did not support the ARP requirement, agreed to the three hen limit, and that there should be a minimum 5,000 square foot lot size requirement.

Larry Jordan reported that the Foresthill MAC did not feel three chickens adequate, residents in apartments should not have chickens, agreed with a minimum lot size, and an ARP should not be required.

Items clarified during discussion:

- Permit currently not required for up to four pot-belly pigs or pygmy goats
- Shelters and care are covered under a different ordinance

Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor representing the 5th District commented that the ordinance is a way to allow citizens in residential zones to have chickens. The requirement of an ARP was initially included to allow immediate neighbors to have a say in the process.

Rosemary Frieborn, representing Humane Society of Sierra Foothills, stated they can support this ordinance. They think that it meets the demand to get back to farming and puts these animals into a different environment. Does not feel it is a complete program because of conflicting issues with neighbors and other pets (dogs).

Claudia Smith, Blossom Hill Farm, commented that we need to promote people to take care of themselves and part of that is raising their own food.

At the conclusion of public input and Commission discussion, the following action was taken: Macon/Morebeck/ MPUV that the Commission recommend the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors support of the proposed Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment to the with the following changes:

- 1. Increase the keeping of chicken hens to a maximum of six birds.
- 2. Eliminate the Administrative Review Permit requirement.
- **3.** Allow the keeping of chicken hens on parcels of 5,000 square feet in the Single-family Residential and Multi-family Residential zone districts.
- **4.** If a residential parcel is one acre or more, allow the keeping of twenty-four (24) chicken hens.
- VI. CA Air Resources Board Diesel Vehicle Requirements Kathleen Mead, Manager, Retrofit Implementation Section, Air Resource Board Provided update on Diesel Vehicle regulations. Requested the Agricultural Commission's assistance in reaching out to the agriculture community. There is a lot

in information available and fact sheets (in Spanish also). Kathleen Mead can be reached at (916) 324-9550 or by email at kmead@arb.ca.gov.

VII. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Christine Turner

- The Agricultural Marketing Program supported the annual PlacerGROWN Farm Conference by paying for the printing of the conference proceedings and the key-note speaker.
- B. Economic Development Board Lyndell Grey No Report
- C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor Roger Ingram
 - Provided a handout showing the historical monthly rainfall averages from 1962 to 2009.
 - At the Farm Bureau meeting last week it was announced that NID water storage ok for this year.
 - The PlacerGROWN Farm Conference had 239 attendees, the most since it began.
- **D.** Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor Cindy Fake (on academic sabbatical)
- E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas Patti Beard -No Report
- F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update William Morebeck No Report
- G. Agricultural Water Supply Issues Christine Turner
 - Placer Nevada South Sutter North Sacramento Watershed Group will meet on February 10, 2010 at PCWA offices to discuss proposal on a low impact monitoring plan.
 - The Governor's budget calls for \$6 million new water-related fees.

V. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Christine E. Turner

- Update on Sierra College proposal to eliminate the vocational education programs. The Sierra College Board of Trustees passed the proposed resolution with the caveat that they would entertain conversations until March 5, 2010 to explore options to save programs.
- European Grapevine Moth was found in Napa in October, 2009. Trapping protocols are being put together to piggyback with other existing trapping programs.
- The Governor's budget continues the suspension of the Williamson Act funding to counties.
- The Board of Supervisors is looking to revise the Placer County Conservation Plan to include a portion of District 5, which was left out in 2007.
- The Natural Resources Conservation District has expanded its 3-year high tunnel, or hoop house, pilot project to include farmers in all CA counties.
- City of Roseville, Community Service Open Space Division, sent a packet requesting bids for rice farming on 400 acres in the water retention basin, which may not be needed until 2015.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM) - None

VII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, March 8, 2010**, at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary pp