



COUNTY OF PLACER  
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

CHRISTINE E. TURNER  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

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

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 8, 2010

**Members Present:** Tony Aguilar, Patricia Beard, James Brenner, Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, William Morebeck, John Nitta, Wayne Vineyard

**Members Absent:** Stewart Perry

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order by Chairman Wayne Vineyard
  - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 8, 2010 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2010** – *Beard/Macon/MPUV* to approve the agenda and minutes.
  - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**  
Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.***
  - IV. **Hand-dug Wells in the Unincorporated County** – Jill Pahl, Director, Placer County Environmental Health
    - Department policy requires destruction of hand-dug wells as they are found, but staff does not actively look for them. Hand-dug wells are not constructed to current standards and can provide a conduit to the aquifer and pose a physical hazard.
    - The Department is working to move policy into an ordinance.
    - The Hutchinson's situation is unique and the Department is working with them on the drilling of new well.
    - Two Agricultural Commission members requested technical and scientific data supporting the Department's policy to require the destruction of hand-dug wells.
  - V. **Placer County Resource Conservation District** – Rick Gruen  
Rick Gruen, recently appointed to the position of District Manager for PCRCD, introduced himself to the Commission and provided background information.

## VII. REPORTS

### A. **Agricultural Marketing Program** – Christine Turner – No Report

### B. **Economic Development Board** - Lyndell Grey

- Distributed the Placer County Economic Development Board's Roadmap document. It took a real effort to ensure that Agriculture was included in the report. The next step will be setting priorities, and it is important to get Agriculture listed as a priority. Communication with the Executive Committee needed to stress listing Agriculture as a key priority. Christine Turner will write a letter on behalf of the Agricultural Commission to the Economic Development Board's Executive Committee supporting Agriculture as a top priority.

### C. **Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor** - Roger Ingram

- Tahoe Cattlemen's Association annual spring dinner at the Blue Goose in Loomis is March 20, 2010.
- Gold Country Sheep Producers annual sale of project lambs on March 20, 2010.
- New Quality Assurance Program at the Lincoln High School Farm, March 27, 2010
- April 1, 2010 Cindy Fake returns from her academic sabbatical.
- Reported on the 2010-2011 Agriculture course schedules at Sierra College and issues with Placer High School FFA program.
- Attended PNSSNS meeting February 26, 2010. Discussion on the low-impact monitoring program tier. Feather River Sub-Watershed interested in the low impact monitoring.
- To offset a budget deficit, the University of Nevada in Reno is considering closing the Agriculture program and selling the school's farm.
- CDFA holding Meat Summit on April 8, 2010. The District Manager for USDA Inspection Services will attend.

### 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

- Letter of support for the PNSSNS Low-Impact Monitoring Program will be on the May Agenda.
- Western Placer County Ground Water Management Plan to be on the May Agenda.

## VIII. **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT** - Christine Turner

- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has extended the timeline to apply for funding through the Organic Initiative until March 12, 2010. Funding under this initiative will cover 75% of the average cost of conservation practices.
- The Natural Trading Company's Agricultural Conservation Easement through the Placer County Legacy Program was recorded in February 2010.
- The Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association has issued a "Livestock Position Paper" in support of keeping livestock in rural areas.
- The March 2010 issue of the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy newsletter highlighted El Dorado County agriculture and agri-tourism.
- The Agricultural Commission members should have received a copy of the report back regarding the meeting that Dan Macon and Christine had with Rachel Rosenthal, VP of Instruction, Sierra College.

- Placer High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) program lost one of their two ag. teachers resulting in a 50% reduction in the FFA program.
- Mark Fowler, Ag. Biology teacher at Lincoln High School, is retiring and the Lincoln high School Farm Foundation members formally requested that the school district hire an ag-credentialed teacher to replace him.
- The Agricultural Commission's recommendations regarding the Proposed Fowl and Poultry Zoning Text Amendment were sent to the Planning Department.
- AB 1965, Mariko Yamada (D-Davis), introduced a measure that creates a multi-tiered approach to the Williamson Act subvention program. Under this proposal, Placer County would receive 20% of their claimed subventions.
- The USDA Secretary is revising its policy on the national Animal Identification System in favor of a more flexible state-level animal trace-back program.
- Handouts: (1) Invasive species article; (2) Diesel-engine "to do" list article, and; (3) Diesel-engine odometers checked article.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM) - None**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**