

COUNTY OF PLACER AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

JOSHUA P. HUNTSINGER 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 AUGUST 13, 2012

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

William Morebeck, John Nitta

Members Absent: Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR AUGUST 13, 2012 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2012. Motion to approve after amending order of items IV and V: Aquilar/Beard/MPUV

III. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

IV. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR SIERRA NEVADA
CONSERVANCY GRANT TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO SECURE CONSERVATION
EASEMENT FOR SIDE HILL CITRUS – Loren Clark, Placer County Planning Department

The Placer County Planning Department is requesting support, from the Agricultural Commission, for their effort to seek Board of Supervisors approval to submit a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Proposition 84 Preservation of Ranches and Agricultural Lands Grant Program (SNC), for \$325,000; and pledge \$100,000 (\$75,000 in cash and \$25,000 in-kind) in net county cost from Placer Legacy Open Space Funds as a match, to assist in the acquisition of an Agricultural Conservation Easement on the 47 acre, Side Hill Citrus property.

At the conclusion of public input and Commission discussion, the following action was taken: Motion to forward to the Board of Supervisors a letter recommending approval. Morebeck/Brenner/ MPUV

Dan Macon recused himself.

V. COMMUNITY CENTERS ON AGRICULTURALLY ZONED PROPERTY – Paul Thompson, Placer County Planning Department

Distribution of "Community Centers" Planning and Zoning Definition, Land Use and Permit Tables, Michael Johnson Planning Director's Determination - :Community Centers", and synopsis of the three applications.

- Discussed misconception of "Community Centers" as defined by Zoning
- Minor Use Permit required in most zoning.
- Application will be referred to MAC's before any hearing by the Planning Commission which will be publicly noticed in the local newspaper and notification sent to all interested parties and property owners within 300 feet of the subject property.
- The Agricultural Commission requested that all applications for Community Centers on agricultural zoned property be presented to them in order to make recommendation on their merits as it relates to agriculture use.

Don Dupont of Rock Hill Winery discussed the type of events to be hosted by his facility and displayed pictures showing the improvements done to the property.

Grover Lee of Wise Villa Winery discussed the wine pairing events to be hosted by his facility and the improvements done to the property.

Marilyn Jasper, representing Sierra Club and Public Interest Coalition, asks that no approvals be given to any community centers until definitions and parameters are established.

Frank Wagner, a Fruitvale Road resident, expressed numerous concerns for the Gold Hill Gardens application including increased traffic, fire department resources, and acoustics.

Carol Rubin, Newcastle resident, suggests that community centers allowed use be removed from farm zoning, and expressed concerns about increased traffic.

VI. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- Merlot continues to work with the Agriculture Commissioner and the advisory group of producers.
- Some confusion exists over the difference between advertizing and public relations and social media.
- The monthly column in Style magazine needs current information.

B. Economic Development Board – Lyndell Grey

For Economic Development the three proposed community centers is a big issue. The
quality of life has attracted these business's to Placer County. The comments on the
subject were excellent.

- C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor Josh Huntsinger for Roger Ingram
 - The Farmer to Farmer breakfast will resume in September.
- **D.** Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor Cindy Fake No Report
- E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas Patti Beard No Report
- F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update William Morebeck No Report
- G. Rotating Agriculture Industry Update Jim Brenner, Fruit Nut Farm Industry
 - Discussed international and US kiwi production, and the bacterial cankor in New Zealand.
 - Discussed direct farm sales and farmers market sales.
 - Will Morebeck will be the next Commissioner to give an overview of the Small Farm Industry.
- H. Agricultural Water Supply Issues Josh Huntsinger
 - The Regional Board is going from a short term, single waste discharge order covering the entire jurisdiction, to a long term approach, breaking up the jurisdiction into sub-area, with a series of waste discharge requirements. California Rice Commission will be first roll out, followed by East San Joaquin.
 - Long term approach includes ground water.
 - Regional Board has stepped up enforcement, issuing fines for sediment.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Josh Huntsinger

- Working with Health and Human Services to distribute Swine Flu handouts.
- Livestock in Garden Bar area killed in July by Mountain Lion.
- The recent fruit fly articles raise concerns of alternative terrorism.
- The only one instance of citrus greening (Huanglongbing) in southern California.
- Drought declaration issued for October 15, 2011 through April 15, 2012.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM)

IX. ADJOURNMENT