



**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

October 21, 2013

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

Members Absent: Dan Macon

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- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 21, 2013 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2013. Motion to approve: *Aguilar/Beard/MPUV***

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

IV. UPDATE STATUS OF SIERRA COLLEGE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM – Michelle MacFarlane, Chair Sierra College Agriculture Department

Topic rescheduled to next meeting due to Michelle MacFarlane absence.

V. AMERICAN FIRE UPDATE – Victor Lyon, US Forest Service

The American Fire began August 10, 2013 and containment achieved on August 29, 2013. The fire covered 27,444 acres, with as many as 1850 firefighters working on it.

The Suppression Repair Effort is almost complete with downsizing from a Type 1 to Type 3 fire in the last couple of months. The fire will go to a Type 4 fire either tomorrow or Wednesday, which will consist of one engine patrolling.

The Burn Area Emergency Response is also almost complete. This covers activities like erosion control.

Post fire projects will include salvage, retention of material for habitat, and restoration.

VI. **PROPOSED RICKEY RANCH AG PRESERVE SPLIT PAGP 20130188 / AGP 145 –**

Alex Fisch, Placer County Planning Services Division

The subject of this proposal is a request by Marcia Amant and Robert and Celia Sertich to split the 79-acre parcel under their ownership from the remainder of the Preserve.

Points discussed:

- Historical and future agriculture usage (cattle grazing, firewood harvesting, bee hives, vineyard).
- The new preserve would be less than 100 acres.
- Fencing and irrigation repairs.

Following discussion and public input, the commission took the following action.

Morebeck/Brenner/MP 8-0 (Macon absent) to make a motion to support the applicant's request, and advise the Placer County Board of Supervisors regarding the three findings made by the commission:

1. The establishment of the proposed Agricultural Preserve is consistent with the Placer County General Plan.
2. The establishment of the proposed Agricultural Preserve consisting of less than 100 acres would preserve the unique characteristics of the agricultural enterprises in the area including diversified income streams resulting from a variety of agricultural enterprises carried out on the same property.
3. Staff was directed to prepare a report to the Board of Supervisors detailing the Agricultural Commission's recommendation that the Board approve a Resolution to establish an Agricultural Preserve and authorize the new Williamson Act Contract.

VII. **REPORTS**

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- PlacerGROWN week concluded October 13, 2013.
- Mountain Mandarin Festival will be held November 22 through November 24, 2013.
- Mountain Mandarins Orchard Days will be held December 7, 8, 21, 22, 2013.

B. Economic Development Board – Josh Huntsinger

- Lyndell Grey on track to chair the Economic Development Board in the next couple of years.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram

- The beef and the sheep carcass awards dinners was October 15th and 16th. A discussion of carcass results from the Placer, Nevada, and Gold Country Fairs was presented.
- Beginning Farmer Academy will be held November 1st and 2nd.
- The Specialty Crop Program held a sampling at the Auburn Faith Food Closet.

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – No Report

E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas – No Report

F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update – No Report

G. Agricultural Water Supply Issues – Josh Huntsinger

- Long term waste discharge requirements for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program workshop with the Regional Quality Control Board will be held at the Colusa Casino Community room on October 30, 2013.
- PCWA Board of Directors has expressed concerns over a PG&E plan to reorganize operations of the PG&E Drum-Spaulding Project and its potential impacts on local water supplies.
- Mountain Counties Water Resources Association closely monitoring Delta and canal issues.

VIII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Josh Huntsinger

- Discussed removing Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas and Placer Parkway Meeting Update from the agenda.
- The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug was found in downtown Sacramento last month.
- Attended a workshop of the Agricultural Mitigation Committee on September 30, 2013 in Sacramento. Discussed were how best to mitigate, and state wide mitigation standards.
- Planning Commission held its second Community Center Workshop.
- The Asian Citrus Psyllid infestation is spreading in the Central Valley.
- The next meeting will be held December 9, 2013

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

X. ADJOURNMENT