



**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**

**MARCH 11, 2013**

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

**Members Absent:** Dan Macon, Stewart Perry

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 11, 2013 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2013. Motion to approve: *Aguilar/Beard/MPUV***

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**IV. REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR CDFA SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANTS**

- **Using County Fairgrounds to Increase Consumer Access to Specialty Crops**
- **Food System Multipliers for Specialty Crops in the Sacramento Region**

David Shabazian, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, gave an informational power point presentation, answered questions from the Commission regarding the Rural/Urban Connection Strategy (RUCS), and requested letters of support for the two CDFA Specialty Crop Block grants.

RUCS objectives are to enhance rural economic viability and environmental sustainability; identify rural challenges and opportunities; determine rural transportation and other infrastructure costs.

At the conclusion of presentation, the following action was taken: **Motion to forward letters of support for the two CDFA Specialty Crop Block grants.**  
*Jordan/Morebeck/MPUV*

**V. PRESENTATION AND SOLITATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GOLD HILL GARDENS COMMUNITY CENTER APPLICATION –Melanie Jackson - Placer County Planning Department, Mike Carson - Applicant**

Mike Carson, applicant, presented details of the Gold Hill Gardens Community Center application.

At the conclusion of public input and Commission discussion, no action was taken.

## **VI. REPORTS**

### **A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger**

- Sierra College Capital Readiness Seminar will be held March 14, 2013.
- At the Board of Supervisors General Budget Hearing, Planning Department reported budgeting time for both the winery and community center issue in the upcoming fiscal year.
- Cottage Food bill went into effect January 2013. The bill allows certain low risk foods to be prepared in a home kitchen instead of a commercial kitchen.
- Merlot Marketing is gearing up for an Easter promotion at the Farmers Markets.

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

- Gold Country Prosperity Summit to be held in May, and has generated a lot of interest.

### **C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor**

- Placer and Nevada Counties had a brain-storming session two weeks ago on the economics of opening a regional USDA slaughter facility.

### **.D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor**

- A listing of upcoming classes was emailed today.
- Next Farmer to Farmer Breakfast will be held April 3, 2013 at Awful Annie's in Lincoln.

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

### **F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update – No Report**

### **G. Agricultural Water Supply Issues - Josh Huntsinger**

- Placer County under a double drought designation as a contiguous county for both Nevada and Washoe County.
- Since the East San Joaquin General Order was adopted in December, fees have doubled to cover costs of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

## **VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Josh Huntsinger**

- Conflict of Interest (Form 700) is due on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Pesticide use enforcement has been increased. Many of the inspections show repeat violations and users.
- Was in Washington D.C., last week with the statewide Commissioner's association to discuss pest and disease funding in the Farm Bill. California issues 40% of all export certificates for Agriculture products in the whole nation.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM)**

Patricia Beard requested an update on the Ag Program at Sierra College.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**