



**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

FEBRUARY 9, 2015

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

Members Absent: None

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:35 pm by Wayne Vineyard
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2015 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2015.** Motion to approve: *Aguilar / Brenner/MPUV*
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
 - IV. **CALIFORNIA LAND CONSERVATION (WILLIAMSON ACT) APPLICATION PLN14-00155 WURST**– Nikki Streegan, Planning Department
 - Application is for a 31.8 acre parcel.
 - Ranch started in 1974 on 400 leased acres. The Wursts purchased 40 acres in 2001 and is already part of the Williamson Act.
 - 31.8 acre parcel – adjacent to the 40 acre parcel – was part of the original lease from 1974 and has been ranched by the Wursts continuously since then.
 - 31.8 acre parcel purchased in August of 2014 for which the Wursts are requesting a separate contract.
 - The ranch is stocked with 40 cows, 5-10 replacement heifers, and 3 bulls. The herd alternates grazing on both parcels. Inventory value – over \$67,000.
 - Water purchase is at 17 miners inches and the delivery is all gravity flow, saving on pumping costs.
 - The qualifying component for the Williamson Act in Placer County is to generate an annual minimum gross agricultural income of \$4500. The 31.8 acre parcel would generate over \$45,000 in gross income annually consisting of:
 - Hay Sales – an average of 700 bales
 - Calf Sales – an average 30 head sold annually
 - Cull Cow Sales – an average of 5 head sold annually

- Based on the above information, the planning department requests a letter from the Agricultural Commission to the Board of Supervisors to recommend granting of this contract request.
- Dan Macon makes a motion to request the Agricultural Commission to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors to recommend granting of Williamson Act Application PLN14-00155 WURST. Patricia Beard seconds the motion. MPUV. Josh Huntsinger will prepare the memo.

V. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- Merlot presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 3, 2015 where they shared that, since they took over marketing for Placer Agriculture in 2012, Facebook page likes have gone up from 1400 to over 10,000.
- They also discussed the different seasonal themes and shared that their next focus will be on “Faces and Farms” and they are looking for Farmers in the area who would like to share their story.
- They have had many media inquiries about the drought.
- Contract with Merlot ends in June of 2015.

B. Economic Development Board – Lyndell Grey

- Nothing specific to agriculture. Wondering if there is a way to get Economic Development to get behind the slaughterhouse project.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram

- Drought conditions continue. Rainfall last week was recorded at 2.18 inches and up to 5 inches in some areas.
- Unusually warm weather continues
- Less grass growth than Jan 1 recorded, probably due to no rain fall in January.
- Advance Farm Business Planning course is currently holding sessions
- Grazing Land Regulatory Action Program is still in the listening phase
 - Next meeting at UC Davis on March 3 and March 4, 2015
- February 25th is deadline for PNSSNS Farm Evaluation Plans. Contact UC Extension for questions and/or assistance with completing the form.

D. Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake

- Pest Management workshops start this week happening all month except the end of the month due to the PNSSNS Subwatershed Group meeting

- If you irrigate and sell product, you must become a member of the PNSSNS Subwatershed Group – call Linda Watanabe at PNSSNS is also a good person to call for answers to questions about membership
- Farmer to Farmer breakfast Feb 18, 2015 at the Happy Apple. Dixie Chan will speak about farm taxes. Sign up and pay by Monday to attend.
- Sierra College holding a Direct Farm Marketing course through May 2015.
- Specialty Crops program ends in June 2015 and there are a few more tastings coming up at local food banks and farmers markets
- Wayne Vineyard mentions the PNSSNS form is different for rice growers because they belong to a different organization. Cindy mentions there is a Nitrogen plan coming.

E. Agricultural Water Supply Issues – Josh Huntsinger

- Josh distributed announcement of new PCWA General Manager, Einar Maisch.
- Drought report not coming yet, both PCWA and NID want to wait for a few months before formalizing, but they did submit a brief report which was distributed with the minutes and agenda. PCWA and NID are in pretty similar situations – reservoir storage is about double the amount of last year at this time.
- Dan Macon expresses concern for potential curtailment and would like to know more as soon as possible.

VI. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Josh Huntsinger

- Form 700 notices went out – Due April 1, 2015
- Placer County Environmental Health's MOU for the Hazmat program is still in the works, more details as they become available. Still working out details in regard to fuel and oil, so far three storage thresholds:
 - Waste Generator
 - Basic Hazmat
 - Commercial use (1320+ gallons of fuel storage or 200 cu. feet of compressed gas.)
- Slaughter Facility project survey 99.5% complete. There will be a meeting soon with key community members. Josh is optimistic. Finding the right site is the challenge, as it needs to be farm/agriculture exclusive/industrial zoned.

VII. ADJOURNMENT - 7:30 p.m.

- Next meeting March 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.