



County of Placer
Agricultural Commission
11477 E Avenue ▪ Auburn, CA 95603 ▪ (530) 889-7372

Rich Ferreira – Citrus	Denise Moore - Nursery
Patricia Beard - Livestock	Earl Stephens – Ag Processing
Larry Jordan - Timber	Jim Brenner – Fruit & Nut Farm
Wayne Vineyard – Rice	Elisa Noble – Small Farms
Patrick Bollinger – Foothill Farms	

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm Monday, January 11, 2021

Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room
3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA
County Contact: Joshua Huntsinger

I. **CALL TO ORDER and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Wayne Vineyard.

Roll Call

Present: Patricia Beard, Patrick Bollinger, Larry Jordan, Denise Moore, Elisa Noble, Earl Stephens, and Wayne Vineyard. Absent: Jim Brenner, Rich Ferreira.

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA for January 11, 2021 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES from November 2, 2020** – Agenda Motion by Bollinger, second by Stephens, MPUV. Minutes Motion by Jordan, second by Moore, MPUV.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

IV. **Action Items:**

A. **Establishment of a New Williamson Act Contract (PLN20-00285)** – Amy Rossig, Placer County Planning Services, asked the commission to provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to establish an agricultural preserve and adopt a resolution for a new Williamson Act contract for the 120 acre parcel, APN #019-290-027-000, at the corner of Waltz Road and N. Dowd Road in Lincoln, CA. Maps, photos, background information and owner's plans for future production were provided during the presentation.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Earl Stephens Motioned to take the following action:

1. The Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors that the establishment of the proposed Agricultural Preserve is consistent with the Placer County General Plan.
2. The Commission finds that the establishment of the proposed Agricultural Preserve, which is comprised of 120 acres, would preserve the agricultural enterprises of the area, make findings describing those characteristics for staff to present to the Board of Supervisors.
3. The Commission finds the agricultural use would meet the criteria of prime agricultural land, make findings describing those characteristics for staff to present to the Board of Supervisors.
4. The Commission concludes to support the property owners' request for approval of a Williamson Act Contract and direct staff 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.

Elisa Noble seconded the Motion and it passed without dissent.

The Agricultural Commission is composed of appointed community members whose purpose is to advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters pertaining to agriculture including recommendations regarding California Land Conservation Act/Williamson Act applications. Residents are encouraged to attend and provide input. Placer County is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in public meetings. If you require disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact the Placer County Agriculture Department at (530) 889-7372.



V. INFORMATION ITEMS: None

VI. REPORTS

A. UCCE Farm Advisor Report: Dan Macon

Cindy Fake is back from her sabbatical and working on various projects and workshops this winter and spring. Dan shared webinars coming up in late January to early February as follows:

Tax Planning Webinar: Assist with payroll protection, CFAP payments, etc. – late Jan/early Feb.

(3) Ranching-Focused Webinars: 1) How to work with ranchers; 2) How to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a grazing request; 3) How to hire a targeted-grazing contractor – late February.

Virtual Lambing School: Partnering with Hopland Research and Extension Center. Stay tuned.

Dan is working on an Ag Pass Program and met with ranchers and other Agricultural Commissioners to potentially develop a similar program like Sonoma, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara. Possible counties to partner with are Nevada, Placer, and Yuba since ranchers often lease land in multiple counties, and these counties would coincide with the CalFire model.

Dan Macon provided a brief rainfall report: It is dry. Placer is in Category D2. It may become more severe if it continues. Dan offered assistance to any livestock operations in helping to plan early if the dry weather continues.

B. Water Supply Update: NID – Greg Jones

- Precipitation Info as of January 6, 2021:
 - Bowman Lake Precipitation: 11.24” (41% of 8-year average)
 - Total NID Reservoir Storage: 164,059 AF (88% of 8-year average / 61% of capacity)
 - We are holding out on determining ‘surplus’ for a little while.

C. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS – Josh Huntsinger

- Placer Land Trust held a workshop on December 9th for farmers and ranchers interested in conservation easements. Presented info on Williamson Act. Christopher Robbins, with NRCS/USDA presented as well to share their programs. 15 landowners attended. Grant funds available for qualifying landowners.
- Honeybee Ordinance: Hosting a Workshop for the Planning Commission on January 14th to provide them with a first look at the ordinance to learn about what they will be voting on in the spring.
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency hosted a meeting for farmers on November 17th. 12 farmers and ranchers attended. Provided a means to meet face-to-face and have a Q&A session to share an overview of SGMA and review the potential overall plan and how it may affect groundwater regulation in the future. Placer County wants to ensure that agricultural groundwater remains available in the future and keeping our groundwater basin in good shape.
- Hidden Falls: Much interest from Ag community. We have been working closely with the Parks Dept, along with Dan Macon, who has been integral in the process. We are working

to contract with a commercial grazer to put commercial livestock back onto Hidden Falls. The Parks Dept is preparing an initial RFP. The application is fairly complex, and the goal is to contract with a good, commercial grazer which could help reduce fire danger, provide commercial ag production, and improve habitat and infrastructure.

- Form 700 due on April 1, 2021. Contact Ag Dept if assistance is required.
- Governor's Proposed Budget: Announced on January 8th. A licensing and regulatory streamlining component is being proposed in the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Budget. Their goal is to minimize the time required to process paperwork for farmers. Another proposal is the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) proposed to increase the mill assessment after having no adjustment in over a decade. This increased fee on pesticide sales will help reduce the deficit in county budgets throughout California. The mill assessment rate will be based on the toxicity of pesticide which will add to the increase. The increase in funding will be allocated to enforcement, possibly adding staff, as well as research.
- COVID-19 Update: Vaccine rolling out rapidly. Placer County Health and Human Services (HHS) is overseeing the vaccine deployment and partnering with pharmacies, Rite Aid CVS initially, along with Safeway and Walmart. HHS is working on administering for Tier 1A: Assisted Nursing Homes, Healthcare Workers, etc. as the highest priority. Tier 1B is the next priority to receive the vaccine which includes farm worker and agricultural workers, among others. HHS contacted the Ag Dept estimating they will be transitioning to Tier 1B in February. The Ag Dept will do outreach when notified. PPE remains available for those farmers and agricultural workers who need equipment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 7:38pm