I. CALL TO ORDER: the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Wayne Vineyard. Roll Call- Present: Patricia Beard, Patrick Bollinger, Rich Ferreira, Larry Jordan, Denise Moore, Stewart Perry, and Wayne Vineyard, Absent: Jim Brenner

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR July 8, 2019 Moved and Second: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 13, 2019: Moved and Second: No discussion

III. PUBLIC COMMENT
Josh Huntsinger introduced new Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures, Assistant Department Head Corrie Larsen. She was promoted as Ed King vacated the position to become the Ag Commissioner for Solano County.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:
A. Sidehill Citrus Request to Establish a New Farmland Security Zone Contract (“Super Williamson Act”) Kally Kedinger-Cecil, Placer County Planning Services, asked the commission to provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution to place into Farmland Security Zone (Super Williamson Act) contract as PLN 19-00037. This proposed contract consists of 2 separate parcels and 46.2 acres including assessor’s parcel numbers 026-190-073-000 and 026-380-052-000. She presented information about the parcels and qualifying information including UCCE economic analyst then opened the floor for questions.
Rich Ferreria recused himself and left the room.
Discussion included questions and information on the differences between a 10 and 20 year contract, building zones on the property and the restrictions related to the existing Conservation Easement.
At the conclusion of the discussion Patti Beard motioned to take the following action:
1. Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the establishment of the proposed Farmland Security Zone is consistent with the Placer County General Plan.

2. The Commission finds that the establishment of the proposed Farmland Security Zone, which is comprised of less than 100 acres, would preserve the unique characteristics of the agricultural enterprises in the area and makes findings describing those characteristics for staff to present to the Board of Supervisors.

3. The Commission determines to support the property owners’ request for approval of a Farmland Security Zone Contract and directs staff to prepare a report to the Board of Supervisor’s detailing the Agricultural Commission’s recommendation that the Board approve a Resolution to establish a new Farmland Security Zone and authorize the new Farmland Security Zone Contracts.

Patrick Bollinger seconded the Motion and it passed without dissent.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Sustainable Agriculture Groundwater Recharge Project – Brett Storey Principal Management Analyst for Placer County Public Works presented an update on the Sustainability Agricultural Groundwater Recharge Program Project (SAGRP) and reconfirmed the Board of Supervisor’s commitment to maintaining Agriculture water resources. The April 2019 draft of the report was e-mailed to the Commissioners earlier in the day and included in the meeting packets. Brett reviewed information from a more current draft report including general information on the program, background of County plans, maps of possible recharging project areas and possible funding sources. He encouraged Commission input and questions. After some discussion about funding and water sources, Patti Beard requested that Brett be added to agenda in two months to allow commissioner’s more time to review the materials and formulate additional questions. In the meantime, a current draft report with additional details will be sent to Josh and distributed to Commissioners.

VI. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger reported that the 2 year renewal contract with PlacerGROWN goes before the Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, July 9, 2019. The contract refines the scope of work and the creation of a 2019 Ag Guide. A year-end report from PlacerGROWN is expected at the next Ag Commission Meeting.
The Celebrating Women in Agriculture Dinner at Twin Peaks Orchard was successful. Josh shared about connections made between Sacramento area chefs and the Sacramento Unified School District Nutrition Service directors with local growers to provide fresh produce for their programs.

B. Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake reported that although heavy rainfall is good it brings an increase of pests and diseases. Growers are reporting more and different pests, more true bugs which are difficult to control.

She hosted several workshops this spring and will be providing Food Safety Certification Training for producers along with CDFA and UC. UCCE will be hosting Beginning Farming Academy Sept 13-14. Applications will be posted online by the end of the month.

Cindy reported on Mulching Study findings and informed that the funding for the study was ending although she anticipates continuing the project through December.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – In Dan Macon’s absence, Cindy Fake passed out Dan’s newsletter and shared dates of upcoming workshops:
   a. Livestock Protection Tools Filed Day July 23
   b. Preparing Ewes for Breeding Aug 29

Dan is receiving reports of Blue Oaks dying in rangelands. A UC expert has been investigating. If any dying Blue Oaks are observed, please report to Dan Macon.

D. Water Supply Update – Josh Huntsinger had no updates.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER’S REPORTS – Josh Huntsinger reported that Shanon Whamond resigned from the Ag Commission and there is a vacancy for the Small Farm Industry position. Lindy Grey has moved out of the area leaving the Agriculture seat vacant on the Economic Development Board.

The Board of Supervisors have directed Josh to present Industrial Hemp at area MAC meetings.

The Placer County Winery and Farm Brewery Ordinance has completed the Public Comment phase of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) The Planning Department will be presenting a summary of the proposed ordinance at Mac meetings. It is expected to go before the Board of Supervisors in the fall.
Josh will be working on a comprehensive Bee Keeping Ordinance to bring before the Ag Commission in the future.

The Placer County Ag Tour was informative covering the labor issues of local producers and growers. Among those attending were Supervisor Bonnie Gore, Supervisor Cindy Gustafson and Todd Leopold, Placer County CEO.

Placer County is keeping close eye on reports of the invasive pest Nutria population in the Delta area. Fish and Game are seeking grants to eradicate the pest. Over 500 have been reported in the Delta area. Although none have been reported in Placer County, we are keeping a close eye on the situation.

Josh recommended to the Commission to elect a Vice Chairman to fill John Nitta’s vacancy. Both the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions will be considered on the next meeting agenda.

VIII. ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wayne Vineyard announced that the Placer County Farm Bureau will receive recognition at the 2019 State Fair from the Agriculture Heritage Club as the Bureau celebrates 100 years of service.

VIV. ADJOURNMENT: Wayne Vineyard closed the meeting at 8:21