



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 29, 2012

**Members Present:** Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, William Morebeck, John Nitta, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

**Members Absent:** Tony Aguilar, Patricia Beard, James Brenner

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- I. CALL TO ORDER
  - II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 29, 2012 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2012. Motion to approve: *Macon/Nitta/MPUV*
  - III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None
  - IV. PRESENTATION AND SOLITATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING GOLD HILL GARDENS COMMUNITY CENTER APPLICATION –George Rosasco, Placer County Planning Department

George Rosasco presented the details of the Gold Hills Gardens Community Center application.

- Located at 2325 Gold Hill Road, comprised of 11.5 acres within a 32 acre tract owned by the applicant with cow-calf operation.
- Proposing 59 events a year of up to 150 people in a 5252 square foot event center with a retail nursery on premises, as well as a Guest Ranch with transient occupancy of up to four rooms and five additional cottages. Would employ twelve people, with two living on site.
- Proposed hours of operation: 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on Sunday.

At the conclusion of public input and Commission discussion, the following action was taken: **Motion to recommend Planning Commission, MUP be denied on the basis that it does not appear to support agriculture on the property. *Macon/Jordan/MPUV***

- V. ISSUES AFFECTING EFFECTIVE MOSQUITO CONTROL IN ORGANIC RICE – Joel Buettner, Placer County Mosquito and Vector Control

Presented overview of issues of mosquito control in organic rice.

- Two new cases of West Nile, one fatality
- Organic rice fields require more resources. There is a lack of affordable pesticides.
- Within five counties there is 560,000 acres of rice. Mosquito's fly range is five to ten miles.

**VI. UPDATE ON CHANGES TO PLACERGROWN AND THE FOOTHILL FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION – Carol Arnold and Bob Bonk**

PlacerGROWN and Foothill Farmers Market Association has merged. The new organization is currently re-organizing, re-visioning, and re-missioning.

**VII. DISCUSSION REGARDING NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING – Josh Huntsinger**

The November 2012 Agricultural Commission meeting is cancelled. The next meeting will be held December 10, 2012.

**VIII. REPORTS**

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

- Celebrate PlacerGrown Week was held October 8 through October 14, 2012, ending with the Farm Open House. Channel 3 was up in the Newcastle-Auburn area four times that week.
- The Mountain Mandarin Growers Association Orchard Days will be December 1, 2, 15, and 16, 2012.

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

- Need to maintain balance between property owner rights and quality of life in economic development.
- Manufacturing Forum will be held in November.

**C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – No Report**

**D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – No Report**

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

**F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update - No Report**

**G. Rotating Agriculture Industry Update – No Report**

**H. Agricultural Water Supply Issues - Josh Huntsinger**

- Mountain Counties Water Resources Association hosted an event on September 18, 2012 at Blue Goose Fruit Shed to discuss Northern California water supply. 130 people attended.
- NID finished year in decent shape. Rain last week measured 2 inches.

**IX. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT - Josh Huntsinger**

- AB1616, Homemade Food Act becomes effective January 1, 2013.
- Continuing education class will be held November 7, 2012 , 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- Placer County is hosting SACOG RUCS meeting being held this Friday.
- Have received one Williamson Act non-renewal.
- The Agriculture Department will begin issuing pesticide permits next month.

**X. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM)**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**