



**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

December 9, 2013

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patricia Beard, James Brenner, Dan Macon, John Nitta, Stewart Perry

Members Absent: Larry Jordan, William Morebeck, Wayne Vineyard

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- I. CALL TO ORDER**
 - II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 9, 2013 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2013. Motion to approve: *Aguilar/Beard/MPUV***
 - III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**
 - IV. UPDATE STATUS OF SIERRA COLLEGE AGRICULTURE PROGRAM – Josh Huntsinger for Michelle MacFarlane, Chair Sierra College Agriculture Department**

Due to medical issues, Michelle MacFarlane was unable to attend this meeting. Copies of the Sierra College Agriculture Department update was distributed.

- V. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY AND EVENT CENTERS – George Rosasco, Planning Department**

George Rosasco provided a historical overview and discussed the proposed zoning text amendments.

Following his presentation, George Rosasco answered questions from the Commission.

Public Comment:

- Marilyn Jasper submitted and discussed a letter listing concerns about the proposed zoning text amendments.
- Carol Rubin submitted and discussed a letter listing issues to be addressed.
- Mike Carson commented that the business opportunities should be looked at.

At the conclusion of public input and Commission discussion, a three commissioner (Beard, Macon, Morebeck) sub-committee was appointed to make recommendations at the next meeting in January.

VI. REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- Mountain Mandarin Festival was held November 22 through November 24, 2013.
- Mountain Mandarins Orchard Days will be held December 7, 8, 21, 22, 2013.
- Completed a photo shoot at Easley Nursery on Friday, December 6, featuring the poinsettias.
- Meeting with Merlot Marketing to discuss strategic planning for 2014.

B. Economic Development Board – Lyndell Grey

- Knee Deep Brewing has moved from Lincoln to Auburn. The new facility will have the capability to produce 9,000 barrels a year.
- The Sacramento Area Economic Promotional Organization's new tag line is "California Capitol Region."
- Warwick University is the latest university to show interest in coming to Placer County.
- David Dean Cellars has opened a tasting room in Lincoln.
- Attended an Economic Summit, in November. Agriculture has become part of an overall look at California's economy.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram

- Received email for Lesa Osterholm, with NID, stating 2013 is the driest year on record. The area has received only 2.21 inches since 10/1/2013.
- The seven week Farm and Ranch Business Planning Course starts February 6, 2014.

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake

- Forty-two people showed interest in The Beginning Farmer Academy held in November. The class can only accommodate fifteen.
- Next Farmer to Farmer Breakfast will be held January 9, 2014 at Mels
- The Specialty Crop Program has operated for one year. In that year the program has:
 - Held 43 tastings.
 - Provided 12,000 samples of local produce.
 - Conducted 15 surveys on Facebook.
 - Trained 21 volunteers.
 - Issued 2600 food vouchers, of which 1676 were redeemed.

E. Agricultural Water Supply Issues – Josh Huntsinger

- Discussed inviting PCWA and NID to the February meeting for water updates.
- USDA has placed all of California under drought designation.
- Agriculture was well represented at the October 30th Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program workshop. Looking at the small farm provision which gives no regulatory relief, only delays implementation.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Josh Huntsinger

- Will wait until the cold event is over before assessing damage.
- The Asian Citrus Psyllid quarantine is expanding in the San Joaquin Valley.
- In 2013 only forty European Grape Vine Moths were trapped statewide.
- Thursday, December 12, 2013, is a Winery Ordinance workshop.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEM) – Dan Macon

Shannon Spears, Agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Placer High School, lost her home to a fire Saturday evening. Efforts to raise money through donations is being coordinated by Echo Valley Ranch.

IX. ADJOURNMENT