



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Larry Jordan
Patricia Beard	William Morebeck
James Brenner	John Nitta
Paul Ferrari	Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

May 12, 2008

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patti Beard, Jim Brenner, William Morebeck, Larry Jordan, Stewart Perry, John Nitta, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Paul Ferrari

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MAY, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR APRIL, 2008**
Motion to approve:
Aguilar/Jordan/MPUV
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
Susan Grotto, Educator, Bob Romus, citizen, Marcus LoDucca, AKT Development, spoke in regards to the Regional University Project.
 - IV. **AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION REVIEW OF REGIONAL UNIVERSITY PROJECT** – Paul Thompson, Planning Department
The Commission made comments and recommendations regarding water resources, agricultural buffers, agricultural mitigation, and lack of a University commitment associated with the proposed project.
 - VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. **Agricultural Marketing Program Activities** – Nancyjo Riekse
 - Published 2008 Ag Guide. Being delivered to Ag Department May 13th.
 - Participated in Earth Day at the CDRA Building and handed out rice. Most people did not realize rice was grown in Placer County.
 - Went to a Placer County rice farm and took pictures and will do a follow-up story.
 - Continued working with a group of growers that are interested in juicing their fruit.

- Attended Placer County Realtors Leadership Group in Rocklin. The Leadership group will be going out to a few farms to get to know the growers and to understand what farming is all about.
- Attended Ag Tourism meeting in Amador County with Jan Decker, Executive Director/CEO, Placer County Visitor Center, and Eric Hanson, Pinehill Orchard.
- Upcoming Event: Placer County Visitor Bureau Open House Friday June 6th.
- PlacerGrown brand is being used in other counties for advertisement of commodities. Would like to have some sort of workshop with instructions on how the logo can be used.
- Summer issue of Foothill magazine had an article on Eric and Courtney, chefs at the Carpe Vino Wine shop in Old Town Auburn.

B. Economic Development Board (EDB) Update – Lyndell Grey

- EDB being reorganized and working on updated mission statement.

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram

- Forage analysis; 62% of normal which is 38% less forage production due to lack of spring rains.
- Received the trailer for the mobile poultry processor. Target date for processing will be after the Placer County Fair.

D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake

- Save-Mart advertisement on television portrays farmers as being unintelligent and distortion of what local means.
- Discussion at Ag Futures meeting about the need to educate the public as well as stores about what “local” really means. The group may organize some producers that would talk to the public and to the Board of Supervisors on a regular basis about what “local” produce really is. They may also ask the Ag Commission to get involved in the education/lobbying on what “local” is. Another subcommittee may look at regulations and rules that negatively impact farmers and ranchers and ask the Ag Commission to work with them.
- This week at the Ag Futures meeting they will be finishing a priority list for marketing and what is really important to the local producers in terms of marketing projects. Will give list to Ag Commission when it is finished.
- Difficulty trying to identify sites for Farm and Barn Tour.
- Citizens getting soil tested and do not know how to read the analysis. There will be a workshop at the UC CO-OP May 27th at 6:30 on how to interpret soil analysis.

E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas/Minutes – Patti Beard - No report

F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update – William Morebeck - No report

G. Agricultural Water Supply Subcommittee/Ag Water Waivers – Christine E. Turner

- April 18th newsletter & Central Valley RWQCB – Anyone that has not joined Coalition will be paying more instead of less due to penalties that will be added.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER’S REPORT – Christine E. Turner, Agricultural Commissioner

- Crop Disaster Declarations:
Drought impacts on rangeland – (see comments by Roger Ingram in paragraph C above).
Freeze damage: Walnuts and Wine Grapes were identified as having freeze impact. Only heard from two walnut growers and one wine grape grower. Need to know right away if anyone else has been impacted so that it can be added to the report.
- Auburn’s “State of the Community” April 18th dinner honored the Foothill Farmers’ Market Association with the “Friend of Agriculture” award. Approximately 300 people attended the annual event.
- Department of Public Works before the Board of Supervisor’s May 13th to consider adoption of an amendment to the County ordinance prohibiting commercial vehicles exceeding 40,000 lbs. gross weight from using Locust Rd.
- Winery Ordinance Update – May 8th approved by Planning Commission and anticipated going to the Board of Supervisor’s for final approval in mid-June.
- Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) issue in Fresno County dairies – California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are spearheading an effort to eradicate the Bovine TB in California to maintain our TB free status with our trading partners.
- June Agricultural Commission meeting will be in the new Community Development Resource Agency (CDRA) Planning Commission hearing room.
- June Agricultural Commission Agenda – Williamson Act Administrative Rules revisions.
- National Pork Board presentation on July 14th Agricultural Commission Agenda.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS

- XI. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9th, 2008 at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary
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