

## 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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AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603

#### **MINUTES**

#### PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

June 9, 2008

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patti Beard, Larry Jordan, William Morebeck, John Nitta, Stewart

Perry, Wayne Vineyard

**Members Absent:** Paul Ferrari, Jim Brenner

Others Present: Carol Arnold, Kay Joy Barge, Marilyn Jasper, Marcus LoDuca, Placer County

Deputy Sheriff's, Tom Rust

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR JUNE 9, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR MAY 12, 2008
Motion to approve:

Aquilar/Jordan/MPUV

- III. PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).
  - Joanne Neft Provided an update on the synephrine study in Placer County mandarins and outlined the steps for the next phase of study. She is raising money to pay for the bioavailability study. In addition, she shared information on the benefit dinner for the Foothill Farmers' Market, June 25th, at Persimmon Café, Lincoln.
  - Carol Arnold Presented the Agricultural Commission copies of the 2008 Foothill Farmers' Market Association poster. There are currently twelve markets in Placer County, soon to be thirteen.
- IV. HIGH SIERRA RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RCDC)
  PRESENTATION Kay Joy Barge, Project Coordinator (Information Only)
  RCDC is a 501 (c) (3) Non–profit organization that provides local communities with resources that can be used for local community development and resource conservation and utilization efforts. Ms. Barge showed a brief informational DVD of the RCDC's various programs and projects.

## V. UPDATED ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FOR WILLIAMSON ACT LANDS IN PLACER COUNTY – Alex Fisch, Planning Department

Request for the Agricultural Commission to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve a resolution to adopt updated Administrative Rules for Williamson Act Lands in Placer County in order to bring the Rules current with amendments to Williamson Act legislation that have occurred since 1997 when the Rules were last updated. Motion to support staff recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Nitta/Jordan/MPUV

#### VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

## A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities – Nancyjo Riekse

- Received mini—grant funding from the California Welcome Center for publicity for the Mountain Mandarin Festival (\$500), Mountain Mandarin Growers' Association (\$1,500), Placer County Wine and Grape Association (\$1,000), and the Placer Farm and Barn Tour (\$2,500). Advertising and promotional material will be sent out within an approximately 150 mile radius of Placer County.
- Community Kitchen in Colfax will be coming to fruition soon.
- The 2008 Placer County Agricultural Guide has been published and distributed to all producers and advertisers in the guide. Also distributed to all Placer County libraries, schools, and Chambers of Commerce. Placer County employees also received guides with their recent paychecks.
- Open house June 29, 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. at Charleston Lavender Farm, Lincoln.
- Eighteen producers have expressed interested in having their own website. Working to find a reasonably priced graphic designer to produce a three page website for the producers, enabling them to establish their own 'branding' of their farm or ranch.
- Working with the Mountain Mandarin Growers' Association in developing a twoday event/tour in Placer County that would include the Wine and Grape Association, as well as the local Christmas tree growers, to showcase Placer County's winter agriculture.

### B. Economic Development Board (EDB) Update – Lyndell Grey – No report

### C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram

- Mobile Poultry Processor should be ready for Placer County Fair.
- Moving forward on the Meat Buyer's Club.
- Working to upgrade PlacerGrown website. Website has had over one million hits since June 2.

### **D.** Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake

- Ag Futures Meeting June 23, 6:30 pm. Encourage Commission members to attend at least one of the meetings.
- Currently this year, two million parasitic wasps have been released into Mandarin fields to control pests. The wasps are released every two weeks. More growers are using them this year than in the past.
- Farm and Barn Tour moving forward.

- Workshop in May to help people read their soil analysis. Thirty—two people came
  to the workshop. There is a need for information on how to do a lot of basic
  things related to farming. Day long workshops on practical skills for farming at
  Small Farm Progress Days will help to bring people up to speed.
- 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
  - June 30, 2008 deadline for agricultural landowners with irrigated land to apply to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) to join a local watershed coalition or face stiff fines and fees.

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

- Reported on the Confined Livestock Management meeting held by the Natural Resources Conservation District to address primarily erosion issues caused by confined livestock keeping.
- United States 2008 Farm Bill passed in Congress.
- Drought Disaster Request for Placer County rangeland losses has been submitted to the Office of Emergency Services.
- Insufficient crop specific freeze damage to qualify for a disaster request in Placer County.
   However, Placer County did qualify for low interest loans for severe physical losses due to wind and rain from the January 4, 2008 storm event.
- The Governor declared an emergency drought for California on June 4, 2008. Agricultural Commissioners will be providing monthly reports to the CA Department of Food and Agriculture on the local impacts of the drought and water shortages.
- Agricultural Commission meetings will continue to meet in the CDRA Planning Commission hearing room until at least the end of the year.
- Paul Ferrari's last official Agricultural Commission meeting today. Will invite Paul and Rich Johnson to the July 14 meeting to present them both with recognition plaques for their years of service on the Commission. Two applications have been received for Livestock Industry position.

# VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEM) None.

IX. 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, July 14, 2008 at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary

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