



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS
Tony Aguilar Dan Macon
Patricia Beard William Morebeck
James Brenner John Nitta
Larry Jordan Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 15, 2009

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

Members Absent: Dan Macon

Others Present that signed in:

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 15, 2009, MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2009**
Aguilar/Jordan/Unanimous
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
No comments.
 - IV. **REZONING GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION AND MINIMUM ACRES**– Michael Johnson, Director, Community Development Resource Agency, and Loren Clark, Assistant Director of Planning, Planning Department

Loren Clark gave a presentation of the County’s overall land use planning process, including zoning designations and rezoning land, and the role of the General Plan in land use decisions. Loren also covered Community Plans, Specific Plans, policy direction of the Board of Supervisors and the role of the CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in land use planning decisions.
 - V. **SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL’S “2009 SIERRA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE” PROGRAM**
– Joanne Neft
Joanne Neft handed out Sierra Business Council “2009 SIERRA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE” applications and let the Commission know that scholarships were available for the program. She also discussed the monthly dinners she was hosting based on the seasonal food that was available at the farmers’ market and the cookbook that she and Laura Caballero are creating. The cookbook will be published in early 2010 and available at all of the farmers’ markets.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities** – Nancyjo Riekse
- 2009 Agricultural Guide had errors in the Foothill Farmers' Market schedule that will be addressed prior to the distribution of the remaining copies.
- B. Economic Development Board (EDB) Update** – Lyndell Grey – No report
- C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor** – Roger Ingram – No report
- D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor** – Cindy Fake
- The Placer Farm and Barn Tour will be on hiatus for one year.
 - Ag Futures Program – February and March: the Farm Business class went well, and because of the demand from new growers, in March there was a short two-session Farm Business Planning Market Driven farming class. There were 12 operations that attended the class, some that were already into farming, and some that were looking to get into farming.
 - Two Small Farm Progress Days Field Days have been held. One was a Vineyard Day at the beginning of March with 30 people. Many were home winemakers that were interested in expanding to commercial vineyards. The other was a vegetable field day with approximately 30–35 people. Most were new growers.
 - On-farm Internship this summer mid–June through mid–August on five different operations with places for about 10 interns that will rotate among the different farms every two weeks. The operations will be the Fawnridge Vineyard, Hillcrest Orchard, Blossom Hill Farm, vegetable farm, Flying Mule Farm, and Edwards Family Farm. The internship program gives priority to local residents.
 - Vegetable Cost Study: Five area growers are working with UCCE and a UC Davis ag economist on producing cost studies for three vegetables: tomatoes, winter squash and melons. The studies help new producers understand the economics of particular crops and help existing producers who need financing to expand their operations.
- 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
- Received an email from Region 5 Irrigated Lands Waiver staff. Some of the practices being imposed on leafy green vegetable growers seem to be in conflict with Best Management Practices. There is some talk that the same level of food safety requirements will be applied to additional crops and not be limited to leafy green vegetables.

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

- Received a call from a Nevada County resident with concerns about Auburn Home Depot selling a variety of different species of Brooms. The Nevada County Fire Safe Council is educating county residents about the fire hazard of Scotch Broom as well as the invasive nature of the plant. The Placer County Fire Safe Alliance will discuss Scotch Broom, and other Broom species, at their next meeting to consider an educational outreach effort similar to Nevada County's non-regulatory effort.
- The Mountain Mandarin Growers' Association was awarded an Economic Development Award at the March 2009 Placer County Economic Development Summit. They were awarded the Public Sector Award as an association and not as an individual.
- Still need Ethics training certificates from some Commission members.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS (NON-ACTION ITEM)

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 May 11, 2009** at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary

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