



**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

11477 E AVENUE
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
TELEPHONE: (530) 889-7372
FAX: (530) 823-1698
www.placer.ca.gov

MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

August 11, 2008

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Patti Beard, Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, John Nitta, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Jim Brenner, William Morebeck

Others Present: Larry Koshman & Family, Tom Rust

-
- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR AUGUST 11, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR JULY 14, 2008**
Motion to approve:
Vineyard/Jordan/MPUV
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
None.
 - IV. **CONTINUED FROM JUL Y 14 MEETING – PROPOSED SECONDARY DWELLING ON AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE 18 – (APN 021–070–007)** – Alex Fisch, Planning Department
Consider a request from Tracy Douglass for the Agricultural Commission to direct Planning Department staff to provide Building Permit clearance to construct a single-family residence on Assessor’s Parcel Number 021-070-007, which is enrolled in Placer County’s Williamson Act Program as Agricultural Preserve 18. AGP 18 includes a total of 22 parcels, one of which is developed with a single-family residential home site. All other parcels are without residential or agricultural improvements.

Motion to deny by Agricultural Commission based on findings that there is no on-site agricultural production and does not justify another agricultural dwelling at this time for agricultural labor.
Jordan/Beard
Unanimous Vote

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. **Agricultural Marketing Program Activities** – Nancyjo Riekse

- Applied for two California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Specialty Crop Block Grants:
 - One for \$125 thousand for the promotion of the Placer County wineries along the I-80 corridor, billboards, media presence, television, and radio. This grant was not accepted into round two.
 - One for \$100 thousand for Mountain Mandarin Growers Association (MMGA) for Feasibility Study for distribution plan outside of Placer County and California. Round one was accepted and round two of grant process will be submitted by July 27.
- Attended two grant workshops on the 2008-09 Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant application process:
 - Placer County CEO office
 - Sierra Nevada Conservancy workshop
- The Natural Trading Company had first 'open house' to see if there would be interest in future 'open houses.'
- Christmas in the Foothills: Wineries, Christmas tree growers, and mandarin growers working together. Will be two-day event and will start in Newcastle in an effort to get the public out to other agricultural operations in the area.
- Continued farm visits: Miller Honey & Mandarins, Highhand Ranch, and Sinclair Ranch.
- Tour of Sierra Pacific Industries in Lincoln: Impressed with the whole operation and how they generate their own power with all of the cull wood and bark that otherwise would not be used for anything else.

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

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

- Working to get walls started on Mobile Poultry Processor.
- Meat Buyer's Club meeting Thursday, August 14. Orders for meat will start in late August. Distribution site is still being discussed.
- 2008 Farm Bill has authorized a waiver that allows producers to pay a fee, called a 'buy-in' fee, to be eligible for disaster assistance. The buy-in fee for 2008 eligibility is \$100 per crop, but not more than \$300 per producer and the deadline is September 16, 2008. The deadline for 2009 is December 1, 2008 and the fees are \$250 per crop but not more than \$750 per producer.
- In three weeks, there will be an aversion training of a flock of sheep to graze in vineyards for vegetation control instead of using herbicides. This will be accomplished by letting the sheep eat grapes and leaves and then giving them a small dose of lithium chloride, which will give them a stomachache. This will also help in the winter months when mechanical mowers are sometimes delayed by rain.

- D. **Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor** – Cindy Fake – No report
- 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
No report.

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

- Williamson Act Administrative Rules were approved by unanimous vote on August 5. Second reading will be in thirty days at the first Board of Supervisors meeting in September, at which time it will be final.
- Bovine Tuberculosis update: California was downgraded from Accredited Free to Modified Accredited Free. Effecting both international trade and intrastate. Three herds are quarantined. Disease control plans have been implemented which includes removal, euthanasia, and necropsy of test-positive cattle. CDFA animal disease control is working with industry to evaluate a “Split State” designation. This would entail regionalizing part of California so that the remainder of the state could return to a “TB Free” status while intensive disease eradication efforts continue in the affected area.
- Third Annual Small Farms Progress Days: There will be four crop specific workshops as well as a Farm Fair on October 18, 2008.
- Foresthill Mac will have the Winery Ordinance on their Agenda for the September 8 meeting. Focus will be on wineries and private roads. Citizens against the Winery Ordinance will be asking for action on some agenda items. Larry Jordan advised that someone from the county that was a part of putting together the Winery Ordinance should attend the meeting.
- Larry Jordan attended the Weed Tour in Tahoe. Went to four different stations with informational speakers. Was taught about telling the difference between native plants and ‘look–a–likes,’ learned about bullthistle and received hands on experience removing it. The monitoring and inspections of boats is not sufficient to keep them from spreading aquatic invasive weeds. Funding is problematic for invasive weed control.

VII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS (NON–ACTION ITEM)
None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, September 8, 2008** at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary
tr