



**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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

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

Members Absent: Jim Brenner

Others Present: Joanne Neft, Tom Rust

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR AUGUST 11, 2008**
Motion to approve:
Jordan/Aguilar
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
Joanne Neft – Provided an update on the Synephrine Study on mandarins from Placer County. The initial study findings by Dr. Andrew Breksa, Western Regional Research Center at Albany, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), stated that there was significant naturally occurring synephrine in Placer County mandarins.

On September 29th, Dr. Breksa will be at the Persimmon Café in Lincoln to discuss the next step in the study, which is the Bioavailability Study. The estimated cost of this study is \$95,000 - \$100,000. The USDA has committed to cover up to \$40,000 of the cost with local donors expecting to fund the balance. The Sutter Health Foundation will be supporting the bioavailability testing and is asking for eighty volunteers for the study. Sutter's donation of the actual testing has a value of about \$20,000. Various Placer County organizations have also donated funds towards the bioavailability study but approximately \$15,000 is still needed.

Rancho Roble Vineyard will be hosting a Placer Gold Slow Food meal & wine event September 20th, 5pm–8pm. This event will benefit Placer County Ag-in-the-Schools program and Placer Ag Futures Scholarships for Young Farmers.

- IV. PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT WEED PROGRAM UPDATE –** Joshua Huntsinger, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, provided an overview and update on the noxious weed program with a PowerPoint presentation, and provided the Commissioner members with handouts.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities –** Nancyjo Riekse – No report
- 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
 - Handed out flyers identifying pokeweed, a poisonous invasive plant.
 - Farm & Barn Tour needs more volunteer help. There are ten venues for this year’s tour. This will be the last year for the one day Farm & Barn Tour which will be evolving into a number of seasonal tours for two reasons:
 - 1) The producers would be able to sell their products while they are in season.
 - 2) The tours will be smaller, more informal, and more manageable for everyone involved.
 - The Foothill Farmers’ Market Association donated funds to go towards scholarships for new and beginning farmers. Other funding sources scholarships come from Small Farms Progress Days and the Annual Farm Conference.
- 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
Provided an update on the Nevada Irrigation District’s (NID) proposed water rate increases. NID is very interested in supporting food producers regarding the impact of the raw water rate increase and is willing to work with the local Agricultural Commissioners to help determine who the food producers are.

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

- Discussion of the issue of Williamson Act contracts that no longer have any agricultural production occurring on them and the risk that may represent to the overall County program.

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

Pattie Beard suggested the Agricultural Commission consider not meeting every month if the agenda is not full or the items are only informational and not time critical.

Dan Macon –

- Suggested having Placer County Animal Control come to a meeting to talk about livestock related issues.
- Volunteers needed to help distribute Small Farm Progress Days posters.
- Roger Ingram will be doing a Sheep Academy workshop at the Thompson Ranch September 12–14.
- September 28 –Vegetable and row crop production workshop, The Natural Trading Company, Newcastle.
- October 26 – Forestry Field Day in Colfax, Edwards Family Farm.
- November 8 – Orchard Field Day, Twin Peaks Orchard, Newcastle.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, October 13, 2008** at the new CDRA Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary

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