



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 3, 2008

Farm Bureau Office
180 Industrial Way
Buellton, Ca

APPROVED MINUTES

These minutes reflect the actions and general discussion of the Committee.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee was called to order by Bill Giorgi, Chair, at 2:05 pm at the Farm Bureau Office in Buellton.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kari Campbell-Bohard
Andy Mills (Alternate)
Grant Cremers
Bill Giorgi, Chair
Richard Quandt
LeRoy Scolari
Carl Stucky, Vice-Chair
Paul Van Leer
June Van Wingerden

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Caird
Greg France
Dorothy Laine

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Baker, Tom Figg & Stephanie Stark from Planning and Development
Bill Gillette, Agricultural Commissioner's Office

NUMBER OF INTERESTED PERSONS 8

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Public Comment

Re: Santa Ynez Community Plan – Sharon Merritt

Re: Request for County Counsel opinion regarding the Santa Ynez River – Bill Giorgi

III. Minutes:

Motion: Richard Quandt moved, seconded by Leroy Scolari and carried by a vote 6-0-2 to approve the August 6, 2008 minutes. June Van Wingerden and Kari Campbell-Bohard abstained.

IV. Report from Agricultural Commissioner – Bill Gillette

Bill Gillette, Agricultural Commissioner

- Light Brown Apple Moth quarantine is still in effect, no new moths have been found.
- Asian Citrus Psyllid, vector for Citrus Greening Disease, was found in San Diego.
- AB 2881 was passed by the legislature and is awaiting signature by the Governor, which should help strengthen our Right to Farm Ordinance.

John Baker, Planning and Development Director

- Fire Code – Was reviewed by the Board and the appeals issue is still being resolved.
- Senior Ag Planner Position – Steve Rodriquez, contract planner, was hired to assist with research in preparation for buffer policy development.

V. Report From Agricultural Planner

Stephanie recently met with Ventura County’s Agricultural Land Use Planner and observed a meeting between agricultural representatives. She shared her experience with the Committee.

VI. Santa Barbara Ranch

Tom Figg addressed the Committee and provided a brief Santa Barbara Ranch update. The Planning Commission endorsed comments made by the AAC during the August meeting. The PC felt the 100 foot setback was sufficient. The project is going to the Board of Supervisors on October 13th. There is also another Board meeting on September 16th about the Transfer Development Rights program.

Committee members had additional concerns regarding specific crops that can be grown in greenhouses, water runoff, animal waste near food crops, and the ACE agreements not being finalized before the project is heard by the Board of Supervisors.

VII. Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission Wild Fire Taskforce

Item cancelled on next Board of Supervisors agenda and will be scheduled at a later date.

VIII. RAU Ordinance

Bill Giorgi explained the need for additional housing on agricultural lands and expressed concern about the recent sunseting of the RAU Ordinance. He proposed the AAC fund be used to rewrite the ordinance. Committee members summarized the issues that the Farm Bureau and Department of Conservation has with the RAU program. Bill Gillette explained the County process for accessing the AAC funds and suggested that the RAU Ordinance subcommittee work to develop desired results in relation to concerns from the FB and DoC. This will assist with defining objectives and meeting the desired goals and to access the funds.

IX. Senior Agricultural Planner Position – Bill Giorgi

The Committee is concerned the Senior Ag Planner position is still vacant and has not been filled since the senior planner left the position in March of 2007. County documents such as the Draft Santa Ynez Community Plan EIR and the Housing Element DEIR are not being adequately reviewed in regard to the effects on agriculture. Suggestions for how to better reach potential candidates were given.

Motion: Richard Quandt moved, seconded by Kari Bohard-Campbell and carried by a vote of 7-2-0 to recommend that the County contact Lisa Bodrogi to determine if she is interested in returning to her previous position as the senior Agricultural Land Use Planner.

X. Reports From Committee Members

Kari Campbell-Bohard - California Women For Agriculture – Fundraiser event at the Chumash Casino on September 20th.

June Van Wingerden - Flower Grower industry trying to respond to fuel crises by working on a centralized location to park trucks and vehicles transporting product at designated locations throughout state.

XI. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting is on Wednesday, October 1st from 2:00 – 4:30 pm at the Farm Bureau Building meeting room located at 180 Industrial Way in Buellton. *Remember parking is allowed along Industrial Way or in one of the few parking stalls located in front of the building to the left of the sycamore tree.*

Suggested Agenda Items:

- Santa Barbara Ranch
- Santa Barbara County Fish and Game Commission Wild Fire Taskforce
- RAU Ordinance