



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 05, 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 2:03 pm at the Farm Bureau Office in Buellton.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Caird
Willy Chamberlin
Bill Giorgi, Chair
Dorothy Laine
Richard Quandt
LeRoy Scolari
Carl Stucky, Vice-Chair
Paul Van Leer
June Van Wingerden

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kari Campbell-Bohard
Grant Cremers
Greg France

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Hays, Planning and Development
Chris Hahn, Fire Department
Bill Gillette, Agricultural Commissioner's Office

NUMBER OF INTERESTED PERSONS 7

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Public Comment

None

III. Minutes:

Motion: Leroy Scolari moved, Richard Quandt seconded and carried by a vote 7-0-2 to approve the September 3, 2008 minutes. Brian Caird and Willy Chamberlin abstained.

IV. Report from Agricultural Commissioner – Bill Gillette

- Light Brown Apple Moth quarantine is still in effect, two new moths have been found. The quarantine will now extend until early July 2009.
- The Agricultural Commissioner's Office in Lompoc will be closed until mid-January. It will reopen at a new location.
- Most county offices will be closed with employees on unpaid furlough from December 22, 2008 until January 4, 2009. Essential County services will continue. The Ag Commissioner's Office will be open on a limited basis and biologist will be available for inspections of incoming and outgoing ag products. Growers were encouraged to renew their pesticide permits early (beginning December 1).
- Chair, Bill Giorgi's last meeting as a member of the AAC will be in December. The Committee will need to elect a new chair at that meeting.
- There will not be an AAC meeting in February. There will be a special meeting on January 28 with the County Planning Commission to discuss agricultural issues
- Bill distributed the annual progress report for the UCSB Oak Restoration Program and requested comments. If there are no comments the contract will be renewed for the 4th year of the 7 year contract. If there are concerns, representatives from UCSB will be invited to the next AAC meeting for further discussion.
- Supervisor Joni Gray has started an Agricultural Recognition Program at the Board of Supervisors. Each month a segment of agriculture will be recognized and a grower/rancher will be asked to receive a resolution and provide a brief update on activities. The wine industry and wine grape growers were recognized in October. The nursery industry will be recognized in November.

V. Report From Agricultural Planner

Stephanie was ill and did not attend. She submitted a report as part of the agenda packet. There were no questions or comments.

VI. Rosemary Farms/Peoples' Self Help Housing

Mike Hays from P&D, Jeanette Duncan from Peoples' Self Housing and Rita Bright from AMEC Earth and Environmental (representing Peoples' Self Help Housing) presented a brief overview of the proposed project. There was considerable discussion on the impacts of the project to agriculture on and adjacent to this property. Patrick Sheehy, a strawberry grower directly adjacent to the proposed housing project, estimated that this project would not allow him to fumigate 600 feet of his property due to pesticide regulations. Members of the committee also expressed concerns.

Motion: Willy Chamberlin mover, seconded by Carl Stucky and passed by a 9 – 0 vote that while the Agricultural Advisory Committee strongly recognizes the need for farm worker housing, they cannot support this project at this location within the City of Santa Maria's Greenbelt Resolution Area (94-9) due to impacts to agriculture on the parcel and adjacent parcels which include: buffer zones/setbacks reducing agricultural production; increases in traffic/road development; pedestrian traffic; the necessity for urban services and social needs of the residents; potential increases in vandalism and theft; nuisance complaints due to noise, hours of agricultural operations, dust, pesticides and other normal farming operations. This project will also have serious impacts to the long term preservation of agriculture in the vicinity by encouraging leapfrog development within the City of Santa Maria's Greenbelt Resolution Area.

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

Bill Giorgi reported that this Item has been dropped from the Board of Supervisors agenda because of lack of support from Supervisor Carbajal and the Fire Department. Senator Feinstein has sponsored funding for fire related activities. Unfortunately, none of these funds will be used for controlled burning.

VIII. RAU Ordinance

The subcommittee has not met. There was no action on this item.

IX. LAFCO Policy for Extending Services to Agricultural Parcels

Bob Braitman, LAFCO Executive Director, reviewed the history and reasons for this proposal. The Committee, while generally supportive, had some concerns with the wording or the policy and the definition of agriculture. Paul Van Leer will represent the Committee at the LAFCO meeting on

November 6, and request/support a continuance in order to further refine the wording. A subcommittee will be appointed to work with Mr. Braitman.

X. County Fire Code

Chris Hahn updated the Committee of the actions taken by the Board of Supervisors. The Fire Department is working with County Counsel of the changes requested by the Board and will be going back to the Board for final approval early next year.

XI. Reports From Committee Members

None

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting is on Wednesday, December 3rd 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 Item:

- Farm Worker Housing