



# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

## AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**August 6, 2008**

Farm Bureau Office  
180 Industrial Way  
Buellton, Ca

### APPROVED MINUTES

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*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: 9

Lisa Bodrogi (alternate)  
Brian Caird  
Grant Cremers  
Paul Van Leer  
Bill Giorgi, Chair  
Willy Chamberlin  
Richard Quandt  
LeRoy Scolari  
Carl Stucky

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: 3

Greg France  
Dorothy Laine  
June Van Wingerden

#### COUNTY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: 3

John Baker, Tom Figg and Stephanie Stark, Planning and Development

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#### NUMBER OF INTERESTED PERSONS: 9

#### **I. Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **II. Public Comment**

- Re: Rice Cooler project was approved by the Board – Lisa Bodrogi

### **III. Minutes:**

**Motion:** Leroy Scolari moved, seconded by Carl Stucky and carried by a vote 7-0-2 to approve the July 2, 2008 minutes. Andy Mills (alternate) voted in lieu of Willy Chamberlin. Lisa Bodrogi and Richard Quandt abstained.

### **IV. Report from the Planning Director – John Baker**

- Senior Ag Land Use Planner – The chosen candidate decided not take the position and it remains vacant. The AAC was disappointed given the amount of time since the last Senior Ag Land Use Planner left and would like the County to move forward on Ag Buffer policy development. P&D plans to restart the recruitment process soon and is looking into other options such as shifting resources or hiring an outside consultant so that policy development can begin. Committee suggestions included pooling AAC and County funds if needed and looking other Buffer Policies such as San Luis Obispo County's. Process questions about AAC funds, approving contracts, and the County Workplan followed.

### **V. Agricultural Planning Report – Stephanie Stark**

- Development project list – The list (included in the pre-meeting packet) included 2008 discretionary projects reviewed by Agricultural Planning. The Committee appreciated being kept informed on a regular basis and suggested future reports include comments about trends and policy implications.
- Santa Ynez Community Plan Draft EIR – Public Comment period has been extended to September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stephanie reviewed the document and has since met with Long Range Planning regarding as issue. From her perspective, impacts to agricultural resources have been adequately addressed. AAC suggested location of proposed trails be reviewed.

### **V. Impact of the new Fire Code on Agriculture**

A Fire Department representative was not present at the meeting. The Ad Hoc Committee (Bill Giorgi, Lisa Bodrogi and Susan Petrovich) updated the AAC on recent discussions and meetings with Fire Marshall, Chris Hahn. Specific ag issues are documented in the draft letter written by the Ad Hoc Committee. Issues discussed at the AAC meeting included concerns about the appeals process, considering greenhouses as accessory structures, cooler facility sprinkler requirements and the need for flexibility when applying the Fire Code to rural lands. The Ad Hoc Committee reported inconsistencies between prior discussions with Mr. Hahn and recent documents he had sent out. Proposed changes to the Fire Code are scheduled for the Board on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The AAC asked the Planning Director to talk with the Fire Chief about incorporating the ag issues and made the following motions:

**Motion:** Leroy Scolari moved, seconded by Richard Quandt and carried by a unanimous vote to initiate a meeting between the AAC Ad Hoc Committee and Mike Brown regarding concerns about revising the Fire Code to address impacts on agricultural land.

**Motion:** Willy Chamberlin moved seconded by Richard Quandt and carried by a unanimous vote for the AAC chair to approve, authorize and sign a final letter written to the Board of Supervisors that incorporates suggested changes to the Fire Code that are recommended by the AAC Ad Hoc Committee, particularly including greenhouses as agricultural accessory structures.

## **VII. Santa Barbara Ranch – Tom Figg**

Tom Figg, Project Manager, updated the AAC on the Santa Barbara Ranch Project. Brent Daniels, L&P Consultants, was also available for questions. Since the project was reviewed by the Committee last month, the Agricultural Conservation Easement (ACE) has been revised to include APAC concerns. The project goes back to the Planning Commission on August 13<sup>th</sup> and will most likely be reviewed by the Board in October. Mr. Figg was asking the AAC to give their opinion on Alt IB and whether or not they support the findings as listed in the pre-meeting packet.

A Subcommittee consisting of Bill Giorgi, Paul Van Leer and Carl Stucky, updated the AAC on their site visit to the project site and review of the project. They reported concerns about the conversion of potentially productive ag land on south side of 101, building on steep hillsides, water runoff, erosion, food safety issues, land use conflicts, and introduction of agricultural pests.

AAC discussion focused on water availability, details of the ACE agreements and balancing property rights with ag protection. Some members encouraged the Committee to provide agricultural input on the project as opposed to taking a position on a specific project.

**Motion:** Leroy Scolari moved, seconded by Willy Chamberlin and carried by a vote of 5-4-0 that the AAC supports Agricultural Conservation Easement and Williamson Act exchange with strong recommendations that water runoff concerns pertaining to erosion, food safety concerns and adequate ag buffers around residences be addressed. The AAC would like the SB Ranch project to come back to the Committee so they can formalize and refine the motion before it goes to the Board.

**VII. RAU Ordinance – Postponed until next meeting.**

**IX. Reports From Committee Members - none**

**XI. Adjourned at 6:30pm**

### **Next agenda items:**

- AB 2686
- RAU
- SB Ranch
- AB 2881
- Right to Farm Ordinance Real Estate disclosure
- Recommendation to the BOS to support the SBC Fish and Game Commission's Wildfire Taskforce concept.

**NEXT MEETING:** Next meeting is on Wednesday, September 3, 2008 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.*