



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Suite 100, Stockton, CA 95206

MINUTES

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, March 24, 2025

Present: Kamal Bagri, Jose Chavez, Andrew Genasci, Chuck Hammond, Pedro Mendez, Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, Richard Marchini, Joseph Nicolini, Felix Ogbah, Linda Ormond, Terry Ann Paoletti, Robert Rickman, Joseph Seimas, Rosie Silva, Ken Vogel

Excused: Josh Cheney, Terry Violet

Absent: Brandon Bates, George Biagi, Stephen Ding, Michael Fisher, Robert Ferguson, Jeff Torres

Guests: Kelle Schroeder, San Joaquin County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures; Gavin Cline, Supervisor Ding's Office

I. Call to Order – Chair Vogel called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. Introduction of New Agricultural Advisory Board Members

a. Chair Vogel introduced new Board Members:

- i. Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, Director of University of California Cooperative Extension
- ii. Pedro Mendez, Associate Vice President of Career Technical Education and Workforce Development for Delta College
- iii. Linda Ormonde, District 3 Representative

III. Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2024, minutes approved as amended; M/S Rickman/Chavez

IV. Correspondence – No correspondence reported.

V. Legislative Updates

- a. Andrew Genasci, Executive Director of San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation discussed a visit from Josh Harder, Representative for California's 9th Congressional District covering San Joaquin County and parts of Stanislaus and Contra Costa Counties, at the recent Farm Bureau Federation meeting.

Discussion included rising Pacific, Gas & Electric costs, working on the import of wines blended with California wines, water projects in Farmington, and attempts to “Stop the Tunnels.” The Farm Work Modernization Act of 2025 was discussed regarding concerns about legal status for farm workers. The Act would “amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes.”

- b. Supervisor Rickman discussed Assembly Bill (AB) 286, Senate Bill 2, and AB 1333, and AB 585 regarding mandating reports.
- c. Agricultural Commissioner Bagri discussed AB 1042, introduced by District 13 Assemblymember, Rhodesia Ransom, and AB 899 regarding glass bottles recycling incentive.
- d. Gavin Cline reported that Supervisor Ding met with the Agricultural Committee regarding healthy water supply in support of the wine industry.

VI. New Business

a. Agricultural Commissioner’s Report

- i. Kamal Bagri reported on the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) Legislative summit in Washington, D.C. held March 10-14, 2025. Advocacy efforts were focused on funding for pest prevention and dog detector programs. The State budget has reduced USDA funding by three percent (3%) in pest detection. There are anticipated impacts at the local level, including wildlife services currently on a cost sharing basis with Contra Costa County.
- ii. Currently, there are only three Dog Detector Training facilities in the United States with a need for a facility in the Western U.S. The advocacy efforts are looking for funds and/or land for a potential training facility. Stockton Airport is looking to provide an expansion of flights, including international flights.
- iii. Kamal Bagri reported Spray Days where the public can see information on when pesticide applications are scheduled are required to notify the Department of Pesticide Regulation. Concerns were raised regarding churches and commercial properties, and the need for strong language on Conditional Use Permits. The Agricultural Commissioner’s Office may submit letters to the Community Development Department regarding issues of encroaching on agricultural land; copies are needed for the Supervisor if their District is impacted.
- iv. The Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is working on issues with abandoned orchards, and the need to removal. In 2022, the County hired an outside Counsel to assist with the complex issues with multiple property owners. The Department is currently working to address several abandoned orchard properties in the County.
- v. Burn letters were discussed; two letters were signed recently. Comments included having to wait over 13 months for a burn letter; there is a push for zero burning.
- vi. Apiary Regulations were discussed with the need for enforcement; many beekeepers do not register with the County. The Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is working on notifications where needed.

VII. Announcements

- a. A Continuing Education Class will be held on April 30, 2025, on laws and regulations.
- b. Supervisor Rickman announced members of the Board of Supervisors are going to Washington D.C. in May. He mentioned funding for expansion of Linne Road and Corral Hollow Road in Tracy to address the increase in vehicular traffic and the need for intersection lights.
- c. Andrew Genasci, Director of the Farm Bureau Federation announced a fundraiser dinner is scheduled for March 26, 2025, with wine tasting and auction items. Their upcoming April 2, 2025, Board of Farm Bureau will be working on establishing priorities and strategic planning.
- d. The Board discussed concerns over the impending impact of the State Water Resources Control Board Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on the agricultural community. Comments included the need to address groundwater depletion and subsidence issues.
- e. A question was raised regarding the status of the initiative to allow mobile home housing for farm workers; the bill did not pass.
- f. Terry Ann Paoletti announced that California Women in Agriculture has established an interest list; contact Terry for more information or to be added to the list.
- g. The Board discussed unimpaired water flows to protect salmon effects on the Stockton Delta Mendota Canal and concerns with flooding in the Mossdale Bridge area.

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next Quarterly Meeting June 23 at 10 a.m.

Submitted By:

Patricia Lord, Secretary for the Board