



# SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

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

## MINUTES

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD  
Monday, March 2, 2020

**Present:** George Biagi, Bruce Blodgett, Chuck Hammond, Brent Holtz, Scott Johnson, Richard Marchini, Terry Ann Paoletti, Joseph Seimas, Jeremy Terhune, Ken Vogel, Charles Winn

**Excused:** Tim Pelican, Ernie Pombo, Terry Violet

**Absent:** Joseph Bacchetti, Josh Cheney, Bob Elliott, Jeff Torres

**Guest:** Kamal Bagri

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- I. **Call to Order** – Chair Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – January 6, 2020 minutes approved with one correction.
- III. **Correspondence**
  - a. Annette sent out an email with Form 700 for 2019 filing year to be completed and returned by April 1, 2020. The Ag Commissioner's conflict of Interest Code expressly designates the Ag Advisory Board Members as required filers.
- IV. **Old Business**
  - a. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA):
    - i. Plan submitted in January, waiting for State to accept proposal. San Joaquin Valley is an overdraft region, which means we have to submit plan now; other regions can do it in 2022. Plan is in review and we are in the process of putting together an annual report.
  - b. Delta Issues:
    - i. Scoping for single tunnel, so they been holding meetings. Someone from Clarksburg Farm Bureau found 1970's map of the peripheral canal and brought it to the meeting, maps are almost identical. Comments are due March 20<sup>th</sup> looking at different alternatives instead of the tunnel concept.
  - c. Ag Commissioner's Report:
    - i. Tim is in Washington D.C. with the Californian Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers Association (CACASA) delegation.
    - ii. Nutria bill passed the house committee for 12 million dollars. This will be allocated to the Fish and Wildlife Services annually between 2021 and 2025. Farm

Bureau is hoping for Feinstein's sponsorship when it goes to the Senate. Tim and CACASA members are going to be meeting with Feinstein to ask for sponsorship on this bill.

- iii. On Friday, we were notified that South Baker Rendering Plant was down, and an emergency was declared by Kings County. San Joaquin County is not looking at declaring an emergency because the Sacramento SRC Rendering Plant has enough capacity right now. We contacted Environmental Health and at this point, we do not have to declare an emergency.
- iv. Department of Pesticide Regulation released their Telone plan; they are proposing a pilot project. They are coming up with twelve different methods of application options. To name some of those there will be expanded buffer zones up to ½ mile, minimum of 70% soil moisture or applying water seal or deeper injection points, rather than 18 inches it can be up to 36 inches deep. This pilot project will be starting in Shafter, Parlier, and Delhi in Merced County.
- v. Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is required to propose something by July 1, 2020 on Neonicotinoid. DPR is coming up with rule makings in mid-March and meetings will be held in April. We will notify the Farm Bureau and if there are meetings in between, we will let everybody know what the dates are so our farmers can provide input.
- vi. Lodi AgVenture was last Thursday and we had over 3,000 students attend. We did receive an Ag Plate Grant for \$10,000 last month and that will supplement some of the cost associated with the AgVenture program. The current Specialty Crop Block Grant covers our AgVentures until next year.
- vii. Ag Commissioner's Office received a \$40,000 Weed Grant from California Department of Food and Agriculture. This is a new project for us because Ag Commissioner's Office do not go out to spray noxious weeds. We are looking at Memorandum of Understanding with our Resource Conservation District. They will be coming up with a mapping plan and contacting our local growers who can self-report any noxious weeds. Our staff will be coordinating with Resource Conservation District to map these weed areas.
- viii. On April 21, 2020, we plan to release a Crop Report Plus to the Board of Supervisors.
- ix. Revisiting Hemp Ordinance to allow cultivation in the Agricultural Limited (AL-5) Zones.
- x. Section 18 for bacterial blast for the tree growers was approved by the Department of Pesticide Regulation last month.
- xi. Lantern Fruit Fly was found here at the airport in one of the planes.
- xii. Vine Mealy Bug, Cherry Fruit Fly and Apple Maggot trapping programs will be paid through a CDFA contract this year.

**V. Legislative Updates – Bruce Blodgett**

- a. Making sure Amazon cargo is being inspected.
- b. Cannabis in San Joaquin County five applications all in the Ag Zones. Latest proposal is at the Lockeford Winery to turn it into a processing, production and distribution facility.
- c. Large hemp production in Kern County, THC level was not hemp.
- d. Hemp in San Joaquin County, three approved applications
- e. Election day is tomorrow, get out and vote.

**VI. New Business - None**

**VII. Announcements**

- a. Brent Holtz - Healthy Soil Initiative. I gave most of my information to CDFA scientist working with them to get that added and they set aside 28 million for growers this year, \$840 incentive per grower. Mike Machado is our first walnut grower.

**VIII. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m., next meeting date Monday, May 4, 2020.

Submitted By: Annette Lovato, Administrative Secretary