



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

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

MINUTES

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, October 9, 2023

Present: Kamaljit Bagri, Andrew Genasci, Chuck Hammond, Brent Holtz, Richard Marchini, Robert Rickman, Joseph Seimas, Roseanna Silva, Terry Violett, Ken Vogel

Absent: Brandon Bates, George Biagi, Josh Cheney, Steven J. Ding, Michael W. Fisher, Scott Johnson, Terry Ann Paoletti

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- I. **Call to Order** – Chair Ken Vogel called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.
 - II. **Approval of Minutes** – November 1, 2021, March 7, 2022, June 6, 2022, March 6, 2023, May 1, 2023, Minutes approved
 - III. **Correspondence** – None reported
 - IV. **Old Business**
 - a. **Delta Issues**
 - i. PG&E transmission line project from Lodi to Lockeford discussed.
 - ii. Public outreach lacking; mid-November targeted for renewed engagement.
 - iii. 6,000-page Delta Health report released, still under review.
 - V. **Legislative Updates**
 - a. Governor's recent attempt to limit local control over air district appointments was defeated.
 - b. State continues shifting funding priorities away from traditional ag positions.
 - VI. **New Business**
 - a. **Ag Commissioner's Report**
 - i. Pesticide permitting season starts early November.
 - ii. Major exam changes: all Private Applicator Certificate (PAC) holders must take a new test.
 - iii. New subcategory exam for vertebrate pest control (aluminum phosphide use).
 - iv. Changes also impact Qualified Applicator License and Qualified Applicator Certificate categories; re-testing required.
 - v. Continuing education (CE) sessions scheduled with preparation and testing; study guides provided in English and Spanish.

- vi. New pesticide notification rules effective Jan. 1, 2024 (1-mile school notification radius for California restricted materials).
- vii. The system will utilize existing Notice of Intent submissions, no added burden to growers.
- viii. CE sessions critical for education on these new requirements.
- ix. County approved for a federal Detector K-9 Team to help inspect ag shipments for invasive pests.
- x. There were 308 fruit fly detections in 2023; serious concern for pest introduction to the County.

b. Grievance Committee

- i. Complaint received about loud sound boxes in cherry orchard used for bird control.
- ii. Grievance Committee formed:
 - 1. Two public members (non-ag affiliated)
 - 2. Two Ag Advisory Board members (Andrew Genasci, Joseph Seimas)
 - 3. One existing board member (Brent Holtz)
- iii. Motion approved to move forward with committee.

c. Burning Restrictions

- i. Open agricultural burning phased out in 2025 for growers with >250 acres.
- ii. Vineyard disposal problematic due to stakes/wires and virus transmission risk.
- iii. Alternatives discussed:
 - 1. Air curtain burners (limited capacity and availability)
 - 2. Chipping + off-site composting
- iv. Funding:
 - 1. Valley Air District grants: \$600–\$1,300/acre
 - 2. National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) “mulching” grants can be combined.
- v. Concern that funding may run out by mid-2024.
- vi. Need for more service providers and grant continuation emphasized.
- vii. The abatement process is available for disease-infested orchards but difficult to implement.

VII. Announcements

- a. Memorandum of Understanding between SJ County OES and Hold Your Horses Livestock Emergency Evacuation Response Team presented.
- b. UC Cooperative Extension has two staff vacancies: Orchard Systems Advisor and 4-H Advisor.
- c. Debate over which role is more critical; 4-H program at risk due to lack of support staff.
- d. Concerns raised about UC ANR shifting focus away from core ag roles.
- e. October 24, 2023, Planning Dept. meeting to discuss expansion of industrial warehouses.

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:22AM

Prepared By: Patricia Lord, Management Analyst III and Humera Imran, Office Assistant, Transcribed from Recording