



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

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

MINUTES

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, September 22, 2025

Present: Kamaljit Bagri, Sara Bautista, Jose Cheney, Steven Freeman, Andrew Genasci, Chuck Hammond, Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, Richard Marchini, Sonya Miller, Joseph Nicolini, Linda Ormonde, Terry Ann Paoletti, Robert Rickman, Joseph Seimas, Roseanna Silva, Terry Violet

Excused: Jose Chavez, Steven Ding, Pedro Mendez, Kenneth Vogel

Absent: Felix Ogbah

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- I. **Call to Order** – 10:04 am by Commissioner Kamal Bagri for Chair Vogel and followed by Pledge of Allegiance, led by Andrew Genasci
 - II. **Introduction of New Agricultural Advisory Board Members**
 - a. Commissioner Kamal Bagri introduced new Board Member:
 - i. Sara Bautista – Farm Service Agency
 - III. **Approval of Minutes** – June 23, 2025, Minutes approved; M/S Rickman/Freeman
 - IV. **Correspondence** – None reported
 - V. **Legislative Updates**
 - a. Andrew Gensaci reported that he is tracking any legislation revolving around groundwater adjudication and other water rights
 - b. Kamal Bagri – Agricultural Commissioner
 - i. A.B 732 – abandoned orchards
 1. Bill has passed the California state senate and assembly, is now waiting on Governor signature. This bill will authorize Agricultural Commissioners to levy a civil penalty, in lieu of a lien, against a person whose property is considered a “public nuisance”
 2. Double-Edged Sword - Owners don’t have the money to remove the plants themselves or take care of the land, so the land continues to be an issue. Counties must pay the bill to abate the land and then place a lien on the property. Chuck Hammond commented that it could take up to a year to get a burner to the property for abatement. Kamal Bagri explained that use of curtain burners instead of open burning still

required the approval of the Air Pollution Control District. Kamal commented on the need for accurate information on number of acres of planted vineyards for the annual Crop Report. Estimated 6500 acres of vineyards have been removed.

- ii. California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force – The commissioner spoke at the event with the sheriff department. Commenting on the discussion about walnut ordinance and illegal hemp grows.
- c. Supervisor Robert Rickman
 - i. Returned from his trip to D.C where he met with representatives from the Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, and other agencies. Discussion topics noted were Dog Team, invasive mussels, and the 2024 Crop Report
- d. Gavin Cline, Board of Supervisors Steven Ding's Office Representative
 - i. Lodi Winery Business Improvement District would add 1.5% tasting room fee
 - 1. A public meeting is scheduled for October 7th
 - 2. Board vote is scheduled for November 18th meeting

VI. New Business

a. Ag Commissioner's Report

- i. 2024 Crop Report was approved on Sep. 9th and copies were distributed
- ii. Received letter from USDA. Cherry disaster declaration was deferred and Walnut disaster not determined. Waiting for final numbers on production.
- iii. Facility Use Policy and Fee Schedule
 - 1. One of the changes being made to the policy is on the use of the center for non-agricultural related events. Going forward the AG Center will be used for AG-related events only and we are currently working on a revised group use information.
- iv. Dog Training
 - 1. Visited Georgia Center in late August, Facility has a capacity for 60 – 80 teams, requires advance notice in April for next year training, 8-week training period can be hardship on staff.
- v. Dog training facility
 - 1. Looking to county to identify a site for a California facility, minimum of 15 acres. Operational costs for a facility like this, in California, are unknown. Plans for the facility are to partner with law enforcement agencies, such as the sheriff's department and public safety to provide a location for dog training. Other departments, such as Customs and Border Patrol, have expressed a need for trained dogs.
 - 2. Representative Josh Harder's office would like money for San Joaquin County to build a facility. A meeting with Josh Harder's office is currently planned, topics to be discussed have not been determined.
 - 3. Linda Ormonde asks how many dogs are needed; Kamal replies that studies show a minimum of 29 dogs are needed in California
- vi. CE Schedule & Private Applicator Card
 - 1. New procedures will be going into effect Fall 2025, all farmers must make appointments for permit renewal
 - 2. Waylon (Dog) will be going to UPS, FedEx, Amazon, and Post Office facilities

b. UCCE Director's Report, Michelle Leinfelder-Miles

- i. The federal reconciliation bill enacted on July 4, 2025, eliminated SNAP-ed funding, which supports the delivery of CalFresh Healthy Living educational programming in California. As a result, seven SJC UCCE staff positions - one-third of its workforce - will be laid off in 2026.
- ii. The department is currently recruiting for a Walnut and Cherry Advisor position and has recently hired a half-time 4-H Community Education Specialist to help rebuild the program, which has seen low enrollment since COVID.
- iii. The Delta Crops Advisor is providing expert testimony to the State Water Resources Control Board on salinity impacts to Delta agriculture at the request of protesting parties of the Delta Conveyance Project.

VII. Discussion items and Announcements

- a. Andrew Genasci & Kamal Bagri
 - i. DPR is holding an informal public workshop about Anticoagulant Rodenticide Mitigation on September 24th. They have also posted draft regulations pertaining to making these products as restricted materials.
 - ii. New regulations could prevent farmers from applying pesticide within 150ft of a structure, which could be a hardship on farmers.
- b. Sonya Miller
 - i. Accepting applications for Conservation programs
 - ii. RCD is holding a workshop on Nov. 13th – “Setting a Good Foundation”
 - 1. They are looking for vendors for the event
- c. Kamal Bagri
 - i. Noxious Weed continues to rapidly spread in San Joaquin County, currently working with RCD on how to spend funding for the Weed Management Area

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:14AM

Prepared By: Patricia Lord, Management Analyst III and Humera Imran, Office Worker II