

ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Members and Alternates Present: Jean-Pierre Wolff, Lisen Bonnier, Don Warden, Sarah Kramer, Chuck Pritchard, Kaylee Ellis, Dan Rodrigues, Joy Fitzhugh

Staff Present: Marc Lea, Lynda Auchinachie – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, Guy Savage – Assistant County Administrative Officer – County of San Luis Obispo, Dick Tzou,- San Luis County Public Works Department

Absent Members: Greg France, Richard Hawley, Mark Pearce, Mark Battany, Claire Wineman, Dick Nock, Tom Ikeda, Robert Hartzell, David Pruitt

Guests Present: Lisa Bodrogi

1. Call to Order: 6:00 Chair Wolff

2. Open Comment:

- None

3. Announcements from ALAB Members & County Ag Department Staff Updates:

- Marc Lea provided a brief update on ALAB membership. Marc indicated a nomination letter should be arriving in the next day or so for the vacant Direct Marketing position. Districts 1 and 5 still have ALAB member vacancies that will be filled through the Board appointee process. Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff will follow up with Board members.
- Marc Lea shared that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the Agricultural Ponds and Reservoirs Ordinance 5-0. Marc indicated that while not all of ALAB's comments were incorporated into the approved ordinance, the concerns raised about the use of the word "historic" and rewording of the section regarding agricultural offsets were part of the new ordinance. The BOS also limited the RCD's processing of pond permits to ponds that are one acre-foot or less in size versus the five acre-feet recommended in the Planning Commission Draft.
- Marc Lea reminded ALAB members that the Oak Tree Ordinance BOS hearing would be held on April 11, 2017.

4. Update/Discussion: The Status of Cannabis in San Luis Obispo County – Guy Savage, Assistant County Administrative Officer – County of San Luis Obispo

- Guy Savage provided ALAB members with a handout of a presentation he recently made to the BOS regarding cannabis. Guy walked ALAB members through the handout and answered questions. Highlights included a national overview of the states that have legalized medical and recreational use of cannabis; local voting trends for Proposition 64 that legalized recreational cannabis use in California; the various license types for both medical and recreational production; recommendations from the BOS for developing an ordinance for a specialty crop; an overview of cultivation setback requirements; limitations for dispensaries and delivery services; limitations on the number of licenses that may be issued; and a discussion on State and local taxation. Guy indicated he

welcomed all feedback from ALAB and local growers.

- Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff questioned if the taxation of cannabis could make up for the revenue lost when Diablo Nuclear Power Plant closes. Guy indicated that cannabis taxation is currently not being looked at as a replacement revenue stream.
- Joy Fitzhugh suggested ALAB members should comment on the proposed ordinance in the future.

5. Update/Discussion: Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – Dick Tzou, Water Resources Engineer – San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department

- Dick Tzou provided an update of activities associated with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Dick indicated that the BOS recently adopted a change to the SGMA policy strategy. The change would result in the County paying the costs of SGMA compliance for unrepresented areas of the county. In November 2016, the BOS had adopted a different policy in which users of the basin would share costs. Dick reminded ALAB members that the issue was going to be revisited at the April 4, 2017, BOS hearing because the original action was not agendaized and concerns regarding Brown Act violations were raised. Dick estimated that costs to the County would be in the range of \$6-8.6 million over the next 3-5 years.
- ALAB members raised concerns over double taxation; how the County could afford to pay for SGMA compliance; the potential for lawsuits; that there is not a 218 vote to finance ongoing efforts and projects; and the high cost for the Los Osos Valley fringe area with only 500 acres of irrigated agricultural land.
- Public Works is also working on a basin characterization for San Luis Obispo. Similar studies will begin soon for the Los Osos Valley and Santa Maria fringe areas. Resulting information may support subsequent boundary modification requests that can occur during 2018. Any well or groundwater data ALAB members could provide would be helpful.

6. Presentation: Growing Perigord Black Truffles – Lisa Bodrogi, Cuvee Connections

- Lisa Bodrogi provided ALAB members with a variety of insights to truffle production. Lisa is working with researchers to bring this high value crop to the Central Coast which is well suited for truffle production. Lisa indicated truffles are not easy to grow. Truffles grow off the roots of newly planted and inoculated oak trees with adequate irrigation. Land preparation and planting costs approximately \$20,000 an acre. It takes approximately 4-6 years before truffles are ready to harvest. Harvest season is November through March. Additional information can be obtained from Lisa (805) 937-8474 or lisa@cuvee.me.

7. Future Agenda Items:

Updates on cannabis ordinance development, SGMA, and the BOS Oak Tree Ordinance hearing.

Next meeting – May 1, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures