

## ALAB APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Monday - June 27, 2022

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, 4875 Morabito Place, San Luis Obispo

**Members and Alternates Present:** Lisen Bonnier, Tom Ikeda, Claire Wineman, Kaylee Ellis, Dan Rodrigues, Seth Scribner, Sarah Kramer, Mike Broadhurst, Jerry Diefenderfer, Jean-Pierre Wolff, and Brent Burchett

**Staff Present:** Marc Lea and Ian Landreth – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, Mark Battany – University of California Cooperative Extension

**Absent Members:** Mark Pearce, Camilla Posson, Mary Bianchi, Randy Diffenbaugh, Butch Yamashita, Daniel Chavez, Craig Pritchard

**Guests Present:** Patricia Wilmore – Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance

I. **Call to Order, introductions, quorum determination:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Rodrigues at 5:04 pm. There were enough members present to have a quorum.

II. **Open Comment:**

- No comments submitted.

III. **Previous Minutes – May 2, 2022 & June 7, 2022**

**May 2, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion to Approve:** Jerry Diefenderfer
- **Second:** Tom Ikeda
- **Approved:** Unanimous decision

**June 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

- **Motion to Approve:** Tom Ikeda
- **Second:** Lisen Bonnier
- **Approved:** Unanimous decision; **Abstained:** Jerry Diefenderfer and Brent Burchett

IV. **ALAB Governance Membership Updates**

- Marc Lea introduced Mike Broadhurst as the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD alternate for Mary Bianchi. Broadhurst provided a brief background on his experience in the agriculture industry.
- Lea provided a reminder that today's meeting was originally scheduled to replace the July 11, 2022, meeting unless the ALAB wanted to hold that meeting as well. ALAB members decided that there was not a sufficient need or pressing topics to hold the July 11, 2022 meeting.
- Lea provided an update on membership terms and selecting the representatives for the vacant Direct Marketing/Organic and Environmental representatives. Additionally, Lea is working on renewing the term for Jean-Pierre Wolff and arranging for Sarah Kramer to replace Mark Pearce as the primary Ag Finance

representative; Mark will, in turn, take Sarah's current slot as the Ag. Finance alternate. All of the nominations are expected to be approved in time for the September ALAB meeting.

- Joe Plummer is stepping down as the alternate representative for the wine grape industry due to an upcoming move out of state. The process for selecting an alternate is a simpler process and Lea will work with Dan Rodrigues and the wine grape industry to identify an interested alternate.
- Tom Ikeda asked what it would take to change the ALAB bylaws to adjust the nomination requirements for certain industry representatives. Marc Lea mentioned the bylaws have been amended in the past and it was possible to amend them again to change the environmental representative seat to be a broader position instead of one nominated solely by ECOSLO, but that those changes would ultimately need to be approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- Lisen Bonnier suggested that the Land Conservancy of SLO would be a good organization as an example.
- Jean-Pierre Wolff proposed eliminating the Environmental Representative seat; pointing out that the Coastal and Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCDs already fulfill the environmental need. Marc Lea stated the first thing to do would be to adjust the bylaws and mentioned he would look into the matter and bring back additional information to the next meeting.
- A separate discussion on incorporating an attendance record as a compliance check was had. Jean-Pierre Wolff used the Department of Public Works Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) meetings as an example which post their attendance sheets on the Department website. Marc Lea reminded the ALAB that the attendance was tracked on the meeting minutes which were posted on the Agriculture Department website after the ALAB approves them, but that ALAB could choose to add a more straightforward attendance tracking method.

**V. Presentation/Discussion: Presentation/Discussion: New CIMIS Weather Stations in San Luis Obispo County, Mark Battany - University of California Cooperative Extension**

- Battany provided a presentation on the new, and proposed CIMIS Weather Stations at the Paso Robles Airport and the community of Shandon.
- The CIMIS Weather Stations key purpose is to provide evapotranspiration data with a low standard rate of error. This data is then used by multiple organizations to accomplish their GIS related analysis of water use over a given area.
- A website called OpenET ([www.openetdata.org](http://www.openetdata.org)) was mentioned by Battany that also estimates evapotranspiration data and would benefit from the data obtained from the new and proposed CIMIS stations.

**VI. Updates/Discussion: Paso Basin Land Use Management Area Planting Ordinance, Draft Environmental Impact Report**

- The ALAB discussed the letter that was drafted by the sub-committee the prior week. The comment letter was reviewed and amended to include a comment on

the concerns that the draft EIR contains an insufficient evaluation of the economic impacts the proposed ordinance would have.

**Motion to approve the ALAB response letter, as amended, in response to the Motion to the draft PEIR for the Paso Basin Land Use Management Area Planting Ordinance.**

“(1) The draft PEIR failed to discuss the significant economic impacts that would result from the ordinance including the direct cost of implementing mitigation measures and the potential loss of existing farm ground because of increased groundwater pumping”.

- **Motion to Approve:** Jerry Diefenderfer
- **Yes:** Lisen Bonnier, Tom Ikeda, Jerry Diefenderfer, Sarah Kramer, Seth Scribner, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Brent Burchett, Claire Wineman, Dan Rodrigues
- **Abstain:** Mike Broadhurst
- **Link to Finalized Letter:** [ALAB Letter to Planning on Draft PEIR for the Paso Basin Planting Ordinance](#)

**Motion to Approve the ALAB drafting a second letter to the BOS requesting to extend the agricultural offset ordinance to 2027.**

- **Motion to Approve:** Tom Ikeda
- **Second:** Jean-Pierre Wolff
- **Yes:** Lisen Bonnier, Tom Ikeda, Jerry Diefenderfer, Sarah Kramer, Seth Scribner, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Brent Burchett, Claire Wineman, Dan Rodrigues
- **Abstain:** Mike Broadhurst
- **Link to Finalized Letter:** [ALAB Letter to the Board of Supervisors on Ag Offset Ordinance Extension](#)

**VII. Presentation/Discussion:** Proposed Energy Storage Development Projects in San Luis Obispo County, Ian Landreth - County of San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture

- Ian Landreth provided a presentation and background on the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects in San Luis Obispo County and examples of what a typical BESS location would look like.
- Link to the presentation provided: [Energy Storage Presentation](#)
- Additional discussion was held regarding the Hydrostor thermal compressed air BESS project off of Highway 1 just outside of Morro Bay. Landreth provided the ALAB with an update on the recent determination by the California Energy Commission that the Hydrostor applicant was exempt from the Application for Certification Process, which could mean that a Land Use Permit would not be required to be obtained from the County.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Brent Burchett

**Second:** Dan Rodrigues

**Next Meeting:** August 1, 2022, Farm Bureau Office, 4875 Morabito Place, San Luis Obispo

Respectfully submitted by Ian Landreth, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture