

# County of San Luis Obispo Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board



**Agricultural Liaison  
Advisory Board (ALAB)**

## Positions/Members/Terms

CHAIR: Dee Lacey

VICE CHAIR: Jean-Pierre Wolff

District One: Mecham Appt.

Dee Lacey (1/13)

District Two: Gibson Appt.

Lisen Bonnier (1/15)

District Three: Hill Appt.

Tom Ikeda (1/13)

District Four: Teixeira Appt.

Bill Struble (1/15)

District Five: Patterson Appt.

Noah Small (1/13)

Ag. Finance Rep.

Mark Pearce (8/14)

Cattlemen Rep.

Dick Nock

Coastal San Luis RCD Rep.

Jean-Pierre Wolff (8/14)

Direct Marketing/Organic Rep.

Eric Michielssen (4/12)

Environmental Rep.

Richard Hawley(1/15)

Farm Bureau Rep.

R. Don Warden

Nursery Rep.

David Pruitt (4/12)

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD Rep.

Charles Pritchard (1/14)

Vegetable Rep.

Richard Quandt (4/12)

Wine Grape Rep.

Neil Roberts (4/12)

County Agricultural Commissioner

Brenda W. Ouwerkerk, Interim

*Ex-Officio*

U.C. Coop. Extension Farm Advisor

Mary Bianchi

*Ex-Officio*

## MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 7, 2011

6:00pm

LOCATION:

Farm Bureau Office

651 Tank Farm Road

San Luis Obispo

1. 6:00pm Call to order, introductions, quorum determination:  
Chair Lacey
2. 6:05pm Open comment: (for items not on the agenda)  
Chair Lacey
3. 6:15pm Announcements from Co. Ag. Dept. staff: see handout available at meeting. Announcements from members: "Reports from the Trenches".  
Chair Lacey
4. 6:25pm Review/approval of previous meeting minutes:  
Chair Lacey
5. 6:30pm Review/possible action: Update: Ag Preserve Program (Wm. Act)  
Warren Hoag: Dept. of Planning and Building
6. 7:00 pm Review/possible action: ALAB's advisory role – how can ALAB become more effective?  
Chair Lacey
7. 7:45pm Review/possible action:
8. 8:00pm Future agenda items/meeting dates, adjournment:  
Chair Lacey

## ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE

**MEMBERS:** Please contact Lynda Auchinachie in the County Department of Agriculture at 805-781-5914 if you can NOT attend.

### *Scope of the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB):*

*The ALAB is advisory in nature and is recognized as a forum for discussion of matters that relate to local agriculture and land use or as directed by the County Board of Supervisors. ALAB members serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors. Meetings are open to the public. Monthly agendas, minutes and supplemental handouts for agenda items can be accessed at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm) or at the County Department of Agriculture – 2156 Sierra Way, Suite A, San Luis Obispo.*

## ALAB Agenda 5

### Agricultural Preserve Program

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1055 MONTEREY, ROOM D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408-1003 • 805.781.5450



February 1, 2011

The Honorable Mark Leno  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Blumenfield  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### Re: Williamson Act Funding

Dear Senator Leno and Assembly Member Blumenfield:

On behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, I wish to express our strong opposition to the Governor's 2011-12 State Budget proposal to virtually eliminate all of the Williamson Act subvention payments to local governments.

Enacted in 1971, the Williamson Act is the single most effective agricultural land preservation program in California. Overall, the program protects 16.5 million acres of farmland throughout the state by offering property tax relief in return for rolling contracts to keep land in commercial agricultural production for 10 or 20 years. San Luis Obispo County has approximately 781,000 acres of farmland under Williamson Act contract.

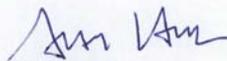
The Act's subvention program sets forth a state reimbursement formula that has provided a tangible incentive for local governments to stay in the program and initiate more contracts by partially replacing property tax revenues lost on enrolled land. The ramifications of eliminating the subventions are far reaching. The subvention dollars represent one of the last sources of discretionary revenues for counties. The loss of these funds will contribute to the further erosion of services provided by the County including: public safety, land use, elections, road maintenance and various social safety net programs. Additionally, these revenues will be essential to help support any new program responsibilities shifted to counties should any of the Governor's state/local government realignment proposals move forward.

*FRANK R. MECHAM, Supervisor District One*  
*BRUCE GIBSON, Supervisor District Two*  
*ADAM HILL, Supervisor District Three*  
*PAUL TEIXEIRA, Supervisor District Four*  
*JAMES R. PATTERSON, Supervisor District Five*

In addition to preserving our state's agriculture, land under Williamson Act contract help contribute to meeting California's AB 32 and SB 375 goals through carbon sequestration and effective land-use planning. The program is used to implement general plan conservation programs which address the growth of urban areas, the expansion of public infrastructure and the conservation of important agriculture and open space resources. The program also helps to maintain open space and critical habitat for many of California's most sensitive species.

Given the Williamson Act's statewide benefits to the economy, agriculture and the environment, it is our hope that you as state leaders will demonstrate your commitment to the program by reinvesting in its long-term success.

Sincerely,



**ADAM HILL**  
Chair, Board of Supervisors  
San Luis Obispo County

c - Governor Jerry Brown  
President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg  
Senate Minority Leader Bob Dutton  
Speaker John Perez  
Senator Sam Blakeslee  
Assembly Minority Leader Connie Conway  
Assemblyperson Katcho Achadjian  
Members and Consultants of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2  
Members and Consultants of the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 4  
Members and Consultants of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
Members and Consultants of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4