

ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 3, 2011

Members and Alternates Present: Dee Lacey, Tom Ikeda, Bill Struble, Mark Pearce, Dick Nock, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Eric Michielssen, R. Don Warden, Joy Fitzhugh, Richard Quandt, Neal Roberts, Brenda Ouwerkerk, Mary Bianchi

Absent Members: Lisen Bonnier, Noah Small, Debra Garrison, David Pruitt, Charles Pritchard

Guests Present: Olivia Gonzalez, Grower-Shipper; Lisa Bodrogi, Wine Country Alliance; Susan McDonald, Hearst Ranch; Richard Hawley, Cambria Greenspace

Staff: Michael Isensee and Marty Settevendemie, Agriculture Department; James Caruso, Senior Planner, County Department of Planning and Building (DP&B).

1. **Call to Order:** 6:04 PM. Quorum Present. Mr. Settevendemie introduced by Interim Commissioner Ouwerkerk
2. **Open Comment:** None
3. **Agency Reports & Member Announcements/Reports:**
 - Members announced the rain has overall been very positive except for vegetable growers who have had difficulty working their fields and are seeing significant rot in crops which are nearly ready to harvest. Cattle ranchers have also not been able to work calves and grain crops planted after November have suffered or the plantings did not occur.
 - Richard Quandt introduced Olivia Gonzales, Shipper-Grower Association's new Vice President of Policy and Communications.
 - Jean Pierre Wolf has been appointed to Regional Water Quality Control Board in the Wildlife and Recreation position due to his involvement with the Resource Conservation District.
 - Agriculture Department
 - Second recruitment for a new Commissioner is moving along. Recruitment process closed on Dec 31 with interviews to start mid-January.
 - Health Commission agenda on January 10 will cover Pesticide Use Program and will also hear from Regional Water Quality control Board regarding the proposed Agricultural Order.
 - Crop Report grower survey is out – please return and encourage others to do so as it saves substantial staff time.
 - Ventura County and portions of Santa Barbara have been placed on quarantine for Asian Citrus Psyllid on December 31. SLO is conducting extensive surveys in both urban areas and within three miles of citrus growing areas. Citrus stock is typical point of spread and movement of stock is prohibited from infested areas.
 - Written report provided by Agriculture Department.
 - Marty Settevendemie reports on Glassy-winged Sharpshooter infestation in the city of SLO:
 1. The planned treatment program has changed. There will be both a foliar and ground treatment simultaneously. The current plan is to treat approximately 100 properties.
 2. The Department will hold an open house on Feb 1 from 6-8 PM for residents.

Multiple state and local agencies, grape grower representatives, elected officials, and others will be invited.

3. The County will be reviewing bids next week from Pest Control Operators to conduct the pesticide applications.

4. Previous Minutes:

MOTION: Approve minutes with addition of Tom Ikeda to list of absent members: **Motion – Neil Roberts. 2nd – Don Warden. Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

5. Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study (James Caruso, DP&B)

- County DP&B gave presentation based upon handouts and shared Planning Commission's modifications to recommended actions.
- Planning Commission's recommendations should be posted January 14 with a Board hearing on February 1.
- ALAB asked numerous questions of staff and discussed various issues with the RCS.

Motion – Establish a committee to develop an ALAB statement within two weeks to email to ALAB members for their approval: Joy, Neal and Mary. **Approved: unanimous Oposed: none**

6. ALAB Organizational Structure and Operations Guidelines (Brenda Ouwerkerk, Ag Dept)

- Several changes to the draft were proposed. Further updates were tabled until several loose ends are tied up.

7. Information from Chair

- a. Grazing Advisory Board letter has been submitted by Chair Lacey regarding elections of Grazing Advisory Board members. (UC Cooperative Extension staff administers the Grazing Advisory Board and the election; the ALAB letter is a formality, meeting requirements of BOS Resolution # 75-248. See Brenda if you have any questions).
- b. January 11 Board of Supervisors scheduled to appoint Richard Hawley to ALAB as Environmental Representative, replacing Debra Garrison and reappointment of Mark Pearce and Jean-Pierre Wolf to ALAB.

8. Upcoming Meeting: Not yet scheduled. Tentative for February 7, 6 PM

Future Agenda Items: None identified.

Meeting adjourned: 8:14 PM. Respectfully submitted by Michael Isensee, County Agriculture Department.

Agenda Item 3: Announcements



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures

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AGRICULTURAL LIAISON ADVISORY BOARD MEETING DEPARTMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 7, 2011

CALENDAR

March 10, 24	Planning Commission – hearing: Shandon Community Plan Update
March 14	County Health Commission meeting – presentation: GWSS eradication program
March 29	BOS – discussion: Dept of Planning and Building’s work prioritization
March 31	Planning Commission – hearing: Events Ordinance amendments

1. Ag Commissioner/Sealer recruitment: Congratulations to Marty Settevendemie, recently appointed Ag Commissioner/Sealer. Official starting date: March 8, 2011.
Contact: Marty Settevendemie, Commissioner/Sealer 781-5913

2. Feb. 1- a public meeting for Glassy-winged Sharpshooter eradication treatments was held. Approximately 20 individuals showed-up. Staff from Co. Ag Department, CDFA, Co Health Dept, and the grape grower industry were on hand to answer questions about pesticide applications to ornamental plants in the infested neighborhood in south-east SLO city. THANK YOU to the growers that attended! Concerns about pesticides were expressed, as well as support for the planned eradication program. Treatments of Merit began February 23 and will continue through March, with 60-100 properties slated for treatment. Contact: Karen Lowerison, Ag Dept. 781-5160

3. March 14, Ag Department staff will present the eradication plan to the Co. Health Commission as part of our continuing public outreach efforts. Contact: Karen Lowerison, Ag Dept. 781-5160

Excerpts: DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING MONTHLY STATUS REPORT:

January 2011

ON-GOING PROJECTS:

Agricultural Cluster Division Policies and Ordinance Standards (All Districts)

On February 17, 2009, The Board of Supervisors authorized the processing of amendments to the Ag Cluster Division and other related policies of the Agricultural Element and associated Ag Cluster Division standards in the LUO. The amendments will address several issues identified by the Board.

Status: After further direction from the Board, staff has all but the Coastal amendments to the ordinance and element drafted and available on the department's website. These amendments are referred to as Agricultural Cluster Subdivision and Density Program. An Initial Study was completed and concluded that *potentially significant* environmental impacts could result. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the EIR was issued. A scoping meeting with the Planning Commission to receive comments pertaining to environmental impacts was held on February 11, 2010. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared in order to investigate and analyze impacts. DEIR is estimated to be completed soon. Contact: Bill Robeson (x5607); John Nall (x5027)

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study (RCS) (Districts 1 & 5):

A RCS was authorized by the Board of Supervisors in response to a certified Level of Severity I in portions of the Paso Robles Groundwater basin. The RCS examines water capacities and estimated demand in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and its Atascadero Sub-basin; recommends Levels of Severity; and recommends monitoring, land use and conservation measures to reduce conflicts over the limited groundwater resource.

Status: The RCS was considered at a joint Board/Planning Commission hearing on November 9, 2010. The Planning Commission recommended the adequacy of the RCS on December 9. The Planning Commission's recommendations will be considered by the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing on February 1, 2011.

Contact: James Caruso (x5702)

Resource Management System, Growth Management Ordinance Improvements (All Districts) -

Location (All Districts): A set of amendments to the Resource Management System and the GMO to better link the two in order to deal with resource deficiencies and limitations effectively and in a timely manner.

Status: The Board authorized processing of the amendments on April 21, 2009 to make changes to the GMO based on resource constraints (such as reduced growth rates), and to make a number of changes to the RMS and related policies (for example, recalculating lead times for responding to Levels of Severity, instituting mandatory actions to respond to resource Levels of Severity, and including highway interchanges in the RMS). Highway interchanges will be included in upcoming RMS Annual Reports. Other amendments will be processed in the second half of 2011, with draft amendments expected early in 2012. The Board's action also included moving forward with infrastructure planning and funding. An inter-department infrastructure team prepared an infrastructure policy and discussed infrastructure planning and funding. An infrastructure funding policy was adopted by the Board in September 2010. The infrastructure team will report to the Board early in 2011 on the next steps to move forward on a combined County Capital Improvement Plan, as well as infrastructure planning and funding plans for communities.

Contact: James Caruso (X5702), Mike Wulkan (5608).

Shandon Community Plan Update (District 1):

Comprehensive community-based plan, including infrastructure financing and EIR for the expansion of Shandon.

Project Status: The Public Review Draft of the Plan was released on March 3, 2010, and the Draft EIR was released on April 29, 2010. The comment period for the Public Review Draft is closed, and the comment period for the Draft EIR closed on July 30. The Public Facilities Financing Plan was released on January 5, 2011. A Community meeting is planned for January 19, 2011 to present the recommended Public Hearing Draft of the plan. The Planning Commission will hold a study session on January 31, followed by hearings starting March 10. Board hearings should start in summer 2011. Contact: Jay Johnson (x4573)

Special Events Ordinance (All Districts):

The Board of Supervisors authorized LUO amendments for processing on August 16, 2005 to update regulations for conducting special events.

Status: Staff prepared proposed ordinance standards and the Planning Commission began hearings on May 22, 2008. The Planning Commission formed a subcommittee on May 29, 2008 to review and refine the staff-proposed ordinance standards. The amendments were reviewed and discussed at meetings in October, November and December, 2008 and February and July, 2009. On July 30, 2009, the Planning Commission sent a letter to the Board of Supervisor to request direction. The Board discussed the ordinance on January 12, 2010 and provided staff with direction to come back with alternatives including a ministerial permit. On August 10, 2010, the Board provided comprehensive direction for the ordinance. Revised draft has been re-referring to all CACs, agencies and interested parties. Completion of the ED and scheduling for Planning Commission will occur March 31, 2011.

Contact: Karen Nall (x5606)

TDC Program (All inland Districts):

The Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) reviewed the program and their final report was reviewed by the Board on January 27, 2009. Board has provided direction to staff for a two phase approach to a new program.

Status: The Board authorized amendments on March 10, 2009 to the existing program to make use of the existing credits while focusing the program into urban and village areas and community based programs. Proposed amendments were recommended for approval at the Planning Commission on January 13, 2011 and Board of Supervisors hearing to follow. Contact: Karen Nall (x5606)

Land Use Element and Circulation Elements (LUCE) update (All districts):

A comprehensive update to the land use and transportation elements in the rural parts of the county. The primary aim is to reorganize/consolidate portions of the County Land Use Element and Land Use Ordinance for both inland and coastal areas. It will also take a regional approach to growth and resource issues, and identify potential areas for future expansion of unincorporated towns. It will be shaped by and help carry out the recently adopted Strategic Growth policies, as well as conservation, housing and economic goals.

Status: On November 24, 2009, the Board approved a work plan and schedule. An extensive public education and outreach program is underway with the help of a consultant. A Town Hall event to kick off both the LUCE and the Climate Action Plan was held on May 13, 2010. The consultant conducted In-depth one-on-one interviews with stakeholders. A facilitated meeting of groups of stakeholders is planned in March, followed by public workshops. Release of the Public Review Draft. will need to be delayed. Staff to return to Board with revised work program.

Contacts: Mike Wulkan, Project Manager (5608), and Jamie Lopes (x5975)

For more details visit the County Planning and Building Department's website:

www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning

ALAB Correspondence

County of San Luis Obispo Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board



**Agricultural Liaison
Advisory Board (ALAB)**

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 781-5914

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.
vacant

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 Ouwerkerk, Interim
Ex-Officio

U.C. Coop. Extension Farm Advisor
Mary Bianchi
Ex-Officio

DATE: January 12, 2011

TO: Adam Hill, Chair
County Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity
Study

As you know the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) is comprised of not only appointees representing agriculture in each Supervisors' district, but also of members representing various agriculture organizations and commodities in the county. It is our intent as an advisory board to confirm and demonstrate that agriculture would always like to be part of the solution rather than exclusively part of the problem. Many of us in production agriculture are proud of the many improvements in farming and ranching techniques and continue to work on best management practices. For instance in vineyard management some of the better management practices in irrigation that have been implemented are: increased use of soil moisture sensors in vineyards; vineyard replanting and new planting with drought resistant rootstock; irrigation efficiency tests performed by mobile irrigation labs; and soil management to improve groundwater percolation.

It is with the intent of being part of the solution that we reviewed the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study at our January 3, 2011 ALAB meeting and present the following comments.

In the Resource Management System (RMS), protection of agricultural land through protection of water resources available for agriculture is one of the primary objectives. Although ALAB expressed no concerns regarding the perennial yield defined for the Paso Robles Basin, ALAB did express concerns over the assumptions regarding agricultural water use included in the water balance scenarios in the Resource Capacity Study. The appropriate information regarding agricultural water use remains a key question. The water balance scenarios that have been presented for consideration include a range of vineyard water use from 0.5 to 1.5 acre feet per year.

Because agriculture is the largest water user in the basin, the estimated value for vineyard water use may determine the declaration of a Level of Severity. Information from the **University of California Cooperative Extension's Paso Robles Irrigation Monitoring Project** will have the capability to focus the Capacity Study scenarios and allow the County to determine a Level of Severity (LOS) with a greater degree of assurance. ALAB questions whether the County should go forward with an LOS 3 III without the refinement of the vineyard water use information. Additionally, ALAB recommends that water balance scenarios refined by information from the Irrigation Monitoring Project must be part of the Capacity Study recommendations, be attached as an Appendix and must be part of all the annual RMS updates.

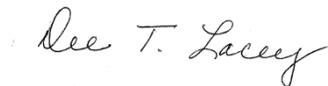
ALAB fully supports the Planning Commission's revision addressing Agricultural Processing (#4,c) uses as a part of agricultural uses and is not required to offset its water use. It is critical to protect water resources for agricultural processing such as processing facilities, wineries and coolers.

Other ALAB concerns:

1. There was concern expressed over a blanket prohibition of "new land divisions in the rural areas of the basin."
2. Any monitoring of wells needs to be voluntary and confidential as opposed to mandatory with information available to the public.
3. It is unfortunate that the economic impact is not being considered in the definition of the perennial yield of the Basin. ALAB recommends that the Board of Supervisors consider economic impacts.
4. The Resource Capacity Study is focused on groundwater pumping, yet agriculture provides the major surfaces for groundwater recharge as opposed to any other land use. Other land uses have significant areas of hardscape. There needs to be recognition of the important role that agriculture plays in providing recharge capacity to the basin, and consideration of policy recommendations that promote recharge opportunities throughout the basin.

We ask that you give serious consideration to these concerns and comments.

Sincerely,



DEE LACEY
Chair

cc: Supervisor Mecham
Supervisor Gibson
Supervisor Teixeira
Supervisor Patterson
James Caruso, Department of Planning and Building