

# County of San Luis Obispo Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board



Agricultural Liaison  
Advisory Board (ALAB)

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www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm

## Positions/Members/Terms

CHAIR: R. Don Warden

District One: Mecham Appt.  
Dee Lacey (1/13)

District Two: Gibson Appt.  
Lisen Bonnier (1/11)

District Three: Hill Appt.  
Tom Ikeda (1/13)

District Four: Achadjian Appt.  
Bill Struble (1/11)

District 5: Patterson Appt.  
Noah Small (1/09)

Agriculture Finance Rep.  
Mark Pearce (8/10)

Cattlemen Rep.  
Dick Nock

Coastal San Luis RCD Rep.  
Jean-Pierre Wolff (8/11)

Direct Marketing/Organic Rep.  
Eric Michielssen (4/12)

Environmental Rep.  
Anne McMahon (5/11)

Farm Bureau Rep.  
R. Don Warden

Nursery Rep.  
David Pruitt (4/12)

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD Rep.  
Charles Pritchard (1/10)

Vegetable Rep.  
Richard Quandt (4/12)

Wine Grape Rep.  
Neil Roberts (4/12)

County Agricultural Commissioner  
Bob Lilley, *Ex-Officio*

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

## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 13, 2009

**Guests Present:** Bill Robeson

**Absent Members:** Dee Lacey, Lisen Bonnier, Noah Small, Mark Pearce, Eric Michielssen, Don Warden, David Pruitt, Chuck Pritchard, Neil Roberts

**1. Call to Order:** 6:10 PM. No Quorum – Please remember to contact Agriculture Department if you are unable to attend ALAB meetings.

**2. Open comment:** No comment.

### **3. Member/agency reports**

- Brenda Ouwerek shared that final results indicated rangeland drought related losses countywide were approximately 77% or approximately \$7.5 million. The declaration involves USDA Farm Service Agency, UC Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Agriculture Department input. There was an expression of appreciation for survey participation.
- Agriculture Department budget reductions include eliminating 4.5 staff years. Program impacts include a reduction in the general fund supported portion of the yellowstar thistle (YST) program. CalTrans and grant funded portion of the YST program will continue. District office hours have also been reduced. Appointments can be scheduled to accommodate as necessary.
- Conservation and Open Space Element Planning Commission (PC) scheduled hearing dates include July 23 for continued discussion on Energy Chapter. Subsequent hearings include July 30, August 13 and 27, and September 10. To insure up to date information, please review PC hearing agendas to identify which chapters will be discussed. Hearing agendas are posted at [http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm/ALAB/Archived\\_Agenda\\_\\_Minutes.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm/ALAB/Archived_Agenda__Minutes.htm)
- August ALAB meeting will include discussion of a proposed revised grading ordinance. The ordinance changes are a result of requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
- Christine Maguire has retired from ALAB and Noah Small, a vegetable grower in the Creston area, will be representing District

5 at the next ALAB meeting. A Certificate of Appreciation from the Board of Supervisors has been prepared for Christine for her service to ALAB.

- Anne McMahon shared information regarding the movie “Fresh.” Anne expressed the importance of farmer/rancher involvement in local food efforts. The movie will be shown in SLO, July 17, 2009 (City/County library); Paso Robles, July 23 (Café Vio); Templeton, July 24 (Community Center).

**4. Minutes:** No action due to lack of quorum.

**5. Review Amendments to modify policies and ordinance language in the Ag and Open Space Element & Land Use Ordinance relating to Agricultural Cluster Subdivisions (policies AGP 5, 20, 21, 22, 23) – Bill Robeson Planning Department:**

- Bill Robeson discussed his handout dated July 13, 2009, summarizing the Board of Supervisors (BOS) direction from the June 9, 2009, hearing as well as a rough timeline outlining the process. Highlights include:
  - Require analysis of the base density - Not base density on 20 acre minimum parcels sizes ; look to 40 acres as the minimum parcel size.
  - Proximity to URL within 2 miles instead of 5 miles (no VRL – compliance with AB35 SB375).
  - Percentage or numerical “Cap” the number of residents (may be achieved thru a minimum parcel size for residential lots).
  - 95% property to remain in permanent ag land (affirmative ag easement) ; 5% residential to include roads and buffers (envelope size can be further discussed – 2.5 acre min versus 1 acre)
  - One cluster, versus scattered clusters, unless there are better environmental results, specific findings must be made, decreased ag and environmental impacts
  - Need history of ag production
  - Independent survey of water supply, resources available
  - Properly mitigate, including AB 32 (Global Warming)
  - Continue discussion with various affected agencies
  - There was discussion on the “presumption that you can subdivide” and why this should not be in place.
  - The Board will have further discussion on eliminating the second primary dwelling on ag land. Directed staff to report back with statistics regarding: how many second primary dwellings occur on parcels over 20 acres in size and how many farm support residences and secondary dwellings there are in the County.
  - Farm support residences can function like a second primary dwelling allowing a family member or employee who works on the farm to live on the property.
  - Staff will complete the Initial Study (IS) portion of the environmental review process to determine level of environmental determination. IS review to be completed by end of August/09.
  - Present the “Initial Draft Version” of the amendment to each advisory group as well as other involved groups (ALAB, Farm Bureau, WRAC). To be completed by the end of October/09.
  - Incorporate recommendation and comments Complete “Draft Version” and present to Planning Commission. To be completed by the mid January/010.
  - Planning Commission’s recommendation to Board of Supervisors for final approval.
- ALAB members considered discussing outstanding cluster issues but due to lack of a quorum

and specific direction from the BOS, members decided to wait and comment on the initial draft version which would provide more effective input. The one exception was protection of water resources associated with clusters. Members requested Joy Fitzhugh report on the Water Resources Advisory Committee's review and comments at a future meeting.

**6. Future agenda items**

- Draft grading ordinance to be discussed at August 3, 2009, meeting.
- Summary of Water Resources Advisory Committee comments on cluster policies at August 3, 2009, meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 7.45 PM