

**County of San Luis Obispo  
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting  
Monday,

August 14, 2006 (Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Lynn Enns (Chair), Penny Chamousis, Deborah Donnelly, Pam Heatherington, Jan Hicks, Sara Horne, James Mase, M.D., David Odell, Ed Guerena, Robert Thielscher  
 Members Absent: Susan Warren  
 Staff Present: Jeff Hamm., Sonja Thompson(recorder)  
 Speakers: Joel Diringer, J.D. M.P.H, Amy Gilman, M.P.H., Mark Phillips, Mike Zelina

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
<b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>	Meeting called to order by Chair Enns at 6:05 p.m.		
<b>2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS</b>	Commissioner Enns introduced new members, Ed Guerena (direct provider) and Robert Thielscher (consumer).		
<b>3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 8, 2006 and July 10, 2006</b>	Minutes of June 8, 2006 were approved. Minutes of July 10, 2006 were approved with the following correction: Section 2, Public Comment should be corrected to read “Elizabeth Johnson stated her opinion that the group of experts who led the research were pesticide and insecticide vectors and have nothing to do with the health field and that Dr. diZerega’s addition to the report was to determine what other counties are doing. Karen Mansfield, SLO Ag Task Force disagreed. Commissioners Enns commented that Dr. diZierga had indeed read and reviewed all the material.” Section 3, 2 <sup>nd</sup> paragraph should be corrected to read“ Community Education Committee will focus on updating the website and brochure and on educating the community including properly disposing of medications.”	Minutes approved as amended.	Approved – All
<b>4. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<b>Eric Greening</b> welcomed new members and stated his interest in future agenda items. He recommended inviting representation from SLOCOG and Transportation to share valuable information regarding the “Vulnerable Population and How to Prepare for Emergency/ Evacuations.” item. Also, with regards to the “Obesity Task Force Update,” Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments should be included to ensure we have adequate infrastructure for biking and walking. Mr. Greening is concerned with the discussion of the County taking over the Los Osos Water Treatment project and is interested in knowing what the impacts would be on Planning, Public Works and Environmental Health Departments with regards to moving forward with the permanent sludge ordinance.		
<b>5. PARADOX IN PARADISE REPORT</b>	<b>Joel Diringer, J.D., M.P.H., Diringer and Associates</b> presented the Paradox in Paradise report prepared by himself and Amy Gilman, M.P.H. The report was a year-long study that looked at health conditions and health status throughout the Central Coast Region (Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties). Main sources included U.S. Census, California Health Interview Survey, Department of Health Services, and Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. Presentation highlighted the changing demographics, hidden populations, community disparities, health disparities among populations, access to care and coverage, chronic disease prevention – diet and exercise, and oral health. Recommendations include addressing the changing demographics of the	<i>Handouts: Paradox in Paradise, Hidden Health Inequities on California’s Central Coast Book and a copy of PowerPoint presentation</i>	

	<p>communities and region, work with hidden populations, identify the needs on a community level, initiate community efforts to combat the epidemic of obesity and overweight children and adults, incorporate oral health as a physical health, and engage in continuous surveillance of community health through data gathering and dissemination. More information on this report is available at <a href="http://www.diringerassociates.com">www.diringerassociates.com</a>. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be filed with the official record of this meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Commissioner Discussion:</u></b>  Commissioner Heatherington thanked Mr. Diringer for all his efforts. She made mention to the possibility that the decline over the last few years in late or no prenatal care could be associated with the closure of General Hospital. Mr. Diringer stated that since the closure more available clinics and services are available but the important focus should be on community outreach. Commissioner Guerena asked for clarification on the criteria used in determining levels of obesity. Amy Gilman stated the CDC standard growth charts and parent surveys were used in calculating the percentages.</p>		
<p><b>6. HEALTH EFFECTS OF GENITICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS ON SAN LUIS OIBPO COUNTY</b></p>	<p>A copy of the written report "<i>The Health Effects of Genetically Engineered Crops on San Luis Obispo County</i>" compiled by the Mike Zelena, Teresa Campbell, Andrew Christie, Mark Phillips, Nancy Reinstein, PhD, and Elizabeth Johnson was distributed to the Health Commissioners.</p> <p><b>Mike Zelina, SLO GE Free</b> member thanked the Health Commission for allowing them to speak on their opinion that the GMO Task Force failed to meet the goal of “<i>setting forth scientific information, pro and con, on the subject of genetically engineered food and crops from the perspective of the health considerations and implications.</i>” He gave a brief introduction and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the concerns that did not make it into the Health Commission Task Force Report and talked about the controversial concept of people having the right to know what they are eating and a what they are being exposed too in terms of test plots and experimental crops. Items that did not make the report include the USDA Test Plots in the United States audit conducted in December 2005 that found that animal and plant health inspection service is failing to meet the requirements, contamination incident that seeds of traditional varieties of corn, soybeans and canola have low levels of contamination, the report by Freese and Schubert presented to the task force on unintended effects on GMO crops, the Pusztai’s GMO potato study and numerous documents supporting his research.</p> <p><b>Mark Phillips, SLO GE Free</b> reviewed quotes from County of Santa Cruz GE Subcommittee of the Public Health Commission on Genetic Engineering Report. A copy of this report will be filed with the official record of the meeting and is available at <a href="http://slogefree.org">slogefree.org</a>.  Commissioner Heatherington thanked SLO GE Free for bringing another dimension to this debate.</p> <p><b><u>Public Comment:</u></b>  <b>Jesse Arnold, Cambria</b> hopes the Commission will support the Citizens Response report and request support from the Board of Supervisors on the need for labeling and on resolution 5269.  <b>Nancy Reinstein, San Luis Obispo</b> thanked everyone for attending and voicing their concerns. She is concerned with the importance of what is being communicated to the public and hopes that each of the reports be read in detail.</p>	<p><i>Handouts:</i>  <i>Copy of The Health Effects of Genetically Engineered Crops on San Luis Obispo County</i></p> <p><i>Copy of GMO Task Force Report to Health Commission</i></p> <p><i>Copy of the Report from the County of Santa Cruz GE Subcommittee of the Public Health Commission</i></p> <p><i>Copy of the Board of Supervisor’s Letter by Bob Lilley, Agricultural Commissioner on the Report from the GE Crop Committee</i></p>	

**Miranda Leonard, San Luis Obispo** feels the integrity of the GMO Task Force Report is suspect and is disheartened about the lack of transparency of the selection process on those who contributed to the report. All viewpoints should be considered and encourages adaptation of the recommendation provided by the Santa Cruz County report and a more comprehensive look at the issue in our county.

**Eric Greening, Atascadero** urged the commission not to forward the GMO Task Force report to the Board of Supervisors and to take more time to consider the recommendations. He also encourages to agendize consideration of opposition to Senate Bill 1056.

**Mark DiMaggio, Cambria** feels humans should not be engineering organisms at all and at the very least, let it be known whether or not those engineering organisms are in the food supply.

**Marc Lea, San Luis Obispo**, a Biologist with the Ag Department provided an update on the GE Crop Committee. Their report was included in the commissioner's packets and will be going to Board of Supervisors on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Cathe Olson, Arroyo Grande** wants to know how and where her food is grown and wants to be sure that when buying organic that it is not contaminated by GE crops. She strongly supports the need for labeling of GE products.

**Jackie Crabb**, speaking on behalf of the Farm Bureau strongly supports the Task Force that was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to look at the issues. SLO GE Free was at the table. The focus of the task force was scientifically based and they are being drawn into a political agenda to take a position. She feels everything is being done to discredit the members and strongly suggests that the SLO GMO Task Force Report be presented to the Board of Supervisors as originally planned.

**Mike Broadhurst, Cambria** operates a small farm in San Luis Obispo County and was a member of the GMO Task Force. He stated the members made every effort to provide a balanced report. On the other hand, SLO GE Freer tailored facts and information to suit their preferred interpretation, alternatives are not discussed, and information not supporting their position was not disclosed.

**Kristen Thorensen, Los Osos** is concerned with the effects of plants used in medicine and with plants created that produce chemicals.

**Courtney Coleman, San Luis Obispo** recently started a new business teaching how to cook with organic whole foods. She stated that since she has been eating clean and organic foods, her health has blossomed and her skin is shiny.

**Ginny Monteen, San Luis Obispo**, Director of SLO Cancer Action Now, a group that addresses environmental links to cancer and other diseases that are occurring more rapidly in our population. She stated that the Health Commission has the opportunity to make the stand "first do no harm", oath practiced by doctors and other health practitioners.

	<p><b>Bill Walther, Arroyo Grande</b> reminded the commission that the no smoking ban started in SLO and recommended the book “cats cradle” regarding management consequences of science.</p> <p><b>Sherry Lewis, San Luis Obispo</b> echoed the request to follow the SLO GE Free and the Santa Cruz county reports.</p> <p><b>Hilah Danell, Cambria</b> stated that this issue is important to consider for the children of the future and feels that if not regulated, there will be problems in the future.</p> <p><b>Shawna Galassi, Arroyo Grande</b> is a concerned citizen and feels we need to take measures in this county to protect our organic farmers from crop pollination by GE crops. She urges the county to require labeling of GE products at farmers markets.</p> <p><b>Jono Kinkade, Santa Margarita</b> strongly encourages the commission to consider the citizen’s report, to follow in the footsteps of Santa Cruz County, and to consider labeling GE foods. He feels that Santa Cruz County would serve as a great model for our county in the future. He is more concerned with public bodies from the FDA all the way down to the Health Commission for ignoring the public concerns.</p> <p><b>Daniela Arnon, Los Osos</b> quoted page 7 of the Santa Cruz County report on the recommendation of a Precautionary Moratorium. The subcommittee conclusion proved health risks of GE crops including allergen, toxicity, carcinogens, altered fertility, and increased antibiotic resistance. She requested the AG Commissioner be notified of any such crops in our county.</p>		
<p><b>7. GENETICALLY MODIFIED ENGINEERED CROPS FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION</b></p>	<p><b>Commissioner Odell</b> pointed out that the GMO Task Force was appointed with the most objective people that did exactly what they were asked. He suggested that all reports be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Horne</b>, a member of the task force committee reminded the public that task force accomplished the mission given to only look at health effects.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Donnelly</b> read all three reports and agreed that the task force did an excellent job of what the commission asked. She feels all reports have good information and should go to the Board of Supervisors and regardless of the outcome, the most important thing is community education.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Heatherington</b> believes there is information in all three reports and all three reports are key for the Board of Supervisors to understand the scope of public’s concerns and the protection of public health. She recommends the GMO Task Force be expanded to mirror the Santa Cruz County and in the purview of the Health Commission. She asked Scott Steimnaus from Cal Poly how many GE crops are currently being tested at Cal Poly and if there is anything at the college level that prohibits informing the community when experimenting with GE crops.</p>	<p><i>Motion was made that the three following reports be sent to the Board of Supervisors with the recommendation that the board form another task force similar to that of Santa Cruz County under their purview to further study the GMO issue. Members of the task force should include one Health Commissioner and one member of the Health Commissions GMO task force committee</i></p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Heatherington 2<sup>nd</sup> Horne Approved - All</p>

<p><b>8. GENETICALLY MODIFIED ENGINEERED CROPS FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION (continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Scott Steinmaus, Ph.D. Cal Poly</b>, responded that there is currently nothing in the field and there is nothing that prohibits informing public. He also clarified the rumor reported by SLO GE Free with regards to receiving funds from Monsanto or DeLaGro was false. The research was designed to look at herbicide resistance, which should be supported by SLO GE Free.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Enns</b> stated that SLO GE Free is a paid lobbying organization, attended all the task force meetings and their rationale is to get rid of GMO products. She acknowledged task force was composed of people who made every effort to be objective and examine all sides of the issue. An extensive bibliography from the task force report and all the materials mentioned were included. The bibliography and articles are available at the Public Health Department and on the website at <a href="http://www.slocounty.org">www.slocounty.org</a>.</p> <p>Commissioner Donnelly... regardless of what the outcomes are, the most important is community education on gmOs and alternatives to gmOs.</p>		
<p><b>8. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT</b></p>	<p><b>Jeff Hamm</b> provided the report in the absence of Dr. Thomas. He referred to the written report; a copy is filed with the official record of this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical Marijuana – The Board approved the staff recommendation to implement this program, which is in compliance with staff law. Staff is preparing a fee analysis and will return to the Board within the next several weeks.</li> <li>• Heat – the recent heat wave created a health problem and ph convened several County departments to respond by visiting single room occupancy hotels to ensure residents were tolerating the heat. Event debriefings will take place to learn from this experience and to better prepare for the future.</li> <li>• West Nile Virus – activities have been lower than last year. First bird tested positive Atascadero.</li> <li>• Prop 86 will be on the November ballot. Staff going to the Board asking for support that will raise taxes on cigarettes and provide funding for anti smoking programs, tobacco education, children’s health insurance and emergency medical funding.</li> <li>• Tobacco retail licensing item going to the Board 9/19 asking for support to develop an ordinance that puts owner and store and financial risk for selling to minors.</li> </ul>	<p>Handouts: <i>Copy of Director’s Report</i></p>	
<p><b>9. HEALTH COMMISSION UPDATES</b></p>	<p><b>CHAIR UPDATE:</b> <b>Chair Enns</b> will represent the commission on the SLO County Obesity Task Force; the first meeting is in September. Commissioner Chamousis will not be able to serve on the Domestic Violence Task Force; Commissioner Heatherington agreed to take the seat. Chair Enns will attend the Pandemic Flu Planning Containment Committee meeting, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The ombudsman report for June and July were included in the packets. Addressing the reports will be placed on the September agenda and quarterly thereafter beginning in January.</p> <p><b>COMMISSIONER UPDATES:</b> <b>Commissioner Chamousis:</b> absent <b>Commissioner Donnelly:</b> No report <b>Commissioner Guereña:</b> No report <b>Commissioner Heatherington:</b> No report <b>Commissioner Hicks</b> attended the HIV Consortuim meeting. Tom Keefer provided a review</p>		

	<p>of the HIV Prevention RFP process for 2007 through 2010. The State Office of AIDS Advisory Committee also attended the meeting.</p> <p><b>Commissioner Horne:</b> No report  <b>Commissioner Mase:</b> No report  <b>Commissioner Odell:</b> No report  <b>Commissioner Thielscher:</b> No report  <b>Commissioner Warren:</b> absent</p>		
<b>10. COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>	<p><b>Legislative:</b> No report  <b>Nominating:</b> No report  <b>Budget:</b> No report  <b>Community Education:</b> Commissioner Heatherington reported the committee met on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and is concerned the web page and brochure desperately need to be updated. Commissioner Enns contacted the tribune about “how to get meeting notices in the paper”. Committee also mentioned the By Laws committee should reconvene; Chair Enns agreed. A meeting be scheduled; time and location will be announced. Commissioner Horne talked about the Preparing for Pandemic Flu Pocket Guide and suggested copies be distributed in the public arena. Commissioner Enns would like a copy of the distribution list. Due to limited printing and funding, Jeff Hamm agreed to look alternatives for an inexpensive approach.</p>		
<b>11. PROSPECTIVE FUTURE ITEMS</b>	<p><b>Next meeting will be on September 11, 2006.</b>  Sept: Agroterrorism Planning Update, Pandemic Flu Response Plan, Vulnerable Population, How to Prepare for an Evacuation.”</p>		
<b>12. ADJOURNMENT</b>	Motion to adjourn at 8:15 P.M.		Heatherington /Hicks/All