

ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 12, 2016

Members and Alternates Present: Jean-Pierre Wolff, Lisen Bonnier, Don Warden, Dan Rodrigues, Tom Ikeda, Mark Battany, Joy Fitzhugh, Claire Wineman, Nicki Anderson, Dick Nock, Robert Hartzell

Staff Present: Marc Lea, Lynda Auchinachie – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, Dick Tzou – Public Works

Absent Members: Greg France, Richard Hawley, Melanie Blankenship, Sarah Kramer, David Pruitt, Jerry Diefenderfer, Mark Pearce, Chuck Pritchard

Guests Present: James Green – Farm Bureau, Deanna and Max Riedlsperger, Jenny Everett – PG&E land planner, John Shoals – PG&E public affairs, Cory Black - PG&E, Andrew Carlson

1. Call to Order: 6:04 Chair Wolff

2. Open Comment:

- Lisen Bonnier mentioned that Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) introductory meetings will be held soon.
- Dick Tzou from public works provided flyers for the upcoming SGMA meetings for the Santa Maria fringe area (September 14, 2016) and Edna Valley/San Luis Obispo (September 20, 2016).

3. Announcements from ALAB Members & County Ag Department Staff Updates:

- Marc Lea indicated that the Asian Citrus Psyllid population continues to expand across the state. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) continues to evaluate potential regional quarantine areas.
- Marc Lea reminded ALAB members that it has been almost a year since state legislation passed regulating medicinal marijuana. CDFA is working on the details of how to implement the medicinal marijuana regulations, and representatives from CDFA will be at the San Luis Obispo Courtyard hotel on September 21, 2016, to receive input from interested parties.
- Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff shared that the state and regional water boards would be assessing how to regulate irrigated cannabis next year. Should it be similar to other irrigated crops or have its own set of regulations.

4. Previous Minutes: MOTION: Bonnier Approve July 11, 2016: Motion 2nd: Warden Approved: Unanimous by all voting members. No “No” votes.

5. Presentation: Central California Power Connect Project Overview – PG&E

- Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff introduced Jenny Everett, John Shoals, and Cory Black from PG&E. John Shoals provided a brief overview of the two reliability projects that are

currently under review in San Luis Obispo and surrounding counties. John indicated the Paso Robles Area Power Connect project has gone out to bid and that the focus of tonight's discussion will be on the Central California Power Connect project. John provided ALAB members with fact sheets on each proposal. John indicated that the goal of tonight's presentation was to receive feedback from attendees.

- Jenny Everett emphasized that feedback is very important as PG&E refines their project description of preferred transmission line routes. Jenny shared that proposed corridors have been reduced and some routes eliminated. Refer to fact sheets and an interactive map that will be updated with revisions this week at <http://maps.pge.com/centralcaliforniapowerconnect>.
- Jenny indicated that PG&E will be submitting their application to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) September or October 2017. Jenny shared that PG&E does not make the final decision about the preferred route. The final decision is made solely by the CPUC.
- Max Riedlsperger, Edna Ranch resident, indicated that he learned about the proposal by accident and that there was no notice to residents. He expressed concern about the general lack of information available to community members.
- Jenny Everett shared that the proposal impacts three counties and part of the feedback they are interested in is what other key groups or community members should be informed and engaged in the process. Jenny suggested interested parties request to join the mailing list. Jenny noted that the mailing list continues to include property owners from the original and much larger corridor impacted areas.
- Robert Hartzell asked about the 2025 timeline date for completion and if that was due to the closure of Diablo Canyon. John Shoals indicated that was not the case as energy planning takes at least 10 years.
- Jenny Everett described the visual appearance of the single tower versus larger double towers as well as the pole design. Public outreach has resulted in considerable concern expressed about visual impacts associated with the transmission infrastructure.
- Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff raised several concerns regarding the proposed route through Edna Valley. Concerns included: conversion of prime farmland, restrictions on what agricultural activities could occur under transmission lines, impacts of access roads, need for purchase of additional easements, visual impacts to an area identified as a greenbelt, compromise to Williamson Act land designated for agricultural preservation, and the use of eminent domain if an owner is not interested in selling property for the project.
- Jenny Everett agreed that there would be the need to purchase new easements. Jenny also explained that while eminent domain is not a preferred method of land acquisition, a permit through the CPUC provides the ability for eminent domain. Jenny once again acknowledged the concerns raised by many regarding visual impacts and indicated these type of impacts as well as others is why they explore so many different options for evaluation through the CEQA and NEPA processes.
- Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff stressed that impacts to agricultural land, particularly

Williamson Act land, should be minimized. Jean-Pierre also indicated that properties under a Williamson Act Farmland Security Zone Contract are exempt from eminent domain.

- Max Riedlsperger questioned why some concerned individuals that wrote to the CPUC got no response. Jenny Everett indicated that until the application is filed next fall, the CPUC has nothing to reference. Once the application is filed, the CPUC can respond.
- Claire Wineman asked ALAB members whether or not they had sent a comment letter to PG&E regarding concerns and if ALAB should comment.
- Joy Fitzhugh requested clarity on the type of restrictions that may apply within easements. Jenny Everett indicated that there could be no buildings, vegetation clearance, minimum tree heights (20 feet for almonds), and access road requirements.

MOTION: Bonnier: To write a letter to PG&E expressing concerns regarding impacts to prime farmland, required easements with restrictions on agricultural activities, and visual impacts to a tourist oriented area. **Motion 2nd: Wineman**

Approved: Unanimous. No “No” votes.

6. Discussion: ALAB input and/or recommendations on the development of a permanent ordinance prohibiting the clear cutting of Oak Woodlands and Limiting Native Tree Removal (in the Inland areas of the County) – Marc Lea, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture

- Marc Lea asked if ALAB members wanted to provide feedback prior to crafting of the ordinance to prohibit clearcutting oak woodland habitat. Marc reminded ALAB members that on August 16, 2016, the native tree urgency ordinance had been extended for 9 months and would expire on April 16, 2017. Marc indicated the Board of Supervisors wanted something back prior to that date to avoid a “gap” between adoption of a permanent ordinance and the expiration of the urgency ordinance. Marc shared that there are issues with the current ordinance relative to nonagricultural parcels.
- Robert Hartzell asked if controlled burns had been discussed. Marc Lea indicated the issue had not come up.
- ALAB members indicated they would provide Marc Lea with feedback after reviewing the urgency ordinance that is currently in place.

7. Future Agenda Items:

Review comment letter to PG&E, prohibition on clearcutting oak woodland habitat ordinance, planning department priorities

Next meeting – October 3, 2016

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures