

ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 6, 2017

Members and Alternates Present: Jean-Pierre Wolff, Lisen Bonnier, Don Warden, Sarah Kramer, Chuck Pritchard, Kaylee Ellis, Dan Rodrigues, Tom Ikeda, Robert Hartzell, Joy Fitzhugh, David Pruitt

Staff Present: Marc Lea, Lynda Auchinachie – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, Megan Martin– San Luis County Planning and Building Department

Absent Members: Greg France, Richard Hawley, Mark Pearce, Mark Battany, Claire Wineman, Dick Nock

Guests Present: Patricia Wilmore, Melanie Blankenship

1. Call to Order: 6:00 Chair Wolff

2. Open Comment:

- Chuck Pritchard shared that the annual Cattlemen’s Western Art Show would be held March 24-26, 2017, at the Paso Robles Event Center.
- Marc Lea informed ALAB members that the Board of Supervisor’s (BOS) would be holding a hearing on March 7, 2017, to consider a change to our local Williamson Act Rules of Procedure to allow vacation rentals with limitations.

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

- Marc Lea provided a brief update on ALAB membership. Marc confirmed that Tom Ikeda will continue to be Supervisor Hill’s appointee through January 2021 and that District 1 and District 5 appointees are in the process of being identified by Supervisors Peschong and Arnold. Melanie Blankenship, the former vice-chair of ALAB and representative for District 1 under Supervisor Mecham, may be coming back aboard ALAB as the Direct Marketing/Organic industry representative or alternate. Since Nicki Anderson, the former representative for Direct Marketing/Organic, recently moved out of the area there have been several different people who have expressed an interest in representing that industry on ALAB board, and those new members should be added within the next month or two. Marc also indicated that the Strawberry Commission has yet to identify a representative.
- Marc Lea informed ALAB members that the PG&E’s Central California Power Connect project has been postponed. Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff shared that there is most likely a rethinking of strategy on interconnection with the recent announcement of the closing of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant
- Marc Lea indicated the ordinance to regulate the growing of cannabis continues to be developed and staff is seeking public input. Marc shared that Guy Savage, Assistant County Administrator Officer, would like to attend ALAB’s next meeting to gain input from members. The cannabis ordinance will address where, how, and how much

cannabis can be grown within jurisdictional boundaries of the County. Marc indicated that over 400 growers registered in response to the requirements of the Urgency Ordinance that remains in place through September 2017.

- A cannabis division has been established within the State and Regional Water Boards, according to Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff. The cannabis division is working on a statewide regulatory program that is separated into three different types: 1) greenhouse, 2) hydroponic, and 3) irrigated lands. Concerns include problems with growers using improper sources of water, as well as runoff from cannabis growing operations. There are also major questions regarding how the Federal government may react to cannabis growing under a new administration. A comparison was drawn between tobacco not being highly regulated until after it is rolled and smoked.
- Lisen Bonnier suggested that industrial hemp might come back in fashion and the county's a place in which weather conditions could support growing of hemp.

4. Previous Minutes: MOTION: Pritchard Approve November 7, 2016: **Motion 2nd: Bonnier Approved:** Unanimous by all voting members. No "No" votes.

5. Presentation: ALAB input and/or recommendations on the Draft Permanent Oak Woodland Ordinance (in the Inland areas of the County) – Megan Martin – San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building

- Megan Martin provided copies of the Planning Commission (PC) Public Hearing Draft of the Oak Woodland Ordinance. Megan walked ALAB members through the revisions proposed by PC. Megan indicated the BOS would have a hearing on the ordinance March 21, 2017.
- Megan Martin provided clarity to ALAB members regarding who is qualified to write a woodland management plan and the definition of a "stand" and "heritage oak."
- ALAB members pointed out some minor typographical errors in the draft and one inaccurate reference number; Megan agreed to have those errors corrected.
- ALAB members agreed to send a letter to the BOS in support of the PC Public Hearing Draft with the corrections mentioned above.

MOTION: Pritchard: ALAB members support the Planning Commission Public Hearing Draft of Oak Woodland Ordinance with the minor changes identified by ALAB members. **Motion 2nd: Bonnier. Approved:** Eight "Yes" votes. One "No" vote (Warden). No abstentions.

6. Update on the development of a permanent ordinance for the permitting of new Agricultural Ponds and Reservoirs (in the inland areas of the County) – Marc Lea – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture

- Marc Lea provided copies of the PC recommended Public Hearing Draft for the Agricultural Ponds Ordinance. Marc summarized the ordinance and identified the proposed PC revisions.
- Joy Fitzhugh raised a concern about the noticing requirements that may result in neighbors overlying a separate basin or different watershed being notified. ALAB members discussed potential wording changes to address the concern.
- Dan Rodrigues requested clarity regarding some of the ordinance requirements. Staff provided clarity where possible; however, the definition of “historic” use of water could not be defined and Tom Ikeda expressed his opposition to the use of the word as a necessary component of the required hydrogeologic report.
- Don Warden expressed his concern that the requirement for agricultural offsets, particularly through fallowing land, was not appropriate or necessary because ponds can be beneficial in terms of efficiencies and management of the basin will be achieved through the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- ALAB members discussed concerns and agreed to send a letter to the BOS in support of the PC Public Hearing Draft supporting the ag pond ordinance with recommendations for a few changes. Two separate motions were made to address the ALAB’s recommended changes to the current version of the draft permanent ordinance.

MOTION: Bonnier: ALAB members support the Planning Commission Public Hearing Draft of the Ag Pond ordinance with the following recommended changes: 1) noticing requirements be reduced to 300 feet, and 2) Section 7- Water Offsets first sentence to be revised to state “...ratio at least 1:1 *consistent with the existing Paso Robles Groundwater Basin offset program.*” and delete the remainder of the section. **Motion 2nd: Rodrigues. Approved:** Six “Yes” votes. One “No” vote (Warden). One abstention (Ikeda).

MOTION: Rodrigues: Recommend “historic” be removed from 4(b)ii. **Motion 2nd: Ikeda. Approved:** Eight “Yes” votes. No “No” votes. One abstention (Pritchard).

7. Future Agenda Items:

Cannabis: local ordinance development, including taxation and growing requirements

Next meeting – April 3, 2017

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 p.m.

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