

## ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday – November 7, 2022

University of California Cooperative Extension Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo

**Members and Alternates Present:** Lisen Bonnier, Tom Ikeda, Sarah Kramer, Seth Scribner, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Randy Diffenbaugh, Brent Burchett, Dan Jones, Mary Bianchi, Kaylee Ellis, Dan Rodrigues, and Mark Battany

**Staff Present:** Marc Lea and Ian Landreth – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, Airlin Singewald – Department of Planning & Building

**Absent Members:** Craig Pritchard, Daniel Chavez, Jerry Diefenderfer, Camilla Posson, Butch Yamashita, Claire Wineman

**Guests Present:** Patricia Wilmore – Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance

- I. **Call to Order, introductions, quorum determination:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Rodrigues at 5:00 pm. There were enough members present to have a quorum
- II. **Open Comment:**
  - No comments submitted
- III. **Previous Minutes – June 27, 2022**
  - June 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes**
    - **Motion to Approve:** Kaylee Ellis
    - **Second:** Lisen Bonnier
    - **Approved:** Unanimous decision **Abstained:** Mary Bianchi
- IV. **ALAB Governance Membership Updates**
  - Marc Lea updated the ALAB on membership updates:
    - Jean-Pierre Wolff's term was renewed at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on August 23, 2022. Additionally, Sarah Kramer became the primary Ag Finance Rep and Mark Pearce became the alternate.
    - Lisen Bonnier (District 2), Tom Ikeda (District 3), and Daniel Chavez' (District 4) terms will all expire on January 1, 2023. The district 2 supervisor is still pending from the recent election, and it is currently unknown whether Bonnier would be able to be re-appointed as the district 2 representative. Lea mentioned that he will need to check with County Counsel and ask them for information on how the new supervisorial district boundaries could impact the ALAB membership.
    - The California Certified Organic Farmers and the SLO County Farmers' Market Association are working on finding a direct marketing/organic representative. It is taking some time, but Marc is confident that a new

representative will be identified.

- Lea spoke with the current Environmental Rep - Camilla Posson and asked if she planned on attending any future ALAB meetings. Posson agreed that a new representative should be identified in her place. Lea has asked for Posson's resignation letter which has not been received to date.
- Dan Rodrigues requested that the environmental representative position be made a separate discussion item at the next ALAB meeting to determine the best course of action – expand the environmental organizations involved with nominating the seat or potentially eliminating the position entirely.
- Dan Rodrigues inquired as to how the wine grape industry should go about appointing an alternate since the current wine grape alternate representative – Joe Plummer – recently moved out of the area. Lea mentioned there was no BOS approval required for the alternate position and that a simple nomination of an alternate from local wine grape industry groups would suffice.

**V. Presentation/Discussion:** Paso Basin Land Use Planting Ordinance, Airlin Singewald – County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning & Building

- Marc Lea provided a summary of the correspondence ALAB had submitted to the Planning Department and/or the Board of Supervisors regarding this item:
  - April 6, 2021 – Comments on proposed ordinance
  - November 23, 2021 – Public review draft ordinance comments
  - July 6, 2022 – Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact ReportLea updated the ALAB on the October 27, 2022, Planning Commission (PC) comments to the Board of Supervisors on the proposed planting ordinance. The proposed ordinance will be heard by the BOS at the December 6, 2022, hearing.
- Airlin Singewald facilitated a discussion and answered questions regarding the planting ordinance and its current status. Singewald added that the PC recommendation to the BOS was to not adopt the planting ordinance and instead extend the existing ag offset ordinance to 2028 or until the basin metrics are being effectively managed by the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. If adopted by the BOS, the planting ordinance would go into effect January 31, 2023.
- Brent Burchett mentioned that aside from whether or not the ALAB submitted an additional letter to the BOS - the Farm Bureau would be submitting one that reiterates their previous comments.

**Motion to submit a letter for the December 6, 2022, Board of Supervisors meeting adamantly opposing the PBLUMA planting ordinance and including the previous ALAB comment letters as attachments.**

- **Motion to Approve:** Kaylee Ellis
- **Second:** Tom Ikeda
- **Yes:** Unanimous
- **Letter:** [ALAB Comments on Paso Basin Planting Ordinance](#)

**VI. Updates/Discussion:** Updates from AG Department Staff

- Marc Lea provided updates on the following:
  - Several *Asian Citrus Psyllids (ACP)* were recently detected in residential traps within SLO County which has not happened in the last 2 years. The ACP detections were located in rural and urban Arroyo Grande. The response action has been going well and the sites where ACP was located have been treated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture who is also treating additional residential citrus trees located within a 400-meter radius of the find sites (with landowner permission). The response from local residents has been largely positive, with a very low 3% refusal rate which bodes well for the overall success of the eradication effort.
  - There are several pesticide notification pilot programs currently underway across the state. Marc reported that the update that he received recently on the Stanislaus County pilot program indicated that most of the interest and requests for pesticide application information came from outside of the county or outside of the area where the applications were actually being made. More updates will be provided as new information becomes available.
  - DPR has recently adjusted the Private Applicator Certification exams and the examination process in order to comply with recent changes in certification requirements at the federal level. This means that the new exam version will need to be taken for any new or renewal certifications. There will also be an additional section of the exam for anyone looking to get certified for the use of Aluminum Phosphide; that additional exam section will not be available until approximately fall 2023. That section will need to be passed for anyone renewing their permit – who wishes to maintain the option for Aluminum Phosphide use – for 2024 and beyond.
  - The Ag Pass Program has been put in place in several counties across California to allow for agriculturists to access their livestock/farming operations in the event of a wildfire. The program has been implemented in Santa Barbara County, and San Luis Obispo County is looking to implement a version very similar to that here in SLO County. Ag Commissioner Settevendemie, along with CalFire and OES, will be meeting with supervisors in December to get their feedback on how they would like a local Ag Pass program to function, and the goal is to have the

program implemented in 2023.

- VII.** Future agenda items/meeting dates, adjournments, Chair Rodrigues – ALAB Chair, Wine Grape Representative

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Dan Rodrigues

**Second:** Tom Ikeda

**Next Meeting:** TBD

Respectfully submitted by Ian Landreth, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture