

## ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 5, 2012

**Members and Alternates Present:** Dee Lacey, Don Warden, Charles Pritchard, Tom Ikeda, Dick Nock, Joy Fitzhugh, David Pruitt, Lisen Bonnier, and Lisa Bodrogi

**Absent Members:** Bill Struble, Richard Hawley, Mark Pearce, Noah Small, Eric Michielssen, Mary Bianchi, Neil Roberts, Jean-Pierre Wolff, and Richard Quandt

**Guests Present:** Cindy Steinbeck, Steinbeck Vineyards

**Staff:** Marc Lea and Lynda Auchinachie, Agriculture Department; John Nall and Director Jason Giffen, Department of Planning and Building

**Call to Order:** 6:10 PM. 6:20 pm Quorum present.

- **Open Comment:** ALAB members provided a brief update on the current state of their industry and the concerns over lack of rainfall so far this season. Information regarding upcoming workshops and a reminder that this year's Annual Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association Scholarship Fundraiser Open House will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2012, was also provided. Additionally, the 2012 Farm Bill (Richard Hawley), proposed CalFire fees (Joy Fitzhugh), and continued discussion regarding the EnergyWise Plan (Lisa Bodrogi) were identified as potential future agenda items.

### 1. Agency Reports & Member Announcements/Reports:

- Joy Fitzhugh provided information regarding the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights water diversion monitoring and reporting requirements. Details are available in the Farm Bureau's newsletter.

### 2. Previous Minutes:

**MOTION:** Approve minutes: **Motion – Charles Pritchard. 2nd – Don Warden. Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

### 3. Agricultural Preserve Review Committee (APRC) Representative Election (Chair Dee Lacey)

- Chair Dee Lacey indicated Don Warden is the current ALAB APRC representative and Chuck Pritchard is the alternate. Both expressed interest in continuing these roles for another two-year term.

**Motion –** To reelect Don Warden as representative and Chuck Pritchard as alternate on the APRC.

**Motion:** Tom Ikeda. **Second:** Dick Nock. **Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: none.**

### 4. Planning Department Updates (John Nall and Jason Giffen, Department of Planning and Building)

- Chair Dee Lacey introduced John Nall and Jason Giffen from the Department of Planning and Building. Jason provided ALAB members with a handout that included an overview of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan and Land Use Ordinance. Jason indicated that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) provides regular input regarding the priorities of the Department in terms of updating both the General Plan and the Land Use Ordinance. Jason indicated that ALAB members could find a comprehensive report outlining priorities on the Board of Supervisors' February 14, 2012, agenda.

- Jason also provided ALAB members with the Planning Department's status report for January and February 2012. Jason highlighted the various efforts that the Planning Department is currently working on that may interest ALAB members. Such efforts included the Agricultural Cluster Division update, EnergyWise Plan implementation, Economic Element update, Land Use Element and Circulation Elements update, Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study implementation, the San Miguel and Shandon Community Plan updates and the Events Ordinance. Jason indicated that the Events Ordinance will be returning to the BOS during spring.
- John Nall introduced himself and shared that he had been assigned several of the tasks formally held by Warren Hoag, including Chairman of the APRC. John also indicated he is the team leader on the Agricultural Cluster Division Policies and Ordinance Standards revisions. John indicated that the BOS authorized changes to the Agricultural Cluster ordinance and policies in February 2009. John discussed the current cluster subdivision rules and the BOS direction to change the rules to be consistent with the Agriculture Elements goal of protecting agricultural resources and Strategic Growth Principles as follows:
  - Require properties to be located closer to urban areas
  - Reduce or eliminate the density bonus
  - Require contiguous residential cluster parcels
  - Protect water supplies for agriculture
  - Require agriculture buffers on residential lots
- John Nall indicated the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been completed and circulated for public review and comment. The DEIR analysis indicated implementation of the proposed ordinance and policy changes would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to agricultural resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise sensitive receptors. John also described some of the alternatives analyzed in the DEIR such as the distance from an Urban Reserve Line in which clusters could be located (ie, two or 5 miles measured by the straight line or remoteness test definition).
- John Nall concluded by stating that planning staff is currently working on responses to DEIR comments that were received. The Final EIR is anticipated to be completed in June with Planning Commission hearings beginning during the summer.

**5. Upcoming Meeting:** April 2, 2012, 6 PM

**Additional Comment:** None.

**Future Agenda Items:** 2012 Farm Bill, CalFire fees Rob Lewin, and EnergyWise ad hoc committee update (committee members include Chair Dee Lacey, Lisa Bodrogi, Joy Fitzhugh, Anthony Stornetta, and Claire Wineman).

May 7, 2012, agenda topics may include the Economic Element and Habitat Conservation Plan for the eastern portion of the county.

Meeting adjourned: 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, County Agriculture Department.