



Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

MINUTES

Location:	Agricultural Commissioner's Office Ag Center Conference Room 1428 Abbott Street Salinas, CA 93901		
Date:	August 24, 2017		
Time:	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.		
Attendees:	<i>Committee Members</i>		<i>Staff & Guests</i>
	Allen Davis	Bill Lipe	Barbara LaVake, Biotechnology Innovation Organization
	Alex Eastman	Matt Shea	Frank Plescia, Biotechnology Innovation Organization
	Kurt Gollnick	Kirk Williams	Craig Spencer, Associate Planner, RMA
	Nick Huntington	Scott Violini	Mary Grace Perry, Deputy County Counsel
	Val King		Bob Roach, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
			Kathy Nielsen, Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Absent:	Jocelyn Bridson David Costa Steve de Lorimier Scott Storm		

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bill Lipe at 2:35 p.m.

II. CONSENT

- A. Approve the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on June 22, 2017.
- B. Approve the Agricultural Advisory Committee FY 2016-17 Annual Report for submission to the Board of Supervisors.

MOTION: It was moved by Scott Violini, seconded by Alex Eastman, and passed by the following vote to approve items II A and B.

AYES: Davis; Eastman; Gollnick; Huntington; King; Lipe; Shea; Williams, and Violini
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Bridson, de Lorimier, Costa, and Storm

III. Public Comment

None

IV. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

Bob Roach, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

Update of the status of the lawsuit by ALDF, et al. against the County of Monterey and the CEQA environmental review.

- Our office held its First Annual Cannabis Growers Outreach Session this morning on Pesticide Use Enforcement. The program was three hours in length. Additional information will be provided to an applicant when coming to our office for their identification number.

Approximately 95 people, mostly growers, were in attendance as well as Environmental Health and the District Attorney's office. Presentations made by Ag Commissioner staff will be available on our website.

- The Asian gypsy moth has been found in Santa Cruz and has the potential to be a serious threat. High density trapping is being done with surveillance expected to continue for years. The Asian gypsy moth is considered worse than the European Grapevine Moth.
- Citrus greening disease has been detected in Southern California; no other insects have been found in Monterey County or elsewhere in the state.

V. **Wildlife Services Update**

Bob Roach, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

Update of the status of the lawsuit by ALDF, et al. against the County of Monterey and the CEQA environmental review.

- *April 2016:* Preparation of an Initial Study.
- *June 2016:* Sued by Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) on the filing of a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for our work plan of FY 2016-17 for USDA Wildlife Services Program under the already approved five-year agreement (FY 2013-18);
- *May 2017:* Went to trial; judge denied nearly all motions ruling that the NOE was improper and should be voided as well as the work plan. This ruling was moot because the program was over and expired on its own terms;
- CEQA analysis required by judge, which had been started with the Initial Study in April 2016;
- *August 2017:* Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) released with the public comment period ending on October 3, 2017. The Draft EIR showed no significant impacts;
- *November/December 2017:* After addressing public comments to the Draft EIR, we will return to the Board of Supervisors to request certification of the EIR. At that time, a decision will be made about continuing the program by entering another five-year agreement. It is important for supporters of the program to attend this meeting.
- The U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is continuing the program in their own court; we do not have an agreement with them this fiscal year;
- I will be attending the Board of Supervisors' closed session meeting next Tuesday to discuss legal options of going forward with that intended decision.

VI. **Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)** (informational)

Barbara LeVake and Frank Plescia

Informational presentation on the mission and purpose of the organization as it relates to agriculture.

- BIO is the world's largest biotechnology trade organization and is largely pharmaceutical, however, research is being done on Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, Pierce's and other diseases;
- Meeting with local chambers and associations to determine direction of ag research;

Committee Comments:

1. Viruses are the biggest concern in the wine industry with three different kinds of mealy bugs spreading disease;
2. Discussion regarding the formation of a grape pest management district has begun and will be picked up again after this year's grape harvest, and
3. Kirk Williams offered his assistance with citrus greening disease.

Public Comment

None

VII. Resource Management Agency

A. Commercial Medical Cannabis Cultivation (informational)

Craig Spencer, Associate Planner, Long Range Planning Team

Informational update on the status of Medical Marijuana Permitting and Enforcement.

- Majority of applications received (90) are for cultivation and nursery space but also include manufacturing operations and a dispensary;
- Cultivation allowed within an existing greenhouse if the greenhouse was legally established prior to January 2016 and is located on industrially zoned property;
- Commercial nurseries are not allowed outdoor cultivation. Up to six not-for-sale plants can be grown outdoors for personal use only;
- Necessary to update ordinances with voter-approved *adult-use cannabis* language to be aligned with California regulations. Most likely to strike the word *medical* and present to the Board of Supervisors for adoption;
- Coastal Commission rejected proposed Coastal Zoning Ordinance as they felt cannabis is not a coastal-dependent industrial use and not appropriate to the Moss Landing Commercial Park.
- Tax collection applies whether the operation is in the permitting process or not; self-reporting is required at this time.

Public Comment

None

B. Cannabis Enforcement Protocol (informational)

Bob Roach, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner

- Code Enforcement has 21 open cases that are being prioritized; some are in the permit process, but are *fixable* items;
- County has established a Cannabis Enforcement Task Force that regularly meets with the District Attorney, Sheriff, Code Enforcement, and the Ag Commissioner's Office;
- Violations apart from growing cannabis are being found, i.e., building code violations, unpermitted structures, etc. If illegal, the cannabis can be confiscated;
- Numerous complaints of illegal grows have been received by Supervisor Salinas's office; while overwhelming, the County is approaching each on a systematic basis;
- The cartel grows are of great concern as they cause environmental damage such as diverting water and using illegal pesticides;

VIII. Administrative Matters

A. Members' Terms Expirations

1. Jocelyn Bridson, At-large: Jocelyn expressed interest in reappointment;
2. David Costa, Grower-Shipper Association: Discussion under way with GSA regarding reappointment;
3. Matt Shea, District 5: Matt expressed interest in reappointment;
4. Scott Violini, Cattlemen's Association: Scott will remain on the Committee until a replacement is chosen by the Cattlemen's Association;
5. Kurt Gollnick, District 1: Kurt will remain on the Committee until a replacement is appointed by Supervisor Alejo's office.

The Ag Commissioner's Office will continue to work on the above appointments and report back to the Committee.

B. Nomination and Election of Committee Officers FY 2017-18

MOTION: It was moved by Kurt Gollnick, seconded by Scott Violini, and passed by the following vote that Bill Lipe remain as Chair and Alex Eastman remain as Vice Chair.

AYES: Davis; Eastman; Gollnick; Huntington; King; Lipe; Shea; Williams, and Violini
NOES: None
ABSENT: Bridson, de Lorimier, Costa, and Storm

Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments

- Member Matt Shea mentioned for discussion the possibility of creating another position on the committee to represent the labor and or cannabis industries. Chair Lipe reminded the Committee that Ag Commissioner Eric Lauritzen has been working with the Farmworker Advisory Committee and thought this was a good idea. At the time, he advised that the FWAC was working on its own development and goals but would bring this idea to them for discussion.

Bob Roach stated that the cannabis industry is just forming and does not yet have a good organization representing them. The bylaws would need to be amended and then approved by the Board of Supervisors to add another seat on the committee.

- Member Scott Violini reminded everyone of the Monterey County Fair August 31 through September 9, 2017; auction day is September 2, 2017.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Nielsen
Agricultural Commissioner's Office