



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Steve Campbell – HOA Representative
Vacant – Agricultural Economics
Brian Fishback – Commercial Bee Keeping
Morgan Doran – UC Extension Farm Advisor
Charlotte Mitchell – Natural Resources; Poultry
Ken Oneto – Orchards, Vineyards, Row Crops
Brad van Loben Sels – Farm Management
Jim Vietheer – Livestock
Michael Wackman – Natural Resources; Wineries

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2021 6:30 pm

Meeting held via GoToMeeting

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/822511621>

1. CALL TO ORDER

Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair Ken Oneto called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Morgan Doran, Charlotte Mitchell, Ken Oneto, Brad van Loben Sels, Jim Vietheer, and Michael Wackman.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Campbell, Brian Fishback.

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Flores (Agricultural Commissioner), Parminder Malhi (Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner) and Laura McCready (Clerk of the Committee).

ALSO PRESENT: Todd Smith, John Lundgren, Dan Krekelberg, Gemma Tierney, Jessica Brandt, Chris McColl, Daniel Menahem, Cork McIsaac, Clark Suillman, Jim Gillum, Lindsey Liebig.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The November agenda was presented to the Committee for approval. Jim Vietheer motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Michael Wackman. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September Committee Meeting minutes were presented to the Committee for approval. Michael Wackman motioned to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Brad van Loben Sels. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF 2022 MEETING CALENDAR

The 2022 meeting calendar was presented to the Committee for approval. Jim Vietheer motioned to approve the meeting calendar and was seconded by Brad van Loben Sels. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

5. PUBLIC FORUM – No comments received.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Climate Action Plan Presentation:

Todd Smith with Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review gave a presentation on the Climate Action Plan, focusing on the reduction measures and adaptation measures that pertain to agriculture. After questions and discussion by the Committee, the Committee agreed to draft a memo voicing their concerns and input regarding this matter. See attached memo for more details.

B. Board of Supervisors Climate Emergency Resolution Discussion:

John Lundgren with the Office of the County Executive presented the Climate Emergency Resolution to the Committee.

C. PLNP2021-00174; Westervelt Agricultural Preserve and Williamson Act Contract:

Gemma Tierney with Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review presented details regarding the request to form an agricultural preserve and enter into a Williamson Act contract on 644 acres in the Cosumnes community. After hearing from the applicant, the Committee members discussed the merits of the application. After addressing the current conservation easement on the property, the applicant decided to withdraw the request from the Committee and will work with Planning and the Assessor's Office.

D. PLNP2021-00011; Sloughhouse Solar Facility:

Gemma Tierney with Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review presented details regarding the request of a Level II commercial solar facility in the Cosumnes community. The request entailed a Use Permit to allow the proposed solar facility, a Special Development Permit to deviate from County development standards, and a Design Review to determine compliance with Countywide Design Guidelines. After hearing from the applicant, the Committee discussed the merits of the application.

It was moved by Michael Wackman and seconded by Jim Vietheer to support the project as presented. Motion passed by roll call vote. Ken Oneto abstained due to a possible conflict of interest.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Agricultural Commissioner Update:

Chris Flores informed the Committee on the following items:

- **Sacramento Emergency Rental Assistance Program:** Rental assistance is available for those who have experienced job loss or financial hardship due to COVID-19. Landlords can apply for their tenants as well. For eligibility requirements and to apply online, see www.shra.org/sera for more information. Chris has forwarded the information to the Sacramento County Farm Bureau to distribute to their members, and will forward to the Committee as well.
- **Fruit Fly Update:** A male Oriental fruit fly was trapped in Rancho Murrieta on September 30th. A trapping delimitation is underway. No further Oriental fruit flies have been found in Rancho Murrieta. On October 12th, a male Guava fruit fly was found in Folsom. That area is under delimitation and no additional Guava fruit flies have been found. On October 26th, an additional male Oriental fruit fly was found off Bradshaw Road in the Vineyard area. The area is also under delimitation and no further Oriental fruit flies have been found.
- **Nutria Eradication Update:** As of September 14th, over 2,700 nutria have been caught since 2018. 109 have been caught in San Joaquin County. Still no reported sightings in Sacramento County.
- **Spotted Lantern Fly Update:** Our Department is actively looking for this pest

during our gypsy moth inspections. CDFA is inspecting at the border stations and during Japanese Beetle inspections on cargo planes. The Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014. They are currently in 11 states, and the spread of this pest is anticipated through railcars and planes. There is documented economic damage to grapes from SLF. CDFA is doing public outreach and working with master gardeners to get the word out throughout the State.

- The 2020 Crop and Livestock Report was presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 2nd. Sacramento County's gross value of production for 2020 was \$454 million. The report is available online, and hardcopies will be distributed to Committee members. Additional copies will be available to growers when they come to the office to renew their permits.
- Ag Pass Program: Chris will be working with Sacramento OES, Morgan Doran, Sacramento County Sheriff Department and Fire Districts to establish an Ag Pass Program. The grower would be able to go through a training and get certified so they could have access to areas closed to the general public during an emergency event.
- DPR Pesticide Notification System: DPR is working on public notification. They have conducted 2 workshops, November 2nd and November 3rd, to take comments. The California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealers Association will be sending a formal comment letter to DPR regarding the proposal.

B. Industry Updates:

Lindsey Liebig updated the Committee with current events within the Sacramento County Farm Bureau.

- The focus the last few months has continued to be the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), with additional attention on the Climate Action Plan.

C. Committee Member Updates:


- Morgan Doran with UC Cooperative Extension announced that they are in the final stages of recruiting a Director for Cooperative Extension. An Environmental Horticulture position and proposals for additional positions are being submitted as well. More updates to follow at the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on January 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Laura McCreedy, Agricultural Advisory Committee Clerk,
mccreadyl@saccounty.net

APPROVAL OF MINUTES



Ken Oneto, Chair

3/10/22

Date



COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER, SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

December 7, 2021

To: Todd Smith, Principal Planner

FROM: Chris Flores, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

SUBJECT: PLNP2016-00063; Climate Action Plan

On November 10, 2021, the Sacramento County Agricultural Advisory Committee heard the above referenced item during their regularly scheduled meeting. The proposed Climate Action Plan includes Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy, Adaptation Strategy, and Implementation and Monitoring to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve carbon neutrality within the County of Sacramento.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee was given Climate Action Plan details that were pertinent to agriculture by Planning and Environmental Review staff and consultants. After discussing the item, the Agricultural Advisory Committee have the following input and concerns:

Committee Chair Ken Oneto:

- Agriculture is the biggest manufacturing industry in Sacramento County.
- Agriculture is only responsible for 5% of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) in the county.
- The productive ag land in the county has been decreasing while GHG has been increasing. How does that correlate that we are the problem?
- Use of compost fertilizer vs commercial: Have you factored in the extra trucking and spreading? We would need about 10 times the volume. Where will we be sourcing this material? How far will it be trucked? I understand this is an educational element.
- Carbon farming: What does this mean? No till does not work in this area. If it did it would be used more. I would love to save a few passes on the ground and save some money.
- Work with SMAQD on tractor replacements. Why are we being singled out? Will there be a requirement for homeowners to stop using natural gas? We are already facing this mandatory upgrade of our trucks. This is the first time that I know of where we have to park usable equipment (trucks). This should be a business decision, not mandatory. Upgrade to one tier higher engine? Not everyone has the required capital to update their tractor fleet. The last round of SMAQD funding of \$5.5 million saw \$4.5 million go to a school district.

Committee Member Morgan Doran:

- My primary comment is regarding the forecasted GHG reductions from applying compost to grazed lands (page 300). The COMET model predicts that 4.46 MT CO₂e/acre/year will be sequestered. I question if this is a realistic expectation and I question the assumptions used to make that estimation. Does this level of sequestration require only one compost application or compost applications each year and how many tons of compost are applied to each acre? In order to achieve sustained higher levels of carbon sequestration, pasture growth or primary productivity must be sustained at higher levels which requires sustained levels of nutrient inputs (compost or other fertilizer amendments) otherwise the system will revert back to its natural equilibrium within several years. I see the forecast as extremely optimistic, even though that is the number provided by the COMET model. Keep in mind that models are only as good as the data used to create them. The data available for compost on crop land is much more robust than for grazing lands, and I believe false assumptions about sustained increases in primary productivity were used in generating the model for grazing lands.
- If the expectation is that compost is applied annually to grazing lands, that is an unrealistic practice due to the reasons pointed out by Ken. The CDFA Healthy Soil Incentives Program can offset some of the costs, but there is uncertainty in that program because it is a competitive grant and its future funding could be curtailed.

Committee Member Michael Wackman:

- I'm concerned that the County will be advocating for the requirement of Tier 4 engines.
- Converting 55,000 acres of cropland from using synthetic fertilizers to compost is unrealistic.
- The use of compost must be done correctly. If done wrong, it introduces other issues into the soil (i.e. weeds).
- My biggest concern is once something becomes a plan, the next step becomes a requirement.

Committee Member Jim Vietheer:

- Where will this composting come from? The city of Sacramento tried composting 25 years ago, but was unsuccessful.
- Have you considered the consequences of overburdening pasture with organic material? How will the topography of a pasture change for grazing once ten times the amount of synthetic fertilizers are applied?
- The sustainability of the farmer must be considered.

Committee Member Charlotte Mitchell:

- The County historically has never provided ag land protection. This plan should focus on how we can protect the agricultural landscape from being converted to nonagricultural uses. This would be paramount in terms of trying to satisfy the carbon sequestration and Greenhouse Gas reduction.
- The incentives that the plan outlines for farmers already exists. There is redundancy in the plan, and shows an underlining motive of the County to continue to promote the conversion of the ag landscape to nonagricultural uses.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Flores at 916-875-0578.

Cc: Agricultural Advisory Committee