



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4137 Branch Center Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 875-6603
www.saccounty.gov

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 September 11, 2024 6:30 pm Valley Oak Room 4137 Branch Center Rd. Sacramento, California 95827

1. CALL TO ORDER

Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair Ken Oneto called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: none.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Leanne Mueller, Hal Holland, Brighton Heard, Matt Gause.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented to the Committee for approval. Brian Fishback motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Morgan Doran. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 12, 2024 meeting minutes were presented to the Committee for approval. Morgan Doran motioned to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Charlotte Mitchell. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. PUBLIC FORUM – No comments received.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLNP2022-00319 Zacharias Ranch Mitigation Bank (BRB)

Leanne Mueller with Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review presented details regarding the request for a Board Review to rescind an existing

Williamson Act contract (74-AP-035), and simultaneously enter into a new contract that will include an Open Space Easement Agreement pursuant to the Williamson Act, for a Floodplain-Tidal Marsh mitigation bank totaling 630 acres in the Delta Community. After hearing from the applicant representatives, the Committee discussed the merits of the application.

It was moved by Charlotte Mitchell and seconded by Brian Fishback, to recommend approval of the proposal to rescind the existing Williamson Act contract and simultaneously enter into an Open Space Williamson Act Contract Easement Agreement subject to an agricultural mitigation, with a recommendation to staff to not exempt any required mitigation for the loss of agricultural land. The motion passed by majority voice vote.

B. INDUSTRY/ASSOCIATION/PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES

- No comments received.

C. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER UPDATE

Chris Flores informed the Committee on the following items:

- The Crop Report was completed early this year and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on October 8th. Thanks to Laura for collating the data. The Deputies in the Department will assist with the presentation to the Board.
- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has launched new interactive mapping data using Census of Agriculture data. Refer to the News Release for more information.
- Highly Pathogenetic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in dairy herds is now in California. As of September 9th, there are 6 California dairies that have been affected. They are all within close proximity of each other and in the San Joaquin Valley. CDFA is doing testing, and they anticipate there will be more. The infected cattle are under quarantine and the milk is still fine to go to market.
- 180 Japanese Beetles were trapped this season. CDFA and our Department acted quickly and were able to get permission from residents to apply a granular treatment to the lawns in the delimitation area. Treatments will resume in the spring.

D. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

- Brian Fishback – Bee season went well. High temperatures kept honey flows down. Varroa still a problem, with about a 15% hive loss this year.
- Jim Vietheer – Beef business has been good. Prices are up, supplies are down. An indicator of how things are going in California are the Bull Sales. Bull sale prices are up.
- Mike Wackman – Winegrapes: White varieties are done harvesting; reds are harvesting now. Yields are down. Walnuts: half the crop was hit by heat. 2/3 of nut crop on the south side of orchard were lost due to high temperatures. Almonds are light this year as well.
- Charlotte Mitchell – Ag Conservation Easements are increasing in several counties down in the Valley and will protect ag land forever.
- Ken Oneto – Cherry crop was big this year, but pricing was down. Winegrape

yields were way down.

- Brad van Loben Sels – Tomato yields were decent this year. Overages are being accepted from the canneries.
- Morgan Doran – Currently analyzing the economic aspects of integrating livestock into cropping systems. The past year has been spent working on the survey to get info from farmers and livestock producers, and the report is being written now. The final report of economic damage due to geese in 2023 has been completed. Yolo, Solano, and Sacramento had about \$8.5 million damage.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is scheduled for October 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Laura McCready, Agricultural Advisory Committee Clerk, mccreadyl@sacounty.gov

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ken Oneto, Chair *Vice*

Date

11/13/24



COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER, SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

INTER OFFICE MEMORANDUM

September 23, 2024

To: Leanne Mueller, Senior Planner

FROM: Ken Oneto, Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair

SUBJECT: PLNP 2022-00319; Zacharias Ranch Mitigation Bank (BRB)

On September 11, 2024, the Sacramento County Agricultural Advisory Committee heard the above referenced item. The request was a Board Review to rescind an existing Williamson Act contract (74-AP-035), and simultaneously enter into a new contract that will include an Open Space Easement Agreement pursuant to the Williamson Act, for a Floodplain-Tidal Marsh mitigation bank totaling 630 acres in the Delta Community. The applicant representatives were in attendance.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee was given project information by Planning and Environmental Review staff. There were no comments received from the public. After discussing the item, the Agricultural Advisory Committee made the following recommendation:

It was moved by Committee Member Charlotte Mitchell and seconded by Committee Member Brian Fishback, to recommend approval of the proposal to rescind the existing Williamson Act contract and simultaneously enter into an Open Space Williamson Act Contract Easement Agreement subject to an agricultural mitigation, and encourage staff not to make an exemption for the mitigation. The motion passed by majority voice vote. Yes – 6: Steve Campbell, Morgan Doran, Charlotte Mitchell, Ken Oneto, Brad van Loben Sels, and Jim Vietheer; No – 2: Brian Fishback and Michael Wackman.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Flores at 916-875-0538.

Cc: Agricultural Advisory Committee