



# AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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[www.saccounty.net](http://www.saccounty.net)

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 8, 2021 6:30 pm

Meeting held via GoToMeeting

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/997521645>

### 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, Charlotte Mitchell, Ken Oneto, Brad van Loben Sels, Jim Vietheer, and Michael Wackman.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brian Fishback.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jenna Muller, Renee DeVere-Oki, Trish Kelly, Lindsey Liebig.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The September agenda was presented to the Board for approval. Charlotte Mitchell motioned to approve the agenda and was seconded by Michael Wackman. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March Committee Meeting minutes were presented to the Board for approval. Jim Vietheer motioned to approve the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Michael Wackman. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

### 4. PUBLIC FORUM – No comments received.

### 5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

#### A. California Agricultural Mediation Program:

Jenna Muller gave a presentation on the California Agricultural Mediation Program to the Committee. For more information, visit [www.calamp.org](http://www.calamp.org).

#### B. Coordinated Rural Opportunities Plan (CROP):

Renee DeVere-Oki and Trish Kelly gave a SACOG presentation on the Coordinated Rural Opportunities Plan. A group discussion followed the presentation to help

identify stakeholders. Lindsey Liebig offered the Farm Bureau's assistance. Chris Flores will coordinate with SACOG if further information is needed.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. County Budget Presentation and Discussion:**

Chris Flores gave an update to the Committee regarding the Sacramento County Budget.

- For the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget, the County has asked that Advisory Boards and Commissions provide input on the portion of the budget that is discretionary.
- Feedback and recommendations on how the discretionary funding should be used are requested by Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

7. **INDUSTRY UPDATES:**

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

- The focus has been on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) all summer. The South American Groundwater Sustainability Plan public comment period ended in August. The public comment period for the Cosumnes Subbasin is going through the middle of October. Both are on track to complete Groundwater Sustainability Plan submittals by January 2022.

8. **AG COMMISSIONER UPDATE:**

Chris Flores informed the Committee on the following department items.

- All staff are working 100% full time, but are teleworking when completing paperwork.
- We have two new employees: Jorge Garibay, who came from Stanislaus County, and Griffith Evans, who worked in El Dorado County.
- We have a new trapping supervisor, who was previously one of our seasonal ag aides.
- The 2020 Crop Report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to Laura McCready for her efforts.
- A 2022 Dog Team calendar was created to promote the program. They have been distributed to CACASA's lobbyist in Washington D.C. and will be mailed out to the Ag Advisory Committee members as well. A dog team demonstration will be included during the November 2<sup>nd</sup> presentation to the Board of Supervisors.
- Over 2,600 nutria have been captured since 2018. San Joaquin County have caught 109 nutria so far. There are 963 cameras set up State-wide to aid in the detection. There are currently 450 confirmed sites with nutria. Sacramento County has not had any nutria detections.
- Japanese Beetle update: 139 Japanese Beetles have been caught this summer in Arden/Arcade and Rancho Cordova. Treatment in these areas was completed in the spring, and will need to be treated again next year. This will most likely be a 4-5 year project to completely eradicate the pest.
- Our Department is working with San Joaquin, Yolo, Calaveras, and Amador Counties to do a Pesticide Disposal Project in late spring or early summer of next year. California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), and U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) will be asked to fund the project. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

- Ag Pass program: A new project to get started is the Ag Pass Program. This program would provide growers with a day of specific training to allow them to enter into an area that was under a mandatory evacuation due to a disaster. The Ag Pass would allow growers to access their property to take care of their livestock and crops. Chris Flores would like to work with the Ag Advisory Committee to get this started. Possible partners would include the Office of Emergency Services (OES), Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, Fire Districts, U.C. Extension, Sacramento County Farm Bureau, Animal Care and Regulation, Wildlife Services, etc.

9. **COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES:**

- Ken Oneto is still harvesting. Ethics Training reminders have been emailed from downtown.
- Morgan Doran with Cooperative Extension announced that the Division of Ag and Natural Resources received a significant and permanent budget increase this year. This will allow for approximately 100 new hires of academic advisors on various campuses. Viticulture, Fruit Crop, and Environmental Horticulture positions will be included in the new advisor positions.
- Jim Vietheer reported that the Sacramento Ag Foundation has a fundraiser next weekend at Country in the Park. The bull market remains strong in California. One sale in Sacramento County averaged over \$6,000 per bull on over 80 bulls. The highest priced bull in California this year is coming to Sacramento, with a price tag of over \$350,000.
- Steve Campbell questioned how the drought is affecting everyone.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. The next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on November 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Laura McCready, Agricultural Advisory Committee Clerk, [mccreadyl@saccounty.net](mailto:mccreadyl@saccounty.net)

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Oneto, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date