



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

311 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5520
(530) 626-4756 FAX
eldcag@edcgov.us

Greg Boeger, Chair – Agricultural Processing Industry
Lloyd Walker, Vice-chair – Other Agricultural Interests
Chuck Bacchi – Livestock Industry
Bill Draper – Forestry Related Industries
Ron Mansfield – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Tim Neilsen, Livestock Industry
John Smith – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry

MINUTES

April 11, 2012
6:30 P.M.

Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
330 Fair Lane – Building A, Placerville

Members Present: Boeger, Bacchi, Mansfield, Neilsen, Smith, Walker, Draper

Members Absent: None

Ex-Officio Members Present: Charlene Carveth, Ag Commissioner/Sealer

Media Members Present: Michael Raffety, Mountain Democrat

Staff Members Present: Chris Flores, Senior Agricultural Biologist
Myrna Tow, Clerk to the Agricultural Commission

Kim Kerr, Assistant Chief Administrator, Lillian MacLeod,
Development Services/Planning, Claudia Wade,
Department of Transportation, Ren Scammon,
Housing/Community and Economic Development

Others Present: Valerie Zentner, Farm Bureau

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair, Greg Boeger, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Walker, and seconded by Mr. Neilsen, to approve the Agenda of April 11, 2012 as submitted.

Chair, Greg Boeger, called for a voice vote for approval of the Agenda of April 11, 2012.

Motion passed

AYES: Bacchi, Mansfield, Neilsen, Smith, Walker, Boeger, Draper

NOES: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Smith, and seconded by Mr. Mansfield, to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2012 as submitted.

Chair, Greg Boeger, called for a voice vote for approval of the Minutes of March 14, 2012.

Motion passed

AYES: Bacchi, Mansfield, Neilsen, Smith, Walker, Boeger, Draper

NOES: None

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were received

V. PRESENTATION ON TARGETED GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT/ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE PRESENTATION BY KIM KERR, ASSISTANT CAO

Land Use Policy Programmatic Update Team Members included Kim Kerr, Claudia Wade, Lillian MacLeod, Ren Scammon, Chris Flores, and Valerie Zentner. The presentation included The General Plan 5-year Review and Monitoring Reports, General Plan Amendment Process, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinances updates, 2013 Housing Element Updates and the Travel Demand Model Update. The presentation took into consideration the fact that the county is long overdue for this overhaul to get the county's General Plan and County Planning ordinances into a more useful and beneficial consistent format as these documents are the "Road Maps" for the county. Given the fact that State law requires that the zoning ordinance be consistent with the General Plan, these targeted amendments and the updated zoning ordinance will run parallel and be updated together. The big issue for these meetings is to get the word out to the public and encourage participation to become engaged with this project. Ms. Kerr stated this project is a long process that will hopefully be complete by May of 2013 and made reference to the website that is available for meeting schedules and future updates on the El Dorado County Planning Departments home page. You can subscribe for updates and you will be notified when changes are made to the Targeted General Plan Amendment/Zoning Updates. <http://www.edcgov.us/landuseupdate/>

VI. EL DORADO IRRIGATION SMALL FARM IRRIGATION RATE DISCUSSION

Agricultural Commissioner, Charlene Carveth opened the discussion with a brief background statement of the current criteria for Small Farm Rate and a brief discussion of EID's intent to discontinue the Domestic Irrigation Rate by December 31, 2012. Customers are not content with the current criteria of having at least one acre of land with either ½ acre of producing crop which can be annual (inspection required every year and a copy of their Schedule F form showing \$3,500 worth of income generated from the sale of crops) or perennial (inspections required every three years).

Possible criteria changes (discussion only) could be the addition of irrigated pasture, if that

did occur what would the size be and the number of animals required. Would someone rent a cow? The department currently inspects about 77 per year with 4 of these applicants actually being Certified Producers who sell their crops at Farmers Markets. Most of the other uses of the Small Farm rates are for personal use, i.e. hobby gardens, landscape, or they may grow the crops to donate to food banks. Commissioner Boeger asked how many total Small Farm applicants through EID there are and this information was confirmed by the billing department at EID to be 213 Small Farm rates with 303 Domestic Irrigation rates. Out of the 303 Domestic Irrigation rates that are being eliminated Charlene mentioned that we may have an additional 100 inspections before the end of this year and out of the 100 customers probably only 20 would be Certified Producers. Chris Flores of the Agriculture Department reiterated that most of these qualifying customers have a mixed amount of fruit trees which produce fruit for "home use" with the majority being renewals, historically.

There are many elements to revising the criteria and this is just an open discussion to get some focal points. Commission Member Boeger mentioned that EID is being held to legal issues set by Proposition 218. Modifications could be difficult as there are so many elements involved in addition to annual monitoring. Questions that were asked included: Are these true farms or is the word "farm" being stretched? If the criteria was reduced and we came upon a drought year what would happen to this rate? It was suggested to not make the guidelines any more liberal. Pasture used for cattle should have at least two acres. EID's Commercial Ag rate users have to pay a set rate for the first 1,800 cfs, on each two month bill. The Commission Members expressed that this same criteria should be passed on to the Small Farm rate.

Valerie Zentner from the Farm Bureau commented that some of these customers have had this water rate for thirty five years; they are personal agricultural users and all good neighbors to Ag. There are also some larger parcels located in Shingle Springs that are being leased and used for livestock. Currently EID is not treating the irrigated pasture land as falling under the Small Farm rate and this would be a good use and an easy suggestion for EID to consider as we have cattlemen and 4-H kids that will suffer a residual impact.

Commission Member Boeger said we have some good viewpoints and it's good to have an Ag overview.

VII. LEGISLATION AND REGULATION ISSUES

- **AB 1625-** Transition to Organic Act amended in Assembly agricultural committee April 9th changed that the fund would consist of money from industry citizen sources as they will remove the federal source.
- **AB 1975-** Medical Marijuana: pesticide regulation No change- no additional discussion
- **AB 2680-** Agricultural land: Williamson Act removal of sunset clause on lot line adjustments, set for hearing 4/25/12 in assembly agriculture committee.
- **AB 1616 -** An act to amend Sections 110460,111940,111955,113789,114021, AND 114023 of, and to add Article 5 (commencing with Section 113400) to

Chapter 11 Part 6 of Division 104 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to food safety. Hearing date is set for 4/17/12. This bill will exempt cottage food operations from many of the food processing codes. The bill will set up a classification system for cottage food operations which would meet specified requirements related to training, sanitation, labeling and permissible types of soils.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- **Citrus disease shows up in California for the first time. State agriculture officials identified the citrus greening disease in the Hacienda Heights area of Los Angeles County to be an infestation of the Asian citrus psyllid.**
- **Seeds of Change- Charlene met with Heidi Zacher who managed the Divide Farm Exchange Farmers Market in Cool last year. She is currently working on a program to introduce vegetable gardens in schools in the Black Oak Mine School District, (currently have a garden at the Northside School in Cool) as an education tool for children and a source to provide fresh produce for the school to use. Heidi is also working with a local group to create a “Farm to School” program.**

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- **Ag Roundtable Update**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

- **Chair, Greg Boeger, adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.**

APPROVED: Greg Boeger, Chair

DATE: May 9, 2012