

## DRAFT ALAB MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday - June 7, 2022**

**University of California Cooperative Extension Auditorium, 2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Lisen Bonnier, Tom Ikeda, Claire Wineman, Dan Rodrigues, Seth Scribner, Sarah Kramer

**Staff Present:** Marc Lea and Ian Landreth – San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture, Blaine Reely – San Luis Obispo County Groundwater Sustainability Director, Airlin Singewald – San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning & Building

**Absent Members:** Craig Pritchard, Daniel Chavez, Mark Pearce, Camilla Posson, Butch Yamashita, Mary Bianchi, Jerry Diefenderfer, Jean-Pierre Wolff, Randy Diffenbaugh, Mark Battany

**Guests Present:** Patricia Wilmore – Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance

**I. Call to Order, introductions, quorum determination:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Dan Rodrigues at 5:00 pm. There were not enough members present to have a quorum.

**II. Open Comment:**

- Claire Wineman updated ALAB on the Santa Maria River Levee Trail Extension project following the May 17, 2022, Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting where their Board requested an overhaul of the proposal. Claire encouraged the ALAB members to continue to be engaged and follow the planning process for the proposed project since actions in Santa Barbara County could impact SLO county growers and could also set precedents for the area.
- Tom Ikeda congratulated the Grower-Shipper Association of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties on their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

**III. Previous Minutes – May 2, 2022**

- Marc Lea reminded members that ALAB was unable to approve the draft May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, meeting minutes because it was determined there were not enough members present to have a quorum. The draft minutes will be voted on at the next regularly scheduled meeting pending a quorum determination.

**IV. ALAB Governance Membership Updates**

- Marc Lea informed ALAB that Jean-Pierre Wolff and Mark Pearce's current terms end in August. Lea stated the current plan was for Wolff to renew his seat, and Pearce would switch with Sarah Kramer, the current Ag Finance alternate.
- Lea reminded members that we are currently governed by the approved ALAB operating guidelines. Those bylaws describe how industry category representatives should be nominated, e.g., the environmental rep is tied to a nomination from ECOSLO based on the existing bylaws and that has provided challenges in filling that position recently; there have been similar challenges

filling the Direct Marketing/Organics representative member. Lea is trying to find an environmental rep who can attend regularly because the current member has not attended any meetings. We also need to find a Direct Marketing/Organics Representative since that seat is currently vacant. The Strawberry Representative also remains vacant.

- Lea provided an update on the 2021 SLO County Crop Report. The report is anticipated to be available later this summer. Lea mentioned that he may be following up with a few of the members to make sure the department's findings are consistent with what members saw in the field in 2021. The 2021 crop report could have one of the largest overall valuations in the history of the SLO County crop report.

**V. Presentation/Discussion:** Updates on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) related activities and GSP (Groundwater Sustainability Plan) development in San Luis Obispo County, Blaine Reely – San Luis Obispo County Director of Groundwater Resources

- Reely provided background and information regarding the six groundwater basins in the County and the basins he is managing as the County Director of Groundwater Resources.
- There are 4 GSA's involved with managing the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (PRGWB) under an MOA and each group manages sections of the basin independently from one another. SLO County manages the largest area of the 4 different GSAs involved with that basin.
- Reely discussed the goal of the basins needing to be sustainable by 2040.
- Reely covered the potential water sources that could be made available as part of the GSP approval from the City of Paso Robles, and from Nacimiento Water Supply which is fully allocated but not fully utilized every year. Reely mentioned other sources of available water and the restrictions on the use of that water as it related to the GSP.
- Reely also mentioned that they recently received a \$7.6 million grant to assist in implementing the GSP within the PRGWB.
- Marc Lea asked a question regarding the following criteria and what the duration of following would need to be in order to be eligible for a potential following incentive. Reely acknowledged that these questions were still unanswered at this point, and that some of them would likely be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- Claire Wineman expressed concern with the current executive order that places limitations on the drilling of new wells in impacted groundwater basins.

**VI. Presentation/Discussion:** Paso Basin Land Use Management Area Planting Ordinance, Draft Environmental Impact Report, Airlin Singewald – Division Manager, Planning and Building Department, San Luis Obispo County

- Singewald provided an overview of the permitting process proposed within the draft planting ordinance. He also provided an explanation of the assumptions made in the draft environmental impact report explaining the planting permit

process.

- A copy of the presentation provided at the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting can be viewed at the following link:  
[Paso Basin Planting Ordinance Draft EIR Presentation \(ca.gov\)](#)
- The planting ordinance would apply to new or expanded plantings of commercial irrigated crops using water from groundwater wells located within the PBLUMA. It would allow for a site to be exempt using up to 25 AFY, per site. It would require a planting permit to be obtained by demonstrating a total annual water demand equal to or less than the annual water demand on site during the six years preceding the application date. Singewald also explained some of the assumptions made in the EIR and briefly went over the project alternatives.
- Tom Ikeda asked how the specifics of “sites” worked. Singewald explained that a “site” means any legal lot or parcel of land or contiguous combination having the same owner, the same lessee, or the same controlling entity in existence on the effective date of the ordinance.
- Claire Wineman asked questions regarding mitigation measures, pointing out that no other agricultural activities currently have similar permitting requirements or mitigation measures applied. Claire also mentioned that this proposal is an unprecedented action by placing mitigation measures on agricultural activities within the county. Airlin explained that the mitigation measures identified in the DEIR would be incorporated as standards into the ordinance and were designed to enable the permitting process to remain ministerial.
- Wineman asked the members if ALAB should submit another comment letter to the Planning and Building Department before the close of the official comment period for the draft EIR on July 7, 2022. The ALAB members agreed to meet on June 27, 2022, to craft an additional comment letter in response to the DEIR; the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will replace the previously scheduled July ALAB meeting.

**The following agenda items will be discussed at one of ALAB’s future meetings**

**VII. Presentation/Discussion:** New CIMIS Weather Stations in San Luis Obispo County,  
Mark Battany - University of California Cooperative Extension

**VIII. Presentation/Discussion:** Proposed Energy Storage Development Projects in San Luis Obispo  
County, Ian Landreth - County of San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture

Respectfully submitted by Ian Landreth, San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture