

## ALAB MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 2, 2012

**Members and Alternates Present:** Jean-Pierre Wolff, Don Warden, Bill Struble, Lisen Bonnier, Claire Wineman, Charles Pritchard, Eric Michielssen, and Lisa Bodrogi

**Absent Members:** Dee Lacey, Tom Ikeda, Richard Hawley, Mark Pearce, Noah Small, Mary Bianchi, Neil Roberts, Dick Nock, David Pruitt, and Richard Quandt

**Guests Present:** Linda Chipping, Coastal San Luis RCD

**Staff:** Marc Lea and Lynda Auchinachie, Agriculture Department; Rick Swan, CalFire

**Call to Order:** 6:10 PM. Quorum not present. 6:20 pm Quorum present.

- **Open Comment:** ALAB members provided a brief update on the current state of their industry. Guest Linda Chipping of the Coastal San Luis RCD (CSLRCD) encouraged ALAB members to spread the word that the CSLRCD has a funded program to provide technical assistance to landowners in the Los Osos Valley and Chorro Valley. The purpose of the program is to provide design and installation of water quality improvement projects at little to no cost to the landowner. Linda indicated that implementation of such projects can save money, increase yield, comply with new water quality requirements and provide support in meeting the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Ag Order. Additionally, the CSLRCD has a mobile irrigation lab that provides on-site irrigation system analysis and technical assistance to improve water use efficiency. Additional information is available at <http://www.coastalrcd.org>.

### 1. Agency Reports & Member Announcements/Reports:

- Marc Lea informed ALAB members that at the April 24, 2012, Board of Supervisors hearing there will be an agenda item associated with the official appointment of Claire Wineman as representative for the vegetable industry and the re-appointment of David Pruitt as nursery industry representative; Eric Michielssen as the direct marketing/organic representative; and Neil Roberts as the wine grape representative. Marc also provided the 2011 crop report statistics. Marc indicated that there was a record \$706,208,000 worth of production and that for the first time in 20 years wine grapes were not the number one crop in terms of total value. Strawberries surpassed wine grapes with total production valued at \$179,000,000. Marc indicated hardcopy editions of the 2011 crop report will be available in June.

### 2. Energy Wise Plan Discussion and Updates (Vice Chair Jean-Pierre Wolff)

- Vice Chair Jean-Pierre indicated that the Farm Bureau would be submitting proposed language changes to the Board of Supervisors. The proposed changes are aimed at addressing original concerns raised by agriculturalists with some of the information in the Energy Wise Plan. Lisa Bodrogi indicated she appreciated the information provided to ALAB members written by Ryan Haden of University of California Cooperative Extension.

### 3. Previous Minutes:

**MOTION:** Approve minutes: **Motion – Don Warden. 2nd – Lisa Bodrogi. Approved: Unanimous. Abstentions: Jean-Pierre Wolff, Claire Wineman, Bill Struble, Eric Michielssen due to absence from March meeting.**

### 4. Presentation by CalFire - California Fire Prevention Fee (Rick Swan)

- Vice Chair Jean-Pierre introduced Rick Swan from CalFire. Rick informed ALAB members about adopted state legislation to charge property owners in designated State Responsibility Areas (SRA) a fee for fire prevention purposes. As currently proposed through emergency regulations, the fee would be \$150 for each habitable structure located within an SRA. Since all of San Luis Obispo habitable structures are also protected by another fire agency, that fee will be discounted \$35 per habitable structure (\$115 per habitable structure). The Board of Equalization is charged with collecting the fee and it is envisioned to be a standalone bill much like vehicle registrations. Collected funds would be distributed for community projects through a grant process. Rick indicated that the permanent regulation has yet to be adopted. Additional information, including identifying if your property is located in the SRA, can be found at <http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov>.
- ALAB members indicated that irrigated agricultural crops provide defensible space and that this should be taken into consideration during the fee assessment process.
- Members discussed concerns that more funds could be collected then returned to the local community because distribution is through a grant process.

**5. Upcoming Meeting:** May 7, 2012, 6 PM

**Additional Comment:** Lisen Bonnier shared that there were recent improvements made to emergency response information and procedures relative to agricultural concerns and the communications between PG&E and interested parties has improved.

**Future Agenda Items:** The Economic Element and 2012 Federal Farm Bill.

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Auchinachie, County Agriculture Department.