

County of San Luis Obispo

Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board

2156 Sierra Way, Suite A, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB)

Positions/Members/Terms

CHAIR: Dan Rodrigues

VICE CHAIR: Lisen Bonnier

District One: Peschong Appt.
Craig Pritchard (1/21)

District Two: Gibson Appt.
Lisen Bonnier (1/23)

District Three: Hill Appt.
Tom Ikeda (1/21)

District Four: Compton Appt.
Daniel Chavez (1/23)

District Five: Arnold Appt.
vacant (1/21)

Ag. Finance Rep.
Mark Pearce (8/22)

Cattlemen Rep.
Dick Nock

Coastal San Luis RCD Rep.
Jean-Pierre Wolff (8/22)

Direct Marketing/Organic Rep.
Jutta Thoerner (4/20)

Environmental Rep.
Krista Burke (1/23)

Farm Bureau Rep.
R. Don Warden

Nursery Rep.
Butch Yamashita (4/20)

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD Rep.
George Kendall (4/23)

Vegetable Rep.
Claire Wineman (4/20)

Wine Grape Rep.
Dan Rodrigues (4/20)

Strawberry Rep.
vacant

County Agricultural Commissioner
Marty Settevendemie
Ex-Officio

U.C. Coop. Extension, Farm Advisor
Mark Battany

DATE: March 18, 2020

TO: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors and the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures

SUBJECT: ALAB's support of a Condition of Approval waiver and associated findings for certain cannabis cultivation projects, and a recommendation to assess and consider other potential incompatibility issues between existing agricultural operations and proposed cannabis projects

Dear Supervisors,

At the March 2, 2020 Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) meeting, ALAB members discussed the potential conflicts and incompatibilities that could exist between existing agricultural operations and proposed cannabis cultivation projects.

The Department of Agriculture explained recent efforts to develop a "condition of approval" waiver for certain cannabis cultivation discretionary projects that seeks to prevent frivolous lawsuits related to pesticide detections, and insure that cannabis cultivators cannot take legal action against neighboring growers except in cases where pesticide drift to non-target areas has been documented, or in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

ALAB members voted unanimously to affirm this effort to implement a condition of approval waiver on any cannabis project in the direct vicinity of existing agriculture or proximate to properties in the Williamson Act program or under an agricultural easement agreement.

In addition to the Condition of Approval that has been developed to address these pesticide related concerns, ALAB recommends that the County investigate the potential to expand this waiver to address other standard agricultural practices, such as fertilizer applications and ground preparation (tilling), that has been the subject of disputes and disagreements between some cannabis cultivators and existing agricultural operations. The ALAB Committee would like to reiterate the importance of established agricultural operations having the ability to continue accepted customs and standard farming practices without unnecessary or unwarranted harm.

Thank you for your continued support of the local agricultural industry and your consideration of ALAB's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Rodrigues", written in a cursive style.

Dan Rodrigues
ALAB Chair