

# 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: Jean-Pierre Wolff  
VICE CHAIR: Dan Rodrigues

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:** December 18, 2019

**TO:** Kip Morais, Project Manager, and Brian Pedrotti, Senior Planner,  
San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building,

**SUBJECT:** ALAB comments and recommendations on the Public Review Draft of the  
Industrial Hemp Ordinance

At the December 9, 2019 Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) meeting, ALAB members discussed the potential adoption of a permanent ordinance regulating the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp within the unincorporated portions of San Luis Obispo County. ALAB members affirmed their support for the growth and success for all agricultural commodities and the majority agreed upon a number of recommendations described below.

ALAB reviewed the information provided by the ALAB hemp subcommittee, a group established by ALAB to specifically address the potential for a local hemp ordinance and assist in providing information to be used for that ordinance development. The hemp subcommittee, a group which included ALAB members, local hemp growers, and local vineyard and winery representatives, met six times in the past four months. Meetings were open to the public and many hemp growers and concerned citizens alike attended and provided comments and input. The ALAB subcommittee provided the full ALAB membership with a few specific recommendations and a number of general areas of consensus that the full ALAB board took under advisement.

After reviewing the input from the ALAB hemp subcommittee and considerable additional discussion amongst members, **ALAB members approved a motion to provide the following five recommendations to County Planning in response to the Public Review Draft of the Industrial Hemp Ordinance:**

- ALAB recommends that County Planning strive to develop this ordinance, and its associated requirements and restrictions, in a manner that minimizes conflicts with existing agricultural operations and businesses.
- ALAB recommends that County Planning consider the implementation of a

sliding scale for setback requirements based upon the number of industrial hemp acres being cultivated. Although ALAB could not come to consensus on exactly what those setback distances should be, it was agreed that it is logical to require smaller setback distances from smaller sized growing sites, relative to the acreage of the hemp growing site.

- **In Section 22.30.244 (B.)1.c:** ALAB recommends that riparian and wetland setbacks be struck from the ordinance due to this requirement being duplicative of existing requirements from other agencies that growers must already meet.
- ALAB recommends that direction is given to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to develop a set of recommended and/or required Best Management Practices (BMP's) for the cultivation of industrial hemp locally. Once these BMP's are developed, ALAB recommends that consideration is given toward incorporating those BMP's into the industrial hemp registration process conducted by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
- ALAB strongly recommends that as new research on the potential impacts of hemp cultivation (and processing) becomes available that this new scientific information is examined in the context of any permanent hemp ordinance that is enacted by the county. ALAB recommends that this review occur annually, and the permanent hemp ordinance be amended to reflect new research information and associated impacts, if necessary and/or warranted.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP Wolff', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jean-Pierre Wolff, Ph.D.  
ALAB Chair