

**COUNTY OF VENTURA
AGRICULTURAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ACTION MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2012**

1. 1:00 P.M. – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

2. ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE.

Committee Scott Deardorff, District 1
Roll Call: Sanger Hedrick, District 2, Vice Chair
 Bob Pinkerton, District 3, Chairman
 Charles Schwabauer, District, 4
 Will Doyle, District 5

Ex-officio: Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner
(non-voting) Richard Enfield, UC Farm Advisor

Committee
Present: Pinkerton, Hedrick, Schwabauer, Doyle, Deardorff

Ex-officio
Present: None

Staff/Others Present: Nancy Parker and Rudy Martel, VC Agricultural Commissioner's Office; Katie Matchett and Rosemary Rowan, VC Planning Department; Chris Stephens, RMA; Martin Hernandez, Supervisor Long's Office; Rich Atmore; George Atmore; Anna Huber; Josh Pinkerton; A. E. "Bud" Sloan, VC COLAB; Bert Lamb, VC Cattlemen's Association; Jeannette Lombardo, California Women for Agriculture/CFAA; Nathan Borin; Julie Bulla, Land Use Consultant. Others may have been present and did not sign in.

3. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Motion: Approve agenda as shown.
By Schwabauer; seconded by Doyle.
Vote: 5-0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

None.

6. CONSENT ITEM.

A. Approve Minutes of May 9, 2012
Motion: Approve May minutes as written.
By Deardorff; seconded by Doyle.
Vote: 5-0

7. ACTION ITEM.

A. CV11-0329 (Code Violation) – Sulphur Mountain Land and Livestock
Chris Stephens of RMA spoke briefly to the Committee, advising he was present at today's meeting in Kim Prillhart's (Planning Director) stead, as she was unavailable to attend. Katie Matchett of Ventura County Planning gave an overview regarding this issue, which includes an alleged violation taking place in a Scenic Resource Protection (SRP) Overlay Zone. Rich Atmore, appellant's representative, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee, explaining grazing and farming activities on the alleged

violation site. Rich advised that brush clearance on grazing land is considered a viable farming practice and that the violation should not apply to this particular practice.

Other individuals who requested to speak regarding this issue were A.E."Bud" Sloan, Ventura County COLAB; Bert Lamb, Ventura County Cattlemen's Association; Nathan Borin; and Julie Bulla. Committee expressed concern of Planning staff's defining "agriculture" as "...intended to cover crops such as avocados and citrus trees...not forage for livestock..." (Planning Director's Letter to Appellant, 11/17/11). SRP exempts agriculture without exclusion of any particular type of cropland. Further, appellant's land is zoned AE-40 and operations appear consistent with standards of the California Right to Farm Act and County Right to Farm Ordinance. After some discussion, a motion was presented.

MOTION:

"That APAC Chair will draft and sign a letter to the Director, Planning Division, stating:

1. APAC finds appellant's brush removal operation was consistent with proper and accepted customs and standards, as established by similar agricultural operations in the same locality.
2. Appellant's brush removal operation was consistent with California Civil Code, Sec. 3482.5 (a) (1) of "THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT" and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 8114-2.1.1, Exception – Agricultural Operations Procedure.
3. Regarding an agricultural operation within the Scenic Resource Protection (SRP) Overlay Zone, APAC recommends County Counsel review RMA Code Compliance Division Violation CV11-0329 prior to the Planning Commission Hearing on Thursday, August 16, 2012, within the scope of California Civil Code, Sec. 3482.5 (d) of "THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT," to wit: "This section shall prevail over any contrary provision of any ordinance or regulation of any city, county, city and county, or other political subdivision of the state."
4. APAC recommends approval of appellant's dismissal request of CV11-0329 for the removal of vegetation."

Moved by Schwabauer; seconded by Hedrick.

Vote: 5-0

8. COMMUNICATIONS.

- A. Committee. None.
- B. Staff. None.

However, at this point in the meeting, Julie Bulla, through a Speaker's Card, requested to address the Committee regarding several issues concerning land use matters currently affecting Ventura County agricultural land.

C. Confirm Future Meeting Dates.

September 12 (possible LCA contract presentation), October 10, and November 14.

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT.

Motion: To adjourn at 2:50 p.m.

By Hedrick; seconded by Doyle.

Vote: 5-0