

COUNTY OF VENTURA
AGRICULTURAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2014

1. 9:04 a.m. – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

Committee: Scott Deardorff, District 1
Sanger Hedrick, District 2, Vice Chair
District 3 – Vacant
Patty Waters, District 4 (absent)
Will Doyle, District 5

Ex-officio: Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner
(non-voting) Christopher M. Smith, PhD/Director, UC Cooperative Extension (absent)

3. Staff/Others Present: Rudy Martel, Korinne Bell and Debi Markley from the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (VCAC); Kim Prillhart, Director, Rosemary Rowan and Brian Baca and Jennifer Welch of Ventura County RMA Planning. Martin Hernandez, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Kathy Long's office.

Lynn Jensen from the Ventura County Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business (COLAB). Lisa Woodburn of Jensen Design. Deb Marietta and Patty Perry of Wildlife Environmental Conservancy. Sally Coleman of Anterra Services. Tim Cohen of the Piru Neighborhood Council. Jane Farkas and John Hecht of Sespe Consulting. Peter Goldenring, attorney, Matt Freeman of Camulos Ranch and Hap Griffith of Ag. Bus. Others may have been present and did not sign in.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Korinne Bell presented a letter from Commissioner Gonzales issued to Bob Pinkerton in response to his resignation.

5. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Commissioner Gonzales introduced Debora Markley, the new Management Assistant replacing Luz Villavicencio.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve agenda as shown.
By Deardorff; seconded by Doyle
Vote: 3 – 0

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Matt Freeman of Rancho Camulos and Tim Cohen of the Piru Neighborhood Council commented on the County Planning Commission-approval of a low-income housing development near Camulos Ranch.

- B. Kim Prillhart, Planning Director for County of Ventura noted that APAC determined the Ag policy does not apply, but submitted six or seven conditions, which were met, and all appropriate County departments approved the plan.
- C. Commissioner Gonzales commented that it was never brought to his attention that land designated Open Space was within 150 feet of this project. He would like to look at that and see if it makes any difference.

8. CONSENT ITEM

Approve Minutes of October 8, 2014

Motion: Approve October minutes as written.

By Deardorff; seconded by Doyle

Vote: 3 – 0

9. PRESENTATION/ACTION

A. Wildlife Environmental Conservancy

- (1) John Hecht, Lisa Woodburn, Patty Perry and Lynn Jensen presented their views on the project.
- (2) The members of the APAC, Commissioner Gonzales, Korinne Bell, Rudy Martel and Martin Hernandez voiced their concerns regarding maintaining a 150 foot buffer zone around the property for protection of the birds and employees against hazardous chemicals being sprayed by agriculture surrounding the site.
- (3) Agreement was reached that this is an acceptable use, but the plans need to be reconfigured to maintain the buffer, 150 feet being the minimum, and getting a written cooperative agreement with the neighbors before the plan can be reconsidered for approval by the Ag Commissioner's staff.

B. Anterra Energy Services

- (1) Jennifer Welch, Sally Coleman, Brian Baca, John Hecht, Peter Goldenring, and Lynn Jensen presented their views on a request for a text amendment to the Non-coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO) regarding waste handling and containment of contaminants, relative to a possible extension of the CUP, and whether to allow disposal facilities of oil field waste in all AE zones and whether or not this use is compatible in the AE zone.
- (2) The members of the APAC, Commissioner Gonzales, Korinne Bell and Rudy Martel commented on the concerns of the County regarding this request.
- (3) One question is the long-range impact on the geology and the aquifers, but this appears to be a very solid casing. Commissioner Gonzales and Deputy Bell visited the site and did not see any impact on the plants around there.
- (4) There could be potential for building more of these commercial disposal sites on agricultural land County-wide, rather than drilling and disposing of waste on their own site. The initial findings found 170 potential sites are zoned AE and in open space and 22 are in AE Ag. It was felt, however, that the opportunity for other facilities to apply for permits has been there and approval of this request is not going to create a demand.

(5) Motion: Approval of the request for a Text Amendment as presented by Planning Staff.

By Scott Deardorff; seconded by Will Doyle

Vote: 3 - 0

10. Communications

A. APAC Members - None

B. Staff:

Proposals for new agenda items:

(1) Korinne Bell - Mr. Cohen and Mr. Freeman want to add an agenda item added in January regarding the low-income housing development near Camulos Ranch approved by the Planning Commission.

(2) Agromin would like to move their Arnold Road facility to their facility in Santa Paula and would like to present their project idea to this body in January.

(3) A study session in February to update our bylaws and policies.

(4) An update on the Mission Rock Road incident when Dr. Chris Smith is here.

C. Staff Updates - None

D. Confirm future meeting dates:

Jan 14, 2015

Feb 11, 2015

11. Adjournment at 11:33 am by Sanger Hedrick

Attachments

1. Letter from Commissioner Gonzales to Bob Pinkerton regarding his resignation
2. Letter to Korinne Bell from Jensen Design & Survey, Inc. re: WeC Proposed Landscape Plan for Agricultural/Urban Buffer
3. Proposed Landscaping Plan for Wildlife and Environmental Conservation
4. Photo Inventory for Existing Landscaping at Wildlife & Environmental Conservation
5. Anterra exhibit marked Exhibit 1 – Non-Coastal Ordinance Use Matrix
6. Anterra exhibit marked Exhibit 12 – Page 2 of APAC Minutes for October 10, 2012