

ALAMEDA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPROVED MINUTES

Special meeting, Tuesday, February 22, 2011

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Alameda County Public Works Building

Gleason Rd, Dublin

<u>Committee Members Present</u>	<u>Committee Member Absent</u>	<u>Ex-Officio Absent</u>
Darrel Sweet	Phil Went	Scott Paulsen
Millie Kimbro	Joe Ferreira	Elke Rank
Mike Gatzman		
Karen Sweet		
Dolores Bengston		
Clayton Koopmann		
Chuck Moore	Others present:	<u>Staff</u>
Carla Schultheis	Larry Gosselin	Liz McElligott
Kent Reeves		Maria Palmeri

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:09 pm by Darrel Sweet.
2. **Approval of minutes** – Approval of the minutes for January 25, 2011. Member Mike Gatzman moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Bengston seconded. Carla Schultheis abstained. Minutes were approved as submitted.
3. **Public Comment** – Kent Reeves announced a one day program for landowners and various organizations to learn about the permitting process related to the California Tiger Salamander. The training will take place this Thursday, February 24th, starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Martinelli Center in Livermore. He asked that anyone interested in participating to contact him for additional information.
4. **Proposed revisions to the County Williamson Act Program – Amend the definition of commercial breeding and training in draft Uniform Rule 1, Section II and C.2.a. to remove references to ownership of the property**
Liz McElligott said that at the last meeting committee members directed staff to amend the definition of commercial breeding and training that appears in draft Uniform Rule 1, Section II.C.2.a. to remove references to ownership of the property. She introduced the revision which read as follows:

“a. The commercial breeding and training of horses is defined as the breeding and training of horses, such as race horses, competition horses, and ranch horses for the purpose of commercial sale. “

Mike Gatzman said that he checked the zoning code on breeding and training facilities and ag uses. He asked if the language could read as follows:

“ Any equine facility will be considered as compatible agricultural use if its horse population consists of at least 50 percent, by number of horses, that are categorized as breeding horses plus those in training plus ranch horses used in commercial cattle production.”

He asked that staff insert the above language where it would be appropriate. The Chair thanked Mike Gatzman for working on this language. He said obviously this would not apply if the property is under a Williamson Act contract. He asked that staff submit these changes to the state and see if they will accept these changes. Liz agreed.

Discussion ensued if facilities are inspected, how will they determine which horses are for training only or boarding, etc. Clayton Koopmann suggested that the owner should keep a log of the horses and their function. Millie Kimbro agreed and said she keeps track of the horses on her property and it is a very simple thing to do. Karen Sweet suggested that staff submit this information as soon as possible as Brian Leahy at the Department of Conservation

will not be there much longer. Liz said she would draft a cover letter for the Chair's signature before submitting it to Mr. Leahy.

Discussion ensued on the ROSA plan. Liz said once some of her projects are finalized she will then have time to start working on it. Mike Gatzman asked that staff check on the agricultural definitions which they had submitted to staff related to the SDR applications. Liz said she would check and get back to the committee. Discussion ensued on proposed amendments to Measure D. She said Supervisor Miley and Haggerty instructed staff to go ahead with amendments to Measure D related to horse properties. She said the Sierra Club is opposed to implementing these changes as small technical changes rather than putting it on the ballot. Liz said County Counsel is working on the amendments.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7 :33 pm.