

MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(ALL MEETINGS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

Location: Department of Food of Agriculture
Main Auditorium
1220 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Contact: Helen Lopez
Office: (916) 675-3231

MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 30, 2006

Item
No.

(1) CALL TO ORDER

- (a) The meeting was called to order Wednesday, August 30, 2006, at approximately 8:30a.m. Al Montna, President of the State Board of Food and Agriculture presiding.
- (b) Welcoming remarks provided by Al Montna.
- (c) Pledge of Allegiance.

(2) ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Helen Lopez, Executive Director. A quorum was present.

Present:

Ashley Boren	Drue Brown	Marvin Meyers
Craig McNamara	Niaz Mohammed	William Moncovich
Al Montna	Adan Ortega	Karen Ross
Ann Bacchetti - Silva		

Absent:

Reg Gomez	Luawanna Hallstrom
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(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 28, 2006

MOTION: Board Member Craig McNamara moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Ashley Boren and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

(4) OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION

Board President Al Montna welcomed everyone and thanked the speakers for addressing the Board. President Montna introduced Secretary Kawamura for opening remarks, and comments.

Secretary Kawamura indicated the month of August concluded the 2007 Farm bill listening sessions and he gave a special thanks to the CDFA staff in Monterey, LA, Fresno and Sacramento. The listening sessions provided excellent testimony from a broad

range of interest and stakeholder groups. It became very clear the farm bill can become very dynamic. Public testimony revealed special interest in the areas of nutrition and conservation, making it clear there is a lot of room for rethinking how this nation invests in the agricultural future of this state and country. Secretary Kawamura indicated one of the most important results of the listening sessions were the comments that came back from some of the different groups that did not recognize the breadth of what a farm bill is. To those of us who work with farm bill topics on a daily basis, it's obvious to us that a farm bill encompasses everything from food stamps, to invasive species, conservation, and energy research. Yet, what was exciting to see is the people willing to sit through the listening sessions and see the bigger picture of what a farm bill provides to agriculture. CDFA is coordinating the comments and testimonies into a package to present to the congressional delegation that represents a consensus of what unified California stakeholders want to see in a national farm bill. It's not just about California; it's about the overall health of the entire national farming community.

Today's meeting represents a chance to reassess the different areas of interest discussed and to look at our progress. The Board has provided CDFA with several resolutions: Have we done a good job responding? Have we had a chance to move something forward? Are there frustrations? Are there areas that we really need to highlight and put up on a higher platform, a higher visibility?

(5) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Secretary Kawamura informed the Board of the eradication processes in effect for various fruit flies, including the Oriental Fruit Fly infestations in Santa Barbara and other areas that continue to be a main focus for the department. CDFA received funding for the Needles Inspection pilot project that opens commercial and passenger vehicle lanes to inspection. There have been numerous pest finds, including False Coddling Moth larvae found in African fruit that inspectors confiscated and sampled. This continues to be of major concern for California borders, as well as for international borders.

The Department is seeing some exciting handwork in the energy and renewable energy arena. We continue to push forward to ensure awareness that it's not just about biofuels, it also includes solar, wind, etc. The Governor has come out with some great initiatives including the Million Roof Solar Initiative. The Department also continues to work closely with the dairy industries to look at their long term future.

The economy after the heat wave has some areas doing well and others having a tough time as it relates to agriculture. The National Agricultural Static Services (NASS) studies results are expected to be released showing farm gate values for the state of CA. The hope is that these numbers will be high and will continue to show the strength of the economy. There is tremendous future in building that economy up and we must continue to strive towards it.

(6) OTHER BUSINESS

CA Sugar Beet Marketing Allotment Allocation Issue – Marvin Meyers

Representatives of Speckles Sugar and the Minnesota Beet Growers Association met with Secretary Kawamura regarding the 2002 Farm Bill 2.5% allotment that was taken away from California sugar beet growers and processors. These growers/processors have been operating without that 2.5% allotment, unlike other U.S. sugar beet processors. Sugar Beet companies are requesting that the Board and the Department amend the formula that

determines the allotment. The Mendota sugar beet plant might be sold to the growers so they can develop a co-op. In order to do that they are going to need that 2.5% allocation increase to make it a viable operation. If 2.5% is not given back to the state, there is high probability that the Mendota Company will close the plant. If this were to occur, it would shut down the entire sugar beet industry in the central part of the state and operations would be moved to Minnesota. The USDA needs to return the 2.5% allocation to California in the new farm bill, as that would make this a viable industry and growers within the state and Central Valley will be able to continue to grow sugar beets as a rotational crop.

MOTION: Board Member Marvin Meyers moved that the board support the proposal requesting return of the 2.5% allotment to CA. The motion was seconded by Board Member Bill Monchovich, and a unanimous vote carried the motion.

Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Board

Duane Schnabel, Executive Director for the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee

The Department of Food and Agriculture and the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee here by recognize Mr. Marvin Meyers and Dr. Charles Crabb for their years of commitment and dedication to the agricultural industry in California (Dr. Crabb has retired from the Board and was unable to attend to receive the recognition).

The Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee, advises the Secretary of Department of Food and Agriculture on the research needs and funding recommendations regarding vertebrate pest control research in California. The mission and goals of the research program are directed at solving vertebrate pest control damage affecting agriculture, infrastructure, resources, and public health and safety in California. The committee consists of 11 diverse members representing academia, government, and the agricultural industry.

Mr. Marvin Meyers recently retired from the committee after serving 10 years as chairman of the committee. Marvin is a diversified agricultural producer from the San Joaquin Valley and represented the agricultural interests of field crop and orchard growers before the committee. Marvin's leadership on the committee was instrumental in securing legislative reauthorization for the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Program in 2005.

25x25 Letter of Support

The letter of support will be reviewed by the Board and a decision will be made during the September board meeting as to what course of action to take.

(7) PRESENTATIONS BY GUEST SPEAKERS

Environmental Conservation Perspective

Al Kalin, On-Farm TMDL Consultant

Mr. Kalin indicated that the Department of Water Resources is trying to find a restoration plan that will work to restore the Salton Sea. The sea has died and they are trying to figure out how to economically restore it to what it once was several years ago. He was happy to report that farmers and the environmental groups have been able to get together and put together a plan they feel might work. They are hoping to merge the two together. In addition, the Salton Sea Authority, a group made up of representatives of the Imperial

Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, Riverside and Imperial Counties, and the Indian Tribes are pushing their plan and spending a tremendous amount of money on public relation campaigns to get the population in that area to go with their plan. This plan has a lot of flaws and they are hoping the coalition of the farmers and environmentalists will win out a plan that can be used to restore the Salton Sea. The farmers in the area are the only ones who have done anything to improve the Salton Sea and its water quality. The TMDL program down there reduces the silt going into the sea. Silt is what carries the phosphates and phosphate and is what creates the algae blooms that cause all the problems there. In the last 2 years, the TMDL program has reduced the amount of silt going into the Salton Sea by 50%.

Receding of the Salton Sea may end up being the biggest problem. As the sea recedes they form salt playas. The salt playas bloom pure salt crystals which are blown onto the crops during the winter time. This is creating a real problem because it's burning the leaves of the crops. As the sea recedes this problem gets worse.

On other issues, they are working diligently on the silt TMDL. Workshops on migration are being conducted. As they move forward with their best management practices, they are also facing problems with their regional board. Even though this is the most successful TMDL program in the state, and maybe the nation, they seem to want more. The new grants are becoming more stringent and require more information.

Two Canals in the Coachella Valley are being lined. One is the Coachella branch in the All American canal. They lined the first portion of it 25 years ago and now they are lining the other region. 25 years ago they had a major problem with deer getting into the canal. They spent a great deal of time talking to the people who are building these canals and suggesting ideas to stop the deer from getting into the canal. It was agreed they would put a fence along the new lined canal on both sides in the winter time when deer did not need the water and would put in drinkers. Somehow, the fence was not installed on either side of the new canal, but the dessert side of the old canal, effectively keeping the whole herd of deer from watering during the hottest part of the summer. It is unknown how many deer have been killed or lost in the dessert. Dessert Wildlife Unlimited spent many hours out there putting in temporary drinkers over a 35 mile area.

The other canal is lining portions of the All American Canal between Yuma and Imperial Valley. The 9th Circuit Court stopped that process just as they were mobilizing to get started, which is now on hold for 6 months until the entire 9th Circuit Court has time to sit down and decide whether to allow it to go forward. This will cost San Diego a great deal of money.

Urban development in the Imperial Valley is booming. People are coming from San Diego to live in the valley and commuting to San Diego. So far, we don't have a large threat to agriculture. In addition, the Farm Bureau is helping the housing industry to educate new residences, who are not familiar with agriculture, of how to live and what to expect in a farming community.

For the last 10 years, we never had any control on our toxic substances. It is something the County Supervisors decided they did not want to spend the time or money on. It turns out they are one of only two counties in the whole state that did not do anything. The other is Trinity County. The state finally stepped in after 10 years. The Farm Bureau developed classes to teach the farmers how to fill out the forms and what they need to do for business plans.

The Audubon Society has joined forces with the Farm Bureau working on a Wildlife Conservation Board Grant, with five cooperators so far, to enter in a land owner's stewardship program.

Environmental Perspective from a Regulatory Approach

Tom Graff, CA Regional Director Environmental Defense

Mr. Graff indicated it is likely that a climate bill will emerge, principally authored by Speaker Nunez and Assemblywomen Fran Pavley to be voted on today in the Senate, tomorrow in the Assembly and hopefully be signed by the Governor within the 30 days thereafter. This would be a major step forward for California and for the nation and the world, should it in fact take place.

Infrastructure Bonds: Environmental Defense supports both the Flood Bond and Prop 84. It would be nice to get some policy reform in there along with the money. This did not happen in either case. There is a set of flood bills that will potentially be considered by the legislatures in the next couple of days. There is a lot of work to do to straighten out some of the non-financial aspects of California water and hopefully make some progress on that by 2007.

The California Supreme Court has a major water case. The Farm Bureau Regional Council of Rural Counties and some delta agencies have taken that case up. Mr. Graff indicated they find themselves on the same side as those agencies, although not altogether on the same grounds. Whatever the Supreme Court does could be of great interest to everyone in the State. One process that has started is the Bay Delta Conservation Planning Process. Wildlife agencies, project agencies, project contractors and some environmental groups, are meeting very intensively under the leadership of Karen Scarborough, the Deputy Resources Secretary, to tackle which should be the rules of the game in the delta short run. The rules set up by the CALFED Rod in 2000 run for 7 years. This process is designed to replace these rules by 2008 and is built on the model of the habitat conservation plans. The Governor has announced a Delta Visioning Process and Secretary Chrisman & McPeak will be the leaders in this process and some sort of commission is likely to be appointed.

Colorado River: Six years ago the four agencies that ultimately negotiated the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) asked for assistance by reaching out to the environmental community because they realized there would be environmental components to the set of agreements. Particularly, they were worried about the fully protected species aspect of state law that might put a crimp on their negotiations. The meetings that started as a result of that approach are what lead to a quite promising joint discussion on the Salton Sea between the agricultural and environmental interests. Mike Morgan and the Imperial group get a lot of credit for that on the agriculture side. The big issue that is still unresolved is selenium, which continues to be an issue in the Central Valley. Whatever plan is developed needs to figure out what to do with selenium.

In regards to the All American Canal, it has been 20 years that we have not effectively engaged with Mexico on the impacts of that project. There are a lot of good things that can come from a serious negotiation that updates the relationship between the U.S. and CA (in particular), Mexico, and Colorado.

Species and Habitat Restoration: Mr. Graff indicated the range land resolution is terrific. There has been a lot of progress on joint projects. Mr. Graff provided some examples of

various successful projects. He indicated how the farm bill turns out in 2007 will have a big impact on how many of these projects can proceed and where there are some resources to help them.

Air Quality: A Regulatory/Environmental Perspective

Lynn Terry, Deputy Executive Officer, CA Air Resources Board

Lynn Terry provided a quick overview of the agencies role and what the Board does. They have a state agency overseeing air quality. The Board's responsibility is to make sure they meet all the federal requirements as well as state requirements, working closely with 35 local air districts, which have their very specific authorities under state law.

State Implementation Plans (SIPS), comes out of the Federal Clean Air Act, a federally mandated planning document that describes how they will meet health based quality standards. This has been their bread and butter program for years in California. The good news is they are making a lot of progress. The two most difficult areas in terms of air quality are Southern CA and the Central Valley. The Central Valley is making good progress in terms of particulate pollution. In terms of ozone, the progress in the Central Valley has been much less than that of Southern CA, which causes great concern and is a big scientific challenge.

The ARB has a network of state wide air monitors that determine health based standards, and if exceeded, by how much. This is a very important part of the planning process because there are some very specific requirements about using air quality models, predicting the future, looking at trends and emissions, and how close we come to the standards based on our cleaner vehicles and cleaner industries.

This emissions inventory is fundamental to determine where emissions are coming from in relation to the growing needs of transportation, industrial agricultural, and consumer household. As the population in California grows, certainly, the cars are getting cleaner, but we have a lot more consumer products, and we have a lot more gasoline being used. For air quality modeling, they are required under the Federal Clean Air Act to use that kind of approach to predict in mandated deadlines. The reason they are in this process right now is there are updated air quality standards for PM 2.5 and a new standard for ozone, which is based on eight hours. When EPA updates these standards, it triggers, under the Clean Air Act, some specific time frames for the states to develop plans to meet these standards. They feel it makes sense to integrate the planning for those two separate pollutants on the same time frame so they don't come back to the same sources a year later and have to look at it all over again in terms of another pollutant. The staff of the air districts and the Air Board is working on concepts for new strategies to go forward in a public process over the next couple of months. The ARB will be holding a symposium on SIPS strategies on Oct 12th in Sacramento. This symposium will be ARB's first discussion that will focus on cleaning up and regulating sources within their jurisdiction.

On the Diesel Risk Reduction Plan, the last strategy is agriculture irrigation pumps. This is a combined strategy for reducing diesel particulate as a toxin. As well as by accelerating introduction of cleaner engines, we reduce NOx emissions that contribute to PM 2.5 and ozone. The San Joaquin Valley has already adopted most of this rule as part of their SIP process.

For climate change activates, they work under the Climate Action Team report, which has 11 measures assigned to ARB. They are working on manure management and alternative fuels; biofuels and ethanol blends.

There is a lot of interagency work going on with bioenergy and biofuels. One assignment of the ARB is to update their predictive model for gasoline specifications to accommodate the use of ethanol.

Air Quality: Air Quality Solutions

Charlie Krauter, Faculty Chair CA State University Fresno Plant Science Department

A study of ROG emissions related to dairy operations was conducted at two Central California locations in 2003-04. Monitoring and modeling methods developed in that project will be applied to a more comprehensive study to be conducted in 2005-08. The focus of the new study will expand to include emissions from feed, animal housing areas and land applications of effluent in addition to the manure handling systems. The ambient, upwind/downwind samples collected for modeling in the initial study will continue to be used but will be augmented by flux chamber sampling for better precision monitoring of small area sources.

New Dairy Air Quality Projects in the Central Valley:

- Since the October CDFA hearings, a second project funded by the CARB and CSU-ARI will monitor emissions from six dairies in the valley to document practices that can reduce ROG emissions.
- Additional funding from the USDA will add monitoring of feed storage, animal housing, and land application of lagoon effluent.
- These combined projects will continue through 2008.

Planned Projects:

- Phase 2 of CARB funded project will add 4 dairies with innovative management systems to the 2 typical dairies and analyze for additional compounds. Emphasis will be on comparing emissions from different manure handling systems and evaluation of seasonal and day/night differences in emissions (July'05 to June'07)
- Matching CSU Ag Research Initiative funding will add analytical capability for VFA's, alcohols, and other non-canister procedures as well as an additional year (September'05 to June'08)
- USDA and UNH funding to study Nitrogen/Carbon ratios at the same 6 dairies. (July'05 to June'08)

** Data shown in the presentation is preliminary, incomplete and is presented here only to provide examples of information being collected over the course of the study. No conclusions with regard to emission rates or comparisons of dairy practices should be drawn from this data.*

How CDFA helped their research:

- CDFA FREP funding (2001-05) for ammonia emissions from fertilizer applications.
- Matt Summers for technical assistance and his leadership on the dairy sub-committee since 2002.
- The invitation to the hearings last October helped CSU Fresno establish credibility with the dairy industry.

How CDFA can assist in the future:

- Refill Matt Summer's position. California agriculture needs representation from the state agriculture agency.

- Continue to hold hearings to maintain communication between the air quality regulatory agencies, the agricultural industry and the research community.

Legislative Perspective on Agriculture

Jim Collin, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee Agriculture

Mr. Collin indicated that this is the last 48 hours of the legislative session. There are several issues out there pending. They were not invited to engage in AB 32, therefore, he does not know enough about it. He does know that many of the industry representatives have been engaged and providing information on this. There are several other water issues that continue to be pushed. The latest rumor is that there may be some agreement on flood legislation to help the levees and provide more funding for that. Mr. Collin indicated he wanted to provide a perspective of what they are anticipating for the assembly, as well as the senate in this next election cycle. There will be a 45% membership turnover in the assembly. 36 out of the 80 members are estimated to be replaced. This is also potentially significant to the leadership of the house. Many members of the Democratic Moderate Caucus, (business democrats looking at legislation and its effects on business) will be changing. They have a 25% turnover in the senate, which is average for the senate.

Mr. Collin indicated he has a list of legislation they handled in the agriculture committee. There were about 50-60 bills in the last two years, fewer than what they had in the past. One of the issues they continue to fight is jurisdictional roles; who gets what bills. That comes back to leadership and how leadership sees the committee.

In the middle of SB 700 discussions, one thing that many people don't understand or don't want to acknowledge is that agriculture has been asked to come to the level of other industries within a very short time frame. There is a big push and there are significant areas where we don't have that science or knowledge to do. There is a lot of sophisticated knowledge that is needed in technology to really help us understand and have that science to address what we need to address in order to deal with pollution control, air quality, etc...

Governors Infrastructure Bond, CAL Fed Bay Delta, Water Issues

Joe Grindstaff, Director CA Bay-Delta Authority

Mr. Grindstaff discussed flood bond 1E and proposition 84 which are both on the ballot, both which would have an impact on water systems in this state. Flood bond 1E is very significant and will provide \$4.2 billion to flood management projects and \$3 billion of it being allocated to the Delta and project levees in the state. Prop 84 has significant funding for flood management in addition to other water resource management which includes an integrated regional management funding program for 1 billion that gives money to regions and asks that they integrate and work together to develop long term plans. There is also money for storm water runoff.

One fundamental problem with water is the fact that the basic difficult issues have yet to be addressed. There is a cabinet committee which includes Secretary Kawamura and the Secretaries for Resources, CAL EPA and Labor and Transportation, all overseeing an effort to appoint a task force that will look at the long term future of the delta and what we need to do as a state to have a sustainable system. We are being told by our scientists that it is not sustainable and we see the evidence with our own eyes that all of the things that everybody had hoped would come out of CALFED had not materialized. Water supply reliability has decreased from 20% in 1977 to 5%. We will have this Delta Vision

process that is intended to look at the delta as a whole and will look at issues such as transportation in addition to water. One other item under way is the development of the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, focusing specifically on issues of the delta. This is being sponsored by a lot of water agencies in the region. The goal is to develop regulatory assurances and framework for moving forward.

Mr. Grindstaff indicated they are almost at the end of stage one of the CALFED record decision. One of the key things they said was the Bay-Delta was supposed to evaluate their successes and failures by the end of stage one. They will start the discussions in December and will have at least 7 or 8 months of public discussions with their advisory committee and the Bay-Delta Authority and will make recommendations to the federal administration. They will be looking at all major program elements within CALFED.

The CA Water Plan update is underway and should be completed by 2008.

Governors Infrastructure Bond, CAL Fed Bay Delta, Water Issues

Thomas Birmingham, General Manager/General Counsel Westlands Water District

Mr. Birmingham indicated the Board has a keen understanding of the relationship between water supply and the sustainability of the agriculture in California. In preparation of his presentation, Mr. Birmingham anticipated talking about three key issues. The first one is the evaluation of the delta conveyance, which is to occur in the end of phase one of the CALFED program at the end of 2007. The second issue is the preparation of a long term strategy for the delta. Third is the negotiation of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The key message Mr. Birmingham would like to leave with the Board is that we have to start making difficult decisions. If we don't, the consequence will be more agricultural land coming out of production. Mr. Grindstaff talked about decisions by default, and to a large extent, what has occurred over the past 10 years. One of the unattended, or perhaps attended consequences of the decision that occurred over the last 10 years, is that it leads to water policy. There has been a significant reduction in the amount of land that is being irrigated for agricultural productions throughout the state. In the Central Valley where the Westlands Water District, on its own, has taken over 90 thousand acres of land out of irrigated agricultural production in order to help balance our demand for water with the available supply. Unless we begin to make difficult decisions and ask ourselves, "do we want to preserve agriculture in this state," you will continue to see as an unattended consequence, a loss of agricultural land.

He encourages CDFA to become more engaged in the process of developing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Currently, the Department of Water Resources is actively engaged in that process along with the Dept. of Fish and Game. Both of these agencies do a wonderful job of representing their constituency. One of the ways this Board and Department can help is to become more involved in the discussions about how we are going to achieve the purposes and objectives of the CALFED process to improve water quality, to restore levees in the delta, to improve water supply and reliability and restore the Bay Delta environment. How will we accomplish those objectives in a way that will allow continued use of water for agricultural production?

Governors Infrastructure Bond, CAL Fed Bay Delta, Water Issues

Ara Azhderian, Water Policy Administrator, San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority

Mr. Azhderian indicated the water authority was formed in 1992 and operates central valley project facilities south of the delta. They have 32 member agencies that are responsible for conveying water to 1.3 million acres of farm land.

Mr. Azhderian indicated that not only are significant portions of Californians relying on the delta, but 8 out of every 100 Americans get some portion of their water from the delta. The delta has operated well for many years, but has undergone dramatic change over the last 150 years for a number of reasons, which are being looked at. One of the things that are difficult and inspiring at the same time is the fact that there are more unknowns associated with the delta than known and he thinks that is really driving the initiative from water purveyors and power interests and developing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. This is a voluntary effort focused on projects and solutions in the delta. It is intended to help store and protect the water supply and water quality in the delta. The development of the plan is being funded by the water purveyors, water agencies, and power interests. Fish agencies and water groups are participating in the development of that plan. The plan does have established governmental mechanisms and protocols. Participants in the plan recognized the fact that it could provide and benefit from the exchange of information between the other processes that are going on. The desired outcome through all of those efforts is to restore stability in the delta and from them, restore conveyance capacity and the ability to deliver water supply to their region. He indicated that often times, storage is thought of as a primary solution to deal with water supply issues. Storage is an important element for resource management and critical for dealing with some of the climate change issues.

The Westside San Joaquin Watershed Coalition is a group of districts and farmers encompassing 550 thousand acres of land and is intended to address the continued discharge of agriculture water under the irrigated lands program. The entire effort is locally developed and funded and is considered a model in the state. Its primary purpose is to implement water quality monitoring programs and to manage that data to inform districts and farmers of their discharge status, inform future regulatory decisions, and to demonstrate improvements in water quality as they relate to the implementation of the program. The programs secondary purpose is to help develop and refine existing best management programs and practices.

The Westside Regional Drainage Plan aims to eliminate the discharge of drain water from 90,000 acres that are entering the San Joaquin River, while still maintaining the regional agricultural productivity of that land. The plan is primarily locally funded, about 2/3 of the 60 million investment in the program has come from locals, with the other 1/3 coming from the state. The program is unique and builds on successes that have been demonstrated in the Grasslands Basin Drainers Program and utilizes a multitude of strategies that range from water conservation to cutting edge technologies for water treatment.

The State Board of Food and Agriculture can help these efforts with continued engagement in development of agriculture policy issues, by educating sister Boards about the complexity of regional issues, by advocating for more regulatory deference to local and regional solutions, and by promoting the irreplaceable value of California agriculture since much of it can not be done anywhere else.

Central Valley Rural Crime Prevention Program & Agricultural Crime Fighting ACTION Project

William Yoshimoto, Supervising Attorney & Project Director, Central Valley Rural Crime Prevention Program

Mr. Yoshimoto indicated the concept in many peoples mind is that agricultural crime really doesn't exist or does not have any significant impact. We know differently, in the

Tulare County District Attorney's Office and the ACTION project in the Central Valley Rural Crime Program (CVRCP). Mr. Yoshimoto provided some statistics to demonstrate the impact of agriculture crime. He indicated that in 2005 there was a reported loss of \$10,943,173, and in 2004, a reported loss of \$9,872,902. A survey conducted at the Urban Institute out of Washington D.C. conducted with farmers and ranchers indicated that reported crime is 1/10 of the actual crime farmers are experiencing in our region. If you take that 10 million and multiply it at least 10 times, you get a better understanding of what the actual impact of crime is to our local farmers. To try to counteract that loss, two projects were developed with help of the state of California and also the federal government. The state funded Project is the CVRCP and the federally funded project is what they call the ACTION Project. Theft recovery in 2005 in reporting counties was \$3,759,212, and in 2004, it was 3,293,907. This recovery is not just on paper. This is actual material, animals, product and chemicals that were returned to the farmers themselves. Funding provided by the state in 2005 for CVRCP was \$3,341,000. The ACTION funding in 2006 is about 192 thousand and is down from the 1 million they got the year before from the federal government. Counties that are participating in the Central Valley Rural Crime Project and the Central Coast Project are: Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern.

The following information was provided in his presentation:

A Task Force Approach:

- Regional Vision & Local Structure
- Ag Commissioners
- Vertical Investigation & Prosecution
- Information Sharing & Cooperation
- Compilation of Crime Data

Uniform Collection of Crime Data and Centralized Data Base:

- Mandated by enabling legislation
- Required for funding
- *ACTION* Project Database

The uniform collection of crime data has become crucial to their ability to understand the problem in terms of hard loss of chemicals and equipment. Before this crime data base was put together there was no way to address the problem, or estimate its impact on Agriculture industry with some hard data.

A Six Prong Approach:

- Regional Vision and Structure
- Technology
- Information Sharing & Analysis
- Vertical Investigation & Prosecution
- Education
- Academic Evaluation

The first approach is a regional approach. They use technology which allows analysis of crime problems. Co-ordination and Co-operation happens constantly through the development of a dedicated fax and cell network. Vertical Investigation and Prosecution are encouraged, which means there are specialists in these areas who are dedicated to fighting agricultural crime. Public education is critical since public perception can harm

what they try to do. The Agricultural Crime Database is the marker for these programs. Every agricultural crime reported is entered into the database to help solve crimes, or at least give necessary information to law makers.

Owner Applied Number (OAN) Program

- Partnership in the fight against Ag crime
- Unique Identification Numbering System
- Searchable Owner Database
- Equipment Marking
- Equipment Inventory List & Digital Photos
- Crime Prevention Training

There are 49 counties that issue Owner Applied Numbers through the ACTION Project.

OAN Program

- Since April 2001 over 625 stamp jobs
- Over 37,000 items stamped
- Over \$185 million in value
- 29 marked items stolen worth \$86,030
- 4 recoveries worth \$64,500
- 2.2% farms OAN stamped

ACTION Equipment

- GPS Trackers
- Low light cameras
- Covert cameras
- Microwave transmitters
- Detection equipment
- Alarm systems
- Surveillance van

They are trying to expand this program to embrace all major agricultural areas in California. He indicated they will be coming back next year to the legislature in an effort to expand this project. Right now it is basically in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast and they would like to see it reach Sacramento, Imperial, San Diego, and Riverside etc. They would like to see this project become an effective means of fighting a cancer that is really attacking the number one industry in California.

(8) COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There are no public comments.

(9) CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.