

Having stayed through most of the Listening Session in Tulare, I am compelled to share my vision which was prompted by what was shared as well as what was not said that day in Tulare.

1. - I agree that the future of agriculture can be bolstered by continuing the investment in our youth through the FFA program and 4-H.

2. - The County Agricultural Commissioner system has been an effective application of government resources for the good of the public as well as ensuring environmental protection. We (CACASA and CDFA) must work more diligently towards an improved collaboration to participate with local county governments who question the validity or necessity of continuing the position of a County Agricultural Commissioner in their respective governing structure. As the CACASA Personnel Standards committee chairman, I have a personal passion (interest) to engage in a coordinated discussion with CDFA and county leadership questioning "why" the need for the current system's structure.

3. - I didn't hear anyone mention our Rendering Industry. Rendering facilities are simply another type of "solid waste treatment" facility and as such must be recognized as an integral part of our public works infrastructure. While rendering plants process dead animal tissue, whether it is a whole carcass or animal fat and bone from restaurant or meat department waste, it is not usually considered as "infrastructure." Planning departments plan "buffers" around waste treatment sites in municipal areas to assure the continued operation of those facilities treatment of sewage. The summer of 2006 demonstrated that California has not been effective in its planning for treatment of dead animal tissue. We need to assure we have the disposal capacity to meet the future demand.

4. - It seems like it would be a good idea for agriculture to invite and participate in a strategic plan to preserve what agricultural resources we still have available in the state. They will be lost if we do not start working with Planning Departments and other affiliated/interested resource agencies. Agriculture cannot ensure protection by talking about it by themselves. It is imperative that CDFA, in conjunction with the State Board of Ag, plan for a statewide collaborative convention/conference to begin a grass-roots effort to preserve the state's agricultural resources similar to how the environmentalist community has established wilderness areas in areas of the state to prevent development of wild lands. Agricultural communities are becoming more "industrialized" to create jobs for a growing population that is taking productive ag resources out of production. This is huge and we cannot do it alone, just as Ag. We need to develop the picture that California truly is the food basket that it is and not just a great place to live... without the dust and smells of agriculture.

5. - There needs to be a better process than is currently abused by special interest groups who seem to be opposed to spraying in general. The Curly Top disease program has been stopped dead in its tracks this year by a court decision that an EIR/EIS is needed. The same malathion material has been used long enough to have the proof that it does not adversely impact the Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard. We still have lizards after all these years of using that material, but it's OK to cause economic harm to communities so we can study a practice that has been

effective in protecting agricultural production without harming people or the environment... because there is a long drawn-out process that can be used to at least temporarily stop some spraying. To say nothing of how the ban on the use of lead bullets has overstepped reasonableness. There are areas that have never had a California condor since Noah sailed, yet some biologist thinks there is a possibility there might be a condor in the area.

Forgive me for getting a little wound up. I hope my comments are helpful. I am willing to further talk about or help with any part of this.

Thank you for your time,

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