



VENTURA COUNTY

Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee



Sanger Hedrick, Chair, District 2; Scott Deardorff, District 1; Gordon Kimball, District 3; Patty Waters, District 4; Bobby Jones, District 5

MEETING MINUTES May 11, 2022

1. 9:05 a.m. – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

Committee: Sanger Hedrick, District 2, Chair
Scott Deardorff, District 1
Gordon Kimball, District 3 - absent
Patty Waters, District 4
Bobby Jones, District 5

Staff/Others Present: Ed Williams, Korinne Bell, Alec Thille, & Miriam Mendez from the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office & MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC were present; committee members, presenters, members of the public, and representatives of interested parties participated via Zoom.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Staff: Annemiek Schilder was unable to attend the meeting & the agenda as-published would need to be amended prior to adoption.

Staff: Ventura County Air Pollution Control District wished for the committee and members of the public to know that their FARMER and Carl Moyer grant programs were open for applications.

4. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve agenda with presenter correction

By Deardorff, seconded by Waters

Vote: 4-0

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

None: April agenda tabled for required quorum.

8. PRESENTATION/ACTION

- A. Adoption of a resolution continuing the authorization of remote teleconference meetings of the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for a 30-day period pursuant to Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e), of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Motion: Adopt the resolution

By Deardorff, seconded by Waters

Vote: 4-0

No public comments.

- B. Maureen McGuire, CEO of the Ventura County Farm Bureau, will introduce her role as CEO of the Ventura County Farm Bureau and update the committee on Bureau activities.

No action taken.

No public comments.

- C. Merrill Burge, of the Camarillo Sustainable Growth and VCSAFE committee member, provided an informational presentation on the 2022 Primary Ballot measures A & B

No action taken.

Public comment:

- John Brooks – Requested clarification on whether the proposed measures would cause loss of revenues and/or jobs.

- D. Ben Oakley, Manager with the Western States Petroleum Association, provided an informational presentation on the 2022 Primary Ballot measures A & B.

No action taken.

Public comment:

- Wayne Morgan – Gave comments that the ordinance did not appear to cause any shutdown of existing or future oil wells, would not impact fuel prices.
- Haley Ehlers – Drew attention to the funding for No on A & B coming from oil companies, gave historical context on the issue, & expressed wish for critical reasoning when voting on the issue.

- Ron Whitehurst – Gave his personal experience on living near an active well, advocated for an energy transition away from fossil fuels, supported by requiring such operators to be held to the same regulatory standards as other businesses, & advocated for Yes on Measures A & B.
 - Todd Collart – Highlighted that the intent and County Counsel digest provided in voter materials of the measures would not cause a shutdown of oil production, highlighted the lack of oil permits denied under modern regulations, & the insufficiency of existing regulatory processes.
 - Kristen – Questioned the percentage of oil drilled in Ventura County that becomes fuel and the integrity of the No on Measure A & B campaign.
 - John Brooks – Questioned the speaker on the tax-deductible nature on regulatory compliance and if fuel price increases would be to increase profits, not to cover costs.
 - Rose Ann Witt – Underscored the importance of clean water access in Ventura County, provided context on Los Angeles limits on oil drilling, expressed concern that this would lead to increased oil drilling in Ventura County, endangering water supplies, & expressed support for Measures A & B.
 - Jack – Alleged that Measures A & B would allow the Board of Supervisors to deny oil & gas permits for political reasons.
 - Don Price – Indicated that assertions made in presentation have no evidence to support them.
 - Leslie Purcell – Reiterated that the intention is for new oil wells to face modern regulatory scrutiny, would not cause a shutdown of production, would potentially create new regulatory jobs, expressed concern at the lack of setbacks of wells to schools and residences, & underscored that No on A & B is largely funded by oil & gas companies.
 - Matty Park – Responded to public comment by Jack that the Board was within their prerogative to regulate the County through zoning ordinances and relied on expert testimony in the adoption process, provided context on how the measures were originated, and asserted that the power grab detailed in Jack’s comment is instead being performed by oil & gas companies, not the Board of Supervisors.
- E. Ed Williams, Agricultural Commissioner, presented a department update on activities and programs important to Ventura County agriculture.
No action taken.
No public comments.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

A. APAC Members

None

B. Staff

Proposals for future agenda items:

A presentation for recommendation by the APAC on a request for modification of an APAC-approved landscape plan as it relates to the agricultural/urban buffer policy.

A presentation for recommendation by the APAC on a request for permit modification of a Condition Use Permit (project number PL22-0048)

10. Meeting adjourned by Sanger Hedrick at 10:58 a.m.