

Kings County Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

April 12, 2006

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Gregory at 1:37 p.m. in the Agricultural Multi-Purpose Room, in the Agricultural Center of the Kings County Government Center, Hanford, CA.

Members Present:

Jim Gregory, Ryan Bertao, Don Mills, and Jim Verboon

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Larry Spikes, Tim Niswander, Kathy Sargent

Auxiliary Members Present:

Peggy Gregory, Kerry Arroues and Jeff Tyner

County Staff Present:

Sandy Roper, Marti Seniff

Visitors Present:

Seth Nidever, Hanford Sentinel

Unscheduled Comments:

None

Minutes: January 11, 2006

Minutes were tabled due to the lack of a quorum.

New Members:

None

Illegal Dumping In the Ag Zone:

Mr. Larry Spikes, County Administrative Officer, summarized the meetings that have been held with the Cities, Kings Waste, Recycling Authority, Kings County Environmental Health and Public Works Departments to look for ways to help resolve the issue of illegal dumping. The Committee discussed the problem and the costs associated with the solution. There was discussion of a voucher program with the Water District that was used in the past but it was expensive. Mr. Spikes stated that if each district and the cities can contribute that would help. After much discussion of the matter, Mr. Spikes stated that they will continue discussions and it will be brought back again in the future.

Westlake Biosolids Project – Extension of CUP:

Mr. Sandy Roper, Assistant Zoning Administrator, summarized the Conditional Use Permit for Westlake Biosolids Project. He stated that at the April 3rd Planning Commission meeting, the

Commissioners approved a two year extension because of the size of the project. There was much discussion of the project and the different permits that will be needed to complete the project.

Miscellaneous:

- a. Correspondence: Chairperson Gregory summarized the AB2443 (Klehs) which is the elimination of agricultural sales tax exemption on Ag use fertilizers. After much discussion members agreed that they do not support the bill. Mr. Bertao stated that he will talk to their lobbyists in Sacramento in opposition to the bill.

- b. Member Comments: Mr. Arroues passed out to each member a copy of the Soil Survey of Fresno and explained some interesting aspects of the report.

Mr. Don Mills discussed the amount of water coming from Pine Flat through Kings County and the potential for flooding in many areas. He discussed how the Kings County Water District is trying to minimize the flooding conditions. There was discussion on how this year's rainfall and flooding will affect the farmers and their crops.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is July 6, 2006 at the Kings Fair, Ag Business Luncheon at 12:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Roper, Assistant Secretary