

MINUTES

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS AND SEALERS ASSOCIATION

Arcadia, California
December 17, 2003

Present:

COMMISSIONERS/SEALERS

Steve Birdsall, Imperial
Jim Delperdang, Ventura
Bill Gillette, Santa Barbara
Ed Layaye, San Bernardino
Rick LeFeuvre, Orange
Bob Lilley, San Luis Obispo
Earl McPhail, Ventura
George Milovich, Inyo/Mono
John Synder, Riverside
Kathleen Thuner, San Diego

GUESTS

Ada Ann Scott, DPR
Mike Cleary, CDFA
Susan Johnson, Ventura County
Ed Kaempf, DPR
Dan Merkley, DPR
Jahan Motakef, DPR
Rosemary Neil, DPR
Duane Schnabel, CDFA
Steve Schoenig, CDFA
Ed Williams, CDFA
Bob Atkins, LA County

I. Call to Order

II. Correspondence

III. Approval of Minutes October 2-3, 2003 - Bishop

M/S/C to approve the October 2-3 2003 minutes.

IV. CDFA Report - Williams

Ed reported on the current state budget situation including the following:

- A. \$32.281 million in Unclaimed Gas Tax approved by Cal Trans and CDFA.
\$26.281 million to counties for \$33.3 million in county expenditures=78 cents on the dollar for the current Fiscal Year revenue.
- B. \$10 million in cuts to CDFA for FY 03/04. For FY 04/05 the State Dept. of Finance recommends addition cuts which will effect Plant and Animal Health programs.

V. DPR Report

Danny reported that Cal EPA is experiencing an addition 20% budget cut this year. Final comments on Report 5 are due 12/26/03. The CACASA Spring Conference minutes are now available on CD. Many of the committees still need to submit Winter Conference

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minutes. DPR executive orders were reviewed and can be found in Danny's weekly issues.

VI. Finance

- A) Gas Tax - Bill Gillette
The total gas tax fund will be finalized after the Governor's budget is released January 10, 2004. Most counties do not want to contract for any additional funds.
- B) GWSS Contracts - Bill Gillette
CDFA is evaluating FY 02/03 expenditure levels to help determine FY 04/05 contract amounts. The need for destination county inspections was discussed. Many southern counties felt that funds should be spent on other pests or programs that would have a greater benefit in Southern California.
- C) County Budget Impacts - George Milovich
Many counties reported potential significant cuts in county general fund support starting this fiscal year and into FY 04/05.
- D) Pest Detection Funding - Kathleen Thuner
Kathleen expressed concerns about rural trap densities and available contract dollars.

VII. Personnel Standards

- A) Weights and Measure Exams Qualifications - Earl McPhail
The Winter Conference Personnel Standards proposals were reviewed. **M/S/C to recommend to the Personnel Standards Committee to evaluate changing the requirements so that any four-year degree that currently qualifies for either agriculture or weights and measures inspector exams can be used to qualify to take any of the agriculture or weights and measures exams.** This change would give equal opportunity for either discipline to take the other disciplines exams without further qualification.
- B) Reduction in number of oral exams - Earl McPhail
The south reaffirmed its position to reduce the number of oral exams. **M/S/C to recommend to the Personnel Standards Committee to evaluate reducing the number of oral exams from four to two.** Operationally, once a Deputy, Commissioner or Sealer exam was passed it would not need to be taken again if all inspector exams were passed in the other discipline. Changing the exam's content to a more generic test covering supervision, management, and administration instead of technical issues was also reaffirmed.

VIII. Pest Prevention

- A) Red Imported Fire Ant - Kathleen Thuner
Eradication still appears to be feasible in many Southern California locations if funding was available. Outreach with legislators and CDFA continues addressing the health, safety, environmental, and pesticide use reduction benefits of the program.
- B) Rural Trapping - Kathleen Thuner
See Finance.

IX. Pesticide Regulatory

- A) SPURS - DPR Staff
A handout and Power point presentation was provided by DPR staff. The feasibility study, business, justification, time line, and funding options were discussed. A number of concerns were expressed by Commissioners, including the excessive time line, lack of funding, scope of the project, negative tone, not having the entire report to review, and lack of recognition of County's PUE program and accomplishments using RMMS. The review of SPURS will be continued to the next SCACASA meeting.

X. Weights and Measures

- A) AB1721 - Jim Delperdang
The SCWAMDA review of AB1721 was distributed and reviewed. Various feedback and opinions were expressed on expiration dates, time allowances for pulling outdated tags, and dollar amount triggers for enforcement. Jim will continue to represent the south in future review of AB1721.
- B) Senator Florez Scanner Hearings - Jim Delperdang
Mike Cleary provided an update of the hearing observing that labor issues were the main focus although it served as a good opportunity to get the word out about Weights and Measures to the audience.
- C) Service Agency Advisory Group - Jim Delperdang
DMS will be distributing a letter to Sealers stating that the county should be notified when a scale goes out of service for repairs. On a related topic it was **M/S/C to propose to the Legislative Committee to consider legislation allowing County Board of Supervisor to develop local ordinances requiring businesses to notify Sealers when business installs point of sale systems.**

XI. IPM/Biocontrol/Pest Management

- A. CACASA IPM Definition - Bob Lilley
Consensus was to not pursue adoption of a CACASA model IPM definition, policy, or ordinance for public facilities. Instead, leave the current inventory of IPM definitions as a reference for counties to use as needed.
- B. Draft Statewide Invasive Weed Plan - Steve Schoenig
Steve distributed the draft plan and provided information on the scope of the project, lack of available funds to implement, and the broad based support of invasive weed control from agricultural and environmental interest. This plan will provide a comprehensive statewide plan. Secretary Kawamura will be meeting with Resources Secretary Crissman to discuss invasive species. Kathleen Thuner volunteered to compile SCACASA comments which are due to Steve by February 15th.
- C. Vertebrate Pest Management - Duane Schnabel
Duane provided an update on vertebrate pest management issues including the following:
- CDFA is trying to develop a wax block label for Ag. Commissioner use.
 - Zinc Phosphide is registered for voles
 - Research is being conducted on two reduced risk materials for coyote control. Time line is about 1.5 years out.
 - The MOU for bait manufacturing will be distributed in January 2004.
 - CDFG voted down the listing of Western Burrowing Owl 4-0.
 - County vertebrate gain baits are going through re-registration.

XII. Natural Resources

- A. Shelter Island Yacht Basin TMDL-Thuner
The Regional Board will be regulating copper emissions from boat hulls in the Shelter Island Marina. This will be a future PREC agenda item.
- B. Ag Waiver Inter Agency Coordinating Committee-Lilley
Bob is the SCACASA representative and will provide periodic updates.
- C. GMO's-Birdsall
A GMO voter initiative will be on the March ballot in Mendocino County. This could have an impact on the Ag Commissioner's role involving experimental plots of pesticide ready/resistant crop.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Lilley, Secretary

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