SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Suite 100, Stockton, CA 95206

MINUTES

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, June 8, 2026

Present: Kamaljit Bagri, Jose Chavez, Donald Drake Steven Freeman, Chuck Hammond, Michelle Leinfelder-Miles, Holden Lomeli, Sonya Miller, Terry Ann Paoletti, Robert Rickman, Joseph Seimas, Terry Violett, Kenneth Vogel

Excused: Sara Bautista, Josh Cheney, Steven Ding, Michael Fisher, Andrew Genasci, Richard Marchini, Joseph Nicolini, Felix Ogbah, Linda Ormonde, Roseanna Silva

I. Call to Order – 10:00 AM by Chair Vogel and followed by Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Minutes – March 23, 2026, meeting minutes approved unanimously M/S Rickman/Seimas.

III. Correspondence – Letter sent May 11, 2026, from Agricultural Commissioner Bagri to Director Thomas Jacobs with the California Office of Emergency Services requesting that San Joaquin County be considered for a Secretarial Disaster Declaration designation due to the adverse climatic conditions which greatly impacted cherry production, quantity and quality.

IV. Legislative Updates

a. Kamal Bagri –Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

i. Senate Bill 1305 was introduced regarding the introduction of grizzly bears in protected Native American lands into the State of California. Some Commissioners in northern counties who are dealing with wolves have concerns about the possible introduction of grizzly bears impact on livestock situations. The Senate Bill 1135 wildlife coexistence bill pertains to wolves.

ii. Assembly Bill 2447 is currently held in appropriations that would impact our water coalitions. San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation is opposed to the Bill as the water coalition in San Joaquin County represents most of our growers to reduce the use of nitrates and have been monitoring nitrogen in the water to ensure proper usage. The water coalition has been working very hard and spending millions of dollars every year on water testing, providing water, working with growers, and developing nitrogen management plans. Supervisor Rickman added that the Bill would increase responsibilities for the County and

he reviews the water tests each year in the plan. He discussed unfunded mandates and the impact on County budgets.

iii. Assembly Bill 1603 was introduced to push the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to take out all "forever chemicals" in pesticides and cancel their registration. The problem is there is a technical need, and concerns with this legislation. PFAS means at leach two adjacent fully fluorinated carbon atoms. DPR conducts a thorough scientific evaluation of active ingredients before they can be sold or used. DPR has demonstrated that some of the pesticides containing chemicals may dissipate within 15 days; persistence among PFAS chemicals vary widely so DPR evaluates each chemical individually. PFAS are throughout our whole economy, in so many materials.

iv. Another bill was introduced, regarding the Agricultural Commissioner's role as Sealer of Weights and Measures regarding Electric Vehicle chargers. All electric vehicle supply equipment used for commercial purposes is subject to CDFA Division of Measurement Standards. California enforces its own EV infrastructure rules under the CA Building Code and CA Electrical Code. The bill would remove the regulatory requirements from Weights & Measures and given to the Energy Commission to exempt themselves from regulation.

V. New Business

a. Agricultural Commissioner's Report

i. Commissioner Bagri discussed the submission of a cherry disaster letter on May 11, 2026, to the California Office of Emergency services stating a 63.48% reduction in yield attributable to abnormal climatic conditions. The Commissioner's Office has not received a response as of June 8, 2026. The Department is in contact with the Farm Services Agency regarding the status of the Secretarial Disaster Declaration. Using the five-year average market price per ton, the estimated financial loss to San Joaquin County cherry growers is approximately, $174,447,168.

ii. A Press Release came out on June 4, 2026, regarding a New World screwworm detected in a three-week old calf in Texas. According to the Press Release, there were no detections in California, but this is the first detection in Texas since the USDA has been watching very closely the situation in Mexico. This alert has been distributed to the Farm Bureau of Growers as well as the Cattlemen's Association and University of California Cooperative Extension, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor serving Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties.

iii. San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office urged residents to take immediate precautions after the invasive glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) was discovered on grape plants sold at Costco stores throughout the wider Northern California Region including the Central Valley. The Costco stores in Stockton, Lodi, Manteca and Tracy were among those that received these grape plants from a wholesale nursery located in Fresno County. The insect, a type of leafhopper, spreads Pierce's disease, a plant bacterium that kills grapevines and can also harm almond, citrus, and ornamental plants, creating a serious risk for California agriculture and home gardens, damaging vineyards and landscapes alike. The Commissioner's Office has been working closely with Costco Wholesale, along with state and local partners to identify affected plants and protect agriculture, home gardens, and landscapes. The food supply remains unaffected. Costco has been cooperative and responsive throughout

this process and is responsible for the discovery, as the issue originated at the nursery supplier level. As of June 5, the Commissioner's Office had 42 residents that purchased a grapevine from Costco who contacted us; our biologists then go to each of the residences, confiscate the plants, conduct inspections and place traps in their yard. A total of 700 plants were shipped in San Joaquin County, and 617 were sold. Every customer that purchased a grapevine plant will get their money back from Costco. The situation is still evolving; it takes approximately $3M to $4M per year per eradication project for the glassy-winged sharpshooter. We are making sure to have traps out until December (usually trapping stops in October). We have been informing the public of press releases and help from the County Administrator's Office.

iv. Proposed draft was released on May 17, 2026, regarding treated seed regulation. The public comment period will continue until June 29, 2026. Any seed sown in San Joaquin County or in the state of California must be treated. Such as, corn. Whichever pesticide is used is applied on the seed and must be registered with the State of California. Any seed treated would then be considered pesticide. Growers will be required to submit a use report for any seed they are sowing. If a grower does not have a permit, then they need to get an operator ID with our office. This is "double reporting." DPR is planning to release enforcement response regulations throughout the year. They are looking at Class A violations, and then Class A-1 and Class A-2. The more violations, the higher the fines, with growth history for five years.

v. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office will be conducting a free Pesticide Disposal Event at the Agricultural Center on June 19, 2026, with services provided by "Clean Harbor" in collaboration with San Joaquin County Solid Waste Division of Household Hazardous Waste.

vi. The next Community Education session is scheduled for June 25, 2026, at 2 PM on the topic of commodity fumigation. This will the offered to the public virtually; our first virtual CE event.

vii. Kamal has been selected at the Vice President of California Agricultural Commissioners & Sealers Association (CACASA).

b. **UCCE Director's Report, Michelle Leinfelder-Miles**

i. The department has conducted interviews for an Orchard Systems Advisor; this person would work on walnuts, cherries, apples, olives and other minor fruit crops. The hiring process was conducted with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources, and a new Advisor has been selected to start on October 1, 2026. The Director is also requesting an additional advisor, possibly on environmental horticulture and nursery. An advisor is needed in Northern California with commercial nurseries.

ii. The UCCE Farm Advisors and active with research and available to assist growers with any problems encountered during the growing season.

VI. Discussion items and Announcements

a. The Crop Report Plus, Economic Impact of Agriculture, will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on August 4, and the 2025 Crop Report will be presented on September 15, 2026.

VII. Upcoming 2026 Quarterly Meetings on Mondays at 10 AM

a. September 21
b. December 7

VIII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM

Summary Meeting Minutes
Prepared By: Patricia Lord
Board Secretary