

**Agricultural Working Group  
January 27, 2012  
Meeting Notes**

**HST Section:** Fresno to Bakersfield and Fresno to Merced

**Meeting Date:** January 27, 2012

**Location:** [REDACTED]

**Purpose:** To assist the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) in addressing the key issues raised by the agricultural community

**Participants:** John Diener, Chairman; Gerald Higginbotham, Madera and Fresno counties Dairy Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE); Curtis Tarver, Manager, Area 3, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)\_- Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCS); Ted Strauss, Director of Air Quality, Climate Change and Energy Conservation, USDA-NRCS; David Krietemeyer, Area Engineer, USDA-NRCS; Karen Francone, Department of Pesticide Regulation (via telephone); Les Wright, Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (via telephone)

Jeff Abercrombie, CHSRA Area Program Manager

Rebecca Nicholas, Public Outreach (via telephone), URS; Cheryl Lehn, Public Outreach, URS

**Prepared by:** Cheryl Lehn

**Action Items**

**Decisions**

None

**Discussion of Issues**

**Pesticide Use Impacts White Paper**

Abercrombie informed the Ag Working Group (AWG) that the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Commissioners would endorse having themselves noted as authors of the 1/27/12 draft, but did not believe it was appropriate to be listed as such, should the AWG make additions or deletions.

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Francone noted that the new branch chief of the Department of Pesticide Regulations would be official as of February 1, 2012. She will ask for the Department of Pesticide Regulation's added concurrence, as they reviewed the first draft and gave their approval to the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Commissioners.

The AWG felt it best to use the 1/27/12 version of the white paper. This version will be sent to the AWG for final concurrence prior to the next meeting. Upon the AWG's approval, the paper will be distributed for peer review. Francone suggested the California Association of Pesticide Advisors, the Pesticide Applicators Professional Organization and the California Aerial Aircraft Association as peer reviewers of the white paper.

### **White Paper on Bees and Pollination**

Shannon Mueller indicated by separate message, via telephone, that the California Almond Board and the State Beekeepers Association would be two organizations that could peer review the white paper on bees and pollination. This white paper is under revision for folding into the induced Wind white paper, which will cover: bees, pollination, dust and drift.

### **White Paper on the Effect of Noise, Vibrations and Electromagnetic Fields of an High-Speed Rail System on Dairy Production**

Gerald Higginbotham recommended the Western United Dairymen, the California Dairy Campaign and Dr. Terry Lehenbauer, Director, Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center as peer reviewers for the white paper on dairy impacts. The AWG discussed including HST data directly into the document. Abercrombie will provide the HST data. There was a brief discussion about EMF research and the inconclusive nature of its effect on milk production.

### **White Paper on Agricultural Equipment Transport and Movement Impacts**

Jim Dokken presented the white paper on Agricultural Equipment Transport and Movement Impacts on January 13, 2012. The AWG suggested the following information be added to the paper:

1. Gradient standards
2. Consideration should be given for private crossings and over-crossings when there are impacts to grower operations.

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As soon as Dokken's revised paper is received, it will be sent out to the AWG for review and comment.

### **White Paper on Irrigation Systems, Dust, and Wind**

The NRCS will be helping to develop the above-named white papers. NRCS will provide some best management practices for dust and irrigation design guidelines for reference.