

# El Dorado County Department of Agriculture

Presented by Charlene Carveth  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

# Mission

- The Department mission is to protect, enhance and promote the preservation of agriculture and the environment while sustaining the public health, safety and welfare of all citizens, and to provide consumer and marketplace protections through the fair and equitable enforcement of laws and regulations.



# What we do:

- Pest Detection/Insect Trapping
- Pest Exclusion & Quarantine Inspections
- Vegetative Plant Management
- Pesticide Use Enforcement
- Nursery & Seed Inspections
- Fruit, Nut & Vegetable Inspections
- Farmers' Markets Certification and Inspection
- Organic Producers Registration and Inspection
- Egg Quality Control
- Apiary Inspections
- Crop Statistics
- Wildlife Services
- Weights & Measures Programs
- Agricultural Commission

# Agricultural Commission

- Created in 1967
- Composed of 7 members representing:
  - Forest/Related Industries (1 member)
  - Livestock (2 members)
  - Fruit & Nut Farming Industry (2 members)
  - Ag Processing Industry (2 members)
  - Other Agricultural Interests (1 member)
- Term of office is 4 years



# Ex Officio Members

- Agricultural Commissioner
- County Farm Advisor (UCCE)
- Registered Professional Forester



# Agricultural Commission

## Powers and Duties

- Advisory body to and for the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission on all matters pertaining to agriculture
- Advises the Board of Supervisors of procedures and techniques requiring legislative or policy sections that will encourage and promote agricultural activities that are conducive to the well being of the County
- Formulate and recommend to the Board of Supervisors, general policies related to the purposes of the Commission

- The Agricultural Commission's regularly scheduled meetings are held at 6:30pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
- The County Agricultural Commissioner provides staff services for the Agricultural Commission in the conduct of its business

# Current Agricultural Commission Members

- Greg Boeger (Chair)

Ag Processing

- Lloyd Walker (Vice Chair)

Other Ag Interests

- Chuck Bacchi

Livestock

- Bill Draper

Forestry/Related Industries

- Ron Mansfield

Fruit & Nut Farming

- Tim Neilsen

Livestock

- John Smith

Fruit & Nut Farming





# Common Requests Heard by the Agricultural Commission

- Administrative Relief from Agricultural Setbacks
- Requests involving Timber Preserve Zone (TPZ) land
- Williamson Act Contract applicants
- To Sub-divide parcels in an Ag District or next to Ag lands
- Review of Special Use Permit application on Ag lands

# Targeted General Plan Amendment

## Proposed Agricultural District Boundary Expansion

- General Plan goal of Agricultural Land Conservation
- Policy sets the criteria for identification of Agricultural Lands and specifies how to determine lands suitable for inclusion in Agricultural Districts

(Policies 8.1.1.1, 8.1.1.2, 8.1.1.3, 8.1.1.4, 8.1.1.7)

# Procedure for Evaluating the Suitability of Land for Agricultural Use

Potential of parcels rated on scale of 0-100 points upon an evaluation of each of these five categories:

- Soils (40 points possible)
- Climate (25 points possible)
- Agricultural Water (15 points possible)
- Parcel Size (10 points possible)
- Surrounding Land Use (10 points possible)

(a cumulative score of 60 points or more signifies a parcel has good agricultural capability)

# Targeted General Plan Amendment

- Consider amending policy so buffer language for Agricultural Lands in Community Regions is consistent with language for Forest Land Buffers in Community Regions (Policies 8.1.3.2 & 8.4.1.2)
- Consider amending policy to eliminate special use permit requirement for visitor-serving uses and establish standards and permitted uses in the Zoning Ordinance (Policy 8.2.4.2)
- Consider amending policy to allow for Ranch Marketing activities on grazing lands (Policy 8.2.4.4)
- Consider deleting requirement for special use permit for Ag Support Services; incorporate standards and permitted uses into Zoning Ordinance (Policies 2.2.5.10, 2.2.1.2)

# Zoning Ordinance Comprehensive Update

Purpose is to be consistent with the General Plan and reflect current State and Federal regulations

# Proposed Zoning Ordinance (Ag)

- Create new zones to reflect current zoning needs and implement the General Plan: Planned Agriculture (PA), Limited Agriculture (LA), Agricultural Grazing (AG), Forest Resources (FR), Rural Lands (RL). Timber Production (TPZ) does not change.
- Delete obsolete zones: Agriculture (A), Residential Agriculture (RA), Select Agriculture (SA), Agricultural Preserve (AP) and Exclusive Agriculture (AE). This includes modifying the zoning for Williamson Act contracted and rolled out land to reflect the underlying General Plan land use designation.

# Proposed Zoning Ordinance (Ag)

- Expand potential uses in the agricultural and rural land zones to provide opportunities for agricultural support services including home occupation businesses that support agriculture
- Have consistent language and opportunities in the Ranch Marketing and Winery Ordinance
- Allow Ranch Marketing on Grazing Lands

# Proposed Zoning Ordinance (Ag)

- Provide opportunities for recreational and residential uses on Timber Production Zone land compatible with timber management and harvesting
- Path for Ag employee housing that is less cumbersome
- Matrix tables of allowed uses that are easier for the public to understand



# Work that continues

- The Housing Element Update and Ag employee housing needs
- Biological Policies (including Integrated Resource Management, Oak Resources Management and Biological Corridors)
- Coordination with agencies to develop, secure and retain a long-term supply of ag water
- Williamson Act replacement strategy if State does not support the program

# Conclusion

The mission of our two entities includes the preservation of agricultural lands. It is important to maintain communication and work together to protect rural lands in El Dorado County.