



BRIEFING: BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM #6

TO: Chairman Richard and Board Members

FROM: John Diener, Chairman, Agricultural Working Group

DATE: September 11, 2012

RE: Agricultural White Papers Presentation

Background

The Agricultural Working Group (AWG) was established in July, 2011 to assist the CHSRA with an independent advisory group that could address the issues being raised by the agricultural community. The representatives of this group are specialists and experts in their specific fields of agriculture. They include University, governmental agencies, county agricultural commissioners and agri-business representatives.

Discussion

One of the goals of the group was to address key issues raised by the Central Valley agricultural community. The Central Valley identified specific ag issues that need to be addressed and resolved with the input and expertise of those who know the industry. The AWG used the agricultural expertise of Valley resource specialists to enhance the EIR/EIS process and answer potential agricultural impacts.

The AWG's effort is represented by the six white papers, developed with the input and review of many. These white papers provide substantial responses to the agricultural community's concerns. As with all studies, additional work can be undertaken to expand their usefulness. Thus, these white papers are not considered all-encompassing and do not provide answers for every question the agricultural industry will seek, but focused on key issues identified by the Central Valley ag community.

The topics and issues the AWG addressed are included the following white papers:

- **Bees and Pollination** – Will the wind produced by the high-speed train disrupt bee pollination activity?
- **Dairy Impacts** –Effect of noise; vibrations and electromagnetic fields from a high-speed rail system have upon dairy production

- **Ag Equipment Transport & Movement Impacts** – Will the high-speed rail system adversely affect the transport and movement of agricultural equipment over public roads?
- **Induced Wind Impacts** – Effects on pollination, blossoms and dust
- **Irrigation Systems** – Will the delivery of agricultural water be impacted by the high-speed train?
- **Pesticide Use Impacts** – Will the train create new regulations?

The AWG utilized materials provided by CHSRA, outside research and each member's expertise in discussing and evaluating these topics, drafting white papers, and determining their conclusion. Upon approval of the AWG of the Draft White Papers, they were sent to the following agricultural organizations and associations for peer review:

Bees

Almond Board of California; California Beekeepers Association; Cummings-Violich Management Services;
California Farm Bureau Federation

Dairy

Western United Dairymen; California Dairy Campaign; University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Medicine Teaching & Research Center; California Farm Bureau Federation

Ag Equipment

County Road Commissioners for Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Kern; Case IH, Product Specialist; California Farm Bureau Federation

Induced Wind

Almond Board of California; California State Beekeepers Association; California Agricultural Pest Control Advisors; Pesticide Applicators Professionals Association; Department of Entomology, UC Davis; California Farm Bureau Federation

Irrigation Systems

Fresno Irrigation District; Reinke Irrigation, Certified Irrigation Consultants, Certified Irrigation Designers;
Laguna Irrigation District; Semitropic Water Storage District; California Water Institute, California State University Fresno; Center for Irrigation Technology, California State University Fresno; California Farm Bureau Federation

Pesticides

California Association of Pesticide Control Advisors; Pesticide Applicators Professional Association;
California Association Aircraft Applicators; California Farm Bureau Federation

We received many responses from the above listed agricultural organizations and associations. The AWG met on June 26, 2012 and reviewed the responses. The AWG has incorporated many of the suggestions into the white papers.

Recommendations

As Chairman of the AWG, I am pleased to provide these White Papers to you. We believe in their usefulness in furthering the dialog between the CHSRA and the agriculture industry and that they are positive to that dialog. We ask that the CHSRA accept the white papers as presented and post them on the CHSRA's website under the Agricultural Working Group's page. We encourage you to review their conclusions and pursue implementation as appropriate. We also believe there would be a benefit to sponsoring a long term agricultural working group for the CHSRA to collaborate with.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Agricultural Working Group for their time and dedication to researching and compiling the white papers; for their recommendations for peer reviewers; and evaluating all the comments returned to ensure the white papers represent the views of the agricultural industry. These members donated their time for this because of their recognition of the importance of agriculture in the Valley and their commitment to see it prosper.

Attachments

White Papers:

- Bees and Pollination
- Dairy Impacts
- Ag Equipment Transport & Movement Impacts
- Induced Wind Impacts
- Irrigation Systems
- Pesticide Use Impacts