

## Report to Directors, Angwin Community Council

**Subject:** Napa County Board of Supervisors meeting, April 7, 2009

**From:** Herbert Ford

**In early actions of the day** the Supervisors heard six new County employees introduce themselves and state the department in which they are now employed.

**Two proclamations were made by the Board**, one made shortly after opening of the meeting at 9 a.m., proclaiming April 6-12 as “National Public Health Week” in the County, the other made at approximately 3 p.m., recognizing the Napa High School Spirit leaders in recognition of their third consecutive National Dance championship.

**Consent items approved by the Supervisors**, all five of whom were present, included authorizing the expenditure of \$56,000 for the term April 7 to August 8, 2009, with Ciralo Consulting to provide emergency preparedness planning services, “with no impact to the General Fund,” stated the printed action.

A request by the County’s Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures was authorized to spend \$107,686 in the period July 1, 2008 through June 20, 2010, “for placing and inspecting traps for the detection of exotic pests.”

**The ‘Biggie’ of the day was Ag Commissioner Dave Whitmer’s** presentation to the Board of the 2008 Agricultural Crop Report. The report showed the following:

Total wine grape sales in 2008 of \$399,913.00 from 115,864 tons of grapes.

Total olive sales in 2008 of \$505,000 from 544 tons of olives.

Total other fruit and nuts sales in 2008 of \$187,900.

Total vegetable sales in 2008 of \$181,100.

Total floral & nursery sales in 2008 of \$3,347,700.

Total field crop sales in 2008 of \$361,200.

Total timber sales in 2008 (based on 3-yr average) of \$152,600.

Total livestock sales in 2008 of \$3,512,000.

Total poultry & other animal products in 2008 of \$1,114,600.

Whitmer noted that the average price per ton for both black and white grape varieties was \$3,451.57. Cabernet Sauvignon made up 52 percent (the largest) of all black grape varieties sold, while Chardonnay made up 13.6 percent (the largest) of all white grape varieties sold.

According to Whitmer’s report there are 42,870 bearing acres of black and white grape varieties in Napa County, and another 3,064 non-bearing acres. He noted that organic farming of grapes in the County increased to 88 farms in 2008 over 77 in 2007, and production acres increased to 2,490 in 2008 from 1,791 in 2007. Overall, organic farming in the County increased from 81 farms in 2007 to 103 farms in 2008, and production acres increased to 2,566 in 2008 over the 1,861 acres reported in 2007. Whitmer reported that Napa County deploys and monitors

traps for the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, Vine Mealybug, Western Grapeleaf Skeletonizer, Gypsy Moth, Japanese Beetle, Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Melon Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly and other exotic fruit flies. The report shows that in 2007, two Light Brown Apple Moths were trapped in Napa County, and sixteen more were found in 2008.

**A discussion for held between the Supervisors** and a representative of the Public Works Department relative to the placement of photovoltaic solar panels on County facilities. To place the panels on 11 County facilities would cost some \$4.8 million, with a pay-for-itself date of between 15 and 20 years. The large dollar figure drew considerable observation from the Supervisors, not the least of whom was Supervisor Diane Dillon. Public Works was given permission to move cautiously forward on further assessment of the project.

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