

**MINUTES** of the regular meeting of the City of Redlands Citrus Preservation Commission held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at 10:00 AM in the Municipal Utilities Conference Room, 35 Cajon Street, Redlands, are as follows:

**PRESENT:** Michael Huffstutler, Chairperson  
J. Richard Leonard  
Joe Buoye, Vice Chairperson  
Bob Marsel  
Andrew Irvin  
Gary Branstetter

**EXCUSED:** John Gardner

**STAFF:** Todd Housley, Project Manager  
Gary Van Dorst, Quality of Life Director

**FARMING COMPANIES/  
PACKING HOUSE:** Chuck Hills, Larry Jacinto Farming  
Pete Marcum, Redlands Farming  
Bill Hardy, Redlands Foothill Groves

**GUESTS:** Emily Bueermann

**1. Roll Call and Approval of Minutes of the November 13, 2007 Regular Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairperson Huffstutler. On a motion by Richard Leonard, seconded by Joe Buoye, the minutes of the November 13, 2007 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes of the January 15, 2008 Regular Meeting**

On a motion by Richard Leonard, seconded by Andrew Irvin, the minutes of the January 15, 2008 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.

**2. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**A. Citrus Market Report (Bill Hardy, Redlands Foothill Groves)**

Bill Hardy stated that all of the City groves have been analyzed, and there is a problem with a very low FOB average on small naval sizes. Domestic prices on the most recent pool are: \$12.23 for 56s, \$9.88 for 72s, \$8.48 for 88s, \$7.55 for 113s, and \$6.42 for 138s. Prices for choice Navels in the same pool are \$7.35 for 56s, \$7.28 for 72s, \$7.51 for 88s, \$7.10 for 113s, and \$6.33 for 138s (with limited

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sales on 138s). With an 80% expected pack out per field box, an average FOB needs to be \$7.68 to break even. This requires them to find groves with heavier 88s or larger to pack out, and limiting the smaller fruit sizes. The prices and sizes are making it difficult to pick this year. On groves completed last week, Redlands Foothill Groves is seeing \$0.10 to \$1.00 margin on field boxes. The City Best grove has good size for domestic, but not for export. Lugonia is medium with some crease and will also go domestic. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue is small to medium. There is a chance of sending some 138s to Hong Kong, which will help with the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue fruit if successful. Prospect Park is similar to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, but a determination can't be made until a test pick is analyzed. Jacinto Memorial was picked in February. All groves are showing signs of wind damage. Some groves are showing significant amounts of scale which will downgrade the fruit. The story is that there is very little money in any fruit (Navels) this year. Fruit picked in February had a strong export market in Singapore and Malaysia, with a big block order for Dubai. However, the Dubai fruit was breaking down in transit within 7 days and will lead to heavy claims.

Dick Leonard asked if size picking would help the situation. Bill Hardy stated that it is impossible to get crews to "ring" pick because no one is experienced with that method. They are trying to visually size pick, but it is not proving successful. Rather than receiving more desirable fruit at a profit, it is only slightly reducing the amount of fruit at a loss.

Valencias are generally small sizes. They anticipate sending some to Singapore and Malaysia, but in limited amounts. The best scenario is approximately five or six loads a week.

Mister Hardy responded to several questions on local fruit sizes compared to the Central California market. He stated that of the 94 million carton statewide market, 92 million cartons come from Central California. This places extreme pressure on local growers to remain competitive, especially when sizes get particular.

### **B. Review of Current Expenditures and Cultural Farming Practice Reports from Larry Jacinto Farming and Redlands Farming Company Representatives**

**Redlands Farming** - Pete Marcum stated that they have started irrigation on groves with poorer soils. Sections of the three Nevada Palmetto groves not subject to Prologis negotiation have been fertilized. Weed trees in Daniels are being cut. Mr. Marcum noted that due to wind, there has been more litter in the Daniels grove, but he had worked with John Smith at the Landfill to keep the area clean. All but two rows of Texas Grove White Grapefruit have been removed. City staff directed Mr. Marcum to leave the two rows of trees adjacent to the homes to the north pending a review by City Council. The Powell variety of late Navels have been ordered for planting in the acreage cleared of White Grapefruit at Texas.

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Due to poor soil, several trees on the west end of Mullin have been removed and will be replaced with Rio Reds. The soil will be augured and conditioned before planting. Prior construction activity and compaction of the soil has made it difficult for some trees to take on the west end of the grove. "Good" snails have been imported into Mullin and Lugonia. There is a Cal Trans ditch adjacent to the I10 grove that needs to be cleaned out. Todd Housley will contact Cal Trans for cleaning.

**Larry Jacinto Farming** – Chuck Hills stated that Jacinto Memorial grove has been picked. As explained by Bill Hardy earlier, Prospect, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Olive grove are peaking on 138s, which are picking at a loss right now. Pre emergent and fertilizer have been applied at all City groves. Approximately 1500 trees will be planted at the new Mt. View grove by tomorrow (Wednesday, March 12, 2008). The grove will contain between 1,900 and 1,950 trees when complete.

### **C. Report on Status of Prologis Negotiations in Relation to Best, Ramirez and Daniels (Nevada Palmetto #1, #2, and #3) Groves (Gary Van Dorst)**

Gary Van Dorst stated that the City Council executed an exclusive negotiation agreement with Prologis for the possible sale of 36 acres south of the California Street Landfill. A companion piece to the agreement was approval of a resolution citing the following: setting aside moneys to replace 36 acres of groves before other monies are spent in conformance with Measure "O" and Ordinance 2263. The resolution also addresses mitigation of fugitive waste and dust coming from the landfill to adjacent businesses. Prologis is currently performing due diligence on the property and negotiating development requirements with the City.

### **D. Report on Progress of Mt. View Grove (Todd Housley)**

Todd Housley stated that the irrigation was complete, and as reported by Chuck Hills, planting of the trees will be completed by tomorrow (Wednesday, March 12, 2008). Donated funds from Bixby Land Company have been received and deposited in appropriate accounts.

### **E. Report on Status of Grove Monuments at Mullin Memorial Grove and Jacinto Memorial Grove (Todd Housley)**

These monuments were bid last year and submitted to the Municipal Utilities Director for approval. The documents were not signed and progress was stalled while Todd Housley was out with an illness. Because the bids are now expired, they will need to be redone. Todd Housley will rebid the monuments and based upon costs and funding, proceed with the project.

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### **F. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Citrus Policy**

Commissioners had not brought any comments to the meeting. Chairperson Huffstutler suggested that due to the length of time this item had appeared on the agenda, that it may be necessary to form an ad hoc committee to draft a revised Citrus Policy. Andrew Irvin offered to serve on the committee. Commissioners Huffstutler and Leonard will term out on April 16, 2008 and will not be able to serve on the ad hoc committee. Commissioner Irvin requested comments from the remaining commissioners and stated that he would begin the process of drafting a document. This item will be continued until the next meeting.

### **G. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future Expenses and Cultural Farming Practices at Best, Ramirez, and Daniels (Nevada Palmetto #1, #2, and #3) Groves**

Due to the possibility of a pending sale of property to Prologis, Pete Marcum asked the Commission at the last meeting for direction regarding cultural care, use of wind machines, and expenses at Best, Ramirez, and Daniels (Nevada Palmetto #1, #2, and #3) groves.

**On a motion by Dick Leonard, seconded by Joe Buoye, the Commission voted to direct Redlands Farming to discontinue the use and maintenance of wind machines, and to minimize expenses in regard to the three groves pending the City's negotiations with Prologis.**

### **H. Late-Breaking Item – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Remaining Two Rows of White Grapefruit at Texas Grove**

At the Regular Meeting of November 13, 2007, the Commission voted unanimously to remove all White Grapefruit from the Texas Grove. Due to a community complaint from residents neighboring the grove, staff instructed Redlands Farming to discontinue removal of the trees pending review of the complaints. This left two rows of trees on the north side of the grove. The matter had also been elevated to the City Council. The Council requested that the Commission consider the arguments for and against leaving the two rows of trees as a buffer to the houses, and make a recommendation to City Council for a final determination. Citizens were encouraged by staff to address the Commission at this meeting. Since this issue materialized after the agenda was circulated, staff requested that the Commission agendaize the matter as a “late-breaking” item.

**On a motion by Richard Leonard, seconded by Bob Marsel, addition of this “late-breaking” item to the agenda was unanimously approved.**

Recognizing that no one from the public was in attendance, Chairperson Huffstutler opened the matter for discussion. The Commission reiterated the need to replace the unprofitable White Grapefruit with a more stable, profitable variety

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of citrus. Though the concerns of the neighbors were weighed, it was the opinion of the Commissioners that the short-term inconveniences of replanting the grove were outweighed by the need to ensure its long-term viability.

**On a motion by Richard Leonard, seconded by Gary Branstetter, the Commission unanimously approved a recommendation to the City Council to proceed with the removal of the remaining trees as planned.**

### **3. PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

None

### **4. SCHEDULE POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Chairperson Huffstutler asked that a map of the proposed Prologis project be available to Commissioners who requested it.

Commissioner, Bob Marsel requested that the Commission officially recognize outgoing Commissioners Michael Huffstutler and Richard Leonard for their years of service on the Citrus Preservation Commission

Chairperson Huffstutler expressed his pleasure at serving on the Commission as a citizen, and as a Staff Liaison

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM. The next regular meeting of the Citrus Preservation Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 10:00 AM in the Municipal Utilities Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

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Todd Housley  
Project Manager