



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO Department of Agriculture/Measurement Standards

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER BOB LILLEY PRESENTED STATEWIDE AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP

San Luis Obispo, CA, November 10, 2008 – On November 7, 2008, Bob Lilley, San Luis Obispo County's Agricultural Commissioner was awarded the 2008 Profiles in Leadership Award from the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation. The award recognizes the exceptional contributions of graduates of the California Agriculture Leadership Program for actions resulting in the betterment of their community

Since the mid 1980s, under the leadership of Bob Lilley, the San Luis Obispo County Dept. of Agriculture has played a key role in protecting agricultural resources from the effects of development. The Profiles in Leadership Award recognizes Bob's talents and dedication to the development and administration of public policies related to the protection of ag land and ag resources through the County Department of Agriculture's Land Use Planning Program.

Throughout the state there is increasing public awareness about the value of agriculturally productive lands and the need to protect these lands for future generations. At the same time, the demand for a rural lifestyle and recreation facilities has transformed the landscape of California's central coast into a mixture of agricultural lands, residential and commercial uses, which threaten the future of productive land. The Department's Land Use Program seeks to find the balance between the need for development, the protection of ag resources and the future of the local ag industry, valued at over \$650 million in 2007.

Bob's significant contributions include the development of policies such as the Agricultural Element of the County's General Plan and the creation of the County's Right to Farm Ordinance. He is a voting member on the County's Agriculture Preserve Program as well as other Advisory Boards, providing technical information, guidance and recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors and others about land use decisions that have a bearing on agriculture.

Bob's oversight of his staff that evaluates approximately 75-100 development proposals annually for the County Planning and Building Department is critical in defining the impacts development may have on ag resources such as water, prime soils and impacts to existing neighboring ag operations.

Statewide, Bob is recognized by his Ag Commissioner peers as the leader in land use planning arena, and is one of only a handful of Ag Commissioners with staff dedicated to evaluating land use issues. His credibility, integrity, vision and leadership are valued by many diverse constituents in the community.

For more information about the County Ag Department's Land Use Planning Program go to www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm. For more information about the California Agriculture Leadership Program go to www.agleaders.org.

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