

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Conference Room  
915 Capitol Mall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**June 8, 2005**

Time: 10:30 a.m.  
Members Present: Chairwoman Shiroma, Board Members Rivera-Hernandez and Zingale.  
Members Absent: None.  
Staff Present: Executive Secretary Barbosa, Board Counsel Murray and Heyck, Analyst Massie, Legal Intern Elsea  
Staff Absent: Board Counsel Wender  
Others Present:

**OPEN SESSION**

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for June 1, 2005, were approved 3-0.
- 2. Board Member Comments:** The ALRB's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a great success. The Board was honored to have in attendance Senator Deborah Ortiz, Senator Gloria Romero, Speaker Fabian Nuñez, Assembly Member Dave Jones, and LWDA Secretary Victoria Bradshaw. The Agency received proclamations from both the California State Senate and California State Assembly commemorating the anniversary of the Act.
- 3. Public Comments:** None.
- 4. Announcements:** The Board honored Executive Secretary Barbosa and Analyst Massie for their 25 years of State service. The Board also expressed appreciation to Nancy Davis for her receipt of the State Controller's Award for Achieving Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Megan Elsea is the Board's vice chair representative on the California State Employees Charitable Campaign. She will assist Masako Yniguez, who is the chair.

- 5. Weekly Status Report On Elections, Unfair Labor Practice Complaints, Hearings and Court Litigation**

## **ELECTION REPORT**

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO TAKE ACCESS (NA) AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ORGANIZE (NO):** None.

### **PENDING ELECTION MATTERS:**

#### **Gallo Vineyards, Inc., 03-RD-1-SAL**

The ALJ issued her decision on the unfair labor practice case on December 19, 2003. The Board issued its decision on November 5, 2004, affirming the ALJ's recommendation that appropriate remedies included the dismissal of the decertification petition. Gallo filed its petition for review on December 2, 2004. Decertification Petitioner Roberto Parra filed a petition for review on December 3, 2004. The certified record was filed on December 10, 2004. The election objections are in abeyance pending completion of the ULP case.

#### **Sutter Mutual Water Company, 05-RC-1-VI**

On Wednesday, January 26, 2005 Teamsters Local 137 filed a representation petition with the Visalia Regional Office seeking to organize the agricultural employees of Sutter Mutual Water Company in Robbins, CA. The employer is a water district and water supplier. The unit includes approximately 10 employees who deliver water to farms. The Regional Director issued a letter finding that the agency has jurisdiction to proceed with petition. The Regional Director denied the employer's request that the ballots be impounded. The election was held February 2, 2005, with the following tally:

General Teamsters Local 137	5	
No Union	2	
Unresolved Challenged Ballots		<u>0</u>
Total	7	

Objections to the election were filed on February 9, 2005. An investigative hearing opened on March 24, 2005 in Woodland, California, and was placed in abeyance due to a medical emergency. The matter has been reset for July 12 and 13, 2005.

#### **G H & G Zysling Dairy, 05-RC-4-VI**

On April 20, 2005 petitioner UFCW Local 1096 filed a rival union petition with the Visalia Regional Office seeking to organize the agricultural employees of G H & G Zysling Dairy and oust the incumbent union Teamster Union, Local 517. The employer is a dairy located in Dinuba with approximately 12 employees. The election was held on April 27, 2005 with the following results:

UFCW, Local 1096 (Petitioner)	8
Teamsters, Local 517 (Incumbent)	1
No Union	4
Unresolved Challenged Ballots	<u>13</u>
Total	26

Since the unresolved challenged ballots are outcome determinative in number, the RD will conduct a challenged ballot investigation and issue a report. On May 9, 2005 the UFCW filed objections to the election. The objections petition is under review by the Executive Secretary.

**Bayou Vista Dairy, 05-RC-6-VI**

On May 26, 2005 the UFCW Local 1096 filed a representation petition with the Visalia Regional Office seeking to represent the agricultural employees of Bayou Vista Dairy. The employer is a dairy in Tipton with approximately 90 employees. An election was held on June 3, 2005 with the following results:

UFCW	52
No Union	42
Unresolved Challenged Ballots	<u>0</u>
Total	94

Election objections, if any, are due June 10, 2005.

**COMPLAINT REPORTS**

None.

**PREHEARING OR SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES SCHEDULED**

None.

**HEARINGS HELD:**

None.

**FOUR CASES ON CALENDAR:**

**Santa Barbara Farms, 04-CE-21-VI**

Pre-hearing Conference: June 9, 2005

Hearing: June 27, 2005

**Sutter Mutual Water Company, 05-RC-1-VI**

Investigative hearing has been reset for July 12 and 13, 2005.

**The Hess Collection Winery, 99-CE-23-SAL (27 ALRB No. 2) (makewhole case)**

Pre-hearing Conference: July 5, 2005  
Hearing: July 19, 2005

**Dan Tudor and Sons, 02-CE-13-VI**  
Pre-hearing Conference: August 2, 2005  
Hearing: August 23, 2005

**CASES PENDING ALJ DECISION:**

**D'Arrigo Bros. Co., 03-CE-5-SAL**  
Pending receipt of hearing transcripts

**ALJ/IHE DECISIONS ISSUED:**

None.

**CASE PENDING EXCEPTIONS AND/OR REPLY:**

None.

**CASES PENDING BOARD DECISION:**

None.

**CASES SETTLED OR RESOLVED:**

None.

**COMPLIANCE CASES CLOSED:**

None.

**CASES TRANSFERRED TO BOARD FOR DECISION:** None.

**BOARD DECISIONS:**

None.

**REQUESTS UNDER MANDATORY MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION LAW:**

**Hess Collection Winery**, Request for Mediation, 2003-MMC-01:

In *Hess Collection Winery* (2003) 29 ALRB No. 6, the Board issued its first decision under the new mandatory mediation and conciliation law, denying the Hess Collection Winery's (Employer) petition for review of the mediator's report imposing final terms of a collective bargaining agreement. The Employer requested that the Board vacate and set aside the mediator's report for a variety of reasons. The Board found no basis for accepting review of the mediator's report and denied the Employer's petition in full. On November 14, 2003, the Employer filed a petition for a writ of review in the

Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District pursuant to Labor Code section 1164 seeking review of the Board's Order and Decision in Hess Collection Winery. The certified record was filed with the court on November 24, 2003. On November 24, 2003, the court requested the parties provide supplemental briefing regarding the petitioner's stay request. The petitioner's supplemental letter brief addressing legal authority for, and the appropriateness of the stay was filed December 1, 2003. On December 11, 2003, the parties filed a stipulation to stay the Board's decision pending resolution of the appeal. Petitioner's opening brief was filed with the court on December 23, 2003. The Board's response brief was filed January 22, 2004. Hess' reply brief is due March 3, 2004. On February 4, 2004, the court granted the UFW's request to file an amicus brief, and accepted the brief filed with the request. On February 19, 2004, the court issued a writ of review, directing the ALRB and the real party in interest (UFCW) to file returns (responses) by March 10, with Hess' replication (reply) due 10 days thereafter. Originally, the court treated the case as if it was governed by Rule 59 of the CA Rules of Court, which governs the procedures for review of final Board orders in unfair labor practice cases. Section 1164.9 of the MMC statute speaks of court review of Board orders fixing a contract in more traditional writ of review terms. The new filings required by the writ of review will essentially reiterate or incorporate by reference the earlier briefs. Western Growers Association filed amicus curiae brief on March 8, 2004. The ALRB's return was filed on March 10, 2004. The matter is now fully briefed and pending decision by the court. On May 25, the court issued an order asking for supplemental letter briefing related to whether the mandatory mediation process involves the delegation of legislative authority and whether such a delegation is valid. The deadline for the Petitioner (Hess) (and amici in support) to file its brief was June 11, 2004. Both Hess and WGA filed letter briefs on June 11. The ALRB's brief was filed June 28, 2004. Amicus Western Growers Association's reply brief was filed on July 8, 2004, and Petitioner's reply brief was filed on July 9, 2004.

## **COURT LITIGATION:**

### **Western Growers Association, et al., 03AS00987**

On August 22, 2003, the plaintiffs filed a petition for writ of mandate in the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, seeking to overturn a ruling by the Superior Court that the matter is not yet ripe for adjudication. The Superior Court ruled that the matter would not be ripe until the Board issues a decision fixing the terms of a collective bargaining agreement. This lawsuit, which challenges the constitutionality of the new mandatory mediation and conciliation law (SB 1156 and AB 2596, codified as Labor Code sections 1164 to 1164.14), was filed on February 24, 2002 in the Sacramento County Superior Court. On November 20, 2003, the 3rd DCA issued an order summarily dismissing the petition for writ of mandate in the WGA case. The plaintiffs have filed an amended complaint in the Sacramento County Superior Court. The court has taken plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction off calendar

pending the DCA ruling in the related case of The Hess Collection Winery, C045405. On December 22, 2003, a demurrer and request for a stay of the matter pending the resolution of a related case (Hess) was filed on behalf of the Board. A hearing on the demurrer and request for stay is scheduled for February 19, 2004. On February 6, 2004 WGA filed its memorandum of points and authorities in opposition to the ALRB's (and the intervenors') motion to stay proceedings and demurrer. On February 18, 2004, the superior court issued a tentative ruling granting the request for a stay, which became final when no party requested to appear at the scheduled hearing by the 4:00 p.m. deadline. Absent an effort seeking a writ in the Court of Appeal to overturn the superior court's ruling (there is no indication that such an effort is planned), further action on this case will await resolution of the Hess Collection Winery v. ALRB case.

### **The Hess Collection Winery, C045405**

On November 14, 2003, the Employer filed a petition for a writ of review in the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District pursuant to Labor Code section 1164 seeking review of the Board's Order and Decision in Hess Collection Winery. The certified record was filed on November 24, 2003. On November 24, 2003 the court requested the parties provide supplemental briefing regarding the petitioner's stay request. On December 11, 2003, the parties filed a stipulation staying the Board's order pending resolution of the appeal. Petitioner's opening brief was filed with the court on December 23, 2003. Board's response brief was filed January 22, 2004. Hess' reply brief was due March 3, 2004. On February 4, 2004, the court granted the UFW's request to file an amicus brief, and accepted the brief filed with the request. On February 19, 2004, the court issued a writ of review, directing the ALRB and the real party in interest (UFCW) to file returns (responses) by March 10, with Hess' replication (reply) due 10 days thereafter. Originally, the court treated the case as if it was governed by Rule 59 of the CA Rules of Court, which governs the procedures for review of final Board orders in unfair labor practice cases. Section 1164.9 of the MMC statute speaks of court review of Board orders fixing a contract in more traditional writ of review terms. The new filings required by the writ of review will essentially reiterate or incorporate by reference the earlier briefs. Western Growers Association filed an amicus curiae brief on March 8, 2004. The ALRB's return was filed on March 10, 2004. The matter is now fully briefed and pending decision by the court. On May 25, the court issued an order asking for supplemental letter briefing related to whether the mandatory mediation process involves the delegation of legislative authority and whether such a delegation is valid. Both Hess and WGA filed letter briefs on June 11. The ALRB's brief was filed June 28, 2004. Amicus Western Growers Association's reply brief was filed on July 8, 2004, and Petitioner's reply brief was filed on July 9, 2004.

### **Gallo Vineyards, Inc., C048387**

The Board issued its decision on November 5, 2004. Gallo filed its petition for review on December 2, 2004. Roberto Parra filed a separate petition for review on December 3, 2004. The certified record was filed on December 10, 2004. On December 20, 2004, the Court on its own motion consolidated the petitions filed by Gallo and Parra. The parties have stipulated to extend the briefing schedule, and the court approved the stipulation. The petitioner's brief was due on March 20, 2005 with the ALRB's brief to be due 90 days after the filing of petitioner's brief. The petitioner's reply brief is due 80 days following the ALRB's brief. The court granted Petitioner's request for a 30 day extension to April 20, 2005 to file its opening brief. A request for an additional 30-day extension of time to May 20 was filed by Gallo and was granted by the court. Response briefs by the ALRB and the real party in interest (UFW) will be due 90 days thereafter, and any reply briefs by the petitioners will be due 80 days after the filing of the response briefs. On May 13, Gallo was granted an additional, and final, extension of time to June 10 to file its opening brief.

**Hadley Date Gardens, Inc., E037704**

A petition for review was filed on March 18. However, the petition was not verified, as required by Rule 59 of the Cal. Rules of Court. An amended petition was filed on April 1. Though the 30-day period for filing a petition for review under sec. 1160.8 is jurisdictional, it has been held that the lack of a verification is a curable defect as long as the petition itself was filed within the time limit, as it was here. (See *UFW v. ALRB* (1985) 37 Cal.3d 912.) Though no official notification of the filing has been received from the court, the certified record was filed with the court on April 18, 2005. The Petitioner was granted a 5-day extension of time to May 31 to file its opening brief. Thereafter, the Petitioner and the Board entered into a stipulation extending the time to file 30 days in order to allow a private party settlement agreement to be presented to the Board for its approval.

**6. Budget and Administration**

(a) Information Technology: Repair of the telephone system and website were discussed.

(b) Regulations: Nothing new.

(c) Budget:

The Interagency Agreement with University of California Davis was discussed.

(d) Policy and Procedures: Nothing new to report.

- (e) Labor and Workforce Development Agency: The Chief Counsel meeting is scheduled for today, June 8th. Chairwoman Shiroma reported on the monthly Agency meeting.
- (f) Regional Directors' Quarterly Meeting – Agenda Review
- (g) State Auditor's Report – The State Auditor will release the excerpt of its report pertaining to the ALRB on June 20 (the report concerns court review of PUC decisions; data from review of ALRB decisions is being used for comparative purposes only).
- (h) AERF— The El Centro region submitted supplemental filings in three pending cases involving motions to make cases eligible for payout from the Agricultural Employee Relief Fund.

## **7. Outreach Projects**

- (a) Brochures: Board Counsel Heyck is working with the State Printing Plant to print the ALRB's brochures.
- (b) Radio Public Service Announcement: The Executive Secretary has informed each Regional Office that they are now responsible for distributing the ALRB's new Public Service Announcement (PSA) to local radio stations.
- (c) Handbook: The latest edits to handbook have been translated. Also, the translation service found numerous errors in the original Spanish translation and corrected these as well.
- (d) Novella DVD: The Board premiered a draft copy of the DVD of the recently issued Novella at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

## **8. Legislation:** Nothing new.

**9. Personnel:** Applications have been received for the Hearing Officer I, Legal Counsel/Assistant General Counsel I/II, and Staff Services Analyst/Associate Governmental Program Analyst positions. Interviews are being scheduled.

**10. Compliance:** The status of the AEFR cases was discussed.

**11. Future Agenda Review:** The time and location of next week's Board meeting was discussed in view of the fact that the Board Conference Room will not be available on Wednesday, June 15, 2005.



The public meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.