

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Board Conference Room
915 Capitol Mall, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**June 2
8
, 2006**

Time: 10:45 a.m.

Members Present: Chairwoman Raymundo, Board Members Shiroma and Rivera-Hernandez.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Counsel Lee, Board Counsel Wender, Murray and Heyck, and Analyst Massie.

Staff Absent: Executive Secretary Barbosa

Others Present: None.

OPEN SESSION

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes for April 26, May 17, June 7 and June 21 were approved 3-0.

2. Public Comments: None

3. Chair Budget Report: End-of-Year Expenditures – Chairwoman Raymundo reported on the progress of the end of the year purchasing project. 2006-07 Budget Change Proposals—The matter is proceeding smoothly. .

4. General Counsel Report: ULP Charges, New Complaints, Visalia Office Relocation & Salinas Office Repairs – General Counsel Lee reported that three new charges have been filed in Visalia. The General Counsel and Regional Director visited 8 potential sites for relocation of the Visalia Regional Office. Alternate temporary

accommodations were discussed.

5. Executive Officer Report:

ELECTION REPORT

NOTICE OF INTENT TO TAKE ACCESS (NA) AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ORGANIZE (NO):

Nothing new to report.

PENDING ELECTION MATTERS:

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

On May 9, 2005 the UFCW filed objections to the election. The objections petition is in abeyance pending completion of the challenged ballot proceeding. Since the unresolved challenged ballots are outcome determinative in number, the RD conducted a challenged ballot investigation and issued his report on July 18, 2005. The Regional Director, after reviewing all the declarations and the information provided by the parties, was unable to resolve the challenges and therefore set the matter for hearing on October 24, 2005. The hearing was held on October 24, 25 and 26. The IHE issued his decision on February 2, 2006. The petitioner, employer and Regional Director all filed exceptions to his decision on February 17, 2006. The employer filed his reply to the Regional Director's and petitioner's exceptions on March 1, 2006. The Board issued its decision on June 14, 2006 (32 ALRB No. 2). Pursuant to that decision, the Regional

Director shall issue a revised tally of ballots. Issuance of the Executive Secretary's order regarding the pending election objections will await the revised tally of ballots.

Giumarra Vineyards Corporation and Giumarra Farms, Inc., 05-RC-7-VI

On August 25, 2005, petitioner United Farm Workers (UFW) filed a representation petition with the Visalia Regional Office seeking to organize the agricultural employees of Giumarra Vineyards Corporation and Giumarra Farms, Inc. The employer is involved in the production of grapes and potatoes and has approximately 3110 employees in Kern and Tulare counties. The election was held on September 1, 2005 with the following results:

UFW	1121
No Union	1246
Unresolved Challenged Ballots	<u>171</u>
Total	2538

Since the unresolved challenged ballots are outcome determinative in number, the RD conducted a challenged ballot investigation and issued his report on October 14, 2005. The Employer filed one exception to the report on October 26, 2005. On October 31, 2005, the Board issued its decision and order on challenged ballots. There, the Board adopted the Regional Director's recommendations set forth in the report, i.e., to open and count 41 overruled challenged ballots and thereafter issue a revised tally of ballots. On November 14, 2005 the Regional Director opened and counted the 41 overruled challenged ballots and issued the following revised and now final tally:

UFW	1141
No Union	1266
Unresolved Challenged Ballots	<u>123</u>
Total	2530

As the remaining unresolved challenged ballots are not outcome determinative, the Executive Secretary proceeded with consideration of the election objections filed by the UFW. On November 17, 2005 the Executive Secretary issued his order setting eight (8) objections for an evidentiary hearing and partially dismissing two (2) objections that were not supported by sufficient declaratory support. The UFW sought review of a single partially dismissed objection, which was denied by the Board. An investigative hearing was held from February 28, 2006 to March 9, 2006 in Bakersfield

before Investigative Hearing Examiner (IHE) James Wolpman. The Executive Secretary granted the petitioner's request for an extension of time to file post-hearing briefs. The parties' post-hearing briefs were received June 9, 2006. The IHE's decision is pending.

Artesia Dairy, 06-RC-1-VI

On February 28, 2006, the United Farm Workers filed a representation petition with the Visalia Regional Office seeking an election amongst the agricultural employees of Artesia Dairy Farms LLC in Corcoran, CA. The employer is a dairy with approximately 45 employees. The election was held on March 7, 2006. The tally of ballots showed the following:

UFW	25
No Union	24
Unresolved Challenged Ballots	<u>15</u>
Total	64

As the number of challenged ballots was outcome determinative, the Regional Director conducted an investigation to determine whether the challenges should be sustained or overruled. Should there be material factual disputes as to some or all of the challenges, an evidentiary hearing will held before an Investigative Hearing Examiner to resolve such challenges. Election objections, if any, were due on March 14. No objections were filed. The union's response was filed on March 24, 2006. The employer's response was filed on April 7, 2006. The employer filed additional material on April 7, 2006. The union in turn filed supplementary materials. The Regional Director issued his Challenged Ballot Report on June 12, 2006. On June 22, 2006 the employer filed its exceptions to the Regional Director's report. The matter is pending before the Board on decision.

COMPLAINT REPORTS

No new complaints issued this week.

PREHEARING OR SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES SCHEDULED:

Prime Time International, 05-CE-37-EC

Pre-hearing Conference scheduled June 26, 2006

HEARINGS HELD:

None.

ONE CASE ON CALENDAR:

Prime Time International, 05-CE-37-EC

Hearing scheduled July 18, 2006

CASES PENDING ALJ/IHE DECISION:

Giumarra Vineyards Corporation and Giumarra Farms, Inc., 05-RC-7-VI

Post-hearing briefs received June 9, 2006. IHE decision pending.

UFW (Virgen/Mendoza), 04-CL-1-VI (OX)

Hearing closed June 16, 2006. Pending receipt of transcripts and post-hearing briefs.

ALJ/IHE DECISIONS ISSUED:

None.

CASE PENDING EXCEPTIONS OR REPLY:

None.

CASES PENDING BOARD DECISION:

Artesia Dairy, 06-RC-1-VI

Exceptions to Regional Director's Challenged Ballot Report were filed June 22, 2006.

CASES PENDING SETTLEMENT:

C&R Farms, 05-CE-36-EC

Executive Secretary's Office was informed parties are entering into a bilateral formal settlement. A Motion To Take Case Off Calendar was filed on June 19, 2006. The Executive Secretary issued an Order Granting Motion to Take Case Off Calendar on June 23, 2006.

Prime Time International, 05-CE-37-EC

The Executive Secretary's Office was informed that the parties are in settlement negotiations. The Executive Secretary's Office is awaiting a motion to take hearing off calendar.

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. Oral argument took place on June 19, 2006.

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. Oral argument took place on June 19, 2006.

Gerawan v. Bill Lockyer (Zingale), 05 CS 00493

On May 17, 2006 the 3rd District Court of Appeal issued an order directing the Appellant Gerawan to, on or before May 30, 2006, show cause in writing why the above-captioned appeal should not be dismissed as moot. The court later extended this

date to June 16, 2006 following Gerawan's motion for extension of time that was granted on May 25, 2006. On June 16, 2006 Gerawan filed its reply brief with the court. The matter is now fully briefed and pending decision and/or oral argument.

6. Special:

Case Statistics Tracking System Update/Website Redesign – Member Shiroma updated the Board on the status of bids.

Emergency Preparedness & Telecommuting Plans – Member Rivera-Hernandez reported the Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government Plan is being finalized.

Encryption Policy – Analyst Massie is redrafting the encryption policy.

ALRB DVD – The revised master DVD has been sent for reproduction.

Annual Report – Statistics have been received from all regional offices and the final draft is being prepared for approval.

7. Roundtable:

Next Board Meeting will be held on July 12, 2006 at 1:30 p.m.

The public meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.