

**AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT****AGRICULTURAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****ALRB CHAIRMAN GOULD ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC LABOR-MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

William B. Gould IV, Chairman of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB), today formally announced the establishment of an ad hoc labor-management advisory committee of interested individuals representing labor and management to discuss issues and concerns of general interest to the ALRB and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and views. Chairman Gould mentioned the formation of such a committee at the Board's public meeting in June 2015.

According to Chairman Gould, "The committee may be called upon to provide advice to the Board on a wide variety of issues within the Board's purview." As an illustrative list, such issues may possibly include 1) jurisdictional issues relating to the National Labor Relations Board's *Produce Magic* decision and related cases; 2) the handling of cases which involve issues of sexual harassment and possible coordination with federal and state agencies charged with jurisdiction of those issues (last year, the Board addressed the issue of sexual harassment in the fields in *Sandhu Brothers Poultry and Farming*, 40ALRB No. 12); and 3) electronic filing of documents with the Board, currently the subject of the Board's regulatory reform.

"There are two subjects that will have immediate priority in committee discussions," Chairman Gould notes. The first relates to the Proposed Rule on timelines for the

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handling of consolidated election objections and unfair labor practice charges that was approved for regulatory processing by the Board at its June 15, 2015 public meeting.

The second subject for discussion is the issue of worker education. At the Board's public meeting on June 15, 2015, as part of the Board's discussion on rulemaking proposals, Chairman Gould announced his desire to have the Board move beyond the ALRB's ongoing outreach and education efforts and consider rulemaking to allow access to worksites by Board agents to educate workers about the Agricultural Labor Relations Act. Emphasizing the importance of informing agricultural workers about the Act, Chairman Gould recalled the *San Diego Nursery* case, saying, "The Court of Appeal said the proper way to approach this is through rulemaking." He added, "We are at a preliminary stage. [We] need more input from public." The Chairman pointed to this information gathering as the first order of business for the ad hoc advisory group, saying "The committee will consider practical and legal implications to advise the Board." The Board will hold informational hearings throughout the state "to hear all stakeholders to consider facts and views of affected parties" concerning this vital issue of worker education. The Board's informational meetings are scheduled for September 4 (Salinas), September 9 (Fresno), September 15 (Santa Maria) and September 16 (Oxnard).

Individuals who are serving on the labor-management advisory committee include:

- Rome Aloise, Teamsters Joint Council 7
- James Araby, UFCW Western States Council
- Ronald H. Barsamian, Barsamian & Moody
- Barry Bedwell, California Fresh Fruit Association
- James W. Bogart, Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association of Central California
- Carl Borden, California Farm Bureau Federation
- Robert K. Carroll, Arent Fox LLP
- Fritz Conle, General Teamsters Local 890, AFL-CIO
- Manual Cunha, Nisei Farmers League
- Michael S. Dea, LIUNA Local 1184
- Crescencio Diaz, General Teamsters Union Local 890
- Ellen Lake, Ellen Lake Law Offices
- Bryan C. Little, California Farm Bureau
- Mario Martinez, United Farm Workers c/o Martínez Aguilasochó & Lynch, APLC.
- Pete Maturino, UFCW Local 5
- Harold McClarty, HMC Farms
- Tom O'Brien, Driscoll's
- Carmen Ponce, Tanimura & Antle

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- Robert Roy, Ventura County Agricultural Association
- Guadalupe Sandoval, California Farm Labor Contractor Association
- Ana C. Toledo, Noland, Hamerly, Etienne & Hoss
- Daniel Urbano, Dole Fresh Vegetables, Inc., and
- Angie Wei, California Labor Federation.

“I want to express my personal thanks to these individuals for their interest and commitment to this important task,” said Chairman Gould.

The ALRB establishes policies and procedures for all activities related to the conduct of elections, the investigation and resolution of unfair labor practices and the conduct of hearings on elections and unfair labor practices. It also conducts and/or reviews these hearings on elections, determines whether the results of such elections should be certified and adjudicates complaints issued in unfair labor practices.