



## Media Release

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### **Farm Bureau Changing of the Guard**

September 22, Nipomo, CA – The San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau held their 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members over the weekend in Nipomo. A group of approximately 150 Farm Bureau members and friends of the organization attended the meeting to officially witness the nomination and election of Executive Officers and District Directors.

Mark Moore, Vice President of C&M Nursery in Nipomo was elected to serve as President of the organization for the next two years. Moore has served as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President of the Organization prior to stepping into the roll of president. Moore grows lemons and avocados in Nipomo.

Richard Gonzales, owner of Road Runner Construction in Paso Robles was elected to serve as Vice President. Gonzales also farms 23 acres of dry-land walnuts and runs cattle.

Bernard Olsen, fifth generation California farmer and a third generation agriculturalist of SLO County was elected to the Secretary position. He and his family raise sheep and farm hay on their farm outside of Paso Robles.

New to the Executive committee, Carlos Castaneda of Nipomo will serve as Treasurer. Castaneda, owns and operates Castaneda & Sons, Inc. and Mission Labor, Inc. employing farm workers for maintenance and harvest in vegetable, nursery, vineyard and tree crop industries.

Past President Paul Clark, will remain on the Executive Committee for two more years to guide the new officers through their term. Clark ranches near Shandon, raising cattle, wine grapes, olives and dry-land barley. Paul is an attorney practicing in the field of estate planning.

The Executive Officer team was sad to see Tom Ikeda complete his term. Ikeda's knowledge of South County agriculture issues was beneficial to the committee when dealing with South County issues. Ikeda will remain on the Farm Bureau board as a Director-at-Large.

Each member of the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau Executive Committee serves in each office for two years completing a full term on the Executive Committee after 10 years of volunteer service.

District Directors elected to serve the organization include: Blanche Comino, Ray Wiebe, Steve Beck, Ernie Righetti and Gary Ketcham. Farm Bureau District Directors represent the voice of each of the five districts in San Luis Obispo County.

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau is the largest general agriculture organization in San Luis Obispo County serving a combined membership of 2,100 members countywide.

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Mission Statement:

“To lead San Luis Obispo County in the protection, promotion and advocacy for the benefit of our members and community”