



**Lodi Winegrape Commission
Meeting Minutes – FINAL
March 17, 2026**

The Lodi Winegrape Commission met on Tuesday, March 17, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jacylyn Stokes Iniguez at 3:05PM.
2. Roll was called

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Alternate Commissioner</u>	<u>Present</u>
Scott Armolea	X		
Pieter A den Hartog	X	Mitch Spaletta	
Jason Eells	X		
Dirk Heuvel	EX		
Farrah Felten Jolley	X	Gerardo Espinosa	X
Joan Kautz	EX	Brett Pieretti	
Diego Olagaray	X	Galen Schmiedt	X
Hadyn Schatz	X	Joe Laranaga	EX
Jacylyn Stokes Iniguez	X	Colton Machado	

Also, in attendance was Mirek Wilczek (CDFA Marketing Branch). Others present Kyle Collins, Dawson Lewis and Andrew Genasci. Staff present Stuart Spencer and Stephanie Bolton. A quorum was established.

3. On a motion by Eells/Olagaray the minutes of January 20, 2025 (Exhibit A) and March 5, 2026 (Exhibit B) were approved.
4. Public Comment on Items Appearing on the Agenda – None
5. **Financial Report** – The Board reviewed the year-to-date budget through January 2026. The board also reviewed the revised assessment revenue based on the 2025 crush report that was recently released. The board also discussed the crush report which showed roughly 2.6 million tons of winegrapes crushed in 2025, the lowest since 1999.
6. **Chairman's Report** – Chair Stokes Iniguez updated the board on recent activities. She also discussed the California Association of Winegrape Growers and Family Winemakers sponsored state legislation (AB 1585) to close the loophole in the American appellation for wines bottled and sold in California. Under current federal law, a wine bearing an American designation can contain up to 25% foreign wine.

7. **Executive Director's Report** - ED Spencer updated the board on recent Commission activities including progress on the formation of the Lodi Winery Improvement district, the Commission referendum, bulk wine imports, the budget and other activities. (Exhibit C)

8. **Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee – The committee has not met.

Grower Marketing Committee – The committee is scheduled to meet on April 8, 2026.

Winery Marketing Committee – The met on March 11, 2026 and is wrapping up its responsibilities and transferring them to the new the Lodi Winery Business Improvement District. Moving forward it is likely this committee will no longer be needed. The committee reviewed Lodi Wine & Chocolate and the Festival of Undiscovered Grapes held in San Jose. And the upcoming one scheduled for the end of March in LA.

Lodi Rules – The LODI RULES Committee held its annual meeting and lunch on January 21, 2026. The meeting was well attended. Although total acres went down in 2025, acreage went up in District 11. At this meeting, Stephanie introduced the new “Wooden Nickels” initiative as a creative way to promote Lodi wines and grapes. Lodi growers can now receive redeemable wooden nickels for one complimentary wine tasting at the Lodi Wine Visitor Center. Growers are encouraged to take these tokens on their travels and share them with restaurant servers, wine shop staff, and younger consumers who are just beginning to explore wine. Wooden nickels are available at grower meetings and Lodi Winegrape Commission Board and committee meetings.

Research, Education, Communication – The Research, Education, and Communication Committee met on March 10, 2026. Committee members agreed to participate in a new concept of “Member Projects” where each REC Committee member leads a project that they care about on behalf of the Commission to help the broader Lodi Winegrowing Community. Each project will be in the area of viticulture research, education and/or communications. There is an IPM Meeting scheduled for April 7, 2026 on Barn Owls.

9. **Other Organization Reports:**

CWEF – no report.

LDGGA – Kyle Collins updated the board on recent legislative issues around the American Appellation and SB 921 regarding ag overtime. LDGGA will host a Water Forum on April 1 and on May 6 an Economic Forum.

SJCFB – Andrew Genasci, Executive Director of the SJ County Farm Bureau updated the Commission on their recent activities. Concerned about AB 2447 that put a hard cap on

nitrogen use and supersede the Irrigated Lands regulations. They are also hosting their annual Taste of San Joaquin on April 2 at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds.

Lodi Grape Festival – no report

CAWG – no report

10. **Public Comment** – No comment

11. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings** – None

12. The next meeting was set for April 28, 2026 at Noon.

13. The meeting adjourned at 2:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stuart Spencer
On behalf of Pieter den Hartog
Secretary