



County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department Agricultural Advisory Committee

John Vars
Koren Widdel
Jess Brown
Jim Howard

Frank McPherson
Judith Humburg
Lauren Silberman
Fred Crowder

Ryan Casey
Peter Marchi
Natalie Sare
James Oku

Jonathan Winslow

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ACTION MINUTES

Draft

Monday, January 9, 2023

On March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow for local legislative bodies to conduct their meetings telephonically or by other electronic means. Pursuant to the Shelter-in-Place Order issued by the San Mateo County Health Officer on March 16, 2020 and March 31, 2020, the statewide Shelter-in-Place Order issued by the Governor in Executive Order N-33-20 on March 19, 2020, and the CDC's social distancing guidelines which discourage large public gatherings, public hearings will not be held in person until the Shelter-in-Place Order is lifted. Instead, members of the public may provide written comments by email to the San Mateo County Planning Liaison Summer Burlison at SBurlison@smcgov.org to be read into the record and discussed at the meeting. Comments must be submitted via email no less than 30 minutes before the scheduled meeting. Comments received after that time will be held for the next scheduled meeting.

A full recording of this meeting can be accessed on the official government YouTube channel of the County of San Mateo at: https://youtu.be/RP_bm3s6ePs.

1. **Call to Order**

At the virtual meeting room hosted by the San Mateo County Planning Department on the Zoom Video Communications platform due to Covid-19 Shelter-in-Place Orders, Committee Chair John Vars called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. **Member Roll Call**

Regular Committee Members Present:

Judith Humburg
James Oku
Natalie Sare
John Vars
Peter Marchi
Fred Crowder
Lauren Silberman

Regular Committee Members Absent:

Jonathan Winslow
Ryan Casey

Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner
Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

Jim Howard, Natural Resource Conservation Staff

Frank McPherson, UC Co-Op Extension Representative
 Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director

3. **Adopt a Resolution** that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Committee Secretary Lauren Silberman moved, and Committee Member Judith Humburg seconded, a motion to adopt the above resolution.

Motion passed 7-0-2, with two absent members.

4. **Oral Communications** to allow the public to address the Committee on any matter not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, the Chair will recognize you at this time.

- Michelle Dragony (Coastside Buzz), member of the public:
 - City of Half Moon Bay and Sewer Authority Midcoast (SAM) working together for controlled releases at Pilarcitos Reservoir between storms.
 - Moonridge flooded during latest storm events.
 - Sign up for City of Half Moon Bay eNews for dam release updates.
- Kerry Burke, member of the public:
 - Ted Adcock Community Center is open for people who need refuge from storms.
 - Sign up for San Mateo Alerts.

5. **Committee Member Update(s) and/or Questions** to allow Committee Members to share news and/or concerns for items not on the agenda.

- Lauren Silberman and Fred Crowder, Committee Members:
 - Concern with disruptions and access to emergency services and alerts during storm events due to lack of service and/or power in remote areas.
- Natalie Sare, Committee Vice Chair:
 - Let County Ombudsman, Adria Arko, know of any farms that have been impacted by the storms.
 - Are there any disaster grants for farm damages from the storms?
- Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner:
 - County has a website for storm related resources.
 - Non-emergency issues, call 2-1-1.
 - County Agricultural Department is taking after-the-fact disaster damage assessments for crops and agricultural infrastructure, including agricultural damages due to power outages, that could lead to prioritizing money towards helping agriculture in the County. Not aware of any grants at this time, but may be coming up.
 - USDA Farm Service Agency in Salinas, contact is Vivian Soffa.
- James Oku, Committee Member:
 - Pescadero has been without power for a week rendering coolers and greenhouses inoperable.
- Summer Burlison, Planning Liaison:

- All County public meetings, including Agricultural Advisory Committee, will be returning to in-person meetings starting March 1, 2023.
- AAC meetings will return to the Ted Adcock Community Center in Half Moon Bay. Further details will be shared at the next AAC meeting.
- Revisions to the AAC Bylaws will be forthcoming on a future AAC agenda for review and discussion.
- Lauren Silberman, Committee Secretary:
 - Noted benefit to have County staffing at the AAC meetings moving forward to help manage meetings and increase the AAC's ability to carry out their responsibilities effectively .

6. Committee Nomination for AAC Secretary.

Committee Chair John Vars nominated Fred Crowder to take over secretarial duties for the AAC and Committee member Fred Crowder consented to the nomination. No objections were raised.

7. Committee Discussion on recommendations for topic speakers in the fields of fire resiliency, water, wildlife management, and/or other.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee discussed and provided feedback to the Planning Liaison that fire resiliency and water resources were still priority training topics. A water master for one of the coastside creeks would be beneficial to hear from. Resource Conservation District (RCD) staff may be valuable to hear from related to creating water resources for agricultural operations. Wildlife management is still of interest to the Committee, and the County's UC Human Wildlife Interactions Advisor may be available to speak. Of interest related to wildlife management is how to protect crops from wildlife.

8. Community Development Director's Report

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. Planning Liaison Summer Burlison summarized the items on this month's report.

Regular Agenda

9. Committee Review of (AAC) Subcommittee Meeting Notes on Agritourism Guidelines. Topics to be focused on are the Subcommittee Meeting Notes on Educational Activities, Farm Tours, and Volunteer Service Events, as provided in the accompanying document.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee discussed the distinctions between Educational Activities, Farm Tours, and Volunteer Service Events as agritourism events or core agricultural activities.

AAC Secretary Lauren Silberman offered to work on a draft of the AAC recommendations for review at a future AAC meeting.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. by Committee Chair John Vars.