



## County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department Agricultural Advisory Committee

Jess Brown  
Koren Widdel  
Jim Howard

Summer Burlison  
Judith Humburg  
Lauren Silberman

Louie Figone  
John Vars  
Peter Marchi

William Cook  
Frank McPherson  
Natalie Sare

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### ACTION MINUTES

*Draft*

Monday December 13, 2021

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](mailto: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.

#### 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, Vice Chair/Acting Chair John Vars called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

#### 2. **Member Roll Call**

##### Regular Committee Members Present:

Judith Humburg  
Louie Figone  
John Vars  
William Cook  
Peter Marchi  
Lauren Silberman

##### Regular Committee Members Absent:

Natalie Sare

##### Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner  
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director  
Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

##### Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

Jim Howard, Natural Resource Conservation Staff  
Frank McPherson, UC Co-Op Extension Representative

#### 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 Bill Cook seconded, a motion to adopt the above resolution.

**Motion passed 6-0-0, with 1 absent member.**

**4. Officer Elections for chair and vice chair.****PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

None

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The Committee discussed the continued desire to delay voting on the next Chair and Vice Chair until the committee vacancies are filled.

Committee Member Bill Cook moved, and Committee Member Judee Humberg seconded, a motion to table this item until all vacancies on the committee are filled.

**Motion passed 6-0-0, with 1 absent member.**

**5. 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.**

- Kerry Burke, Land Use Consultant, shared her hope that no one was hurt in the recent large storms and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

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

- Louie Figone, Committee Member, shared that recent storms caused flooding along several areas of Hwy 92, including Repetto's greenhouses and flower stand. The Committee discussed additional flooding and road closures due to the storms.
- Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner, shared on a variety of topics as follows: the county emergency alert system and how to sign up for alerts; recent in person/remote Grower's Workshops offering two hours of professional development and continuing education credits; upcoming vaccine clinics at the Produce Terminal; the county rental assistance program; a county survey on local issues; and an upcoming Office of Community Affairs spotlight series highlighting immigrant services providers.
- Lauren Silberman, Committee Secretary, asked about the process to honor past committee members for their years of service. County staff will follow up and present committee options at the next meeting(s).

**7. Consideration of the Action Minutes for the July 12, 2021, September 13, 2021, October 18, 2021, and November 8, 2021 AAC meetings.****PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

None

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Committee Member Louie Figone moved, and Committee Member Bill Cook seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for the July 12, 2021 AAC regular meeting.

**Motion passed 6-0-0, with 1 absent member.**

Committee Member Bill Cook moved, and Committee Member Judee Humburg seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for the September 13, 2021 AAC regular meeting.

**Motion passed 6-0-0, with 1 absent member.**

Committee Member Bill Cook moved, and Committee Vice Chair/Acting Chair John Vars seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for the October 18, 2021 AAC regular meeting.

**Motion passed 5-0-1, with 1 absent member and one abstention due to absence.**

Committee Member Bill Cook moved, and Committee Member Louie Figone seconded, a motion to approve the minutes for the November 8, 2021 AAC regular meeting.

**Motion passed 5-0-1, with 1 absent member and one abstention due to absence.**

8. **Committee Discussion and Update** on the current COVID-19 pandemic, potential policies needed to protect local agricultural and water from contamination, how the pandemic may affect local food supply, and access to farm labor and resources available to producers and farm workers.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

None

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

No action required. The Committee discussed upcoming vaccine clinics and the mobile vaccine clinics for farms, coordinated by the Agriculture Department; that Coastside Hope is continuing to host vaccine clinics every Friday and Sunday in El Granada; and that free testing is available every Wednesday from 10am-6pm in front of the Ted Adcock Community Center in Half Moon Bay.

8. **Committee Discussion** on action steps for market development for San Mateo County's agricultural production and potential.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

Adria Arko  
 Fred Crowder  
 Ron Sturgeon

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

No action required. The Committee discussed that the group coordinating this project is holding planning meetings, has circulated a community interest survey, and that an initial community interest meeting for this project has been postponed to January 2022, which will likely be held at the Half Moon Bay Library. Member of the public Adria Arko, San Mateo County Agricultural Ombudsman, shared project updates.

The Committee also discussed Community Organization for Family Farms (COFF) agricultural feasibility studies on centralized processing, cold storage, and food outlet locations on the south

coast. Member of the public and retired San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner Fred Crowder shared a copy of the study with Adria Arko's help. Member of the public Ron Sturgeon shared interest in the study and additional planning meeting details including participants, sponsors, and facilitation.

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### **REGULAR AGENDA**

10. **Finalize Committee Review of Draft Farm Stand Guidelines.** The Guidelines were previously discussed at the March 8, 2021, April 12, 2021, May 10, 2021, June 14, 2021, July 12, 2021, August 9, 2021, September 13, 2021, October 18, 2021, and November 8, 2021 AAC Meetings.

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

Fred Crowder  
Adria Arko

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The Committee discussed the details of and consensus against the use of density credits for farm stands, requiring that farm stands sell a minimum percentage of San Mateo County grown produce, and amendments to the discussion notes before approval.

Member of the public Fred Crowder, retired San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner, shared his support of using density credits for farm stands, his worries about farm stands selling too many agricultural products not grown in San Mateo County, and clarifications on the difference between temporary and permanent farm stands.

Member of the public Adria Arko, San Mateo County Agricultural Ombudsman, shared clarifications on the difference between temporary and permanent farm stands and the context of existing PAD and LCP regulations.

Committee Member Bill Cook moved, and Committee Member Louie Figone seconded, a motion to approve the discussion notes on farm stand guidelines as amended.

**Motion passed 6-0-0, with 1 member absent.**

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11. **Community Development Director's Report**

No action required. The Committee reviewed the items on the report, the ongoing process to fill the committee vacancies, and honored the memory of Jim Reynolds, a longtime member of the Pescadero farming community who recently passed.

12. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m. by Committee Vice Chair/Acting Chair John Vars.



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### ACTION MINUTES

*Draft*

Monday January 10, 2022

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](mailto: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.

#### 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, Vice Chair/Acting Chair John Vars called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

#### 2. **Member Roll Call**

##### Regular Committee Members Present:

Judith Humburg  
Natalie Sare  
Louie Figone  
John Vars  
William Cook  
Peter Marchi  
Lauren Silberman

##### Regular Committee Members Absent:

None

##### Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner  
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director  
Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

##### Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

Jim Howard, Natural Resource Conservation Staff  
Frank McPherson, UC Co-Op Extension Representative

#### 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 Bill Cook seconded, a motion to adopt the above resolution.

**Motion passed 7-0-0, with no 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.

None

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

- Bill Cook, Committee Member, requested an update on the process to fill vacant committee positions. County staff shared that interviews are underway, positions will be offered next, and recommendations are anticipated to go before the Board of Supervisors on their January 25 meeting. The county is aiming to have the positions filled by the February 2022 meeting.
- Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner, shared that the Department of Agriculture has limited Covid-19 Rapid Tests available for farmworkers and that the Department is currently issuing Operators ID remotely.
- Lauren Silberman, Committee Secretary, asked to agendaize the Agritourism Subcommittee Meeting Notes from February-March 2021 at the next meeting and inquired about unharvested Brussel sprouts left in the local fields after the recent storms. Other committee members shared that the recent storms affected the harvests across because the heavy rains broke down the Brussel sprouts, prevented heavy machinery from getting into the fields, and many farms lost a lot of their Brussel sprout harvest this year.
- Summer Burlison, San Mateo County Planning Staff, shared about upcoming new member training in February and new AAC binders for members. The committee discussed past AAC member training, a desire for more member training for new and current members, potential training topics, and planning for desired training through a combination of regular and perhaps special meetings. Committee Member Natalie Sare asked to agendaize planning for AAC member training at the next meeting.

6. **Committee Discussion and Update** on the current COVID-19 pandemic, potential policies needed to protect local agricultural and water from contamination, how the pandemic may affect local food supply, and access to farm labor and resources available to producers and farm workers.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

None

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

No action required. The Committee discussed the impacts of the recent Omicron variant surge, shared about a variety of testing and vaccine clinics available across the county, resources on Covid-19 guidelines for employers available through the California Department of Health and Cal-OSHA, Covid-19 relief funds and food distribution services available through local service providers, the county's Covid-19 business compliance online form for reporting violations or unsafe conditions.

7. **Committee Discussion** on action steps for market development for San Mateo County's agricultural production and potential.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

Adria Arko

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

No action required. The Committee discussed that the group coordinating this project is holding planning meetings, has circulated a community interest survey, and that an initial community interest meeting for this project will be rescheduled for after the surge.

Member of the public Adria Arko, San Mateo County Agricultural Ombudsman, shared updates regarding the public interest meeting rescheduled and shared the planning group's desire to hold the meeting in person when possible.

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11. **Community Development Director's Report**

No action required. The Committee reviewed the items on the report, the process for filling the committee vacancies, the process for assigning addresses to properties, the need for address/road markers for safety and rescue vehicles across the south coast. Committee Member Bill Cook shared that all coastside addresses relate to milage on the road. Starting at the Santa Cruz County line and moving north, all addresses on Hwy 1 are based on mileage from the county line. For all roads heading inland from Hwy 1, addresses are equivalent to milage from Hwy 1.

Member of the public Kerry Burke asked about the county policy of not assigning addresses to vacant properties. County staff shared that this practice is tied to setting up PG&E service/hookups, which requires an address due to previous violations case in the past.

Member of the public Dante Silvestri shared that address/road markers are a safety issue, and that Cal-Trans was starting to replace them on the south coast.

12. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m. by Committee Vice Chair/Acting Chair John Vars.