



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
Peter Marchi
Natalie Sare

Ryan Casey
James Oku
Jonathan Winslow

County Office Building
455 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, California 94063
650/363-1825

ACTION MINUTES

Draft

Monday December 12, 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. 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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Guykhejfhlw>.

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 7:07 p.m.

2. **Member Roll Call**

Regular Committee Members Present:

Judith Humburg
James Oku
Jonathan Winslow
John Vars
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey
Fred Crowder

Regular Committee Members Absent:

Natalie Sare
Lauren Silberman

Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director

Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

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

Planning Liaison Present:

Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

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 Chair John Vars moved, and Committee Member Fred Crowder seconded, to adopt the above resolution. No objections were raised and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Consideration of the Action Minutes** for the June 13, 2022 and September 12, 2022 AAC meetings.

Committee Member Fred Crowder moved, and Committee Member James Oku seconded, a motion to approve the Action Minutes for June 13, 2022 and September 12, 2022.

Motion passed 6-0-1, with 1 abstention.

5. **Consideration of the 2023 AAC Meeting Schedule.**

No objects were raised and the schedule was unanimously approved by the Committee.

6. **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.

No speakers.

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

- Peter Marchi, Committee Member, shared that last weekend there was a mountain lion sighting in San Gregorio.
- John Vars, Committee Chair, updating members on his attendance at the County's initial Farmworker Advisory Committee meeting.
- Summer Burlison, Planning Liaison, announced that County public meetings will be returning to in-person meetings starting March 2023.

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

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee reviewed the items on this month's report.

Regular Agenda

9. **Informational/Training Item** on the County's Farm Labor Housing Guidelines, Application Process and Procedures. Presenter: Summer Burlison, Planning Liaison.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Kerry Burke

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action taken. The Committee discussed and asked clarifying questions regarding type of housing units allowed for farm labor housing, minimum housing size requirements, and need for assistance for applicants to navigate through the permitting and loan process.

10. **Committee Review of (AAC) Subcommittee Meeting Notes on Agritourism Guidelines.**

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action taken. The Committee reviewed previous discussion on this item regarding length and frequency of allowed agritourism activities and farm dinners. The Committee focused continued conversation on defining farm tours and educational tours.

11. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m. by Committee Chair John Vars.



County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department Agricultural Advisory Committee

John Vars, Chair
Natalie Sare, Vice Chair
Lauren Silberman, Secretary
Frank McPherson

James Oku
Jess Brown
Jim Howard
Jonathan Winslow

Koren Widdel
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey

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ACTION MINUTES

Draft

Monday April 10, 2023

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/QPNfkhCowbo>.

1. **Call to Order**

At the Ted Adcock Community Center, in the South Day Room, located at 535 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay, Vice Chair Natalie Sare called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. **Member Roll Call**

Regular Committee Members Present:

Natalie Sare
John Vars
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey
Jonathan Winslow

Regular Committee Members Absent:

James Oku
Lauren Silberman

Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director

Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

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

Planning Liaison Present:

Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

3. **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.

- Adria Arko, San Mateo Resource Conservation District, introduced the new County Agricultural Ombudsman, Eliza Milio.
- Eliza Milio, San Mateo Resource Conservation District Agricultural Program Manager and Agricultural Ombudsman, introduced herself to the Committee.
- Dante Silvestri, member of the public, voiced desire for Peninsula Open Space Trust to write in utility easements over lands associated with the Lake Lucerne Mutual Water Company

that are planned to be transferred to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District before any land transfer occurs.

- Kerry Burke, member of the public, shared that Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's agricultural policies for agricultural land management on the Coastside is in public review and encouraged all to review and submit input to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

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

- Koren Widdel, Agricultural Commissioner, announced minimum wage increased to \$16.50 as of April 1, 2023 for all unincorporated areas regardless of the size of the business; encouraged certified producers to submit for certification 2 weeks prior to certificate expiration to allow proper time for processing; and that the County Ag Department is working on trying to address a noxious weed, A-rated pokeweed, that was being sold as a cut flower for a short period of time.
- Natalie Sare, Committee Vice Chair, requested clarification on the projects reported in the Director's Report.
- Summer Burlison, Planning Liaison, reviewed general project categories included in the Director's Report each month.

5. **Community Development Director's Report.** (*Planning Liaison*)

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee reviewed the items on this month's report.

Regular Agenda

6. **Informational Item** on water supply wells in San Mateo County. Presenter: Gregory Smith, Water Protection and Land Use Programs Supervisor, County Environmental Health Services. A copy of the presentation slides is available at: <https://www.smcgov.org/planning/event/agricultural-advisory-committee-meeting-april-10-2023>.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Kerry Burke
Dante Silvestri

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The presenter addressed a clarifying question from the committee that drilling a hole in the ground, such as a boring for a geotechnical study, does not require a permit from Environmental Health Services if only going down 9 ft. However, if 10 ft. or greater, even if just a boring without construction, a permit from Environmental Health Services is required. Separately, the minimum sanitary seal depth is 20 ft.

7. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. by Committee Chair John Vars.



County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department Agricultural Advisory Committee

John Vars, Chair
Natalie Sare, Vice Chair
Lauren Silberman, Secretary
Dr. Igor Lacan

James Oku
Jess Brown
Jim Howard
Jonathan Winslow

Koren Widdel
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey

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ACTION MINUTES

Draft
Monday May 8, 2023

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/ZOtJVUmK3aE>.

1. **Call to Order**

At the Ted Adcock Community Center, in the South Day Room, located at 535 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay, Chair John Vars called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

2. **Member Roll Call**

Regular Committee Members Present:

James Oku
Natalie Sare
John Vars
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey
Jonathan Winslow

Regular Committee Members Absent:

Lauren Silberman

Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director

Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

Jim Howard, Natural Resource Conservation Staff
Dr. Igor Lacan, UC Co-Op Extension Representative

Planning Liaison Present:

Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

3. **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, member of the public, announced that on tomorrow's Board of Supervisors meeting agenda is a Measure K item for \$1,000,000 earmarked for farmworker housing.
- Ray Mueller, District 3 Board of Supervisor, explained the Measure K item on tomorrow's Board of Supervisors' agenda; that the County farm labor housing survey and task force is informing the County about how much farmworker housing supply exists to help determine how much is needed; and that the task force inspections are to verify current supply and create an inventory of issues that the County can work on addressing.

- BJ Burns, member of the public, shared that all farmworker housing sites should be inspected now to get inspections done and get any issues addressed rather than delay working on improving farmworker housing in the County.
- Dante Silvestri, member of the public, posed questions as to why farming does not occur on three Peninsula Open Space Trust parcels excluded from the “WCBE” (Wildlife Conservation Board Easement) and why the land is not offered to farmers with water.
- Mike Williams, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Trust, shared that further research is needed to answer questions raised by Dante Silvestri regarding three parcels excluded from the WCBE.

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

- Peter Marchi, Committee Member, provided praise to Environmental Health Services’ presentation at the last AAC meeting on water supply wells.
- Koren Widdel, Agricultural Commissioner, shared that the Department of Pesticide Regulation is proposing changes to decontamination facility requirements and that a public hearing will be held on May 17, 2023 for public comment. The Department of Pesticide Regulation is also proposing to increase fine levels for Class A and Class B fines. The Ag Department is moving forward on the Ag ID Program and will schedule time at a future AAC agenda to discuss.
- Natalie Sare, Committee Vice Chair, requested the Committee invite a speaker to present on family farm transfer (tax) exemptions under Proposition 19.

5. **Consideration of Action Minutes** for the January 9, 2023 AAC meeting.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Committee Chair John Vars moved, and Committee Member Jonathan Winslow seconded, a motion to continue the item to the next meeting to allow time for committee members to review.

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

6. **Discuss** a recommendation to the County to encourage Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) to provide utility/water easements on their agricultural lands, associated with Lake Lucerne Mutual Water Company, before acquisitions by Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Dante Silvestri
 Kerry Burke
 BJ Burns
 Mike Williams
 Dan Sare

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action taken. The committee discussed the topic with members of the public and a representative in the audience from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District regarding utility easements and Lake Lucerne Water Company shareholder interests.

7. **Community Development Director's Report.** *(Planning Liaison)*

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee reviewed the items on this month's report.

Regular Agenda

8. **Presentation and Discussion** on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Draft Agricultural Policy. Presenter: Lewis Reed, Rangeland Ecologist/Botanist, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

James Ingalsbe
Kerry Burke
Dante Silvestri
Rob Skinner

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The presenter provided a summary of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Draft Agricultural Policy development background, the Policy's main goals and implementation measures, and timeline for adoption, and received questions and comments from committee members and members of the public.

9. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. by Committee Chair John Vars.