



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

John Vars  
Koren Widdel  
Jess Brown  
Jim Howard

Frank McPherson  
Judith Humburg  
Lauren Silberman  
Louie Figone

William Cook  
Peter Marchi  
Natalie Sare  
Fred Crowder

Ryan Casey  
James Oku  
Jonathan Winslow  
Summer Burlison

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### ACTION MINUTES

*Adopted as amended on March 14, 2022*  
Monday February 14, 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 7:06 p.m.

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

##### Regular Committee Members Present:

Judith Humburg  
James Oku  
Natalie Sare  
Louie Figone  
John Vars  
William Cook  
Peter Marchi  
Ryan Casey  
Fred Crowder  
Lauren Silberman  
Jonathan Winslow

##### Regular Committee Members Absent:

None

##### 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  
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director

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 Louie Figone seconded, a motion to adopt the above resolution.

**Motion passed 11-0-0, with no absent members.**

4. **Introduction of New Members** appointed to the Agricultural Advisory Committee in January 2022, including Fred Crowder, Ryan Casey, James Oku, and Jonathan Winslow.

No action required. New members of the committee shared a few words about their backgrounds and interest in joining the committee. Current members followed up by introducing themselves and welcoming new members to the committee.

5. **Officer Elections** for chair and vice chair, item continued from December 13, 2021 meeting.

The committee discussed a desire to move this item to the next meeting to allow new and current committee members more time to get to know each other and make an informed decision.

Committee Member Louie Figone moved, and Committee Member Fred Crowder seconded, a motion to move this item to the March agenda to allow the new members a meeting to get to know the other members.

**Motion passed 11-0-0, with no absent members.**

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.

None

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

- Don Horsley, San Mateo County Supervisor, joined the beginning of the meeting to welcome new members, thank all applicants for their enthusiastic interest in local agriculture, and also swore in new member Jonathan Winslow.
- Bill Cook, Committee Member, shared about the recent celebration of life for Jim Reynolds, a cornerstone of the local community in Pescadero and the south coast.
- Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner, shared about the following:
  - The Department of Agriculture recently held a Grower's Workshop on Covid-19 with a panel of representatives from the Health Department and Cal-OSHA; the recording is available upon request to the Agriculture Department.
  - The Department of Agriculture has Covid-19 PPE including K-95 and surgical masks and hand sanitizers are available as well as coveralls and face shields for non-pesticide related applications available for farmers.
  - The Department of Agriculture is gathering community interest for a pesticide disposal event for production agriculture to get rid of old pesticides.

- The County sent all committee members a demographic survey and notification regarding committee member training that is available on March 3, 2022 from 8:30am – 11:00am.

8. **Consideration of the Action Minutes** for the December 13, 2021 and January 10, 2022 AAC meetings.

Committee Member Bill Cook moved, and Committee Member Fred Crowder seconded, a motion to approve the Action Minutes for December 13, 2021 and January 10, 2022.

**Motion for December 13, 2021 Action Minutes passed 8-0-3, with 3 abstentions due to absence or not yet being a committee member at the time of the meeting.**

**Motion for January 10, 2022 Action Minutes passed 9-0-2, with 2 abstentions due to absence or not yet being a committee member at the time of the meeting.**

9. **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 continued availability of Covid-19 testing and vaccinations clinics weekly across the coastside, that the federal government made Covid-19 rapid tests available through the Postal Service, and that the Department of Agriculture and local service providers also have rapid tests available by request.

10. **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 continues to conduct planning work, that the initial community interest meeting for this project will be rescheduled for after the surge, and potential Covid-19 safe locations for the interest meeting.

Member of the public Adria Arko, San Mateo County Agricultural Ombudsman, shared updates regarding the public interest meeting being rescheduled and potential Covid-19 safe locations for the interest meeting.

11. **Committee Discussion** to plan for future trainings in topics including but not limited to water, Planned Agricultural District/agricultural land use regulations, wildlife conservation, and Brown Act compliance.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

None

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

No action required. The Committee discussed the upcoming San Mateo County Boards and Commissions Members Training on March 3, 2022 from 8:30am – 11:00am, that a recording of this training will be available to those who cannot attend, and the desire for a committee specific training on PAD and land use regulations that relate to AAC work.

**Regular Agenda**

12. **Owner:** Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Peninsula Open Space Trust  
**Applicant:** Mike Williams (MROSD) and Ben Wright (POST)  
**File Number:** PLN2021-00381  
**Location:** Higgins Canyon Road, unincorp Half Moon Bay  
**Assessor’s Parcel No.:** 064-370-200, 064-370-070, 065-210-240, and 065-210-220

Consideration of a Certificate of Compliance (Type B), Lot Line Adjustment, Planned Agricultural District Permit, Rescind and Replace existing California Land Conservation Act and Farmland Security Zone Contracts (Williamson Act), and Land Conservation Act modifications. Please direct any questions to Project Planner Angela Chavez at [AChavez@smcgov.org](mailto:AChavez@smcgov.org).

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

Ron Sturgeon  
 Sandy Sommer  
 Kerry Burke

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

The applicants provided a presentation to the committee about the project. The Committee discussed conducting a site visit and related logistics, past public meetings on the project site in 2021, Williamson Act versus Open Space protections for agricultural activity, the water sources for the agricultural ponds on the project site, and how the proposed lot line adjustments affect zoning, water, and related agricultural rules and regulations. The applicants invited small groups of interested committee members to conduct site visits before the next committee meeting.

Member of the public Ron Sturgeon raised several clarifying questions that drove discussions, including inquiring why the Williamson Act is being rescinded and replaced by an Open Space contract/easement for several proposed parcels; shared his desire to keep Williamson Act protections in place, which requires agricultural activity; and shared his desire for the committee to conduct a noticed, Brown Act compliant site visit as part of the consideration of this project. The applicant and planner shared points of clarification regarding the questions.

Member of the public Sandy Sommer shared that she is a consultant on the project and can help answer questions.

Member of the public Kerry Burke also raised several clarifying questions that drove discussions, including if the new/proposed parcel 3 meets the size requirements for the PAD and General Plan, if all new parcels created by lot line adjustments will be considered legal parcels, and if separate domestic water sources will be required for these new parcels. The applicant and planner shared points of clarification regarding the questions.

Committee Secretary Lauren Silberman moved, and Committee Member Fred Crowder seconded, a motion to table the rest of this discussion and all following items on the agenda to the next meeting.

**Motion passed 11-0-0, with no absent members.**

13. **Committee Review of (AAC) Subcommittee Meeting Notes on Agritourism Guidelines** from Subcommittee Meeting 1 (January 28, 2021) and Subcommittee Meeting 2 (February 17, 2021).

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

None

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Per previous motion, this agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

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

Per previous motion, this agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

15. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. by Committee Vice Chair/Acting Chair John Vars.