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Agricultural Advisory Committee
DRAFT Minutes from June 22, 2023

Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

ACTION MINUTES

Location:	<i>Ag Conference Center, 1428 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA. 93901</i>	
Date:	June 22, 2023	
Time:	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	
Present:	<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Staff and Guests</i>
	Sherwood Darington Alex Eastman (VC) Mike Ferguson Kurt Gollnick Nick Huntington CJ Miller Kevin Piearcy* Matt Shea (C) Scott Storm Scott Violini*	Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager Mary Grace Perry, Deputy County Counsel Julianna De La Paz, Admin Secretary-Confidential (AgC) Kayla Nelson, HCD Planning Norm Groot, Farm Bureau Victor Riolo, APCO-ETTNER Scott Ettner, APCO-ETTNER
Absent:	Erik Heacox	

C- Chair; VC- Vice Chair

* Scott Violini arrived during item VI. at 2:35 pm. and Kevin Piearcy arrived during VIII. at 2:43 pm.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair M. Shea at 2:31 pm.

II. Additions and Corrections

- *None*

III. Consent- Committee Business

1. Approval of minutes from April 27, 2023 AAC Meeting

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members A. Eastman and S. Darington and **passed** by the following vote:

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Miller, Shea, and Storm

NOES: None

ABSENT: Heacox, Piearcy*, and Violini*

ABSTAIN: None

IV. Public Comment- On items not on the agenda.

- *None*

V. Agricultural Commissioner's Update

Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager

- *Ag Pass – Granted 62 Ag Passes on June 5, 2023 to individuals that applied and qualified based on program criteria, and who successfully attended and completed the 4 hour Fire and Safety Training held in person on June 5, 2023.*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- *None*

VI. Monterey County Housing and Community Development - Planning Department

NORTH AMERICAN SEED COMPANY ET AL PLN200151

- Project Planner: Marlene Garcia, Assistant Planner
- Project Title: North American Seed Co. ET AL
- Planning File No.: PLN200151
- APNs: 418-401-009-000
- Project Location: 39247 Metz Rd, King City, CA
- Zoning: F/40; Central Salinas Valley Area Plan
- Project Description: Use Permit to allow the operation of an agricultural support facility (seed processing plant) including the construction of two 17,000 square foot metal buildings and a 16,000 square foot metal storage building. The project includes the removal of existing associated site improvements. The site is under a Williamson Act Contract.

ACTION REQUESTED/CEQA ACTION: Support approval of Use Permit by the Zoning Administrator for the construction of two metal buildings and a metal storage building accessory to the principal use which is agriculture. **Proposed CEQA Action:** Support finding that the project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Code of Civil Regulations (CCR) Section 15303- New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and there are no exceptions pursuant to Section 15300.2.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- *None*

MOTION 1: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members K. Gollnick and S. Darington and **passed** by the following vote to recommend support approval of the project:

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Miller, Shea, Storm and Violini

NOES: None

ABSENT: Heacox, Piearcy*

ABSTAIN:None

MOTION 2: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members S. Violini and N. Huntington and **passed** by the following vote to recommend support finding that the subject project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines

Code of Civil Regulations (CCR) Section 15303- New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and there are no exceptions pursuant to Section 15300.2.:

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Miller, Shea, Storm and Violini

NOES: None

ABSENT: Heacox, Piarcy*

ABSTAIN:None

VII. Administrative Matters

Departure of Julianna “Julie” De La Paz, Admin Secretary-Confidential with Ag Commissioner’s Office. Thank you for your service to the AAC and to the Ag Commissioner’s Office. Good luck in your new employment with Supervisor Chris Lopez (District 3).

VIII. Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments

AAC AdHoc Subcommittee Discussion: Committee members S. Darington and S. Violini addressed the issue with not having all AAC AdHoc Subcommittee members present at these AAC AdHoc Subcommittee meetings (scheduled on the 2nd Monday of each month) to consider the AG Land Conservation Mitigation strategies presented by County HCD (Melanie Berreti and Taylor Price). The Subcommittee have had split decisions on the ag mitigation ratios options because not all members are present, leaving a small number of committee members (usually four members) with split decisions. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled on August 14 and it is important all Subcommittee members attend in order to have additional votes on the subject mitigation ratios to not face another split decision. Norm Groot identified he would not be able to attend the Subcommittee meeting in August as a Subcommittee member due to pre-scheduled plans. He may send a proxy to represent Farm Bureau at the next meeting. Once the Subcommittee has successfully passed a recommendation, the item will be before the regular Ag Advisory Committee, hopefully by the end of August 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Norm Groot, Farm Bureau

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

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