

# Monterey County Agricultural Advisory Committee

Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
 1428 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA 93901 ♦ Phone: 831.759.7325

**Annual Report: July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015**

<b>Month / Subject</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Action / Recommendation</b>
<b><i>September 2014</i></b>		
Recognized outgoing chair Raymond “Ridge” Watson.	<i>Eric Lauritzen</i> Agricultural Commissioner	Plaque presentation
<b><u>Public Comments</u></b> Groundwater recharge and desalination project	<i>Public</i>	No action required.
<b><u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued focus on pesticide use near schools</li> <li>• EPA Region 9 to test hard surfaces at school sites</li> <li>• Williamson Act applications</li> </ul>	<i>Eric Lauritzen</i> Agricultural Commissioner  <i>Bob Roach</i> Assistant Agricultural Commissioner	No action required.
<b><u>Resource Management Agency</u></b> A. Davis Road Bridge Replacement Update	<i>Enrique Saavedra</i> Senior Civil Engineer	Informational item. No action required
B. Comunidad Cristiana de Fe y Amor	<i>Delinda Robinson</i> Senior Planner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee provided input on siting a church in and adjacent to ag zoned land.</li> <li>• No motion required.</li> </ul>
<b><u>Administrative Matters</u></b> Two at-large members who are not eligible for another term on the committee.	<i>Committee</i>	Bill Lipe, Steve de Lorimier, and Kurt Gollnick (absent) will form a subcommittee to research possible candidates.

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<b>October 2014</b>		
<p><b><u>Public Comments</u></b> David Hart, the committee’s representative on the Water Resources Agency Board, asked for their recommendation for another term.</p>	<p><i>David Hart</i> Agricultural Advisory Committee’s representative on the Water Resources Agency’s Board</p>	<p>This item will be placed on the December 4, 2014, meeting agenda.</p>
<p>Request for the AAC to revisit fracking issues and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.</p>	<p><i>Aaron Johnson</i>, representing Monterey County for Energy Independence</p>	<p>Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Bob Roach will explore the current status of the issue within the County and when it is appropriate for the committee to address.</p>
<p><b><u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u></b> Salinas River Arundo Removal Project began removing stands of invasive arundo from the river. Williamson Act Ag Preserve Committee met to consider 2015 ag preserves. Right to Farm Ordinance goes to the Board of Supervisors on 10/28/2015. Christina McGinnis, Wendy Strimling and Nadia Amador have started discussing revisions to the 2010 Ag Buffer Policy.</p>	<p><i>Bob Roach</i> Assistant Agricultural Commissioner</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
<p><b><u>Rooster Keeping Ordinance (Draft)</u></b> Committee to provide comments/concerns to be considered for incorporation into the draft ordinance.</p>	<p><i>John Ramirez</i>, MPA, REHS Director, Environmental Health Bureau</p>	<p>A motion was made for staff to work with 4H/FFA/Hobbyists and breeders to address the input of the AAC comments and concerns. Public comment was received.</p>
<p><b><u>Administrative Matters</u></b> • Election of committee officers • Committee appointments</p>	<p><i>Committee</i></p>	<p>The At-Large Subcommittee will meet to discuss and review potential candidates and report back to the full committee.</p>

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<b>February 2015</b>		
<b>A. <u>Agricultural Commissioner's Update</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmworker Advisory Committee</li> <li>• Pesticides and Schools</li> <li>• Light Brown Apple Moth</li> <li>• Mendocino County's USDA Cooperative Wildlife Services program</li> <li>• Reports being updated/developed: Economic Contributions, Ranch Map and 2014 Crop Report</li> </ul>	<i>Eric Lauritzen</i> Agricultural Commissioner	No action required.
<b>B. Assistant Agricultural Commissioner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of fracking issue</li> </ul>	<i>Bob Roach</i> Assistant Agricultural Commissioner	No action required.
<b>C. Ag Programs Manager</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports being developed regarding conservation principles</li> <li>• Status of school food issues</li> <li>• Erosion control complaints</li> <li>• Buffer zone ordinance</li> </ul>	<i>Christina McGinnis</i> Ag Programs Manager	No action required.
<b><u>Resource Management Agency</u></b> <p>A. General Plan Settlement Update</p> <p>B. Agrothrive Use Permit</p> <p>C. Scheid Vineyards Use Permit</p> <p>D. Ventana Property Holdings Minor Subdivision</p>	<i>Carl Holm</i> Acting Deputy Director  <i>David Mack</i> Associate Planner  <i>David Mack</i> Associate Planner  <i>Joe Sidor</i> Associate Planner	Informational item. No action required.  Motion passed to recommend approval by the Planning Commission of the permit with contingencies. Public comment received.  Motion passed to recommend approval of the use permit by the Planning Commission.  Motion passed to recommend approval of the minor subdivision by the Planning Commission.
<b><u>Grazing Regulatory Action Project</u></b> Update on the series of meetings recently held by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to obtain input.	<i>Scott Violini</i> Cattleman & Committee Member	Scott Violini will draft a response letter for review and signature by the AAC. Public comment received.

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<b><u>Administrative Matters</u></b>		
A. Reappointment of David Hart to the Water Resources Agency Board.	<i>Committee</i>	Committee voted to recommend the Board of Supervisors approve nomination of David Hart to another term on the WRA Board.
B. 2015 Meeting Schedule	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the 2015 meeting schedule of the AAC.
C. Elect Committee Officers	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed electing committee officers.
D. Committee Appointments	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to request the Board of Supervisors to approve the appointment of Jocelyn Bridson to the AAC as an At-Large member.
<b><u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u></b>	<i>Committee</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee requested feedback regarding their recommendations being put into action;</li> <li>• Committee expressed appreciation for Carl Holm's comments regarding the well ordinance;</li> <li>• The Ag Commissioner welcomed Kirk Williams, representing District 3, as the newest committee member.</li> </ul>
<b><i>March 2015</i></b>		
<b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b>	<i>Committee</i>	Approval with two corrections in the February 26, 2015, minutes.
<b><u>Agricultural Commissioner's Update</u></b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPR outreach meetings throughout CA regarding pesticides around schools;</li> <li>• Fumigant use notification discussed at DPR workshop;</li> </ul>	<i>Eric Lauritzen</i> Agricultural Commissioner	No action required.
<b><u>Resource Management Agency</u></b>		
A. General Plan Settlement Items Update	<i>Carl Holm</i> Acting Deputy Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee provided input as requested.</li> <li>• Recommended the Board of Supervisors reject all amendments being proposed.</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Comment received.</li></ul>

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B. Marina-Salinas Multimodal Corridor	<i>Carl Holm</i> Acting Deputy Director	Committee provided input as requested.
C. Development Evaluation System (DES)	<i>Anna Quenga</i> Associate Planner	Committee provided input as requested.
<b><u>Administrative Matters</u></b>		
A. Water Resources Agency Board Nomination Reappointment	<i>Committee</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved sending a corrected letter to the WRA.</li> <li>• Approved incoming member to replace at-large position held by Mike Manfre.</li> </ul>
B. Replacement of at-large member with Jocelyn Bridson		
<b><i>June 2015</i></b>		
<b><u>Approval of Minutes</u></b>	<i>Committee</i>	Minutes of the March 26, 2015, meeting were approved.
<b><u>Agricultural Commissioner's Update</u></b> Advised of the reduction in hours of operation for the South County office.	<i>Bob Roach</i> Assistant Agricultural Commissioner	No action required.
Advised the Economic Report and the 2014 Crop Report were in the production phase.	<i>Christina McGinnis</i> Agriculture Program Manager	No action required.
<b><u>Resource Management Agency</u></b>		
A. Tanimura & Antle Agricultural Housing Project	<i>Bob Schubert</i> Senior Planner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee provided comments and concerns.</li> <li>• Motion to recommend approval by the Planning Commission with conditions failed to pass. No other motion made.</li> <li>• Public comment received.</li> </ul>
B. Gonzales River Bridge Replacement	<i>Enrique Saavedra</i> Acting Assistant Public Works Director	Informational item. No action required.
C. Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP)	<i>Scott Violini</i> Cattleman and Committee Member	Item was deferred to a later date.

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D. Groundwater Sustainability Act	<i>Robert Johnson</i> Assistant General Manager/Chief Water Resources Planning Water Resources Agency	Received report and viewed PowerPoint presentation. Public comment received.
<b><u>Administrative Matters</u></b> Appointments	<i>Committee</i>	Motion to recommend approval by the Board of Supervisors the appointment of Nick Huntington as an at-large member replacing Manuel Morales who had served three, three-year terms.  Allen Davis has been chosen by the Strawberry Commission as their representative on the Committee.

<b>Cancelled Meetings</b>
May 28, 2015
April 23, 2015
January 22, 2015
December 4, 2014
November – No meeting scheduled
August 28, 2014