

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FY 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



County of Monterey
Agricultural Commissioner's Office
1428 Abbott Street • Salinas, CA 93901

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to advise and recommend to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and other county boards, commissions, and departments on matters affecting or of interest to the agricultural industry.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) consists of 13 members who are residents of the County of Monterey and represent agricultural interests.

During FY 2019-20 Committee Officers were: ***Bill Lipe, Chair*** and ***Dr. Alex Eastman, Vice Chair***.

Supervisors' Appointees

Kurt Gollnick ~ District 1
Dennis Sites ~ District 2
Kirk Williams ~ District 3
Sherwood Darington ~ District 4
Matt Shea ~ District 5

Agricultural Association Representatives

Erik Heacox ~ Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
Tony Marci ~ California Strawberry Commission
William (Bill) Lipe ~ Monterey County Farm Bureau
Scott Storm ~ Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association
Scott Violini ~ Monterey County Cattlemen's Association

At-Large Members

Jocelyn Bridson
Alexandra Eastman, DVM
Nick Huntington

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
September 26, 2019		
<u>Consent</u> A. June 27, 2019, Meeting Minutes	<i>Committee</i>	
B. Resource Management Agency - Planning Gonzalez; Variance Request (PLN180375)	<i>Nadia Garcia</i>	Motion passed to approve Consent items A through C.
C. Resource Management Agency - Planning Echenique (PLN180527)	<i>Associate Planner</i>	
<u>Agricultural Commissioner's Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivation of industrial hemp emergency ordinance • Mira Monte Annexation ag buffer recommendations • Asian Citrus Psyllid finds • Head lettuce and salad products ordinance repeal 	<i>Henry Gonzales</i> <i>Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> Silva – Orchard Expansion	<i>Nadia Garcia</i> <i>Associate Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the RMA Chief of Planning.
<u>Administrative Matters</u> A. Robert's Rules of Order review B. Attendance C. Appointments	<i>Staff</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Agricultural Committee Comments</u> Excessive trash along River Road left by agricultural vehicles.	<i>Committee</i>	No action necessary.

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
October 24, 2019		
<p><u>Consent</u> A. Committee Business: 1. September 26, 2019, meeting minutes 3. 2020 Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule 4. 2020 AAC Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meeting Schedule</p>	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve Consent items 1, 3, and 4. Item 2 was separated.
<p>2. FY 2018-19 Annual Report</p>	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to accept the annual report for submission to the Board of Supervisors. Chair Lipe thanked Kathy Nielsen for preparing the report.
<p><u>B. Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> 1. Tusji (Coasta Bella) Administrative Permit 2. Luiz (Coasta Bella) Administrative Permit 3. Luiz (Coasta Bella) Administrative Permit</p>	<i>Nadia Garcia Associate Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Monterey County Zoning Administrator.
<p><u>Public Comment</u></p>	<i>Norm Groot Monterey County Farm Bureau</i>	No action necessary.
<p><u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u> • CACASA Conference • Repeal of head lettuce ordinance to the Board • Industrial Hemp update</p>	<i>Jose Chang Assistant Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
<p><u>Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> 2020 Williamson Act Applications</p>	<i>Nadia Garcia Associate Planner</i>	The Committee made recommendations as follows: Approval: 001 through 005 and 007 Denial: 006 Continuance: 009 and 011 Partial Approval: 010
<p><u>Administrative Matters</u></p>	<i>None</i>	None
<p><u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u></p>	<i>None</i>	None

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
December 5, 2019		
<u>Consent</u> October 25, 2019, meeting minutes	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the meeting minutes as corrected.
<u>Public Comment</u>	<i>None</i>	None
<u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head lettuce ordinance repealed by the Board • Registered hemp cultivator harvested and passed testing • Asian Citrus Psyllid updated • Marina Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is now part of the Coast District Office • Lettuce Mosaic Virus Host-Free Period • AgKnowledge applications are being accepted. 	<i>Henry Gonzales Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> A. Spreckels Industrial Park	<i>Jaime Guthrie Associate Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the RMA Chief of Planning.
B. OP Murphy + Gill	<i>Jaime Guthrie Associate Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors.
C. El Rancho Toro Farmworker Housing	<i>Jacquelyn Nickerson Associate Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Planning Commission.
<u>Administrative Matters</u>	<i>None</i>	None
<u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u>	<i>None</i>	None
January 23, 2020		
<u>Consent</u> December 5, 2019, meeting minutes	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the minutes with correction.
<u>Public Comment</u>	<i>None</i>	None
<u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian Citrus Psyllid update • Information request from Sacramento Bee • AB 1919 – DPR Civil Penalty fines 	<i>Henry Gonzales Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
<u>Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> A. Berkshire Lot Line Adjustment & Ag Support Facility	<i>Craig Spencer</i> <i>Supervising Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Zoning Administrator.
B. Emerald Valley Cannabis Cultivation Administrative Permit	<i>Craig Spencer</i> <i>Supervising Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the RMA Chief of Planning.
<u>Administrative Matters</u> Committee members’ term expirations.	<i>Staff</i>	Members were advised to contact their respective district supervisor or organization about reappointment.
<u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning items impacting ag lands will be brought to the Committee for review. • Update requested on AB 1234 ethics training. 	<i>Committee</i>	Committee members will be sent a reminder to complete training before expiration of the current certificate.
February 27, 2020		
<u>Consent</u> January 23, 2020, meeting minutes	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the minutes.
<u>Consent – RMA - Planning</u> Rancho Galante Lot Line Adjustment	<i>Nadia Garcia</i> <i>Associate Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the RMA Chief of Planning.
<u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trapping and Pest Detection program started early; • LBAM compliance agreements were renewed; • Compliance agreements for berry growers have been prepared; • Presented recommendations to expand the industrial hemp program and an emergency regulation by CDFA to define regulation requirements. 	<i>Henry Gonzales</i> <i>Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary
<u>Public Comment</u>	<i>Norm Groot</i> <i>Monterey County Farm Bureau</i>	No action necessary.

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
<u>Administrative Matters</u> A. Select Committee member to participate in S.O.S. Traffic Safety Alliance public outreach.	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed for Scott Storm to represent the AAC.
B. AAC At-Large position vacancy Establish deadline for submission of applications.	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to establish March 18, 2020, as the deadline for applications to be submitted.
April 23, 2020		
<u>Consent</u> February 27, 2020, meeting minutes	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the meeting minutes.
<u>Consent – RMA – Planning</u> King Ranch LLC (PLN200011) Lot Line Adjustment	<i>Nadia Garcia Associate Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the RMA-Chief of Planning.
<u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department remains open and engaged in most activities; • Working with Supervisors Lopez and Alejo, MCVGA, Farm Bureau, GSA and the California Strawberry Commission on COVID-19 recommendations to industry; updates provided as they arise; • Phone survey conducted to determine impacts of COVID-19 on growers. Our office will put together a damage report to address losses and try to tap into federal funds; • In-house survey of exportation that has been affected by COVID-19. 	<i>Henry Gonzales Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Public Comment</u>	<i>Vanessa Tomayo</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> Café Tori Investments (Harvest Moon Agricultural Employee Housing)	<i>Yasmeen Hussain, Project Planner Cheryl Ku, Project Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Monterey County Planning Commission.
<u>Administrative Matters</u> AAC At-Large Position Vacancy	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to appoint Amy White to the At-Large position.

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
<u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u> Recommend voting for new Committee officers at the next meeting.	<i>Alex Eastman</i> <i>Vice Chair</i>	Item will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.
June 25, 2020		
<u>Consent</u> June 25, 2020, meeting minutes	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the meeting minutes.
<u>Public Comment</u>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<u>Agricultural Commissioner's Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2019 Crop Report presented at Zoom media event and to Board of Supervisors;• Complaints received about growers not enforcing COVID-19 safety protocols;• COVID-19 information card distributed to farmworkers;• Face masks received from CDFR and Monterey County distributed to farmworkers;• About 20% of office staff working from home.	<i>Henry Gonzales</i> <i>Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary
<u>RMA – Planning</u> A. Montanez & Gonzalez Use Permit (PLN190374)	<i>Son Pham-Gallardo</i> <i>Project Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Zoning Administrator.
B. Wireless Communication Facility (Tower (PLN200073))	<i>Cheryl Ku</i> <i>Project Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Zoning Administrator.
<u>Administrative Matters</u> A. At-Large Position Vacancy. Reconsider applications for vacancy, direct staff, and forward recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to send the information to the Board of Supervisors to request they decide between the two applicants.
B. Committee Officer Selections	<i>Committee</i>	Motions passed to appoint Nick Huntington as the new Chair and Alex Eastman as the Vice Chair.
<u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u> Recognize outgoing Committee Member Matt Shea for his service on the Committee.	<i>Scott Violini</i> <i>Committee Member</i>	No action necessary.

Canceled Meetings:

July 25, 2019 September 22, 2019
March 26, 2020 May 28, 2020

There were no Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee meetings held in FY 2019-20.

End of report