

MONTEREY COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)
 Agricultural Center Conference Room
 1428 Abbott Street

April 25, 2013; 2:38 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

MINUTES

Members	Present	Guests & Staff	Affiliation
Tom Am Rhein	✓	Carl Holm	RMA
David Costa	✓	Patricia Lopez	Public Works
Steve de Lorimier	✓	Eric Lauritzen	Agricultural Commissioner
Alexandra Eastman	-	Bob Roach	Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Kurt Gollnick	✓	Christina McGinnis	Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Bill Hammond	-	Mary Grace Perry	Office of the County Counsel
Bill Lipe	✓	Kathy Nielsen	Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Mike Manfre	✓		
Steve McIntyre	✓		
Manuel Morales	✓		
Steve Ray	✓		
Scott Violini	-		
Ridge Watson	✓		

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.
 (Due to Item V being pulled from the agenda, the following items were renumbered.)

II. Approvals

The minutes of the March 28, 2013, were approved unanimously.

III. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

No public comments.

IV. Agricultural Commissioner's Update

Eric Lauritzen, Agricultural Commissioner

- The Monterey Bay International Trade Association will be holding an event here on branding the Monterey Bay Region. Congressman Farr will be speaking on this topic; Kurt Gollnick will be participating as a panel member. We have been working on implementing a LBAM compliance agreement, primarily for strawberries to keep trade going with B.C., Canada. The Mexican requirements for LBAM hosts are also an ongoing issue of great concern. USDA is working with Mexico to revise quarantine requirements similar to Canada.
- The fumigant Chloropicrin is still registered and used widely. DPR will conduct a public workshop over the next couple of months. The mitigation plan is expected to be out in the fall or later. The workshop will be here and information will be provided when it is available.

- The California Department of Public Health will be releasing a report called Ag Pesticide Use Near Public Schools in California. The report takes the top 15 counties in terms of pounds of pesticide use and analyzes the use within ¼ mile of schools. The report claims not to make any connection with exposure or risk. Some stakeholders have obtained advance copies for comments; release is expected in May.
- I spoke with Alec Arago from Congressman Farr's office regarding the Salinas Airport Tower closure. A letter from the AAC is not necessary at this time. The Congressman is in talks with the FAA and working on a letter of agreement to allow the agricultural aircraft to operate. Closure is delayed until June 15, 2013.

V. Public Works Department

Patricia Lopez, Management Analyst III/Project Manager

The recommendation as stated in the agenda has been changed (see below).

This item first was presented at the January 2013 meeting of the AAC at which time Ms. Lopez was asked to return with information regarding the project conforming to the General Plan. On March 27, 2013, the Planning Commission found it in conformance.

- This project receives 98% of its funding from grants related only to bicycle and pedestrian use. Monterey County competes on a statewide and local basis for these grants.
- Every project does and will go through an environmental review period. Ms. Lopez advised the committee that, if requested, she would show the plan to the committee prior to it going into environmental review.
- There is a Bike and Pedestrian Committee that is under the purview of TAMC and is made up of people representing each city.

RECOMMENDATION: Consider a recommendation that the Board of Supervisors adopt the 2011 Transportation Agency for the Monterey County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, with the caveat that the AAC will be consulted prior to ~~environmental review commencing as implementation of the plan is conducted~~ **circulation of CEQA and/or NEPA documents** for individual projects with the potential to affect any agricultural land.

Concerns Presented:

- Farmers needing to cross the paths;
- Responsibility of mud cleanup on paths;
- Drift?
- Notification to growers/property owners of proposed projects.

Responses:

- Public Works meets with the growers/property owners and discusses concerns with the property owner;
- Property owners in the vicinity receive information as the project is being developed;
- County Counsel suggested that any motion made should include the requirement that property owners be notified of the project;
- RMA is researching implications to growers/property owners, taking into consideration the Right to Farm Ordinance;

MOTION: A motion was made by Steve Ray and seconded by Bill Lipe recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt the 2011 Transportation Agency for the Monterey County Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, with the caveat that the AAC will be consulted prior to circulation of CEQA and/or NEPA documents for individual projects with the potential to affect any agricultural land.

AYES: 10
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 3

**VI. Resource Management Agency
Well Ordinance Recommendations**
Carl Holm, Deputy Director

On April 8, 2013, the AAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee reviewed the proposed ordinance on an item-by-item basis, through item five of ten. The results of this meeting were captured in a memo to the AAC.

1. The subcommittee did not have a recommendation on domestic wells; only ag wells are being addressed;
2. Ag should not be affected by proposed developments; variance was not decided upon; subcommittee will continue to work on this and bring it back to the full committee;
3. Consolidated material/fractured rock is more of an issue from a domestic well standpoint. Septic setback from a well is the same for ag use as it is for domestic use;
4. High capacity wells – went with option C; it was suggested to add submission of well use reports at the end of the year for check and balance process to verify use of the well. Mr. Holm advised that if the definition of a high cap well were to be amended, that is essentially opening up the EIR again and would involve considerable discussion;
5. Replacement wells are not defined in the General Plan. Cheryl Sandoval described the proper ways to seal an abandoned well in various soil conditions;

RECOMMENDATION: Vote to accept, deny, or modify the initial suite of recommendations forwarded by the Ad Hoc Subcommittee and provide feedback to RMA staff.

MOTION: A motion was made by Steve McIntyre and seconded by Dave Costa to postpone a decision on the well ordinance until the subcommittee reviews the remainder of the items and reports back to the full committee.

AYES: 10
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 3

VII. Administrative Matters
None

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office