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Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

ACTION MINUTES

Location:	Monterey County Government Center Thyme Conference Room 1441 Schilling Place Salinas, CA 93901		
Date:	December 5, 2019		
Time:	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.		
Present:	<i>Committee Members</i>		<i>Staff</i>
	Jocelyn Bridson Alex Eastman Kurt Gollnick Erik Heacox Bill Lipe, Chair	Matt Shea Dennis Sites Scott Violini Kirk Williams	Jaime Guthrie, Associate Planner Jacquelyn Nickerson, Associate Planner Craig Spencer, Supervising Planner Kelly Donlon, Deputy County Counsel Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner Jose Chang, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Shandy Carroll, Ag Resources & Policy Manager Kathy Nielsen, Administrative Secretary
Absent:	Sherwood Darington Tony Marci Nick Huntington Scott Storm		

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lipe at 2:30 p.m.

II. Consent

Approval of minutes from October 24, 2019.

Motion: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Shea and passed by the following vote to approve the October 24, 2019 meeting minutes.

AYES: Bridson, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Lipe, Shea, Sites, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Darington, Huntington, Marci and Storm

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER’S UPDATE

Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner

- Head lettuce inspection program was repealed by the Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2019;
- One registered hemp cultivator has harvested and successfully passed the sample testing;
- November 5, 2019 was the last find of an Asian Citrus Psyllid outside a mobile home park in Soledad. Most sites have been treated while some have property owners have declined.

- The Marina Ag Commissioner's Office is now part of the Coastal District Office, formerly North County, and includes the Peninsula, Carmel Valley and Big Sur. Areas of responsibility has expanded to golf courses and structural pest control applications.
- The Lettuce Mosaic Virus host-free period is in effect from December 7 to 21, 2019.
- Williamson Act applications will be heard by the Board of Supervisors on December 10th.
- AgKnowledge applications for 2020 are now available online and are due to the Grower-Shipper Association Foundation by January 20, 2020.

V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY - PLANNING

A. Spreckels Industrial Park

- *Project Planner:* Jaime S. Guthrie
- *Project Title:* Spreckels Industrial Park
- *Planning File No.:* PLN180496
- *Project Location:* 129 Spreckels Boulevard, Spreckels (Area Plan)
- *APN:* 177-021-015-000 and 177-021-016-000
- *Project Description:* Minor Subdivision to divide a 155-acre parcel into two parcels of 109 acres (Parcel 1) and 46.3 acres (Parcel 2).

Action Requested: Recommend approval to the RMA Chief of Planning.

Motion: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Gollnick and Sites and passed by the following vote to recommend approval to the RMA Chief of Planning.

AYES: Bridson, Eastman, Gollnick, Lipe, Shea, Sites, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Darington, Huntington, Marci and Storm

RECUSE: Heacox

B. OP Murphy + Gill

- *Project Planner:* Jaime Scott Guthrie
- *Project Title:* OP Murphy + Gill
- *Planning File No.:* PLN180428
- *Project Location:* 31450 Highway 101, Soledad (between Gloria Rd and Correctional Facility)
- *APN:* 257-041-012 (Lot 1) and 257-041-025 (Lot 2)
- *Project Description:* Lot Line Adjustment and Variance

Action Requested: Recommend approval to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

Motion: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Gollnick and Heacox and passed by the following vote to recommend approval to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

AYES: Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Lipe, Shea, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Darington, Huntington, Marci and Storm

RECUSE: Bridson and Sites

C. Yuki (El Rancho Toro Farmworker Housing)

- *Project Planner:* Jacquelyn Nickerson
- *Project Title:* Yuki (El Rancho Toro Farmworker Housing)
- *Planning File No.:* PLN190026
- *Project Location:* 252 Hitchcock Road, Salinas
- *APN:* 207-031-002-000
- *Project Description:* Use Permit and General Development Plan for farmworker housing facility.

Action Requested: Recommend approval to the Monterey County Planning Commission.

Discussion Points:

- County requires a 200-foot buffer between residential and agriculture fields; the project has a 110-foot buffer;
- The 200-foot buffer is required when the project is next to residential property. The buffer can be reduced when topography permits;
- Occupied farmworker housing already exists on the project site;
- Farmworker housing is considered an agricultural use;
- The ranch next to the project site is farmed organic;
- The Committee recommended to Planning staff that they meet with the agricultural commissioner to discuss mitigating measures to the buffer zone, specifically that the ranch is farmed organic, there is farmworker housing already in use over the past 75 years, the applicant owns the ranch, and possible vegetative screen that does not impact food safety.

Public Comment: Chris Bunn
Norm Groot

Motion: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Sites and Violini and passed by the following vote to recommend approval to the Monterey County Planning Commission.

AYES: Bridson, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Lipe, Shea, Sites, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Darington, Huntington, Marci and Storm

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

None

VIII. AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. by Chair Lipe.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Nielsen

Agricultural Commissioner's Office