



Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

ACTION MINUTES

Location:	<i>Held via Zoom</i>	
Date:	May 27, 2021	
Time:	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	
Present:	<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Staff and Guests</i>
	Alex Eastman Michael Ferguson Kurt Gollnick Erik Heacox Nick Huntington Kevin Pearcy Matt Shea	Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner Jose Chang, Assistant Ag Commissioner Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager Jennifer Fahselt, Admin. Secretary-CNF Crystal Valdez, Office Assistant II Mary Grace Perry, Deputy County Counsel Jaime Scott Guthrie, Project Planner Shawn Archbold, Assistant Planner
Absent:	Sherwood Darington, Tony Marci, Scott Storm, Scott Violini and Kirk Williams	

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Huntington at 2:36 p.m.

II. Additions and Corrections

No Additions or Corrections

III. Consent- Committee Business

1. Approval of minutes from April 22, 2021
2. Approval of minutes from Special AAC Meeting on May 7, 2021

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Shea and Heacox and passed by the following vote:

AYES: Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Pearcy, and Shea

NOES: None

ABSENT: Darington, Marci, Storm, Violini and Williams

ABSTAIN: None

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

No Public Comment.

V. **Agricultural Commissioner's Update**

Henry S. Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner

- Agricultural Commissioner Henry Gonzales at a conference this week.
- 10million in governor's budget in pesticide Mill increase for the notification program
- Statewide press event by anti-pesticide advocates via Zoom as well as in-person outside of Monterey County Ag Commissioner's office.
- Did two interviews with Salinas Californian and Univision.
- This morning, we had another successful PPE distribution event where we distributed 233,280 N95 respirators and 82,900 reusable cloth masks.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

VI. **Mo.Co. Housing and Community Development- Planning**

A. **Leyva Brothers Farms (Lot Line Adjustment)**

- Project Planner: *Jaime Scott Guthrie, Project Planner*
- Project Title: Leyva Brothers Farms
- Planning File No.: PLN200131
- APN: 418-391-031-000
- Project Location: 37036 Metz Road, Soledad, Central Salinas Valley Area Plan
- Zoning: Farmlands, 40-acre minimum (F/40)
- Project Description: F/40 zoning. No Williamson Act. Lot Line Adjustment between Parcel 1 (139.8 acres), Parcel 2 (81.91 acres) and Parcel 3 (7.40 acres) to Parcel A (40 acres), Parcel B (104.11 acres) and Parcel C (85 acres).

ACTION REQUESTED: Make a recommendation to the Chief of Planning.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

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

AYES: Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Piearcy and Shea

NOES: None

ABSENT: Darington, Marci, Storm, Violini and Williams

ABSTAIN: None

B. **Growers Transplanting Inc. (Commercial Cannabis – Indoor)**

- Project Planner: *Shawn Archbold, Assistant Planner*
- Project Title: Growers Transplanting Inc.
- Planning File No.: PLN170315
- APN: 253-012-048-000
- Project Location: 370 Espinosa Road, Salinas, Greater Salinas Area Plan
- Zoning: Farmlands, 40-acre minimum (F/40)

- **Project Description:** Administrative Permit to allow the establishment of a commercial cannabis cultivation operations including cultivation/nursery in three existing greenhouse structures and warehouse space totaling 345,000 square feet and self-distribution within existing warehouses.

ACTION REQUESTED: Make recommendation to the Planning Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Ferguson and Shea and **passed** by the following vote to recommend approval to the Planning Commission.

AYES: Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Pearcy and Shea

NOES: None

ABSENT: Darington, Marci, Storm, Violini and Williams

ABSTAIN: None

C. Anthony Nicola Project (Ag Employee Housing)

- **Project Planner:** *Mary Israel, Associate Planner (was absent - Jaime Scott Guthrie, Project Planner spoke on her behalf).*
- **Project Title:** Anthony Nicola Project
- **Planning File No.:** PLN200203
- **APN:** 117-361-017-000
- **Project Location:** 124 Gonda Street, Pajaro, North County Area Plan
- **Zoning:** High Density Residential, 20 units per acre (HDR/20)
- **Project Description:** Combined Development Permit consisting of: 1) Administrative Permit to demolish an existing single family dwelling and septic system, 2) Use Permit to construct two (2) three-story buildings for 34 two bedroom units and one (1) one bedroom unit totaling 33,810 square feet for use as agricultural employee housing of up to 272 workers; and 3) Variance to exceed the allowed height for the district.

ACTION REQUESTED: Make recommendation to the Planning Commission subject to an 8 feet in height perimeter fence and 50-plus distance buffer (as shown on the site plan presented (Page A1.1) distance 52'8" from easterly property line to proposed northern building) setback.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Gollnick and Eastman and **passed** by the following vote to recommend approval to the Planning Commission.

AYES: Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Pearcy and Shea

NOES: None

ABSENT: Darington, Marci, Storm, Violini and Williams

ABSTAIN: None

III. Administrative Matters

Nadia Garcia with Ag Commissioner's updated the Committee on staff's outreach to the Water Resources Agency liaison on their Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee (ROAC) conflicting meeting dates/times with AAC meetings and Committee Member Piearcy's occasional conflicts sitting in both Committees. Nadia reported that ROAC did not get back to her as to if they made a decision to move their dates and/or times, which would require Board of Supervisors approval. After further AAC discussion, it was decided to not move the AAC schedule because the Zoom meeting platform being utilized currently to conduct AAC meetings, makes it less conflicting for Committee Member Piearcy. If and when the AAC meetings return to in-person, a member of the AAC Committee can bring up the topic of re-scheduling the AAC dates/times for discussion.

VII. Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments

None.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.