



# Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

## ACTION MINUTES

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| <b>Location:</b> | <i>Held via Zoom</i>  |   |
| <b>Date:</b>     | April 22, 2021  |   |
| <b>Time:</b>     | 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  |   |
|                  | <i>Committee Members</i>  | <i>Staff and Guests</i>   |
| <b>Present:</b>  | Sherwood Darington<br>Alex Eastman<br>Michael Ferguson<br>Kurt Gollnick<br>Nick Huntington<br>Tony Marci<br>Kevin Piearcy<br>Matt Shea<br>Scott Storm<br>Scott Violini<br>Kirk Williams | Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner<br>Jose Chang, Assistant Ag Commissioner<br>Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager<br>Jennifer Fahselt, Admin. Secretary-CNF<br>Crystal Valdez, Office Assistant II<br>Mary Grace Perry, Deputy County Counsel<br>Craig Spencer, Planning Services Manager |
| <b>-Absent:</b>  | Erik Heacox   |   |

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Huntington at 2:35 p.m.

### II. Additions and Corrections

Nadia Garcia noted receiving two correspondence after the posting of the April 22, 2021 AAC agenda for Item VI- Monterey County Housing and Community Development-Planning, Cannabis Regulations Draft Ordinances Update. The correspondence was from Salinas Basin Water Alliance and from John Pezzini. All correspondence received was distributed to the AAC members and AAC Interested Parties List, prior to the April 22, 2021 meeting.

### III. Consent- Committee Business

1. Approval of minutes from March 25, 2021

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

- AYES:** Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Shea, Storm, Violini and Williams
- NOES:** None
- ABSENT:** Darington, Heacox, and Piearcy
- ABSTAIN:** Marci

**IV. Public Comment-** On items not on the agenda.  
No Public Comment.

**V. Agricultural Commissioner's Update**

*Henry S. Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner*

- INSV Update: County's Ag Commissioner's Office continues to participate with the INSV Task Force led by GSA. We received two weed abatement requests (Fuji Lane and Blanco Rd) and both have been resolved. Staff treated County property for weeds along Blanco road.
- PPE Distribution Events: 189,120 - N95 respirators were distributed to 18 FLCs and 7 growers for the protection of agricultural workers during two PPE distribution events on March 23rd and March 24th.
  - On April 28, 2021 we will hold a PPE distribution event out of our South County Office in King City. We will be providing disposable surgical masks, and disposable latex gloves, to growers and Farm Labor Contractors. There will be no charge for the PPE items.
- Meetings with LAFCO: Review and discuss potential large annexations applications proposed by the cities of Soledad and Gonzales affecting agricultural/rangeland.
- Exports are increasing with increasing seasonal harvest.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**VI. Mo.Co. Housing and Community Development- Planning  
Cannabis Regulations Draft Ordinances Update**

- Project Planner: Craig Spencer, *Planning Services Manager*
- Project Title: Cannabis Regulations Draft Ordinances Update
- Planning File No.: REF150048
- APN: Various
- Project Location: Cachagua and Central Salinas Valley Area Plans; Other Coastal and Non-Coastal Areas.
- Project Description: Draft Coastal and Non-Coastal ordinances for outdoor cannabis cultivation pilot program updates and revisions to the renewable energy requirements for indoor cultivation. Amendments include the following:
  - a) Renewable energy generation requirements for indoor cannabis cultivation (Chapter 20.67 and 21.67).
  - b) Expand the outdoor cannabis cultivation regulations to include the Central Salinas Valley Area and add grazing land zoning districts within the Central Salinas Valley and Cachagua Area Plans to locations where outdoor cultivation may be permitted (Chapter 21.69); and
  - c) Reduce the setback required from the nearest off-site structure from 500 feet to 250 feet, to modify the criteria for granting and exception to the setback from the nearest off-site structure, to increase the maximum allowable canopy from 10,000 square feet

to 20,000 square feet, and to extend the pilot program from 5 years to 8 years (Chapters 20.69 and 21.69).

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Make a recommendation to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Pezzini, Robert Roach, Christopher Bunn, Norm Groot, John Cumming, George Fontes, Brian Ferrasci, and Mark McLaughlin

**MOTION 1:** Approval of the indoor renewable energy requirement amendments as presented in the draft ordinances for both coastal and non-coastal areas.

It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Marci and **passed** by the following vote to recommend approval.

**AYES:** Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Marci, Piearcy, Shea, Storm, Violini, and Williams  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Heacox  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION 2:** Approve the expansion of outdoor cannabis grow into the Permanent Grazing Zoning Districts of the Central Salinas Valley Area Plan as presented in the non-coastal draft ordinance.

It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Gollnick and Darington and **failed** by the following vote to recommend approval.

**AYES:** Darington, Gollnick, and Shea  
**NOES:** Eastman, Ferguson, Huntington, Marci, Piearcy, Storm, Violini, Williams  
**ABSENT:** Heacox  
**ABSTAIN:** None

MOTION FAILED.

**MOTION 3:** Exclude from the non-coastal ordinance “Central Salinas Valley Area Plan” wherever it appears.

It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Piearcy and **passed** by the following vote to recommend excluding the Central Salinas Valley Area Plan.

**AYES:** Eastman, Ferguson, Huntington, Marci, Piearcy, Storm, Violini and Williams  
**NOES:** Darington, Gollnick, Shea  
**ABSENT:** Heacox  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION 4: Approve the extension of the duration of the pilot program from 5 years to 8 years, as stated in the draft ordinances, both coastal and non-coastal.**

It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Shea and Eastman and **passed** by the following vote to recommend approval.

**AYES:** Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Marci, Piearcy, Shea, Storm, Violini and Williams  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Heacox  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION 5: Approve the expansion of outdoor cannabis grows in the Permanent Grazing Zoning Districts in the Cachagua Area Plan, as presented in the non-coastal draft ordinance.**

It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Shea and Marci and **passed** by the following vote to recommend approval.

**AYES:** Darington, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Marci, Piearcy, Shea, and Storm  
**NOES:** Eastman, Violini  
**ABSENT:** Heacox  
**ABSTAIN:** Williams

**MOTION 6: Exclude the reduction of setbacks from 500 foot minimum to 250 foot minimum for outdoor cannabis grows sites to nearest offsite structure for both coastal and non-coastal ordinances (stay with current 500 foot minimum setback) and allow for amendments of the setback exceptions criteria, as stated in the draft ordinance.**

It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Huntington and Eastman and **passed** by the following vote to recommend excluding the 250 feet minimum setback between cannabis site and nearest offsite structure and allowing for setback criteria approval.

**AYES:** Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Marci, Shea, Storm, Violini and Williams  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Heacox, Piearcy  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION 7: Approve the expansion of the canopy outdoor cultivation from 10,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet in the outdoor pilot program.**

It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Huntington and Eastman and **passed** by the following vote to recommend approval.

**AYES:** Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Huntington, Marci, Piearcy, Shea, Storm, Violini and Williams  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Heacox  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION 8:** Approve to table the indoor cultivation discussion to next AAC meeting scheduled on May 27, 2021 (not part of today's ordinances review) on expansion of greenhouse for a future ordinance revision.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Norm Groot

It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Piearcy and **passed** by the following vote to table to May 27, 2021.

**AYES:** Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Huntington, Marci, Piearcy, Shea, Storm, Violini and Williams  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Gollnick, Heacox  
**ABSTAIN:** None

## **VII. Administrative Matters**

Nadia Garcia followed up on prior month's AAC Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments section of the agenda regarding on Committee Member Piearcy scheduling conflict sitting on the AAC and on the Water Resources Agency (WRA) Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee (ROAC). Nadia Garcia reached out to Shaunna Murray, staff liaison of the ROAC to ask for the schedule of their meetings and for a possible meeting time change to avoid timing conflicts for Committee Member Piearcy. Staff Liaison Murray reports the ROAC meets every last Thursday of the month and that in order to change the schedule of the ROAC, including the time, the matter would need to go before the Mo. Co. Board of Supervisors. Since the AAC meetings are scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, except for November and December, not all AAC and ROAC meetings will be conflicting. Staff Liaison Murray reports she will speak on this scheduling topic on the next ROAC meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 29, 2021 and update Nadia Garcia on the result of that discussion.

## **VIII. Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments**

None.

## **IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.