

MONTEREY COUNTY

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Erik V. Lundquist, AICP, Director



HOUSING, PLANNING, BUILDING, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM

Scheduled Date: December 1, 2022

To: Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

From: Melanie Beretti, AICP, Principal Planner *MSB*

Subject: **Agricultural Conservation Mitigation Program** – Consider establishing a Special Ad Hoc Committee or adding members to the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee to work with staff to refine a Draft Agricultural Mitigation Ordinance.

cc: REF220044 Public Distribution List

ACTION:

Consider 1) Establishing a Special Ad Hoc Committee and appointing members to the Special Ad Hoc Committee or 2) Working with the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee and adding members to the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee to work with staff to refine policy options further so staff can return to the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) and Planning Commission with a Draft Agricultural Mitigation Ordinance (draft ordinance).

SUMMARY:

Staff conducted a workshop with the Planning Commission (Commission) on October 26, 2022, with policy recommendations regarding the development of an Agricultural Conservation Mitigation Program (Program) to mitigate for the loss of agricultural lands due to development in the unincorporated inland areas of Monterey County (Staff report and attachments available at [County of Monterey - File #: PC 22-090 \(legistar.com\)](#)). At that meeting, staff presented policy recommendations and options for the Commission.

The Commission provided staff with general input and direction regarding the policy recommendations, and the Commission directed staff to return to the AAC to work through the draft policy prior to returning to the Commission in early 2023 with a draft ordinance. The Commission and staff discussed the possibility that the AAC could form a Special Ad Hoc Committee or utilize the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee, which will work with staff from December 2022 through February 2023 to refine policy options that will form the draft ordinance. Staff would then present the draft ordinance to the AAC in early 2023 for a recommendation to the Planning Commission.

During the Planning Commission workshop, some members of the public requested that if the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee is utilized, it should include participants with

experience working in production row-crop agriculture.

AAC INPUT AND/OR COMMENTS:

Staff recommends that the AAC consider one of the two (2) options below:

1. Establish a Special Ad Hoc Committee that is temporary and which would last for a duration that is less than six (6) months. Appoint members to the Special Ad Hoc Committee, which should have at most five (5) members (less than a quorum of the AAC). One (1) member should be a participant with experience working in production row-crop agriculture.
2. Recommend that staff work with the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the AAC and begin reconvening regular meetings on the second Monday of the month, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Staff recommends adding additional members to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee, specifically a participant with experience working in production row-crop agriculture. The existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee should have at most five (5) members (less than a quorum of the AAC).

Staff recommends that the AAC establish a Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee (temporary, for less than six [6] months) and appoint members to the Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee or add members to the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee to work with staff to refine policy options further so staff can return to the AAC and Planning Commission with a draft ordinance.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact the project planner, Melanie Beretti, AICP, Principal Planner, at (831) 755-5285 or at berettim@co.monterey.ca.us

NEXT STEPS:

Based on feedback from the AAC, staff will work with a Subcommittee of the AAC according to one (1) of the options described above as selected by the AAC, from December 2022 through February 2023 to prepare a Draft Agricultural Mitigation Ordinance for consideration by the Planning Commission in early 2023.