

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FY 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



County of Monterey
Agricultural Commissioner's Office
1428 Abbott Street • Salinas, CA 93901

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Agricultural Advisory Committee is to advise and recommend to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and other county boards, commissions, and departments on matters affecting or of interest to the agricultural industry.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) consists of 13 members who are residents of the County of Monterey and represent agricultural interests. At the end of FY 2020-21, the AAC had 12 serving members with one (1) vacancy.

During FY 2020-21 Committee Officers were: *Nick Huntington, Chair* and *Dr. Alex Eastman, Vice Chair*.

Supervisors' Appointees

Kurt Gollnick ~ District 1
Vacant ~ District 2
Kirk Williams ~ District 3
Sherwood Darington ~ District 4
Matt Shea ~ District 5

Agricultural Association Representatives

Erik Heacox ~ Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
Tony Marci ~ California Strawberry Commission
Kevin Piearcy ~ Monterey County Farm Bureau
Scott Storm ~ Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association
Scott Violini ~ Monterey County Cattlemen's Association

At-Large Members

Mike Ferguson
Alexandra Eastman, DVM
Nick Huntington

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
July 23, 2020		
Consent A. June 25, 2020, Meeting Minutes	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passes to approve June 25, 2020 minutes.
Public Comment- items not on the Agenda	<i>Norm Groot</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Asian Citrus Psyllid finds this year. • Pilot Fumigation Notification Project ended. • 34,595 respirations received from CAL-OES for distribution. • 530,000 surgical masks received from CAL-OES, CDFA & DPR for distribution. • Conducting interviews for Ag Resources Program Manager position. • Economic Contributions report was presented to the Board. • Agricultural Advisory Committee At-Large appointment in progress 	<i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
<u>California Department of Transportation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater recharge systems often used to recharge groundwater in areas depleted 	<i>Jennifer Moonjian, Advanced & Complex Mitigation Coordinator, Caltrans District 5 Andrew T. Fisher, Ph.D., Earth & Planetary Sciences Department, UC Santa Cruz</i>	Motion Passed to table this item until August 2020 meeting to allow further review.
<u>Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> Introduction of Development Evaluation System (DES) final draft ordinance	<i>Anna V. Quenga, Planner</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Administrative Matters</u>	<i>None</i>	None
<u>Agricultural Committee Comments</u>	<i>None</i>	None

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
September 24, 2020		
Consent		
A. Committee Business:	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve July 23, 2020 minutes.
1. July 23, 2020, meeting minutes		
2. FY 2018-19 Annual Report	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to accept the annual report for submission to the Board of Supervisors.
Public Comment- items not on the Agenda	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u>		No action necessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring of Nadia Garcia as new Ag Resources & Policy Manager. • Promotion of Chief Deputy Ag Commissioner, Ken Allen overseeing PUE. • Submitted the following to BOS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AAC request to select one of two candidates to fill At-Large position vacancy. Michael Ferguson was selected. ○ Recommended approval of revised response to Civil Grand Jury 2019-2020 report. ○ Requested the BOS to receive the <i>Pesticide Notification Near Schools Pilot project</i> final report. 	<i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i>	
<u>California Department of Transportation</u>	<i>Jennifer Moonjian, Advanced & Complex Mitigation Coordinator, Caltrans District 5</i>	Ms. Moonjian & Dr. Fisher will come back to the Committee with information as project progresses.
Groundwater recharge systems often used to recharge groundwater in areas depleted. <i>Item was tabled from July 23rd meeting to be discussed further.</i>	<i>Andrew T. Fisher, Ph.D., Earth & Planetary Sciences Department, UC Santa Cruz</i>	
<u>A. Resource Management Agency – Planning</u>		Motion passes to recommend approval to Planning Commission.
214 Lewis Road LLC Cannabis Use Permit PLN17031	<i>Mary Israel, Planner</i>	

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
B. <u>Castroville Oaks</u> Coastal Development Permit PLN150248	<i>Jaime Scott Guthrie, Planner</i>	Motion passes to recommend approval to Planning Commission.
C. <u>Leavens Ranch</u> Use Permit for removal of 22 Oak trees PLN190018	<i>Jaime Scott Guthrie, Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Monterey County Planning Commission.
<u>Administrative Matters</u> Eight 2021 Williamson Act applications will be presented at October 22, 2020 AAC Meeting	<i>Nadia Garcia, Ag Resources and Policy Manager Agricultural Commissioner's Office</i>	None
<u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u> The Committee welcomed recently appointed At-Large member, Michael Ferguson.	<i>None</i>	None

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
October 22, 2020		
<u>Consent</u> September 24, 2019, meeting minutes	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the meeting minutes as corrected.
Public Comment- items not on the Agenda.	<i>None</i>	None
<u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil penalties were issued for priority pesticide use investigations resulting in significant fine amounts. • Safe Ag Safe Schools, an anti-pesticide group coordinated by the Berkeley-based Californians for Pesticide Reform, requested that County Agricultural Commissioner’s post Notices of Intent on their respective websites 	<i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
V. 2021 Williamson Act Applications Eight (8) applications to be approved	<i>Nadia Garcia, Ag Resources and Policy Manager, Agricultural Commissioner’s Office</i>	Motion passes to recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors.
<u>Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> A. Leavens Ranch Use Permit for removal of 22 oak trees PLN190018	<i>Jaime Guthrie, Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the RMA Chief of Planning.
Administrative Matters	<i>None</i>	None
Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments	<i>None</i>	None

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
December 2, 2020		
<p><u>Consent</u> 1. Approval of minutes from October 22, 2020 2. 2021 Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule 3. 2021 Agricultural Advisory Committee Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee Schedule</p>	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the minutes with correction.
Public Comment-items not on the Agenda.	<i>Norm Groot, Monterey County Farm Bureau</i>	None
<p><u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSV Report on coordinated effort to treat weeds harboring virus affecting lettuce between Salinas and Gonzales. • During Covid-19, Ag Commissioner’s Office conducted business virtually to help minimize personal contact. • This year 12 industrial hemp fields were sampled for THC content. • CDFA issued new regulations governing Direct Marketing such as Farmers Markets. Ag Commissioner’s Office will conduct virtual stakeholder meeting in January 2021. 	<i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
<p><u>Resource Management Agency – Planning</u> A. Martin Dennis N. TR Et AL (The Sobel Company Inc.) 211 Harrison Rd, Salinas PLN180441</p>	<i>Cheryl Ku, Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Planning Commission
Administrative Matters	<i>None</i>	None
Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments	<i>None</i>	None

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
February 25, 2021		
<u>Consent</u> Approval of minutes from December 3, 2020	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the minutes.
Public Comment- items not on the Agenda	None	None
<u>Agricultural Commissioner's Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Mo. Co. BOS & ag industry reps on plan for administering vaccinations to farmworkers. Partnership with Clinica de Salud & Grower-Shipper Assn. formed. • Ag Commissioner's Office recently held two very successful Covid-19 PPE distribution events. • Letter of concern sent to Mo.Co. BOS by the Monterey Peninsula city mayors & City of Salinas mayor. Letter addressed concerns regarding influx of farmworkers coming to Salinas Valley from other states & Mexico for ag season & that they would bring more Covid-19 to area infecting residents. • Bilingual Advisory to agricultural employers on how to protect workers against contracting Covid-19 was developed over a year ago & has been recently updated & re-distributed. Advisory was developed in partnership by Commissioner Gonzales and community leaders. • Notice on efforts to prevent spread of Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) released & staff continues to work those problem areas. • Ag Commissioner received directive from Ca. Dept of Pesticide Regulation regarding priority investigations. Directive given to Ag Commissioner is to contact D.A. for opportunity to join into investigation of potential pesticide exposure and the opportunity to have the District Attorney prosecute in a civil or criminal manner if merited. 	<i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.

<p><u>Housing and Community Development -Planning</u> A. Avila Trust 101 South Highway 101, San Ardo & 72125 Jolon Road, Bradley, near Nacimiento Lake Drive, South County Area Plan PLN200176</p>	<p><i>Son Pham-Gallardo, Planner</i></p>	<p>Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>B. Sanders Family Vineyards LLC 48251 Lockwood-Jolon Road, Lockwood, South County Area Plan PLN190283</p>	<p><i>Victoria Kim, Planner</i></p>	<p>Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Board of Supervisors</p>
<p><u>Administrative Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics training for AAC members reminder • Reminder AAC members are not required to complete a 700 Form • Refresher on AAC vs. Subcommittee of the AAC and schedule of both committees 	<p><i>Staff</i></p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</p>	<p><i>None</i></p>	<p>None</p>

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
March 25, 2021		
<p><u>Consent</u> Approval of minutes from February 25, 2021</p>	<p><i>Committee</i></p>	<p>Motion passed to approve the minutes.</p>
<p><u>Public Comment-items not on the Agenda.</u></p>	<p><i>None</i></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced new Administrative Secretary Jennifer Fahselt. • Announced efforts to protect agricultural workers continue with two personal protective equipment distribution events for farm labor contractors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o So far, we have distributed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ over 50,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, ✓ 1,148,000 disposable surgical masks, ✓ 12,000 reusable cloth masks for children of farmworkers from MedShare, and ✓ 209,000 N95 respirators. • This year, we will be surveying/trapping for the European Corn Borer because Cannabis and Hemp are potential hosts. • Held our annual Ag Expo last Friday via Zoom. Annual Spanish workshop focusing on pesticide, INSV, and strawberry pest pressure topics. • Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus is getting interest from other parts of the state. • Greenfield resolution regarding notices of intent to be posted on the Ag. Office website • Working with Ag trade associations, BoS, Health Dept. and the Public Health Officer on farmworker vaccination efforts. One recent question I keep getting is about how we are coordinating the 2nd vaccination for workers receiving their 1st vaccination while working down south. 	<p><i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i></p>	<p>No action necessary.</p>

<p><u>Housing and Community Development - Planning</u> A. Burmeister 67155 Lockwood-San Ardo Rd, Lockwood, South County Area Plan PLN200299</p>	<p><i>Kayla Nelson, Planner</i></p>	<p>Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Zoning Administrator</p>
<p>B. Copperhead Creek Ranch 73550 Pleyto Cemetery Rd, Bradley South County Area Plan PLN200185</p>	<p><i>Shawn Archbold and Son Pham-Gallardo, Planners</i></p>	<p>Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Zoning Administrator</p>
<p>C. Miramonte Ag Buffer Easement Deed (Montana Skies, City of Greenfield) PLN210008</p>	<p><i>Son Pham-Gallardo, Planner</i></p>	<p>Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Board of Supervisors</p>
<p><u>Administrative Matters</u> Informed the Committee that Jennifer Fahselt will be taking over AAC Coordination duties including ethics training reminders. Jennifer will be sending reminders and links to those AAC members that are due to complete their training again.</p>	<p><i>Staff</i></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u> Committee Member Pearcy may have conflicting schedule issue with Water Resources Agency (WRA) Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee (ROAC). Staff to contact WRA staff for solution.</p>	<p><i>Committee</i></p>	<p>None</p>

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
April 22, 2021		
<p><u>Additions and Corrections</u> 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.</p>	<i>Staff</i>	None
<p><u>Consent</u> Approval of minutes from March 25, 2021</p>	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the minutes.
<p><u>Public Comment-items not on the Agenda.</u></p>	<i>None</i>	None
<p><u>Agricultural Commissioner’s Update</u> -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.</p>	<i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.

<p>-Meetings with LAFCO: Review and discuss potential large annexations applications proposed by the cities of Soledad and Gonzales affecting agricultural/rangeland.</p> <p>-Exports are increasing with increasing seasonal harvest.</p>		
<p><u>Housing and Community Development - Planning</u> Cannabis Regs. Draft Ordinances Update Cachagua, Central Salinas Area Plans and other Coastal and Non-Coastal Areas REF150048</p>	<p><i>Craig Spencer, Planner Services Manager</i></p>	<p>Various motions on sections of the ordinances were made- recommendations to the Mo. Co. Board of Supervisors</p>
<p><u>Administrative Matters</u> Update on Committee Member Piearcy AAC and WRA-Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee meetings. All resolved.</p>	<p><i>Staff</i></p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</p>	<p><i>None</i></p>	<p>None</p>

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
May 7, 2021- Special Meeting		
<p><u>Housing and Community Development - Planning</u> Cannabis Regulations- Expansion on Greenhouses- for future ordinance work</p>	<p><i>Craig Spencer, Planner Services Manager</i></p>	<p>Motion passed to approve an ordinance amendment for the expansion of commercial cannabis cultivation in greenhouses subject to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only allow expansion of greenhouses on properties that already contained one or more greenhouses legally established prior to January 1, 2016; and 2. Require new construction to meet all zoning and building standards including the 50% lot coverage limitation applicable to greenhouses within the Farmland zoning designation (21.30.060.D); and 3. Water that is used for irrigating cannabis to be recycled and reused.

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
	May 27, 2021	
<u>Additions and Corrections</u> None	<i>Staff</i>	None
<u>Consent</u> -Approval of minutes from April 22, 2021 -Approval of minutes from May 7, 2021- Special AAC Meeting	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the minutes.
Public Comment-Items not on the Agenda	<i>None</i>	
<u>Agricultural Commissioner's Update</u> -Agricultural Commissioner Henry Gonzales at a conference this week via Zoom. -10 million 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 on the topic. -This morning, we had another successful PPE distribution event where we distributed 233,280 N95 respirators and 82,900 reusable cloth masks.	<i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Housing and Community Development - Planning</u> A. Leyva Bros. Farms, 37036 Metz Rd, Soledad Central Salinas Valley Area Plan PLN200131	<i>Jaime Scott Guthrie, Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the County of Monterey, HCD Chief of Planning
B. Growers Transplanting Inc 370 Espinosa Rd, Salinas Greater Salinas Area Plan PLN170315	<i>Shawn Archbold, Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Planning Commission
C. Anthony Nicola-Ag Housing		

124 Gonda St, Pajaro PLN200203	<i>Mary Israel, Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Planning Commission subject to the following: an 8 foot 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.
<u>Administrative Matters</u> A second update on Committee Member Piearcy AAC and WRA-Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee meetings.	<i>Staff</i>	None
<u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u> None	<i>Committee</i>	None

Subject	Speaker	Action/Recommendation
June 24, 2021		
<u>Additions and Corrections</u> None	<i>Staff</i>	None
<u>Consent</u> Approval of minutes from May 27, 2021	<i>Committee</i>	Motion passed to approve the minutes.
<u>Public Comment</u>	None	
<u>Agricultural Commissioner's Update</u> -UCCE INSV Training July 14 in Spreckels. Ag Commissioner's office using weed whackers to remove INSV host weeds from a Monterey County property known as the Firestone stockpile. -King City Office update -C-19 mask update -Ag Conference Center closed until further notice -Budget approved for AgKnowledge, Ag Education, 4H Council, 2 fairs, RCD Arundo removal funding	<i>Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner</i>	No action necessary.
<u>Housing and Community Development - Planning</u> A. ECCA Investments, 23640 Potter Rd, Salinas Greater Salinas Area Plan PLN170322	<i>Sandra Villatoro, Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the County of Monterey, HCD Chief of Planning
B. Uchida 2338 Alisal Rd, Salinas Greater Salinas Area Plan PLN200189	<i>Sandra Villatoro, Planner</i>	Motion passed to recommend approval to the Mo. Co. Planning Commission
<u>Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments</u> AAC Elections reminder	<i>Staff</i>	None

Canceled Meetings:

August 27, 2020

January 28, 2021

There were no *Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee* meetings held in FY 2020-21.

End of report