



Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

ACTION MINUTES

Location:	<i>Held at the Conference Center, 1428 Abbott Street, Salinas CA. 93901</i>	
Date:	April 28, 2022	
Time:	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	
Present:	<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Staff and Guests</i>
	Sherwood Darington Alex Eastman (VC) Michael Ferguson Kurt Gollnick Erik Heacox Nick Huntington Tony Marci Scott Storm Scott Violini	Henry Gonzales, Ag Commissioner Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager Mary Grace Perry, Deputy County Counsel Jennifer Pittenger, Administrative Secretary Kayla Nelson, Associate Planner Denise Duffy, Denise Duffy and Associates Jennifer Rosenthal, Law Offices of Jennifer Rosenthal
	Absent: Kevin Pearcy, Matt Shea (C)	

C- Chair
 VC- Vice Chair

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Alex Eastman at 2:35 p.m.

II. Additions and Corrections

None

III. Consent- Committee Business

1. Approval of minutes from February 24, 2022

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

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

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

- *None*

V. **Agricultural Commissioner's Update**

Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner

1. Mill Tax Assessment

- a. Mill Tax: The Department receives most of its resources through the DPR Fund - most of which is derived from the mill assessment that is levied on the sale of registered pesticides at the point of first sale into the state.
- b. The mill fee has not been adjusted in over 17 years.
- c. To determine an appropriate mill assessment structure, funding source(s), and level(s) to support and sustain the department's long-term programmatic goals and responsibilities, and to incentivize the accelerated adoption of safer, more sustainable pest management, DPR has initiated a study to evaluate mill options.
- d. The 2021-2022 state budget allocated \$1 million over two years to DPR to fund the study on the mill assessment that will examine:
 - i. The existing structure and rate of the mill assessment.
 - ii. Current and future funding needs for DPR, including strategies for linking how revenues are collected to DPR's broader mission objectives.
 - iii. Existing County Agricultural Commissioners' funding associated with mill-related responsibilities and future needs.
 - iv. Detailed options that incentivize the use of safer sustainable pest management practices across the state of California; and
 - v. Current and future revenues produced by proposed structures and rates to provide long-term sustainable funding that allows DPR to continue to fulfill its mission.

2. Pesticide Use Enforcement

- a. C DPR trail bill to levy fines – CACASA has not seen the trail bill yet and that this is in C DPR proposed budget. C DPR wants to increase their own fines and asked Commissioner's is they wanted to increase their fine amounts as well, but Commissioners have not seen the trail bill, but it is coming.
- b. Of note is a measure that will ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides for non-agricultural use; and shift the product to a restricted material for acceptable use. CACASA has taken an oppose position on AB 2146 based on the State Legislative Platform position on pesticides and failing to employ a science-based approach to regulation.

3. We continue work on Farmworker Resource Center Board Referral Board Referral No. 2021.19 (Lopez) This referral directs the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to create a Farmworker Resource Center in the community of Greenfield and to leverage the opportunity of matching dollars in the recently signed AB941. AB 941 provides opportunity to receive state funding at a 3:1 ratio, which is a great incentive for our County to develop a resource center in a community that lacks direct access to County services, while continuing to face access barriers, such as transportation.
4. The Board of Supervisor will be transferring to our office on April 07 the Ag Pass Referral 2022.07 (Lopez). The Ag Pass referral directs the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to research options and feasibility for the creation of an agricultural and livestock pass program to provide a uniform way to identify vetted commercial farm and ranch owner-operators and their employees to firefighting personnel, California Highway Patrol officers, Sheriff's

deputies and other law enforcement officers, and other emergency personnel. Possession of an Ag Pass during a wildfire or similar disaster or emergency allows the Ag producers limited emergency access to areas that may otherwise be restricted to the public to protect their Ag assets and provide support information to first responders, such as but not limited to, identifying access roads and water points.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

A. Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District- Development of reliable water supply system

- Project Planner: Kayla Nelson, Associate Planner
- Project Title: Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District
- Planning File No.: PLN210094
- APN: Various APNs (74 total) including APN 413-014-001-000 Project Location: 65 Kortright Lane, Aromas, North County Area Plan
- Project Location: 1815 CA-1, Moss Landing; Springfield Rd and Struve Rd, Aromas, North County Land Use Plan
- Zoning: Various Zoning Districts
- Project Description: Combined Development Permit consisting of: 1) Coastal Administrative Permit to convert existing test well to a permanent well; 2) Coastal Development Permit for improvements to the existing water distribution system including new water storage tanks, booster pump station & other improvements involving new distribution piping along Springfield Road, Struve Road and installation of new individual service laterals and meters; and 3) Coastal Development Permit to allow development within 100 feet of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA).

ACTION REQUESTED: Support approval by the Monterey County Planning Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *None*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Huntington and **passed** by the following vote to support approval by the Monterey County Planning Commission.

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Ferguson, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Marci, Storm and Violini

NOES: None

ABSENT: Piearcy, Shea

ABSTAIN: None

B. Myles Lerner [Commercial Cannabis Operation- Outdoor Cultivation (within existing garden beds) and structure(s) for nursery, processing and distribution]

- Project Planner: Kayla Nelson, Associate Planner
- Project Title: Myles Lerner

- Planning File No.: PLN200294
- APN: 418-191-067-000
- Project Location: 39010 Laureles Springs Rd, Carmel Valley, Cachagua Area Plan
- Zoning: Resource Conservation, Building Site District of B-6 (RC/B-6)
- Project Description: Administrative Permit to allow approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of outdoor cultivation and to allow nursery, processing, distribution, and storage within existing building(s).

ACTION REQUESTED: Support approval by the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Chief of Planning.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Bob Roach*

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Gollnick and Storm and **passed** by the following vote to support approval by the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Chief of Planning.

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

VII. Administrative Matters/Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments

- A.** Staff to provide update on Agricultural Advisory Committee Bylaws pertaining to “Term of Office” and vacancies.

ACTION REQUESTED: No action needed.

- B.** Vote to nominate Alex Eastman for At-Large Reappointment

ACTION REQUESTED: Vote to nominate Alex Eastman for reappointment of new term (expiring on June 30, 2025) to Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Gollnick and Violini and **passed** by the following vote to At-Large reappoint Eastman as Vice Chair.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.