



Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

ACTION MINUTES

Location:	<i>Ag Conference Center, 1428 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA. 93901</i>	
Date:	January 26, 2023	
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) Kurt Gollnick Mike Ferguson Erik Heacox Nick Huntington* Scott Violini	Rich Ordonez, Interim Ag Commissioner Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager Mary Grace Perry, Deputy County Counsel Julianna De La Paz, Admin Secretary-Confidential (AgC) Kayla Nelson, Planning Liaison, HCD Melanie Beretti, Principal Planner, HCD Taylor Price, Assistant Planner, HCD Robert Roach, Ag Land Trust Kathryn Avila, Avila Construction Wayne Gularte, Rincon Farms Lynn Kovack, Polaris Land Surveying
Absent:	Matt Shea (C), Kevin Piearcy, Scott Storm	

C- Chair; VC- Vice Chair

*Nick Huntington arrived after Item III at 2:36 pm.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Alex Eastman at 2:33 p.m.

II. Additions and Corrections

- *None*

III. Consent- Committee Business

1. Approval of minutes from October 27, 2022, AAC Meeting

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

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Gollnick, Ferguson, Heacox, and Violini

NOES: None

ABSENT: Huntington*, Piearcy, Shea, and Storm

ABSTAIN: None

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

- *None*

V. **Agricultural Commissioner's Update**

Rich Ordonez, Interim Agricultural Commissioner

- Rich Ordonez introduced himself as Interim Agricultural Commissioner until the new Agricultural Commissioner Juan Hidalgo begins on February 6, 2023.
- During the floods several AG Commissioner's staff were activated as Disaster Service Workers (DSW). DSW's were assigned at shelters and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) providing technical assistance. DSWs were also called on to work at the Local Assistance Center in Spreckels.
- Flood damage assessment: 20,000 acres and approximately \$50 million.
- Surveys are available on Monterey County Farm Bureau (FB), Grower-Shipper Association of Central California (GS), and Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association (MCVGA) online and in Spanish.
 - Responses on the surveys: flooded/buried fields, equipment, structures, fences, trellis levee/berm damage, debris deposition, eroded fields, damaged roads, food safety costs.
- Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) detected in two sites in King City. We are working with CDFA. 1/17 Delimitation trapping has started 4 square miles surrounding the find site. Total of 61 traps. On 1/19 Did voluntary treatments close to find sites of Tempo SC (foliar) and CoreTec (systemic) tablets. Public meeting in February and treatment following (400 m).
- On December 31, 2022 the regulations for Industrial Hemp Pilot Program ended. We are in the process of analyzing the program and will come up with recommendations to the BOS. Prior to the recommendations, staff will take draft recommendations to the Cannabis Standing Committee meeting in March.
- Pesticide Use Enforcement Division renews permits expire in January 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- *None*

VI. **Monterey County Housing and Community Development - Planning Department**

A. RAVA Ranches Limited Liability Company (LLC)/Nino Family Limited Partnership (LP), Lot Line Adjustment (LLA) of Williamson Act land

- Project Planner: Fionna Jensen, Associate Planner
- Project Title: Rava Ranches LLC/Nino Family LP, LLA of Williamson Act land
- Planning File No.: PLN210253
- APNs: 420-091-032; 420-091-033; 420-101-003; 420-101-004; 420-091-029; 420-101-005; 420-091-034; 420-091-038; 420-091-039; 420-091-040; 420-091-031; 420-101-006; 420-101-007
- Project Location: 51701 and 51983 Freeman Flat Rd, King City, Central Salinas Valley Area Plan
- Zoning: Farmlands, 40 acres minimum (F/40) and Permanent Grazing, 40 acres minimum (PG/40)

- Agricultural Advisory Committee January 26, 2023
- Project Description: Lot Line Adjustment of Williamson Act land between four (4) legal lots of record consisting of Parcel 1 (160 acres); Parcel 2 (24.6 acres); Parcel 3 (692.2 acres) and Parcel 4 (440 acres), resulting in four (4) legal lots of record of 123.5 acres (Adjusted Parcel 1); 730.1 acres (Adjusted Parcel 2); 303.2 acres (Adjusted Parcel 3) and 160 acres (Adjusted Parcel 4).

ACTION REQUESTED: Support approval of application for an LLA of Williamson Act land by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors.

Proposed CEQA Action: Support finding that the project is Categorical Exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Code of Civil Regulations (CCR) Section 15305 – Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations: Minor Lot Line Adjustment not resulting in the creation of any new parcel.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Roach

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Huntington and passed by the following vote to recommend support approval to the Board of Supervisors.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Piarcy, Shea, and Storm

ABSTAIN: None

B. Establish a temporary Special Ad Hoc Committee or direct staff to work with the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee to conduct workshops on proposed Monterey County Agricultural Conservation Mitigation Program

- Project Planner: Melanie Beretti, Principal Planner
- Project Title: County of Monterey Agricultural Conservation Mitigation Program
- Planning File No.: REF220044
- APN: Not Applicable
- Project Location: Inland areas of the unincorporated Monterey County
- Project Description: Staff conducted a workshop with the Planning Commission (PC) on October 26, 2022, with policy recommendations regarding the development of an Agricultural Conservation Mitigation Program to mitigate for the loss of agricultural lands due to development in the unincorporated inland areas of Monterey County. The PC directed staff to return the AAC to work through the draft policy prior to returning to the PC in early 2023 with a draft ordinance. Staff is requesting that the AAC assign a subcommittee to help in the policy making of the Agricultural Conservation Mitigation Program.

ACTION REQUESTED: Consider the following options: 1) Establish a Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee that is temporary, which consists of less than a quorum of the AAC, and which would last for a duration that is less than six (6) months; or 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. and add members to the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee as needed to re-establish a Subcommittee of less than a quorum of the AAC.

Proposed CEQA Action: The proposed action to establish a temporary Special Ad Hoc Subcommittee or recommend that staff work with the existing Ad Hoc Subcommittee to participate in workshops to work through a draft policy to assist with preparation of an Agricultural Conservation Mitigation Program and draft ordinance is an early planning activity that is not a project under CEQA. The proposed program and draft ordinance will be subject to a CEQA determination in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Roach, Kathryn Avila

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Huntington and **passed** by the following vote to re-instate a general AAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee and add members to the general subcommittee as needed, with the appointment of the following five (5) AAC members: Gollnick, Violini, Huntington, Darington, and Ferguson. The motion included the addition of non-AAC members including a representative from the Ag Land Trust, Mark Del Piero (or designee) and additional non-AAC members if interested, including but not limited to representatives from LAFCO, Kate McKenna (or designee), the building industry and the Monterey County Farm Bureau.

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

VII. Administrative Matters/Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments

A. Approve Modified- 2023 AAC Meeting Schedule

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Huntington and Gollnick and **passed** by the following vote to recommend approval of the modified 2023 AAC Meeting Schedule.

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

B. Appoint new AAC Ad Hoc Sub-Committee members- Motion was made under Agenda Item VI.B.- *Monterey County Agricultural Conservation Mitigation Program*- see above.

C. Consider the nomination of two (2) nominees as the Agricultural Advisory Committee's representatives to the Water Resources Agency (WRA) Board of Directors for a three-year term from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2026 pursuant to Sec. 49. Manner of appointment; experience. Section 49 (b) (4) of the Monterey County Water Resources

Agency Act.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Gollnick and **passed** by the following vote to nominate John Baillie and Wayne Gularte as the Agricultural Advisory Committee's representatives to the Water Resources Agency (WRA) Board of Directors.

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Pearcey, Shea, Storm

ABSTAIN: None

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.