



Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

ACTION MINUTES

Location:	<i>Held via Zoom</i>		
Date:	September 24, 2020		
Time:	2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.		
Present:	<i>Committee Members</i>		<i>Staff and Guests</i>
	Sherwood Darington Alex Eastman Michael Ferguson Kurt Gollnick Erik Heacox Nick Huntington	Kevin Piearcy Matt Shea Dennis Sites Scott Violini Kirk Williams	Jennifer Moonjian, Caltrans District 5 Andrew T. Fisher, Ph.D., UC Santa Cruz Mary Israel, Associate Planner Jaime Scott Guthrie, Associate Planner Mary Perry, Deputy County Counsel Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner Jose Chang, Assistant Ag Commissioner Nadia Garcia, Ag Programs Manager Kathy Nielsen, Administrative Secretary-CNF
Absent:	Tony Marci Scott Storm		

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Huntington at 2:30 p.m.

II. Consent

- A. Approval of minutes from July 23, 2020

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Heacox and Shea and passed by the following vote to approve the July 23, 2020, meeting minutes.

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Shea, Sites, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Marci, Piearcy and Storm

- B. Approval of FY 2019-20 Annual Report

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Sites and Gollnick and passed by the following vote to approve the FY 2019-20 Annual Report.

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Shea, Sites, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Marci, Piearcy and Storm

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Agricultural Commissioner's Update

Henry S. Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner

- Pleased to announce the hiring of Nadia Garcia as our new Agricultural Resources and Policy Manager. Also, the promotion to Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Ken Allen. Ken will oversee our pesticide use enforcement program.
- On 9/22/20, I submitted the following three reports to the Board of Supervisors:
 - The AAC request to receive, review, and select between two candidates to fill the open At-Large position vacancy of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Board selected Michael Ferguson on a 4-1 vote.
 - Recommended the approval of a revised response to the Civil Grand Jury's 2019-2020 report, "*Enhancing Public Access to Pesticide Use Information, An Opportunity for the Agricultural Commissioner's Office*". The Board accepted the recommended response on a 4-1 vote.
 - Requested the Board receive the *Pesticide Notification Near Schools Pilot Project* final report. The Board received the report on a 4-1 vote.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. California Department of Transportation

Jennifer Moonjian, Advanced and Complex Mitigation Coordinator, Caltrans District 5

Andrew T. Fisher, Ph.D., Earth and Planetary Sciences Department, University of California, Santa Cruz

This item was tabled from the July 23, 2020, meeting to be discussed further at the next AAC meeting.

Groundwater recharge systems are often used to recharge groundwater in areas that have been depleted to improve groundwater quantity and quality, as well as improve connected aquatic systems such as creeks, rivers, wetlands, and estuaries.

ACTION REQUESTED: Provide feedback on how these mitigation efforts are perceived and if Caltrans should pursue groundwater recharge as one of the options for future mitigation efforts.

- The Committee provided feedback.
- Ms. Moonjian and Dr. Fisher will come back to the Committee with information as the project progresses.

VII. Resource Management Agency – Planning

A. 214 Lewis Road LLC

Mary Israel, Associate Planner

- Project Title: 214 Lewis Road LLC
- Planning File No.: PLN170321
- APN: 117-231-021-000; 117-231-025-000 and 117-231-010-000
- Project Location: 214, 248 and 250 Lewis Road, Royal Oaks
- Zoning: Farmlands, 40 acre minimum
- Project Description: Cannabis Use Permit consisting of commercial cannabis cultivation, manufacturing and a nursery within existing greenhouse/warehouse buildings.

ACTION REQUESTED: Make a recommendation to the Monterey County Planning Commission.

Associate Planner Mary Israel presented the project.

Public Comment: None

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Shea and Darington and passed by the following vote to recommend approval to the Planning Commission.

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Shea, Sites, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Marci, Pearcy and Storm

B. Castroville Oaks

Yasmeen Hussain, Jaime Scott Guthrie, Associate Planner

- Project Title: Castroville Oaks
- Planning File No.: PLN150248
- APN: 133-073-001-000; 133-073-002-000; 173-073-006-000; 133-073-007-000; and 173-073-008-000.
- Project Location: Intersection of Hwy 156 and Castroville Blvd, Castroville
- Zoning: High Density Residential, Coastal Zone
- Project Description: Coastal Development Permit and Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map to allow a 90-lot single family residential subdivision and a multifamily lot for 125-unit affordable multifamily apartment complex.

ACTION REQUESTED: Make a recommendation to the Monterey County Planning Commission.

Ag Commissioner's Office Request from Nadia Garcia: The project is subject to MCC Section 21.66.030.F.2, subsection a. requiring a 200-foot buffer easement as a condition of approval. Such easement deed should stipulate that land within the easement buffer shall not be used for recreational areas such as parks, walking/bike paths, etc.

Public Comment: None

Associate Planner Jaime Scott Guthrie presented the project.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Gollnick and Violini and passed by the following vote to recommend approval to the Planning Commission.

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Piearcy, Shea, Sites, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Marci and Storm

C. **Leavens Ranch**

Jamie Scott Guthrie, Associate Planner

- Project Title: Leavens Ranch
- Planning File No.: PLN190018
- APN: 216-013-034-000
- Project Location: Corner of River Road and Escolle Road, Soledad area, Central Salinas Valley Area Plan
- Zoning: Farmlands, 40 acre minimum or F/40
- Project Description: Use Permit for removal of 22 oak trees to accommodate installation of ground-mounted solar panels over an area of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre (.72 acres) to support over 400 acres of agricultural operations (row crop and orchards) on the subject property and adjacent properties.

ACTION REQUESTED: Make a recommendation to the Monterey County Planning Commission.

Associate Planner Jaime Scott Guthrie presented the project.

Committee Requests:

- 1) Invite an arborist to the October 22, 2020, meeting.
- 2) Receive a copy of the Forest Management Plan prior to the October meeting.
- 3) Possible field trip to the subject property.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded by Committee Members Violini and Sites and passed by the following vote to table this item until the October 22, 2020, AAC meeting.

AYES: Darington, Eastman, Gollnick, Heacox, Huntington, Piearcy, Shea, Sites, Violini and Williams

NOES: None

ABSENT: Marci and Storm

VIII. Administrative Matters

Nadia Garcia advised the Committee that eight (8) 2021 Williamson Act applications will be presented at the October 22, 2020, meeting.

IX. Agricultural Advisory Committee Comments

The Committee welcomed recently appointed At-Large member Michael Ferguson.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.