



County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department Agricultural Advisory Committee

John Vars
Koren Widdel
Jess Brown
Jim Howard

Frank McPherson
Judith Humburg
Lauren Silberman
Ryan Casey

James Oku
Peter Marchi
Natalie Sare
Fred Crowder

Jonathan Winslow
Summer Burlison

County Office Building
455 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, California 94063
650/363-1825

ACTION MINUTES

Draft

Monday March 13, 2023

A full recording of this meeting can be accessed on the official government YouTube channel of the County of San Mateo at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDs7Ws2Nms8>.

1. **Call to Order**

At the Ted Adcock Community Center, in the South Day Room, located at 535 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay, Chair John Vars called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. **Member Roll Call**

Regular Committee Members Present:

James Oku
John Vars
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey
Jonathan Winslow
Lauren Silberman

Regular Committee Members Absent:

Natalie Sare

Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director

Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

Jim Howard, Natural Resource Conservation Staff
Frank McPherson, UC Co-Op Extension Representative

Planning Liaison Present:

Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

3. **Oral Communications** to allow the public to address the Committee on any matter not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, the Chair will recognize you at this time.

- Kerry Burke, Land Use Consultant, shared about a recent community meeting regarding local mountain lions, the return of Farm Day Lunch on March 31, 2023, and National Farmworker Appreciation Day.
- Marisol Durani, Legislative Aide for District 3 Supervisor Ray Mueller, shared updates regarding the County's farmworker housing task force and related housing needs and resources.

4. Committee Member Update(s) and/or Questions to allow Committee Members to share news and/or concerns for items not on the agenda.

- John Vars, Committee Chair, shared updates from the second Farmworker Advisory Commission meeting including updates on the County’s response to the recent shooting and related housing needs.
- Lauren Silberman, Committee Secretary, shared a desire for direct communication with farmworkers regarding the farmworker housing task force’s inspection of all farmworker housing in the County.
- Koren Widdel, Agricultural Commissioner, shared the following:
 - The County’s ongoing response to a fertile cape weed infestation in the Pescadero area;
 - The 2022 crop and disaster reporting surveys that have been circulated;
 - The Department of Pesticide Regulation’s sustainable pesticides roadmap; and
 - The March 16, 2023 deadline to apply for FEMA disaster response support and disaster preparedness generally.

5. Committee Nomination for the Committee Secretary position.

The Committee discussed Committee Member Fred Crowder stepping down from the committee, which leaves the Secretary role open, as well as Lauren Silberman’s ability to continue serving as Committee Secretary until she concludes her term on the AAC.

Committee Member Peter Marchi moved, and Committee Member James Oku seconded, a motion to appoint Lauren Silberman to continue serving as Committee Secretary.

Motion passed 5-0-1, with one abstention and one absent member.

6. Community Development Director’s Report

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee reviewed the items on this month’s report and discussed the appointment of the new Agricultural Ombudsman Eliza Milio.

Regular Agenda

- 7. Owner:** James Baker
Applicant: James Thompson
File Number: PLN 2016-00515
Location: 900 Seaside School Road, San Gregorio
Assessor’s Parcel No.: 081-240-060

Consideration of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP), Planned Agricultural District Permit (PAD), and Grading Permit to construct a replacement single-family residence, fire turnaround, new septic system, and a domestic well on a 43.21-acre parcel. There is no tree removal and 345 cubic yards of grading proposed. The CDP is appealable to the California Coastal Commission. Please direct questions to Olivia Boo, Planner III, at OBoo@smcgov.org.

Action Request: That the AAC provide a recommendation to the Planning Commission on the proposed project.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Kerry Burke
Marisol Durani

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The applicant made a presentation regarding the proposed project. The Committee discussed existing and needed water infrastructure, the Committee's concerns about Williamson Act compliance regarding total grazing area, needed documentation to confirm Williamson Act compliance, and the need to approve a Williamson Act exception to approve this project.

Kerry Burke, Land Use Consultant, shared her desire to see the required agricultural plan for this parcel and concerns regarding past Williamson Act exceptions granted (i.e. Arata Farms).

Marisol Durani, Legislative Aide for District 3 Supervisor Ray Mueller, advised the Committee of Supervisor Mueller's support for the timely and clear approval of this project.

Committee Member Peter Marchi moved, and Committee Chair John Vars seconded, a motion to approve this project based on meeting presentation clarifications with a request for follow up documentation to confirm compliance with the Williamson Act regarding grazing 75% of the parcel or greater; please note the Committee supports the timely approval of this project.

Motion passed 6-0-0, with one absent member.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. by Committee Chair John Vars.



County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department Agricultural Advisory Committee

John Vars, Chair
Natalie Sare, Vice Chair
Lauren Silberman, Secretary
Dr. Igor Lacan

James Oku
Jess Brown
Jim Howard
Jonathan Winslow

Koren Widdel
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey

County Office Building
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ACTION MINUTES

Draft

Monday June 12, 2023

A full recording of this meeting can be accessed on the official government YouTube channel of the County of San Mateo at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TljN1gjVJNQ>.

1. **Call to Order**

At the Ted Adcock Community Center, in the South Day Room, located at 535 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay, Chair John Vars called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm.

2. **Member Roll Call**

Regular Committee Members Present:

James Oku
Natalie Sare
John Vars
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey
Jonathan Winslow
Lauren Silberman

Regular Committee Members Absent:

None

Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director

Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

Jim Howard, Natural Resource Conservation Staff
Dr. Igor Lacan, UC Co-Op Extension Representative

Planning Liaison Present:

Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

Committee Member Peter Marchi moved, and Committee Secretary Lauren Silberman seconded, a motion to address Regular Agenda Item #7 next.

Motion passed 6-0-0, with one absent member (at the time of vote).

3. **Oral Communications** to allow the public to address the Committee on any matter not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, the Chair will recognize you at this time.

- Dante Silvestri, Local Cattle Rancher, raised questions about Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (MROSD) purchase from Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) of Cloverdale

Ranch specifically regarding three parcels that do not have Wildlife Conservation Board easements and the potential for future agricultural activity on these parcels. Mr. Silvestri also raised questions about the proliferation of unregulated roadside farm stands in the county and what legal recourse is available to enforce farmstand regulations.

Committee Member Peter Marchi moved, and Committee Secretary Lauren Silberman seconded, a motion to agendaize this discussion about the Cloverdale Ranch parcels without wildlife easements on the next meeting and invite MROSD and POST to discuss/answer committee questions.

Motion passed 7-0-0, with no absent members.

4. **Committee Member Update(s) and/or Questions** to allow Committee Members to share news and/or concerns for items not on the agenda.

- Natalie Sare, Committee Member, followed up on previous Committee discussions regarding sourcing a speaker who can present on Prop. 19 and how it affects farms regarding inheritance, which she will continue to coordinate with the Planning Liaison.
- John Vars, Committee Chair, shared updates from the recent Farmworker Affairs Commission regarding the new Ag ID program and ongoing farm labor housing projects.
- Lauren Silberman, Committee Secretary, shared that she will be moving out of the County later this summer and will be stepping down from the Committee at that time. She also shared about the recent \$5 million Serna Grant awarded to the farmworker housing project on Stone Pine Road in Half Moon Bay.

5. **Consideration of Meeting Minutes** for the January 9, 2023 AAC meeting.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The Committee discussed the draft minutes.

Committee Chair John Vars moved, and Committee Secretary Lauren Silberman seconded, a motion to approve the minutes as drafted.

Motion passed 6-0-1, with no absent members and one abstention due to meeting attendance.

6. **Community Development Director’s Report.** *(Planning Liaison)*

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee reviewed the items on this month’s report and discussed the Committee vacancies and ongoing process to fill them.

Regular Agenda

7. **Owner:** Joshua Skolnick
Applicant: Kerry Burke
File Number: PLN 2022-00211

Location: West side of Cabrillo Highway, Pescadero
Assessor's Parcel No.: 086-250-140, 086-250-150, 086-250-160

Consideration of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP), Planned Agricultural District Permit (PAD), and Architectural Review for the drilling of a test domestic well on an undeveloped 6.53-acre property located on the west side of Cabrillo Highway in the unincorporated Pescadero area of San Mateo County. The CDP is appealable to the California Coastal Commission. The property is located in the Cabrillo Highway State Scenic Corridor.

Action Request: That the AAC provide a recommendation to the Planning Commission on the proposed project.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

The applicant made a presentation regarding the project. The Committee discussed that this project is for a test well to determine water on site and potential path forward, sensitive habitats on the parcel, and that the project will come before the committee again depending on test well results.

Committee Member Peter Marchi moved, and Committee Member James Oku seconded, a motion to recommend passing the project.

Motion passed 7-0-0, with no absent members.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m. by Committee Chair John Vars.



County of San Mateo Planning & Building Department Agricultural Advisory Committee

John Vars, Chair
Natalie Sare, Vice Chair
Lauren Silberman, Secretary
Dr. Igor Lacan

James Oku
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Koren Widdel
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey

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ACTION MINUTES

Draft

Monday July 10, 2023

A full recording of this meeting can be accessed on the official government YouTube channel of the County of San Mateo at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_4C2c09oOQ.

1. **Call to Order**

At the Ted Adcock Community Center, in the South Day Room, located at 535 Kelly Avenue, Half Moon Bay, Vice Chair Natalie Sare called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. **Member Roll Call**

Regular Committee Members Present:

James Oku
Natalie Sare
John Vars
Peter Marchi
Ryan Casey
Jonathan Winslow
Lauren Silberman

Regular Committee Members Absent:

None

Nonvoting Committee Members Present:

Koren Widdel, San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner
Jess Brown, San Mateo County Farm Bureau Executive Director

Nonvoting Committee Members Absent:

Jim Howard, Natural Resource Conservation Staff
Dr. Igor Lacan, UC Co-Op Extension Representative

Planning Liaison Present:

Summer Burlison, Planning Staff Liaison

3. **Oral Communications** to allow the public to address the Committee on any matter not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, the Chair will recognize you at this time.

- Dante Silvestri, Local Cattle Rancher, inquired about the remote participation attendees for this meeting via the new Owl device.

4. **Committee Member Update(s) and/or Questions** to allow Committee Members to share news and/or concerns for items not on the agenda.

- Summer Burlison, Planning Liaison, shared that Planner Olivia Boo will be taking over the role of Planning Liaison.
- Lauren Silberman, Committee Secretary, shared that next month will be her final meeting.
- Natalie Sare, Committee Member, shared updates regarding coordinating a speaker who can present on Prop. 19 and continued coordination with the Planning Liaison.
- Koren Widdel, Agricultural Commissioner, shared about the upcoming Disaster Preparation Day on August 5, 2023.
- John Vars, Committee Chair, shared about the upcoming Farmworker Affairs Commission meeting on July 12, 2023 at the Half Moon Bay Library.
- James Oku, Committee Member, inquired about the committee's requested follow up on the past discussion regarding illegal farmstands and communication with the Sheriff's Office.

5. **Community Development Director's Report.** *(Planning Liaison)*

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

None

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee reviewed the items on this month's report and discussed that two new committee members will be appointed and start at next month's meeting.

6. **Discussion** on status of Peninsula Open Space Trust parcels excluded from wildlife conservation easements that are associated with the Lake Lucerne Mutual Water Company.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Joe Barroso
Kerry Burke
Dante Silvestri
BJ Burns

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee discussed that POST will be available to discuss this item and answer questions at the August 2023 AAC meeting, clarified the committee's questions for POST regarding this project, discussed if the parcels without wildlife easements can be made available for new agricultural activities, and shared a desire to have impacted property owners join the continuing discussion.

Joe Barroso, Local Cattle Rancher, asked about potential irrigation needs and shared about his experience maintaining the Cloverdale Ranch irrigation system for several decades.

Kerry Burke, Land Use Consultant, raised questions for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) regarding how this project will be consistent with their current agricultural policies regarding fostering and improving agriculture, if these parcels have prime soils, and what their responsibility is moving forward after the sale.

Dante Silvestri, Local Cattle Rancher, asked about related water rights on parcels that are not being farmed, how critical this water is to local agricultural activities, writing in utility easements today for future use before the acquisition/transfer, and other lands with wildlife easements.

BJ Burns, Local Farmer and previous committee member, raised questions about if the Cloverdale Ranch house is already occupied by a ranger, how the Cloverdale Ranch water and irrigation system can be protected and kept available for agricultural use on the coast, ensuring public will not

be able to access and compromise the water system, and if a public agency can own a water system.

Regular Agenda

7. **Presentation and Discussion** on San Mateo County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures' Agricultural Access (Ag ID) Program. Presentation by: San Mateo County Agriculture/Weights & Measures.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Anonymous

COMMITTEE ACTION:

No action required. The Committee discussed the details of the presentation including the definition of managerial staff, that this program will be adjusted based on specific emergency situations, that much of the planned program is based on California Assembly Bill 141 passing, and criteria for allowing an Ag ID holder to access an evacuated agricultural operation.

An anonymous member of the public asked if there is a similar state level program.

8. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. by Committee Chair John Vars.