



VENTURA COUNTY

Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee



Sanger Hedrick, Chair, District 2; Scott Deardorff, District 1; Gordon Kimball, District 3; Patty Waters, District 4; Bobby Jones, District 5

MEETING MINUTES June 15, 2022

1. 9:05 a.m. – MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE

Committee: Sanger Hedrick, District 2, Chair
Scott Deardorff, District 1 - absent
Gordon Kimball, District 3 - absent
Patty Waters, District 4
Bobby Jones, District 5

Staff/Others Present: Korinne Bell, Alec Thille, & Miriam Mendez from the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner's Office & Larry Pender were present; committee members, presenters, members of the public, and representatives of interested parties participated via Zoom.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

4. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve agenda as revised

By Jones, seconded by Waters

Vote: 3-0

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

7. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Approve and archive May 2022 meeting minutes.

By Jones, seconded Waters

Vote: 3-0

April agenda tabled for required quorum.

8. PRESENTATION/ACTION

A. Adoption of a resolution continuing the authorization of remote teleconference meetings of the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for a 30-day period pursuant to Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e), of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

- No public comments.
- Motion: Adopt the resolution
By Waters, seconded by Jones
Vote: 3-0

B. Winston Wright, Planning Manager, and Franca Rosengren, Senior Planner, of the Ventura County Planning Division presented for committee input proposed changes to the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to permit backyard beekeeping.

- Public comment:
 - Larry Pender – Inquired whether backyard beekeepers would need to register with the County, if they were required to register in other municipalities, why the County had limited the minimum lot size to 10,000 sq. ft., how many hobbyist beekeepers are currently registered, and expressed dissatisfaction and confusion with the ordinance as-proposed.
- Motion: Recommend the ordinance include language requiring hobbyist/backyard beekeepers to receive and acknowledge the Ventura County Right to Farm Ordinance, only allow honeybees for backyard beekeepers, and that Planning staff investigate the possibility of limiting agricultural liability for damage to backyard beehives.
By Waters, seconded by Jones
Vote: 3-0

C. Lisa Woodburn of Jensen Design, with Amcal Housing, presented a proposed modification to the previously approved landscape plan for the Somis Farmworker Housing Development project (PL19-0046) for APAC approval

- Public comment:
 - Maureen McGuire – Posited that field fumigations adjacent to the proposed community garden location would cause the fumigations buffer zone to fall into the community garden area, increasing the incompatibility and decreasing the usability of the community garden.

- Motion: Find the proposed change inconsistent with the Ventura County Agricultural/Urban Buffer policy, Deny the proposed change, and direct the applicant team to investigate how best to render the proposed change compliant with the policy if they wished to continue requesting the change.
By Waters, seconded by Jones
Vote: 3-0

- D. Alec Thille, Environmental Resource Analyst with the Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures and Lisa Woodburn of Jensen Design presented the proposed Pierpont Cottages project (PL22-0048) to solicit APAC advice on appropriate buffers to agricultural operations.
- No Public Comment.
 - No action taken.
- E. Maureen McGuire, Chief Executive Officer with the Farm Bureau of Ventura County, presented an update on Farm Bureau activities and programs.
- No Public Comment.
 - No action taken.
- F. Annemiek Schilder, Director of the Ventura County UC Cooperative Extension, DID NOT present an update on UCCE activities and programs
- Item not heard by the committee; presenter did not attend the meeting.
 - No public comment
 - No action taken.
- G. Korinne Bell, Chief Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, presented a department update on activities and programs important to Ventura County agriculture.
- No Public Comment.
 - No action taken.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

A. APAC Members

Proposals for future agenda items:

An informational update on the progression of the Backyard beekeeping ordinance.
Subsequent presentations by Amcal Housing and Jensen Design related to project PL19-0046

B. Staff

None

10. Meeting adjourned by Sanger Hedrick at 11:11 a.m.