

LAFCO

Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street ♦ Santa Barbara CA 93101
805/568-3391 ♦ FAX 805/568-2249
www.sblafco.org ♦ lafco@sblafco.org

August 3, 2023 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Appointment of Ad-Hoc Committee

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Commission consider creation of and appointment of a three-members of the Commission to an Ad-Hoc Committee to review and make recommendations regarding future Commission policies covering agricultural-urban interface concerns.

DISCUSSION:

This item is on the agenda at the request of Commission from their April 6, 2023 meeting. It is anticipated the ad-hoc committee would meet 5 or 6 times to meet with stakeholders on these issues. The Ad-Hoc Committee would advise LAFCO and its staff on the specific issues and potential policies that address the ongoing concerns of Ag/Urban conflicts.

The committee would not be a standing committee as it will not have any continuing subject matter jurisdiction or a fixed meeting schedule. Rather, the committee would have a temporary status. The LAFCO Executive Officer will provide staff support to the committee. Meetings of the committee shall be held at a place designated by the Executive Officer and may include virtual attendance.

The Executive Officer will prepare a written report to the Commission summarizing any recommendations and advice provided by the committee. If the committee wishes to vote on items, each committee member shall be entitled to a single vote.

Commissioners: Cynthia Allen ♦ Jay Freeman, Vice-Chair ♦ Craig Geyer ♦ Joan Hartmann, Chair ♦ James Kyriaco ♦ Bob Nelson
♦ Jenelle Osborne ♦ Alice Patino ♦ Jim Richardson ♦ Shane Stark ♦ Das Williams **Executive Officer:** Mike Prater

First, it is proposed the Committee review current issues facing the Cities related to agricultural-urban interface concerns. Second, it is proposed the Committee convene up to five committee meetings to hear from the various representatives on the subject matter, including but not limited to, County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, County Planning and Development Long-Range Department, City representatives, Housing Advocates, Special Districts, Agricultural and Environmental Communities, and develop any recommendations regarding potential for new policies, revisions or amendments to existing policies, as needed. At the conclusion, the Ad-Hoc Committee would make any necessary recommendation to the full Commission regarding policies to enhance jurisdictional changes and/or sphere of influence actions for proposals dealing with Ag/Urban interface challenges.

BACKGROUND:

In 2018, the Commission reviewed a letter from Environmental Defense Center and a CALAFCO White Paper entitled "State of the Art on Agricultural Preservation", which prompted the Commission to appoint an Ad-Hoc Committee to review Commission's Policies on Agricultural Lands and Open Space. Policies Encouraging Conservation of Prime Agricultural Land and Open Space are contained in the Commissioners Handbook, Section 7 IV and V. Among other policies and guidance set by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act (CKH) under Government Code sections 56300, 56301, and 56377. The Commission concluded existing policies were adequate and no new policies were deemed necessary.

The Ad-Hoc Committees focus should be kept to the conflicts between agricultural buffers and the Ag/Urban interface issues. To this end, the Ad-Hoc Committee may hear and discuss concerns regarding growth pressures on agricultural lands and if deemed appropriate, the full Commission could potentially have a broader public discussion. If necessary, a new Ad-Hoc Committee could be appointed to address other concerns.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Prater".

Mike Prater
Executive Officer