



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**BOARDS AND COMMISSION**  
 FARMWORKER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Half Moon Bay Library,  
 Community Room  
 620 Correas St., Half Moon Bay,  
 CA  
 650-363-1800  
[www.farmworkercommission.org](http://www.farmworkercommission.org)

**May 10, 2023**

**7:00pm**

The Farmworker Advisory Commission brings visibility to issues that disproportionately affect farmworkers, advises the Board of Supervisors on policies and initiatives, serves as a forum for the community, and advocates/supports the farmworker community.

**The Farmworker Advisory Commission was held in person at the Half Moon Bay Library’s Community Room (620 Correas St., Half Moon Bay).**

**1. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Chair Judith Guerrero, Vice-Chair Corina Rodriguez Perez, Commissioners Yesenia Garcia, Yolanda Guzman Calderon, Rogelio Nabor-Martinez, Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez, John Vars. **Absent:** Stephanie Perez, Jonathan Ramirez.

**Staff Present:** District 3 Board Liaison Marisol Escalera Durani, Consultant Facilitator Debbie Schechter. Community Affairs Office: Kenny Chu, Megan Gosch, Diana Hernandez, Jennifer Castro-Lara

**2. Public Comment**

Mike Noce: The city of Half Moon Bay recently released their first public reviewed draft of the Cycle 6 Housing Element on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The public comment period ends on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**AGENDA**

**3. New Commissioner Training Session**

<p><b>Presented by</b>  <b>Urban Habitat –</b>  <b>Larisa Casillas,</b>  <b>Program Director</b>  <b>for Leadership,</b>  <b>Development and</b>  <b>Advocacy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioners learn how to respond and make informed questions/comments, when presented with a proposal or program.</li> <li>• Commissioners should think about:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Who will benefit or be excluded, who needs to be involved and how, and how it will be evaluated?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• By next meeting commissioners will think about their accountability to their communities.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ i.e., How they will connect with the community to share ideas and bring the community’s ideas back to the commission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Commissioners</b>  <b>Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner John Vars</li> <li>• Commissioner Yolanda</li> <li>• Chair Judith</li> <li>• Commissioner Nicolas</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>No public comment.</p>

**4. Presentation from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District of Draft Agricultural Policy**

<p><b>Presented by Midpeninsula Open Space District, Lewis Reed, Rangeland Ecologist/Botanist</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a government organization. Works primarily in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mission: To protect land and natural resources for the benefit of the environment.</li> <li>○ In San Mateo County specifically look to protect agricultural lands.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Draft Agricultural Policy was developed to provide guidance on how to carry out work when interfacing with agriculture and agricultural communities.</li> <li>• Goals: (1) to preserve agricultural operations, (2) environmentally sensitive and sustainable agriculture, and (3) enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion.</li> <li>• Timeline to finish stakeholder input phase is by May.</li> <li>• Draft policy will be presented to Midpeninsula’s Board of Directors for consideration for approval, in summer 2023.</li> <li>• Agricultural policies will grow and change, based on new experiences and information. Policy language will be reviewed and updated as needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commissioners Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Judith</li> <li>• Vice-Chair Corina</li> <li>• Commissioner Nicolas</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comment.</li> </ul>

**5. Presentation from the Department of Agriculture on Agricultural Access Verification program – Ag ID**

<p><b>Presented by the Department of Agriculture, Jeremy Wagner, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Access Verification Program (Ag ID) purpose is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify commercial farmers and ranchers to law enforcement and emergency personnel,</li> <li>○ Facilitate safe access to agricultural properties during a mandatory evacuation during wildfire or other emergency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ag ID is a response to the 2020 CZU Complex fire; there was high need for a more formal countywide program.</li> <li>• Oct. 2023 State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1103 allowing access to livestock producers except planted agriculture. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New Assembly Bill 1141 was introduced which will expand to all producers.</li> <li>○ San Mateo County is utilizing Bill 1141 framework to create the Ag ID program to allow safe entry to both livestock and planted agriculture.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: To create program for the 2023 fire season to protect agricultural workers and ensure viability of local agriculture.</li> <li>• Department of Agriculture/Weights &amp; Measure is looking for feedback on the Ag ID by June 14<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice-Chair Corina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May need to discuss with farm owners to compensate farmworkers who return to evacuated areas (i.e., hazard pay)</li> <li>○ Consider offering a training for farmers and farmworkers to be informed on what to do in event of emergency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chair Judith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have the Department of Agriculture agency on site to improve communication.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner John Vars</li> <li>• Commissioner Nicolas</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

## 6. Discussion of Commission Priorities

<b>Presented by Consultant Facilitator Debbie Schechter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-introduced with the importance of goal setting as a commission.</li> <li>• Commissioners will continue to meet to set goals, actions, time frames, and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Revisited list of values from previous meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Honesty and transparency, respect, family, help others, health.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For next meeting commissioners will think about their goals, and 1 to 2 important issues and the outcomes that can be achieved by commission in the next year or two.</li> <li>• Commissioners may share ideas to Chair, Vice-Chair, and County staff by end of May.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Judith</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

## 7. Report Out

<b>Commissioner's Report</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Nicolas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provided a recap on the Pescadero community meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Due to the Farmworker Taskforce Inspections in farmworker housing, he has observed rising concern among farm owners, ranchers, and farmworkers. He believes these efforts to improve housing conditions are beneficial to the overall wellbeing of the farmworkers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chair Judith</li> </ul>

- The City of Half Moon Bay in partnership with the Mexican Consulate is hosting a Mobile Mexican Consulate on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Farmworker Public Summit event on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-3pm at the Boys and Girls Club Event Center 530 Kelly Ave, Half Moon Bay.

**Supervisor’s Report**, presented by Marisol Escalera Durani and Cassandra Matter.

- District 3 is looking for residents interested in being a part of the Parks Commission.
  - Applications close: May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- San Mateo County is honoring a WWII veteran Al Adrevano. San Mateo County gives the opportunity to recognize members of the community who are active or serve their community.
- Public Work workers were recognized by the Board of Supervisors.
- A study session will take place at the next Board of Supervisors meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup> regarding opioids. For more information contact District 3 office.
- For Mental Health Awareness month, there is a 5-step program to learn about resources to help someone in a crisis. For more information on this program, contact Twila Dependahl at [tdependahl@smcgov.org](mailto:tdependahl@smcgov.org)
- On May 9<sup>th</sup>, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors put \$1 million toward an expanding effort to build affordable housing for local farmworkers.
  - The County is seeking \$5 million in state funds from the Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program.
  - The County is currently working with the City of Half Moon Bay to identify a site that could house 45-50 manufactured housing units for low-income farmworker households.

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

**Next Commission Meeting: \***

Wednesday July 12, 2023; 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information on future meetings, agendas, minutes, and presentations/presentation materials, please visit: [www.farmworkercommission.org](http://www.farmworkercommission.org)