

## **Agricultural Advisory Committee Workplan Goals Discussion Notes**

**May 11, 2026**

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At its May 11, 2026 meeting, the Agricultural Advisory Committee participated in a facilitated discussion of potential goals for the Committee for the next year. These notes include potential workplan ideas from County Planning staff and roughly categorize the ideas generated by Committee members.

### **Potential Workplan Ideas from County Planning Staff:**

- Review and provide input/recommendation on:
  - PAD permits, RM permits
  - Williamson Act audit, nonrenewals
  - Farm Labor Housing projects
  
- Provide input on:
  - LCP Amendments for Farm Labor Housing
  - Agritourism Guidelines – revised draft
  - Farmstand guidelines – final draft
  - Hoop House policy

### **Ideas from AAC Goals Brainstorm:**

**Overall goals: Preserve agriculture on the coast; help farmers move from generation to generation; increase farming opportunities**

**Policies, Permitting and Regulation:** *Simplify permitting and regulations; develop policies and regulations to support County agriculture*

- Give input to synthesize all permitting relevant to agricultural properties/businesses.  
Outcome: easy and straightforward for farmers to navigate permitting
- Offer suggestions for streamlining development on rural lands
- Farmworker housing:
  - Help farmers get lower permit fees for farm labor housing *\*the department already waives planning and building fees for farmworker housing*
  - Give input into new creative county policies on farmworker housing to address housing crisis in our community. Outcome: New rules/programs for farmworker housing in our county.
  - Allow multiple homesteads on farms
- Allow farm stays/agrotourism on all farms; allow more agrotourism

- Attend and learn about other counties' regulatory agreements on farmland to help our work with the County to ease regulations here. Report findings at AAC meeting.
- Increase crop production in San Mateo County through successful regulation changes and other needs
- Farm stand regulations and enforcement:
  - Simplify farm stand requirements, selling produce for legit local farmers
  - Help hold SMC roadside farm stands accountable. Confiscate and fine. Hold everyone to the same standards. No produce illegally crossing County lines to potentially create problems.
- Review growers workshop findings and vote on concerns/issues/ideas to report to the Board of Supervisors in the next nine months
- Review Williamson Act contracts and audits (ongoing)
- Develop policies to reduce open space and recreational land use conflicts with agriculture<sup>1</sup>
- Develop policies to address wildfire and climate change resilience<sup>2</sup>
- Consider water development/conservation measures to support agriculture<sup>3</sup>

**Community Engagement and Coordination:** *Engage the farming community and coordinate with agriculture-related partners to hear ideas and collaborate on approaches.*

- Provide time at AAC meetings for farmers within our county to present their needs/skills/ideas. Have three to four speakers of local farmers annually.
- Improve cooperation with San Mateo County agriculture-related organizations (AAC, Farm Bureau, RCD, County Planning, Mid Pen/etc., organic/conventional)
- Promote our new agritourism guidelines

**Resources for Farmers:** *Provide resources for farmers to preserve and promote farming across generations*

- Provide irrigation water for farms
- Support the development of a youth agricultural program
- Create more resources for farmers: food hub, equipment lending, labor resources, training/retraining resources
- Support the development of a central ag marketing facility

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<sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>, <sup>3</sup> These ideas were provided in public comment.

**Market Development and Economics:** *Increase revenue for San Mateo County growers*

- Give input into county's sourcing practices for produce to ensure large percentage of produce used in County run/funded institutions is from SMC growers. Outcome: at least 35% of produce in County-run/funded institutions is from SMC growers.
- Identify opportunities to increase sales for SMC agriculture

**Committee Operations:** *Improve effectiveness and efficiency of AAC..*

- Determine meeting location and time
- Improve Committee decisiveness
- More legal trainings
- Parliamentary procedures training: Sturgis