

Agricultural Advisory Committee Workplan Discussion Notes

June 9, 2026

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At its June 9, 2026 meeting, the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) participated in a facilitated discussion regarding its workplan for the next year. This was a follow-up to the AAC's goal-setting discussion on May 11, 2026. The AAC voted on three primary goals, prioritized some activities for each of the three goals, and formed three ad-hoc subcommittees. The subcommittees will meet at 5:45pm on July 13, prior to the AAC's regular meeting. In their meeting, the subcommittees will work to complete the attached workplan template chart to develop a draft workplan for each of the three goals. Each goal will include a few key activities, reflecting the activities prioritized by the AAC and the subcommittees. The subcommittees will discuss the draft workplans for potential revisions and adoption by the full AAC at the July 13 meeting.

The AAC agreed that the overarching goal for the AAC is to preserve agriculture on San Mateo County. The three goals that were prioritized by the AAC, and the prioritized activities are indicated below, with the number of votes each one received. Highest priority goals and activities are highlighted in yellow.

Provide input on County Policies: *Provide input on County policies as they come up to support and preserve agriculture in the County. (9)*

Subcommittee members: James Oku (lead), Peter Marchi

- Review and provide input/recommendations on:
 - Williamson Act audit, nonrenewals (4)
 - Farm Labor Housing projects (4)
 - PAD permits, RM permits (1)
- Provide input on:
 - LCP Amendments for Farm Labor Housing
 - Agritourism Guidelines – revised draft
 - Farmstand guidelines – final draft
 - Hoop House policy
- 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.¹

Policies, Permitting and Regulation: *Simplify permitting and regulations; develop policies and regulations to support County agriculture (5)*

¹ This policy idea was of interest to the AAC and is supported by County staff so it was moved into this category.

Subcommittee members: Cole Mazariegos-Anastassiou(lead), Ryan Casey, Daniel Theobald, & Marilyn Johnson.

- Give input to synthesize all permitting relevant to agricultural properties/businesses. Review all regulations for possible improvement. Outcome: easy and straightforward for farmers to navigate permitting (6)
- Farmworker housing: (1)
 - Allow multiple homesteads on farms (4)
 - 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. (3)
 - Help farmers get lower permit fees for farm labor housing **the department already waives planning and building fees for farmworker housing*
- Allow farm stays/agrotourism on all farms; allow more agrotourism (4)
- 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. (3)
- Farm stand regulations and enforcement:
 - 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. (3)
 - Simplify farm stand requirements, selling produce for legit local farmers
- Develop policies to reduce open space and recreational land use conflicts with agriculture (2)
- Consider water development/conservation measures to support agriculture (1)
- Offer suggestions for streamlining development on rural lands
- Review growers workshop findings and vote on concerns/issues/ideas to report to the Board of Supervisors in the next nine months
- Increase crop production in San Mateo County through successful regulation changes and other needs
- Develop policies to address wildfire and climate change resilience

Community Engagement and Coordination: *Engage the farming community and coordinate with agriculture-related partners to hear ideas and collaborate on approaches. (5)*

Subcommittee members: Crystal Chaix (lead), Koren Widdel, John Vars, Natalie Sare

- 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. (5)

- 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

The following goals were not prioritized by the AAC for this year's workplan:

Market Development and Economics: *Increase revenue for San Mateo County growers (3)*

- Identify opportunities to increase sales for SMC agriculture

Resources for Farmers: *Provide resources for farmers to preserve and promote farming across generations (2)*

- 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

Committee Operations: *Improve effectiveness and efficiency of AAC (0)*

- Determine meeting location and time
- Improve Committee decisiveness
- More legal trainings²
- Parliamentary procedures training: Sturgis²

² The County agreed to conduct these trainings

Work Plan Template Chart

Goal and Outcome:					
Activities/Action Steps & Level of Effort (high, med, low)	Who is Responsible?	Timeline	Resources/Partners	Outcomes/Indicators of Progress	Status