

MARIPOSA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES FINAL (approved 6/30/22)

DATE: THURSDAY, October 21, 2021
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
LOCATION: BOARD of SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR

**GOVERNMENT CENTER, 5100 BULLION STREET
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA**

1. **Roll call and Introductions: Members Present:** Tony Toso, Chair; Elnora George, Carla Kelly, John Shimer. **Members Absent:** David Mecchi. **County Staff Present:** Sarah Williams, Steve Engfer and Carol Suggs, Planning Department; Marshall Long, District III Supervisor; Mick Herman, District III Planning Commissioner; Robyn Smith with NRCS and Mikaela Corey with the Ag Commissioner's office. **Public Present:** Andy Yuan, Applicant.
2. **Persons wishing to speak on a matter not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the committee:** None.
3. **Approval of Minutes:**

a. August 29, 2019

By Motion of Shimer, seconded by George, the Agricultural Advisory Committee approved the minutes as presented. Motion Moved.

AYES: (3) GEORGE, SHIMER, TOSO

b. April 8, 2021

By Motion of Kelly, seconded by George, the Agricultural Advisory Committee approved the minutes as presented. Motion Moved.

AYES: (3) GEORGE, KELLY, TOSO

c. June 24, 2021

By Motion of Shimer, seconded by Kelly, the Agricultural Advisory Committee approved the minutes as presented. Motion Moved.

AYES: (3) KELLY, SHIMER, TOSO

4. Action Items - Recommendation Requested

- a. **LCA Contract Modification No. 2021-167; James W. Larrick and Jun Chen Living Trust. Modification of LCA Contract No. 2019-051 for the addition of three (3) parcels, Parcel 1- APN 017-100-018 (162.31 acres), Parcel 2- APN 017-100-0210 (137.84 acres), and Parcel 3- APN 017-100-0240 (237.18 acres)** to the existing contract containing five (5) parcels resulting in eight (8) contiguous parcels totaling 1,331.73 acres. Recommendation will be to Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Engfer presented project.

By Motion of Shimer, seconded by Kelly, the Agricultural Advisory Committee approved the minutes as presented. Motion Moved.

AYES: (3) GEORGE, KELLY, SHIMER, TOSO

- b. **LCA Contract Application No. 2021-150; We Weave Dreams Academy & The Yuan & Dong Trust, Owners; Yong Yuan aka Andy Yuan, Applicant.** Land Conservation Act (LCA) Application No. 2021-150 is proposed for one (1) new LCA Contract applicable to one (1) parcel located at 3671 Old Toll Road, APN 011-260-0060, 299.48 acres.

Engfer presented project. Stated that the applicant is here today for any questions.

Engfer read an email that the applicant presented after the packet production and provided a copy to be part of the record. Topic of the email was the use of land for grazing.

It was noted that there is a code compliance issue that needs resolution.

By Motion of Shimer, seconded by Kelly, the Agricultural Advisory Committee approved the project as presented with the stipulation that the applicant abate the code compliance issue on his property before the county enters a contract. Motion Moved.

AYES: (4) GEORGE, KELLY, SHIMER, TOSO

5. Correspondence None.

Informational Items: no action will be taken by the Committee

- a. **2019-2020 LCA Biennial Review Progress Update:**

Engfer provided update stating that they will have a better update at next meeting. Discussion regarding work and time involved in the administration of this program, possible alternatives to lighten the load on staff.

- b. Board of Supervisors Activities:** Long discussed the crop report and cannabis regarding creating a strategic plan for the county.
- c. Planning Commission Activities:** Herman reported that they have been meeting as they have projects to review.
- d. Member and Staff Activities:** No report.
- e. Planning Department:** Williams reported about Special Event Venue that was recently approved by the Board of Supervisors. She also reported on the redistricting process. Discussion on redistricting.

Toso provided a report on various CCAC sponsored bills being signed into law including: 332 Senate Bill (liability standards raised from a standard negligence to a gross negligence standard); Budget Bill HR SB 170 provided \$20m (prescribed burn pilot program. If you get an escape burn there is a pool set aside as a pilot project to apply for); State grazing program 434 not signed in yet, but it should go (a bill to encourage state agencies to get grazing to reduce fuels, put water fencing on those lands and use those for possible young ranchers to get these leases). Final bill signed in 1103 livestock pass program (so ranchers can get access to their properties during fire). Toso provided copies of this information to be included in these minutes. And noted that they are offering a workshop at the Reno convention with people in those counties to help others learn how to get set up. Stated that the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is working hard to help out with moving these forward and with implementation.

Herman inquired about ranchers renewing insurance and cattle not being insured.

Toso stated that Ag had been included in the FAIR plan which was signed into law recently.

Smith reported on NRCS looking for office space, and the addition of a new rangeland specialist and a new biologist on staff. Currently they have 422 active contracts of which 95% are forest management related, remaining are rangeland and crops. Contracts represent approximately \$20 million. 116 of the 422 are new contracts which account for about \$4.5 million in the last year.

Long reported about pending Request for Proposals for cattle guards. Stating that Public Works will bring policy to remove unneeded cattle guards and replace problem ones. Toso commented that the CCA will help however they can and asked Smith if NRCS could assist? Smith stated that they haven't done that before in our arena for NRCS but not impossible. Toso added that cattle guards are a safety management tool for rural counties, helps builds confidence with insurance companies.

- 6. Adjourn:** There being no further business Toso adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.