

**Sarah Mayer** *Public Comment - Agricultural Advisory Committee*

**From:** Tashina Sanders  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2024 7:53 AM  
**To:** Villalobos, David; sbcob  
**Cc:** Paul Van Leer; Jose Chang  
**Subject:** FW: Emailing: Scan-Signed Letter to the PC, IE Agriculture Rezones, South County, 3-22-24.pdf  
**Attachments:** Scan-Signed Letter to the PC, IE Agriculture Rezones, South County, 3-22-24.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Please see attached letter from the Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Regards,



*Tashina Sanders*  
 Agricultural Biologist/ Weights & Measures Inspector  
 Agricultural Commissioner's Office / Weights & Measures  
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-----Original Message-----

**From:** paulvanleer@ucsb.edu <paulvanleer@ucsb.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2024 4:18 PM  
**To:** Tashina Sanders <tsanders@countyofsb.org>  
**Cc:** Mel Graham <mgraham@countyofsb.org>; Jose Chang <jchang@countyofsb.org>  
**Subject:** Emailing: Scan-Signed Letter to the PC, IE Agriculture Rezones, South County, 3-22-24.pdf

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Hi Tashina,  
 Sorry for the late send,  
 If you are still able to send this today, that would be awesome, as they are having a special hearing on this issue Monday.  
 Please send it to the PC, Clerk of the Board.  
 If you could also send it the Supervisors as well that would be great.  
 Also the committee.  
 Please CC me when sending it to the PC, and Supervisors.  
 Thank you,  
 Have a great weekend,  
 Paul

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Scan-Signed Letter to the PC, IE Agriculture Rezones, South County, 3-22-24.pdf

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## COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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March 22, 2024

Santa Barbara County Planning Commission  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Dear Chair Martinez and Planning Commissioners:

The Agriculture Advisory Committee has reviewed several parts of the Housing Element and recently discussed several of the properties in agriculture zones that are in consideration for rezoning to meet the housing elements needs and RHNA allocations. Specifically, we reviewed parcels currently currently zoned agricultural and/or in agricultural production located on the Hollister Avenue corridor, parcels identified as the South Patterson Ag Block, Glen Annie, Van Windgerden 1, and Van Wingerden 2 as well as properties nearby.

Generally, and in recognition of the AAC's desire to support the Santa Barbara community at large and to see our agriculture workers have more housing options, we recognize the need for an increase in housing inventory and strongly recommend that solutions devised by the county use mechanisms that preserve agriculture lands at the same time. As a result, we strongly recommend an increase of minimum and maximum density to 60 units per acre minimum and 80 units per acre maximum. Increasing these housing unit rates allows the county to achieve its mandate on less land and requires less conversion of agricultural land to housing. We make these recommendations fully understanding that EIR findings may need limited revisions, but feel such effort now is worth the time and effort to preserve future agricultural and rural lands as housing demands continue to grow.

For the benefit of the Planning Commission and the public, we would like to inform you that the following recommendations for specific properties contemplated for rezone included the disclosure of potential conflicts of interest and recusal of AAC members as appropriate.

The AAC unanimously made the following recommendations regarding potential rezone sites on the South Coast:

1. Hollister Avenue corridor and South Patterson Ag Block: while we are always reluctant to convert agricultural land, in recognition of the housing crisis, the AAC does not oppose the rezone of these Ag parcels. In reaching this unanimous decision, the Committee discussed the current difficulty of incursions of urban uses onto agricultural operations at these locations and the benefits of infill development in an urban area.
2. Glen Annie: the AAC opposes the rezone of Glen Annie due to its proximity to other Ag operations. Although the property itself is not currently in agricultural production, the Committee felt concern with the potential for significant impacts of this land use change to surrounding viable agricultural operations and the potential for subsequent land use conflicts and expansion of urban uses in the County.
3. Van Wingerden properties 1 and 2:

- The AAC questions the need of converting these properties If the minimum and maximum units were increased to 60 and 80 dwelling units per acre respectively in the County generally if not specifically on aforementioned parcels.

The AAC appreciates the challenging of addressing multiple needs and objectives related to the Housing Element Update and Potential Rezones. We urge the Planning Commission to direct the limited revision to the EIR to accommodate the increase in dwelling units per acre, which has been previously recommended by the AAC to Staff during the comment period, and to accept our recommendations regarding specific parcels on the South Coast.

Thank you for your consideration,



Paul Van Leer, Chair

**Committee Members**

Bradley Miles  
Ron Caird  
Paul Van Leer, Chair  
Brett Ferini, Vice Chair

Lacy Litten  
Claire Wineman  
Russel Doty  
June Van Wingerden  
Tyler Thomas  
Bill Giorgi, *Alternate*  
Chrissy Allen

**Representing**

1<sup>st</sup> District Supervisor, Das Williams  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor, Laura Capps  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor, Joan Hartmann  
4<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, Bob Nelson  
5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor, Steve Lavagnino  
California Women for Agriculture  
Grower-Shipper Association of SB and SLO Counties  
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau  
Santa Barbara Flower & Nursery Growers' Association  
Santa Barbara Vintners  
Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Assn.  
California Strawberry Commission