



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning and  
Development &  
Agricultural  
Commissioner  
Department No.:  
For Agenda Of: 12/11/07  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: No Vote Required

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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department John Baker (568-2085) &  
Director(s) William Gillette (681-5600)  
Contact Info:

SUBJECT: **Agricultural Planning Six Month Report**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

Receive and file this report from the Planning and Development (P&D) Director and the Agricultural Commissioner on the move of agricultural planning from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to Planning and Development.

**Summary Text:**

This report complies with the Board's direction to provide a six month review of its action to consolidate the agricultural planning functions into the P&D Department.

**Background:**

During budget hearings in June 2005, your Board established and funded an agricultural planner position in the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. An additional agricultural planner was added in February 2006.

On March 6, 2007, your Board consolidated all planning functions, including agricultural planning, in P&D. The consolidation was to include secondary reporting relationship for this planning function to the Agricultural Commissioner. At this meeting, representatives of the agricultural community expressed concerns about the movement of agricultural planning out of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Your Board agreed to review this placement in 6 months. The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) has prepared a report for your consideration that is part of the agenda for today.

We are taking this opportunity to apprise your Board some of the accomplishments of the agricultural planning group and describe how well the Agricultural Planners have been incorporated into the total planning process.

The agricultural planners have offices in the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, one in Santa Maria and the other in Santa Barbara. While one of these positions is currently vacant, the other planner has successfully integrated herself into both departments. She meets with P&D Director on a regular basis, attends the Planning and Development New Case Review and Subdivision review committee meetings, works directly with P&D staff to review individual projects, works with the Long Range Planning Division to provide comments for other jurisdictions.

Stephanie works directly with Agricultural Commissioner to develop comments on projects and works with staff in the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to review data (maps, complaints, pesticide use, etc.) in order to prepare these comments.

The planner attends staff meetings with both departments in North and South County.

Attachment A is a list of agricultural projects that have been reviewed by the agricultural planners. As you can see, there have been many projects with a broad range of potential impacts to agriculture.

In addition to the work of the agricultural planner, the consolidation has resulted in a much greater amount of contact between the P&D Director and Agricultural Commissioner. We feel this communication has been very productive in addressing common issues relating to the needs of the agricultural community. As noted in the AAC letter to the Board, a coordinated team approach between the departments was very key in the final adoption of the Uniform Rules earlier this year.

We feel that the move of the agricultural planners has been positive and the positive impacts for agriculture and the planning process are just beginning. We are aware of the concerns of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. We will continue to discuss agricultural planning issues with them and report back to your Board as necessary.

**Authored by:**

William D. Gillette  
John Baker