

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



October 16, 2015

Hon. Janet Wolf, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street, Fourth Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan

Dear Chair Wolf and Honorable Members of the Board:

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) discussed concerns with the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan at our October 7, 2015 meeting. We respectfully submit these comments to you regarding several important issues that have countywide implications for agriculture.

We are concerned that the designation of chaparral habitat types as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) will set a precedent that will have deleterious effects on agriculture. Furthermore, we appreciate that the designation of chaparral as ESH does not apply in the agricultural zones but urge you to consider that this designation could be an issue for agricultural production where agricultural operations abut the mountainous zone. Specifically, the interface issue could hamper any defensible space clearance around orchards.

We are also concerned about structures in proposed creek setbacks becoming non-conforming and not being able to be rebuilt in the same footprint if damaged more than 75%.

We object to riparian setbacks being measured from edge of riparian habitat or top of bank, whichever is greater. We feel it should be measured only from top of bank.

As per our letter to the Planning Commission, we still feel strongly that setbacks from creeks should be 50 feet for urban agriculture and should not be expanded.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claire Wineman".

Claire Wineman, Chair

Committee Members

Bradley Miles
Ron Caird
Sharyne Merritt – Vice Chair
A.J. Cisney
Ruth Jensen
Chrissy Allen
Claire Wineman - Chair
Paul Van Leer
June Van Wingerden
Morgan McLaughlin
Willy Chamberlin
Jason Sharrett

Representing

1st District Supervisor, Salud Carbajal
2nd District Supervisor, Janet Wolf
3rd District Supervisor, Doreen Farr
4th District Supervisor, Peter Adam
5th District Supervisor, Steve Lavagnino
California Women for Agriculture
Grower-Shipper Association of SB & SLO
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
Santa Barbara Flower & Nursery Growers' Association
Central Coast Wine Growers Association
Santa Barbara County Cattleman's Assn.
California Strawberry Commission