



**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: BOS 1st & 3rd District
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: 10/15/2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Supervisor Das Williams, 1st District
Supervisor Joan Hartmann, 3rd District

SUBJECT: **Community Meeting for Board of Supervisors Farmworker Conditions in Santa Barbara County Temporary Ad Hoc Committee**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file report that on November 12, 2024 at 3:00pm for the Board of Supervisors Farmworker Conditions in Santa Barbara County Temporary Ad Hoc Committee will hold a community meeting at the Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Administration Building Board Hearing Room located at 511 Lakeside Parkway in Santa Maria ; and
- b) Determine that the proposed action does not constitute a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of an organizational or administrative activity of government which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

On September 10, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a temporary ad hoc committee to examine farmworker conditions in Santa Barbara County and appointed Supervisors Williams and Hartmann to serve on the committee. At that hearing, it was requested that the temporary ad hoc committee submit a Board Letter announcing the date it would hold a public community meeting to receive information regarding farmworker conditions in Santa Barbara County. That meeting will occur at 3:00pm on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 in the Board of Supervisors hearing room located at the Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Administration Center in Santa Maria.

Background:

Local agricultural workers and representatives from farmworker support and advocacy organizations spoke during public comment at the Tuesday, August 27, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting to highlight the report “Harvesting Dignity: The Case for a Living Wage for Farmworkers” released in Spring 2024. The public commenters requested that the Board of Supervisors add an item to a future agenda to consider the issues raised in the report. Supervisor Williams and Hartmann requested that an item be placed on a future agenda for the Board to consider formation of a temporary ad hoc advisory committee so they could further explore issues raised.

On Tuesday, September 10, 2024 the Board of Supervisors approved the formation of a temporary ad hoc committee regarding farmworker conditions in Santa Barbara County. The temporary ad hoc committee will hold a public community meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 beginning at 3:00pm in the hearing room of the Joseph Centeno Betteravia Government Administration Center in Santa Maria. The meeting is designed to examine the conditions of farmworkers in our County and to discuss strategies to improve conditions while also examining the broader landscape of Santa Barbara County’s agricultural economy. The meeting will consist of panels of experts on the subject of Santa Barbara County’s agricultural economy and farmworker conditions, covering topics such as wages, health care, housing, child care, upward mobility options, and quality of life conditions unique to agricultural workers in Santa Barbara County. Public comment will follow after the information provided by panels of experts. The ad hoc committee will report findings from the public meeting to the full Board of Supervisors at a future board meeting date.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

Authored by:

Darcél Elliott, Board of Supervisors