

Sheila de la Guerra

From: Gina Fischer
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 8:12 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Jacquelyne Alexander
Subject: Item to include for A58 for 12/03/2024 BOS meeting
Attachments: Program of Speakers for COB.docx



Dear Clerk:

Can you please distribute this attachment to the BOS and include in the public packet for item A58 oral report for Farmworker Conditions meeting? Thank you!

Gina Fischer

Chief of Staff

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105 E. Anapamu Street, 4th Floor, Santa

Farmworker Conditions

Purpose: This community meeting is designed to examine the conditions of farmworkers in our county and to discuss strategies to improve conditions while also protecting the ongoing viability of agricultural operations. Following the community meeting, the temporary ad hoc committee will report back to the Board of Supervisors with a summary of key points and possible suggestions for improving the lives of farm workers.

Structure:

- **Introduction** providing background on the history of agricultural labor in the United States and a snapshot of the County's agricultural economy and crop production; to be followed by
- **Panel 1:** Farmworker Compensation and the County's Agricultural Economy; to be followed by
- **Panel 2:** Significant Issues Impacting Farmworkers: Understanding Hardship and Poverty; to be followed by
- **Public comment**

Introduction: The purpose of the introductory panel is to frame the history of agricultural labor in the United States and provide a snapshot of the agricultural economy and crop production in Santa Barbara County.

Panelists include:

- **Dr. Ed Flores**, Associate Professor of Sociology at UC Merced and faculty director of the UC Merced Community and Labor Center. Dr. Flores researches race, gender, immigration, labor, and social movements.
- **Jose Chang**, Agricultural Commissioner County of Santa Barbara. Mr. Chang studied agriculture at UC Davis and has a degree in plant biology and has spent his career in local government working to protect and improve agriculture in California.

Panel 1 Farmworker Compensation and the County's Agricultural Economy

- **Overview** "[*Harvesting Dignity: The Case for Living Wages for Farm Workers*](#)" Report
 - **Arcenio Lopez**, Mr. López is a Nuu Savi leader from Oaxaca, México. He arrived in Oxnard in 2003 as a farmworker in strawberry fields and became MICOP's first Community Organizer in 2006; he ultimately later became MICOP's first Indigenous Executive Director in 2014.
 - **Daniel Segura-Esquivel**, Santa Maria Organizer for CAUSE. Mr. Segura-Esquivel was born and raised in the Santa Maria Valley and is the son of migrant farmworkers.
- **Santa Barbara County's Agricultural Economy: trends, competition, industry pressures**
 - **Claire Wineman**, President of the Grower-Shipper Association. The Grower-Shipper Association represents more than 170 growers, shippers, farm labor contractors, and supporting agribusinesses on matters related to agriculture in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties.
 - **Mark Martinez**, Vice President of Public Policy at the California Strawberry Commission. The California Strawberry Commission is a state commission under the California Department of Food and Agriculture and represents strawberry growers, shippers, and processors in California.
 - **Mike Testa**, Partner at Coastal Vineyard Care Associates. Mr. Testa serves on the board of the Santa Barbara Vintners Association, past Chair of the California Association of Winegrape Growers and has extensive experience working with the wine grape industry statewide.
- **H-2A Workforce: the role, utilization, and wage schedule of H-2A workers in Santa Barbara County**
 - **Carlos Castañeda**, Owner of Castaneda & Sons, Inc. Farm Labor Contractor. Castaneda & Sons, Inc. specializes in farm worker labor contracting, including assisting growers in utilizing H-2A farm labor. Mr. Castañeda's father was previously an immigrant farm worker who founded the family-run business.
 - **Prasi Gupta**, former Deputy Director of the National Guestworker Alliance. Mr. Gupta currently works with the California Coalition for Worker Power that builds a strong voice for working families throughout California.

Panel 2 Significant Issues Impacting Farmworkers: Recognizing Hardship and Economic Poverty

- **Farmworker Health, Safety & Health Care** *Unique conditions that impact farmworker health/safety and opportunities for improving health access and/or health outcomes*
 - **Dr. Jennifer E. Cossyleon**, Associate Research Professor at the UC Merced Community and Labor Center. Dr. Cossyleon has research expertise in academic and policy research on poverty and inequality, housing, race and gender, social movements, and employment.
 - **Dr. Raymond Lopez**, a physician who provides medical care to farmworkers on the Central Coast.
- **Farmworker Housing** *Challenges and opportunities for securing safe and affordable housing*
 - **Veronica Garcia**, Chief Real Estate Development Officer at People's Self-Help Housing. Ms. Garcia is committed to advancing housing opportunities for low-income and under-served communities.
- **Upward Mobility Opportunities for Farm Workers** *Opportunities for upward mobility that currently exist and gaps*
 - **Alyssa Stovall**, Programs Manager at the Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board (SBCWDB). SBCWDB is a federally-established board overseeing and coordinating multiple workforce development programs including the newly established Farmworker Resource Center.