

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING
AND AUTHORIZING THE CURRENT
'AG PASS' PROGRAM MANAGED
BY THE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, the agricultural industry is a vital part of the economy, infrastructure, and community of the County of Santa Barbara; and

WHEREAS, agricultural lands, crops, orchards, vineyards, and livestock operations constitute important assets that may require protection or care during emergencies such as wildfires, floods, earthquakes, or other disasters; and

WHEREAS, during emergency situations, access to agricultural properties is commonly restricted or closed by first responders or emergency management to protect public safety, fire fighters, law-enforcement and other emergency personnel; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the County of Santa Barbara has experienced multiple natural disasters including numerous wildfires, during which agricultural crops and livestock were highly susceptible to damage caused by agricultural operators being unable to access their property during and soon after disasters; and

WHEREAS, California Food and Agriculture Code section 2350 permits the County Agricultural Commissioner, upon approval from the Board of Supervisors, to establish within the County a livestock pass program for the purpose of issuing identification documents to qualified livestock producers who have completed an appropriate training program prior to a natural disaster such as a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office currently already oversees an existing "Ag Pass" program, which serves to issue identification documents ("Ag Pass cards") to qualifying employees of commercial agricultural operations ; and

WHEREAS, these Ag Pass cards assist emergency officials such as firefighting personnel and law enforcement officers in recognizing and, at the official's discretion, granting qualified cardholders timely access to their property in order to 1) protect or care for livestock, 2) irrigate crops, or 3) provide support information to emergency personnel; and

WHEREAS, the existing Ag Pass program has proven to be an effective coordination tool between the agricultural community and emergency response agencies, to allow limited, controlled access to agricultural properties to protect agricultural assets during emergencies, consistent with incident command authority and public safety priorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors hereby approves and authorizes the continued implementation and administration of the current Ag Pass program by the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, in accordance with applicable law and this resolution, for the purpose of issuing identification documents granting qualifying agricultural and livestock producers and their managerial employees access, at the discretion of appropriate disaster personnel, to the qualifying producer’s agricultural property during or following a flood, storm, fire, earthquake, or other disaster.

2. The County Agricultural Commissioner’s office shall continue to serve as the lead agency for the Ag Pass Program, in coordination with the County Fire Department, Sheriff’s Office, Office of Emergency Management, and other departments and agencies as needed.

3. The Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner is hereby authorized to establish and amend such rules, regulations, and requirements for the implementation of the Ag Pass Program which are consistent with the purpose of the program, this resolution, and applicable laws.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County Santa Barbara, State of California, on this _____ day of _____, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO
 COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 CLERK OF THE BOARD

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

By: _____
 Deputy Clerk

By: _____
 Bob Nelson, Chair
 Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VAN MULLEM
COUNTY COUNSEL

Signed by:
Laron Zambrano
By: _____
Deputy County Counsel