

Public Comment-

LATE
DIST

de la Guerra, Sheila

Community Resources+Public
facilities

From: Ed Seaman <eseaman3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 2:31 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Comment for the June 16th Santa Barbara County Budget Meeting
Attachments: Ed Seaman_June 16 Budget Hearing.pdf; CEQA_Process Flow_2023-06-14_07-20-40.jpg

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see the attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Ed Seaman
805-868-0329

Restoration Oaks Ranch
Santa Barbara Blueberries
Wild Farmlands Foundation



To The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

I am a food grower, landowner representative and social community stakeholder writing to ask you to include both the Land Stewardship and Carbon Farming position and the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Specialist positions in Santa Barbara County's Fiscal 2023/2024 budget, ongoing. Here are descriptions of the positions:

Land Stewardship and Carbon Farming Specialist – Support the agricultural community with implementing carbon farm plans and sustainable agricultural practices and applying for Federal and State funding for carbon sequestration projects

Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Specialist – Coordinate across departments to maintain an active database of programs and projects, develop a process by which to prioritize projects and then identify and secure funding for implementation in coordination with Departments.

My wife and I are stewards of Restoration Oaks Ranch, Owner/Operators of Santa Barbara Blueberries and Directors with the Wild Farmlands Foundation. We are a part of a larger community of Central Coast Landowner/Stewards, Community Stakeholders/NGOs and Policy/Regulatory representatives that **want to be active participants in sustainably recharging our watersheds and groundwater resources, managing climate change and supporting the food growing working lands of Santa Barbara and the greater South Central Coast Region.**

However, passionate and knowledgeable landowners and land caretakers like us don't dare try to work through the permitting process to implement projects and practices that are proven to slow, spread and sink water into our life-giving aquifers. We are not likely to do much to improve surface water capture/storage, nor are we likely to initiate projects that would effectively mitigate stormwater damage on our land, to the great detriment of downstream watersheds, our ecosystems and every living thing in them. Clean water and healthy soil are the key to naturally managing climate change, food security, ecosystem health, and life. If we cannot intelligently manage our natural water systems, we are doomed to fail in other areas.

The existing process for implementing nature-based solutions on private lands through county and state policy channels is essentially an opaque wall designed to shut down progressive land management, not support it.

Restoration Oaks Ranch


WILD
FARM
LANDS
FOUNDATION



The process is labyrinth, expensive and time consuming, featuring long approval cycles between siloed agencies. I have attached a separate file that graphically shows the CEQA process workflow. I am a farmer, not a civics professor; I have no staff and I don't have the time or the training to get through this efficiently.

I, and many others like me, need help and we need funding if we are expected to navigate this process. Having these two positions filled would help us to help you to contribute to a better Santa Barbara, a better Central Coast and a better world.

With Respect,



Ed Seaman

Restoration Oaks Ranch
Santa Barbara Blueberries
Wild Farmlands Foundation

CEQA Process Flow Chart

