



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: 12/3/2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: N/A

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

SUBJECT: Report out from Farmworker Conditions in Santa Barbara County temporary ad hoc advisory 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 a verbal report from members of the Farmworker Conditions in Santa Barbara County temporary ad hoc advisory committee; 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 created a temporary ad hoc advisory committee consisting of Supervisor Williams and Supervisor Hartmann to hold a public information session to gather information regarding the conditions of farmworkers in Santa Barbara County and report back to the Board of Supervisors. The public information session was held on November 12, 2024 and this item will consist of a verbal report from the members of the temporary ad hoc committee regarding what they learned from the session and potential next steps for the Board to take.

Background:

On April 1, 2024, CAUSE and MICOP released their report “Harvesting Dignity: The Case for a Living Wage for Farmworkers” and requested meetings with Supervisor Williams and Supervisor Hartmann. Supervisor Williams and Hartmann began discussing the issue and questions that were raised regarding the County’s agricultural labor market and farmworker wages. Subsequently, local farm workers and farm worker advocates spoke during public comment at the August 27, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting to request the Board of Supervisors add an item to a future agenda to consider the subject. 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 lay out the questions they have and how best to get them answered for the Board of Supervisors as a whole.

On September 10, 2024, the Board of Supervisors created the Farmworker Conditions in Santa Barbara County temporary ad hoc advisory committee and appointed Supervisor Williams and Supervisor Hartmann to serve on the committee and hold a public information session concerning conditions of farmworkers in Santa Barbara County.

The Farmworker Conditions in Santa Barbara County temporary ad hoc committee held a public information session on November 12, 2024 in Santa Maria and heard from experts on a range of topics, including: the need for a living wage for all farmworkers, the current state of the agricultural industry, H2A workers, farmworker healthcare, farmworker housing, and the opportunities for upward mobility among farmworkers. Following the panels of experts, the temporary ad hoc committee heard nearly 3 hours of public comment from farmworkers, advocates of farmworkers, and members of the agricultural industry. This item is intended to give the committee members an opportunity to give a verbal report on their findings from the information session.

Performance Measure: N/A

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes: N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: N/A

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative: N/A

Key Contract Risks: N/A

Staffing Impacts: N/A

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A

Authored by:

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cc: