



**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: Agricultural Advisory  
Committee  
Department No.:  
For Agenda Of: 12/11/07  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: No Vote Required

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Name & Phone  
Director(s) William D. Gillette 681-5600

**SUBJECT:** **Agricultural Advisory Committee's Review of the Move of Agricultural Planning  
from the Agricultural Commissioner to Planning & Development**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

Receive and file the six month report from the Agricultural Advisory Committee on the move of agricultural planning from the Agricultural Commissioner to Planning & Development as directed.

**Background:**

During budget hearings in June 2005, your Board established and funded an agricultural planner position in the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. An additional agricultural planner was added in February 2006.

On March 6, 2007, your Board consolidated all planning functions, including agricultural planning, in Planning & Development. At this meeting, representatives of the agricultural community expressed concerns about the movement of agricultural planning out of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. Your Board agreed to review this placement in 6 months.

During their September meeting, the Agricultural Advisory Committee discussed the issue. There were three general categories of discussion: project review and policy development and communications with political entities within Santa Barbara County. There was general consensus among committee members that project review is working well. The Ag Planner has reviewed numerous projects where impacts to agriculture were identified, commented on the project, had her comments included in the final report to the decision makers and significantly improved the protection of agriculture.

The committee expressed concerns about the lack of policy development that would further protect agriculture. The resignation of one of the ag planners contributed to their concern, as it will take some time to find a suitable replacement. Once this person is hired, the Committee would like to see progress in addressing policy issues of importance to agriculture, including: buffer zones, Residential Agricultural Units, Revision of the Grading Ordinance, Review of the Right to Farm Ordinance and others.

While some members of the Committee continue to express concerns regarding the movement of agricultural planning from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the Committee has greater concern for the protection of agriculture. The Committee will continue to monitor agricultural planning and departmental placement and will report back to your Board on an annual basis as directed, and more often if necessary.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee continued their discussions during their October and November meetings, and then approved this report. The AAC would also like to acknowledge the Planning and Development Department for their very thorough presentation to your Board during the September 25 hearing concerning the County's Uniform Rules. It was very apparent that the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the Agricultural Planner played a crucial role.

**Performance Measure:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:** There are no fiscal impacts associated with this report

**Staffing Impacts:**

There are no staffing impacts associated with this report.

**Authored by:**

William D. Gillette