



## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 303, Los Alamos, California 93440

**"WORKING TO SAVE RANCHING"**



April 14, 2017

Honorable Joan Hartmann, Chair  
County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

*Via email: [sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)*

**Subject: Annual Work Plan FY 2017-2018 for the Long Range Planning Division**

Dear Chair Hartmann and Members of the Board,

The Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association would like to take this opportunity to support the Agricultural Advisory Committee's and the County Planning Commission's recommendations for the Annual Work Plan for the Long Range Planning Division.

The Cattlemen's Association believes the four agricultural programs that your Agricultural Advisory Committee and Planning Commission identified will support and enhance the County's agricultural economy in general and more importantly, sustain the operations of local ranchers and farmers. As you know, making a living in ranching and farming is a serious challenge in this county.

In particular, the Cattlemen's Association would like to encourage the Board of Supervisors to consider expanding the scope of the Agricultural Permit Tier Program to create a streamlined or reduced permit process for Agricultural Second Units on AG-II zoned lands and for Farmworker Housing. We believe that these two programs can appropriately be folded into the Agricultural Permit Tier Program with minimal added cost.

The issue of making Agricultural Second Units an allowed use in AG-II lands is important to our members for two reasons. First, as a matter of fairness, Agricultural Second Units are currently allowed in both the inland and coastal zones of much smaller properties in the AG-I zone district and new State law mandates expedited permitting for second units within urban zone districts. Second, by making Agricultural Second Units an allowed use on large AG-II properties, your Board will give ranchers and farmers the opportunity to provide desperately needed generational housing for family members who want to retain a connection to the ranch. Also, farmworker housing becomes increasingly necessary to attract and retain experienced employees, particularly as their numbers decline and the cost of living climbs. Onsite farmworker housing also allows Ag employees to augment ranch and farm security, particularly on larger ranches.

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations which we feel will help further the long term viability of ranching in Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Bill Giorgi, President Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association

CC: Glenn Russell, Director; Planning and Development Department