



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
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: 07/11/2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Board Member(s) Supervisor Joan Hartmann
Contact Info: Gina Fischer 805-568-2192
SUBJECT: Rooster Ordinance

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

- a) Authorize Animal Services staff, in consultation with the Agriculture Commissioner, to draft an ordinance amending Chapter 7 of the County Code, Animals and Fowl, and return to the Board of Supervisors with the proposed ordinance regulating and limiting the number of allowable roosters by parcel size in unincorporated Santa Barbara County.
- b) Determine that the above action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) because it consists of government administrative or fiscal activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text: The purpose of this action is to receive Board authorization for staff to draft an ordinance limiting the number of roosters that may be kept on a single property to reduce public nuisances, illegal cockfighting, the raising of birds used for cockfighting, and to protect the health and safety of the County's residents and the quiet enjoyment of their homes. This request is before the Board because it may take more than de minimis (i.e., 8 hours) time for the Public Health and Agriculture Commission staff to develop the ordinance, and it was not previously on either departments' work plans for the year.

Background: In recent months, residents living in rural, unincorporated agriculturally zoned parcels have called attention to the often-crowded conditions of large-scale rooster operations on agricultural properties in Santa Barbara County. This large-scale breeding and warehousing of dozens to hundreds of roosters has led to adverse impacts to adjacent properties due to noise and activity that does not seem to

be in relation to legitimate commercial poultry operations. This action requests that Santa Barbara County follow other counties like Ventura, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Monterey, that have successfully regulated the number of roosters allowed, some by parcel size limitations, with exceptions for certified legitimate poultry ranching, other agricultural operations, or rooster rescue or safe harbor programs.

Performance Measure: N/A

Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No