



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.: 051  
For Agenda Of: 3/18/08  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: Yes  
If Yes, date from: 2/5/08, 2/19/08  
Vote Required: Majority

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TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department William D. Gillette  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: 681-5600

SUBJECT: **Agricultural Advisory Committee Eligibility and Rules of Procedure**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the attached Rules of Procedure for the Agricultural Advisory Committee
- b) Adopt new eligibility requirements for Agricultural Advisory Committee members

**Summary Text:**

The proposed Rules of Procedure and eligibility requirements are included as Attachment A.

**Background:**

On March 14, 1995, the Board of Supervisors approved the formation of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the membership and the eligibility requirements. The Board did not adopt Rules of Procedure and meeting guidelines at that time. As questions were raised as to conduct of meetings and procedures for interacting with your Board and other agencies the need for guidelines became apparent. The Committee worked with County Counsel to develop the attached guidelines.

The Board approved eligibility requirement for Committee membership is that "all nominees shall realize at least 50% of their income from agriculture." This has proven problematic for several reasons:

1. There is no way to verify income sources; 2. For farmers and ranchers, particularly those that are

retired or approaching retirement, income varies from year to year and other income may reduce agricultural income below the 50% threshold, and 3. Board member and some commodity groups are having trouble finding eligible people willing to serve on the Committee or as an alternate. The Committee recommends changing the eligibility to “all nominees shall have knowledge of or background in agriculture.”

At your Board meeting on February 5, 2008, the item was continued to add term limits. Four year term limits with a provision for reappointment for one additional term without a break in service was added. At your Board meeting on February 19, 2008, this provision was discussed and referred back to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for their recommendation. The Committee discussed this at their March 5, 2008 meeting and felt strongly that term limits would have a negative impact on their ability to function effectively and recommends that they not be implemented. The Committee had several reasons for this recommendation: 1. Industry Groups and Board member have had difficulty finding people to serve on the committee, so members willing to serve should be allowed to continue, 2. Newer members of the Committee stated that there is a significant “learning curve” in order to fully understand the background and impacts of items that come before the Committee. Requiring the change of members will negatively impact the Committee, and 3. Industry groups and Board Members can replace a member at any time, so the Committee requiring reappointment is not needed.

**Performance Measure:**

There are no performance measures associated with this Committee

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no fiscal or staffing impacts related to this recommendation.

**Special Instructions:**

Please send a minute order to the Agricultural Commissioner

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Draft Rules of Procedure

**Authored by:**

William D. Gillette