



**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: 09/10/2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

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

SUBJECT: Creation of a Farmworker Living Wage 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) Create a temporary ad hoc advisory committee to work on an information item regarding farmworker wages in Santa Barbara County and appoint Supervisor Das Williams and Supervisor Joan Hartmann to the ad hoc 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 August 27, 2024, Supervisors Das Williams and Joan Hartmann requested that an item be placed on a future agenda for the Board to consider formation of a temporary ad hoc advisory committee to seek answers regarding questions raised around the creation of a farmworker living wage ordinance in Santa Barbara County following numerous public comment from farmworkers and representatives of Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) and Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP). The purpose of the ad hoc committee is to arrange for an item to be heard at a future Board meeting and to provide information regarding questions raised around this issue.

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 representatives from CAUSE and MICOP 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. If approved by the Board, the ad hoc committee would be exempt from the Brown Act since it is temporary and less than a quorum of the Board members.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A – “Harvesting Dignity: The Case for a Living Wage for Farmworkers”

Authored by:

Darcél Elliott, Board of Supervisors