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Katherine Douglas *Public Comment - Ag Advisory Committee*

From: Mel Graham
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 12:52 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Tashina Sanders; Lottie Martin; Jose Chang
Subject: AAC Signed Letter to the BOS IE Climate Action Plan, 8-22-24.pdf
Attachments: Scan-AAC Signed Letter to the BOS IE Climate Action Plan, 8-22-24.pdf

Clerk-

Please see attached a letter from the Ag Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors and please let me know if you have any questions.

Also, can you please reply to let me know you received this email.

Thank you.

-Mel



Mel Graham

Agricultural Integrated Pest Management Specialist

Agricultural Commissioner's Office

624 West Foster Road, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Phone: (805) 934-6200 | Fax: (805) 934-6202

mgraham@countyofsb.org

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 22nd, 2024

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu
Santa Barbara CA 93101

RE: Climate Action Plan

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Supervisors,

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC), I am writing to express our comments regarding the proposed Climate Action Plan for Santa Barbara County. AAC has engaged extensively in this process over the course of several years. While we are supportive of some of the proposed actions as win-win solutions, AAC has consistently expressed grave concerns about the feasibility and approach of others identified in the plan—these concerns have not been adequately addressed in the proposed actions as presented to the Board. Our specific comments are as follows:

AAC does not support the following proposed actions and/or suggests the following changes:

1. TR 3.1, 3.2: Zero emission farm equipment is not widely available, is more expensive, and is unproven. Charging infrastructure and electricity distribution is inadequate to meet needs.
2. CE 1.3: Policies restricting natural gas in new construction or remodels should allow for exemptions for agricultural buildings and facilities due to prohibitive cost, reliability, and/or feasibility.
3. NBS 1.8: Efforts to restrict agricultural materials use need to consider the viability of food quality and marketability to avoid food waste.
4. AAC has consistently raised questions and concerns about the true costs and benefits of many aspects of the plan, as well as the real-world feasibility, which have been largely ignored.

AAC has consistently supported the following proposed actions:

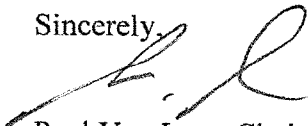
1. TR 3.3. The Carl Moyer Program is popular, well-received, and well-known in the agricultural community.
2. NBS 1.5. AAC supports the continued tax valuation of agricultural lands based on their agricultural production value through the Williamson Act.

Additionally, AAC recommends that County policies and County representation on other agencies, (such as LAFCO, SBCAG, and APCD), should prioritize infill alternatives to reduce conversion of agricultural lands in policies related to housing, annexation, transportation.

While we appreciate the plan's assertions of the voluntary nature of many of the actions, we are concerned with the potential development and implementation of the plan as it pertains to broader implications and policy consistency analyses. We would like to reiterate that farmers are already dealing with significant challenges on many fronts, and well-intentioned but misdirected unintended consequences may impact agriculture's economic stability and viability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to develop win-win solutions in these significant policy matters.

Sincerely,



Paul Van Leer, Chair

Committee Members

Bradley Miles
Ron Caird
Paul Van Leer, Chair
Brett Ferini, Vice Chair
Djamila Cabugos
Lacy Litten
Claire Wineman
Russel Doty
June Van Wingerden
Mike Testa
Larry Mendez Jr.
Chrissy Allen

Representing

1st District Supervisor, Das Williams
2nd District Supervisor, Laura Capps
3rd District Supervisor, Joan Hartmann
4th District Supervisor, Bob Nelson
5th District Supervisor, Steve Lavagnino
California Women for Agriculture
Grower-Shipper Association of SB and SLO Counties
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
Santa Barbara Flower & Nursery Growers' Association
Santa Barbara Vintners
Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Assn.
California Strawberry Commission