

COUNTY OF SONOMA AGRICULTURE IN SONOMA COUNTY AD HOC COMMITTEE CHARTER

Purpose and Background

On May 6, 2025, the Board established an Agriculture Ad Hoc Committee and appointed Supervisors Hopkins and Gore to work with the Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures and staff to assess the status of agriculture in the county and recommend policies to strengthen the agricultural industry and ensure its future viability in Sonoma County.

Committee Members

Lynda Hopkins, Fifth District Supervisor, Chair
James Gore, Fourth District Supervisor

Committee Duration

The Agriculture Ad Hoc Committee will be convened for a limited term through July 31, 2026.

County Department, Resources

Andrew Sturmfels, County Administrator's Office
McCall Miller, County Administrator's Office
Jennifer Klein, County Counsel
Sita Kuteira, County Counsel
Andrew Smith, Agriculture/Weights & Measures (AWM)
Sue Ostrom, Agriculture/Weights & Measures (AWM)

Subject matter experts from AWM, Permit Sonoma, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (APOSD), and County Counsel as needed.

Methodology & Areas of Focus

- Gather input and experiences from industry, staff, and community members.
- Collect and assemble input for consideration by the Board, and to inform policy development, goals, and objectives within the Board's purview.
- Identify opportunities to clarify protections under the Right to Farm Ordinance and improve notification of the protections to better support agricultural uses on agricultural lands and decrease conflicts with surrounding residents.
- Analyze current Williamson Act program and ways of utilizing it as a tool to better keep land in active cultivation.

Deliverable:

This ad hoc committee will generate a report identifying opportunities to strengthen agricultural industries for the Board to consider.