

Evacuation Zone Access Ad-Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

February to April 2022

Purpose and Scope

The purpose and scope of work for the Evacuation Zone Access Ad Hoc is:

1. Identify local and state efforts that address evacuation zone access with a focus on farmworker protections and other access issues (livestock and animals, commercial activities, etc.). Review draft county Agriculture Access programs and associated state legislation. Consider incorporating into County legislative advocacy platform relative to state programs.
2. Engage with stakeholders.
3. Assess options for implementing the state livestock program or other interim policy options.
4. Complete development and approval of a policy/program before August 1, 2022. Identify best approaches for educating residents on any approved policy/program.

Potential Future Areas of Work:

- Address non-agricultural interests (ex. economic)
- Disaster relief resources for workers impacted by evacuations/closures
- Health Impacts to workers who work outside during disasters
- Increased labor and health standards education and enforcement resources
- Multi-departmental effort to focus on the farmworker population re services, outreach, engagement, education, resources

Ad Hoc Members

Supervisor Chris Coursey
Supervisor Lynda Hopkins

Attendees

County Staff

- County Department of Emergency Management
 - Chris Godley, Director
- County Counsel
 - Jennifer Klein, Chief Deputy County Counsel
- Office of Equity
 - Alegria De La Cruz, Director
- Sheriff's Office
 - Jim Naugle, Assistant Sheriff
- Ag, Weights & Measures
 - Andrew Smith, Agricultural Commissioner
- As-needed subject matter support may also be provided by other departments.

Other

- Community and other government agency stakeholders to be determined.

Meetings Held

2/24/2022 – Agenda topics: Establish Charter/Scope, Identify Key Stakeholders and Roles, Review Existing Guidance/Practices/Plans, Outline Committee Workplan/Timeline, and Set approximate date

for next Committee meeting. The Ad Hoc directed staff to contact County departments that have had a role in related efforts and invite them to the next meeting. County staff attending: Chris Godley and Sonja Moug (Emergency Management).

3/17/2022 - Agenda topics: Finalize Charter/Scope, Review Recent Efforts, Review Existing Guidance/Practices/Plans, Review Proposed Options, Media Communications, Revise Workplan/Timeline. The committee considered and declined a proposal to add issues surrounding immigration enforcement and the California Values Act (SB54) to the committee's charter. The Ad Hoc directed staff to complete the scan of related state regulations, guidance and practices in other counties; incorporate CAO Communications staff so that they can address media inquiries; develop a preliminary policy that integrates state regulations and existing practices; and await the community meeting before engaging with community stakeholders. Chris Godley and Sonja Moug (Emergency Management), Alegria DeLaCruz (Office of Equity), Andrew Smith (Ag, Weights & Measures) Jim Naugle (Assistant Sheriff), Jennifer Klein (County Counsel).

4/4/2022 – Agenda topics: Review Proposed Program Options, Community Engagement, Media Communications, Review Workplan/Timeline, and Review Action Items. The Committee will engage with stakeholders and will plan to conduct a community meeting in early May. The Ad Hoc directed to staff to coordinate a community meeting in early May and request UC Cooperative Extension to participate. County staff attending: Chris Godley and Sonja Moug (Emergency Management), Alegria DeLaCruz (Office of Equity), Andrew Smith (Agriculture, Weights & Measures) Jim Naugle (Assistant Sheriff), Jennifer Klein (County Counsel), Elise Weiland (Board of Supervisors), Daniel Virkstis and Sylvia Lemus (CAO Communications).

Status

The Evacuation Zone Access Ad Hoc Committee was established by the Board of Supervisors on February 1, 2022. To date, the Ad Hoc Committee has conducted three meetings in March and April to finalize its charter and scope of work, review recent efforts, review existing guidance/practices, review potential options, assess media communications, and review work timeline. Staff conducted an environmental scan of relevant authorities, requirements, guidance, stakeholders and best practices. Community engagement will begin with a community meeting in early May.

Fiscal

There are currently no fiscal activities related to the Ad Hoc Committee efforts. Existing County staff are serving as support to the committee and as subject matter experts.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Evacuation Zone Access Ad Hoc meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2022.