

Evacuation Zone Access Ad-Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

April to June 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
- UC Cooperative Extension, Sonoma County
 - Stephanie Larson, PhD, Director

Other

- Community and other government agency stakeholders to be determined.

Meetings Held

4/21/2022 – Agenda topics: Background on former Ag Pass Program and current Ad Hoc work, potential community meeting; format and translation. Proposed timeline and documentation needs. Possibility of hiring a facilitator for community meeting. Ad Hoc directed staff to continue to research options and possible ramifications. Also directed staff to postpone proposed May meeting to July. Supervisors attending: Supervisor Chris Coursey, Supervisor Lynda Hopkins. County staff attending: Chris Godley and Sonja Moug (DEM), Andrew Smith (Agriculture/Weights and Measures.), Alegria De La Cruz (Office of Equity), Jim Naugle (Asst. Sheriff), Jennifer Klein (County Counsel), Elise Weiland, Daniel Virkstis, Sylvia Lemus, Paul Gullixson (CAO Communications), Stephanie Larson (UCCE).

4/29/2022 – Agenda topics: Community Engagement, Board of Supervisors Workshop, Proposed meeting with State Agencies, Review Current Action Items. Committee met with staff from Leap Solutions to discuss options and best practices for proposed community meeting. Review concerns around language accessibility, equity, and managing large numbers of people. Reviewed timeline and posting needs. Ad Hoc directed staff to pursue translation equipment options and venue options. Supervisors attending: Supervisor Chris Coursey, Supervisor Lynda Hopkins. County staff attending: Chris Godley and Sonja Moug (DEM), Andrew Smith (Agriculture/Weights & Measures), Alegria De La Cruz (Office of Equity), Jim Naugle (Asst. Sheriff), Jennifer Klein (County Counsel), Elise Weiland, Daniel Virkstis, Sylvia Lemus, Paul Gullixson (CAO Communications), Stephanie Larson (UCCE).

05/19/2022 – Agenda topics: Proposed Community Meeting Logistics, Legalities of Proposed Policy, Media Concerns. Committee discussed logistical challenges of community meeting, virtual vs in-person. Will continue with research and will provide feedback at next meeting. Supervisors attending: Supervisor Chris Coursey, Supervisor Lynda Hopkins. County staff attending: Chris Godley and Sonja Moug (DEM), Daniel Virkstis, Sylvia Lemus, Carly Cabrera, Paul Gullixson (CAO Communications), Jim Naugle (Asst. Sheriff), Adam Brand (County Counsel), Leo Chyi (Aide).

6/3/22 meeting – Agenda Topics: Review proposed options for moving forward, Review options for Community Engagement, Public Safety Concerns and Media Interest. Review Action Items. Chris Godley will compile Board Item documents, including staff report, and will provide drafts to Committee members prior to entering in Legistar. Supervisors attending: Supervisor Chris Coursey, Supervisor Lynda Hopkins. County staff attending: Chris Godley and Sonja Moug (DEM), Alegria De La Cruz (Office of Equity), Andrew Smith (Agriculture/Weights & Measures), Jim Naugle (Asst. Sheriff), Jennifer Klein (County Counsel), Daniel Virkstis, Sylvia Lemus, Hannah Cecena, Carly Cabrera, Stuart Tiffen, Jazmin Gudino, Paul Gullixson (CAO Communications), Leo Chyi, Sean Hamlin (Aides).

Status

The Evacuation Zone Access Ad Hoc Committee was established by the Board of Supervisors on February 1, 2022. The Ad Hoc Committee conducted four meetings during April, May and June in order to review recent County efforts, assess best practices, review potential options, assess media communications, and prepare for community engagement efforts including potential community meetings.

Staff, in partnership with the California Office of Emergency Services, surveyed other counties to determine if they were implementing similar programs and if so, how. Staff developed a report summarizing relevant authorities, requirements, guidance, stakeholders and best practices. The next

Ad Hoc activity will be a Community Workshop held during the July 19th Board of Supervisors meeting.

Fiscal Update

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 July 19, 2022.