

Evacuation Zone Access Ad-Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

July to August 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

7/19/2022 – Community Workshop at Board of Supervisors Meeting. Agenda topics included staff presentations on overview of evacuations, access programs background, key program development considerations, farmworker protections, presentation of potential program options, receive public comment/input, and provide direction to staff regarding development of the Immediate Needs Disaster Fund and Low Wage Worker Disaster Pay/Support Program. County staff attending: Chris Godley (DEM), Andrew Smith (Agriculture/Weights and Measures.), Alegria De La Cruz (Office of Equity), Jim Naugle (Asst. Sheriff), Jennifer Klein (County Counsel), and Stephanie Larson (UCCE).

Status

The Evacuation Zone Access Ad Hoc Committee was established by the Board of Supervisors on February 1, 2022 and conducted a total of seven meetings and one community workshop from February through July 2022 in order to review recent County efforts, assess best practices, review potential options, assess media communications, and prepare for community engagement efforts.

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 Ad Hoc committee conducted a large Community Workshop during the July 19th Board of Supervisors meeting at which point, the Board directed staff to develop an Agriculture Access Identification Card Program which it subsequently adopted on August 30, 2022. The Sheriff's Office and the Agriculture Commissioner are working to implement the program in October 2022.

With this quarterly update, the Ad Hoc committee has completed its work.

Note: at its August 30, 2022 meeting, the Board directed staff to address issues related to items listed under Future Areas of Work above (ex. agriculture worker support) and return to the Board with recommended actions.

Fiscal Update

There were no fiscal activities directly related to the Ad Hoc Committee efforts.

Upcoming Meetings

None.