



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**BOARDS AND COMMISSION**  
FARMWORKER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Half Moon Bay Library,  
*Community Room*  
620 Correas St., Half Moon Bay,  
CA  
650-363-1800  
[www.farmworkercommission.org](http://www.farmworkercommission.org)

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**July 12, 2023**

**7:00pm**

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The Farmworker Advisory Commission brings visibility to issues that disproportionately affect farmworkers, advises the Board of Supervisors on policies and initiatives, serves as a forum for the community, and advocates/supports the farmworker community.

**The Farmworker Advisory Commission was held in person at the Half Moon Bay Library's *Community Room* (620 Correas St., Half Moon Bay).**

**1. ROLL CALL**

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**Present:** Chair Judith Guerrero, Vice-Chair Corina Rodriguez Perez, Commissioners Yesenia Garcia, Yolanda Guzman Calderon, Rogelio Nabor-Martinez, Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez, John Vars, Stephanie Perez, Jonatan Ramirez

**Staff Present:** District 3 Board Liaison Marisol Escalera Durani. Community Affairs Office: Kenny Chu, Megan Gosch, Nyla Byers, Stephanie Robles, Sydney Lee, Bo Unga, Jennifer Castro-Lara

**2. Public Comment**

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Steve Oku: Owns a nursery in Pescadero. From his personal experience, farm labor housing should be on the farm. Steve currently has 9 homes on his property, 7 of which are for families. Many of these families pursued higher education, which Steve states is a result of the having housing on the farm and a stable work force. In his opinion, no other type of housing will have these results. The process of developing housing off site is time consuming. For instance, finding a site, obtaining permits, setting up water and the septic system. Not only is it a lengthy process but also costly. Instead, he suggests working towards government grants to allow farmers to build housing. Steve proposes to have a program like Puente, to help manage the housing, but the farmer must control it. Must address public policies as well.

Crystal Hernandez-Avila: Is a farmworker. There's is a huge need for housing for farmworkers in Half Moon Bay, Pescadero and surrounding areas. If there is no housing for farmworker and their families, to have a place to rest, it will be incredibly difficult while working a job where people work more than 8 to 10 hours a day. Crystal asks to fight for their rights because farmworkers deserve dignified and just housing. Farmworkers are essential, without them, nobody eats.

Mark Velligan: Is the President of the Board of Directors of Puente. There are currently two farms for sale, for individual and family farm laborers. Puente looked at a new strategic plan a few years back, and spoke with members of the Board, staff, and community. A reoccurring topic in these discussions was advocacy for: housing, community, affordable housing, and farmworker housing. Mark is aware that there is a risk of losing housing. Therefore, the County needs to work for both drinking water and wastewater systems that are not in the current plan as they're set up now. If that doesn't happen, we lose homes, people, farms, and the diversity in the community.

Drew Gamet: Is the director of La Costa Adult School. The school provides workforce training and other types of courses for adults on the coast side, from Montara to Pescadero. The school is also governed by the California framework for immigrant integration. The programs focus on teaching English and getting the adult students a high school diploma or equivalency. The school also supports students in obtaining a short-term professional certificate. They teach students about accessing healthcare and wellness services, financial literacy, and providing for their children and elder family members. The opportunities are available for education and career advancement for themselves as adult learners. Additionally, students are taught about participating in civic in community life. However, there needs to be support for the students and their employers. Drew is asking the commission to address the educational needs of farmworkers in future meetings, alongside housing and healthcare.

**AGENDA**

**3. Motion: Discuss and Identify the Farmworker Commission Priorities for 2023-2024 (80 minutes)**

<p><b>Facilitated by Urban Habitat – Wendy Aragon, Chair Judith, and County Staff</b></p>	<p>County Context for Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Farmworker Advisory Commission serves as an extension to the San Mateo Board of Supervisors to advise them on issues and policies that are necessary for the farmworker community.</li> <li>• Input from different entities helps the commission make decisions and identify priorities.</li> <li>• The commission may also collaborate with other entities by addressing the same issue or instead address other issues to expand the efforts.</li> <li>• Existing efforts are the Farmworker Taskforce: a multidisciplinary department who do farmworker housing inspections to identify living conditions or any issues that need to be corrected.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deputy County Executive, Justin Mates, will do a report out at the next meeting regarding the Farmworker Taskforce progress.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To guide decision making, the commission is allowed to request more information or receive updates from the County, from a provider or a vendor.</li> <li>• District 3 Board Liaison Marisol Escalera Durani reports back to Supervisor Ray Mueller which influences any policy decision or changes or needs.</li> </ul>
	<p>Discussion of Priorities and Motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commissioned asked community members to share their priorities and what they want the commission to focus on.</li> <li>• The commission identified and categorized the priorities into 3 goals: (1) Affordable and Quality Health Care, (2) Outreach and Education, and (3) Affordable Housing Development.</li> <li>• Goals are ways to help create new, equitable projects and policies, and/or support existing efforts.</li> </ul> <p>Motion to <b>approve</b> the following 3 goals for the Farmworker Advisory Commission for 2023-2024: (1) Affordable and Quality Health Care, (2) Outreach and Education, and (3) Affordable Housing Development.</p>

	<p>Commissioner Stephanie Perez/ Second: Vice-Chair Corina Rodriguez Perez</p> <p><b>Verbal roll call vote was taken:</b>  Yes: Yesenia Garcia, Chair Judith Guerrero, Yolanda Guzman Calderon, Rogelio Nabor-Martinez, Stephanie Perez, Jonathan Ramirez, Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez, John Vars (9)  No: 0  Abstain: 0  Absent: 0</p> <p>Ad-hoc Committee Formation and Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Habitat developed a tool to help identify commission-related goals, identify resources necessary to meet these goals, and how to obtain the goals.</li> <li>• The commission is responsible for having an annual workplan and report back to the Board of Supervisors on the goals and progress of the workplan.</li> <li>• Ad-hoc committees will consist of no more than 4 members to adhere to the Brown Act.</li> <li>• Three Ad-hoc committees formed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to Affordable and Quality Healthcare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members: Corina, Rogelio, Yolanda, Yesenia</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Outreach and Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members: Stephanie, Jonatan, Judith</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Affordable Housing Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Members: Nicolas, Judith, John, Corina</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Each committee will work on one goal that the full commission agreed to address.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Commissioners Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Judith Guerrero <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase entry level Know Your Rights knowledge</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Corina Rodriguez Perez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need more affordable housing. Begin with existing housing, and to also consider the situation where farmworkers lose their job and housing due to operators closing their business. Second priority is to increase the income requirement for the San Mateo County Access and Care for Everyone (ACE) program for more people to be eligible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need more affordable housing (i.e., individual and family housing)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Jonatan Ramirez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase wages and have more employee safety/occupational health training for farmworkers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Yesenia Garcia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Affordable and quality healthcare</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Yolanda Guzman Calderon</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Address housing needs, specifically in Pescadero as well as wages and healthcare</li> <li>● Commissioner Rogelio Nabor-Martinez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase wages and accessible healthcare in Pescadero</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Commissioner Stephanie Perez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expand early childcare programs for migrant families</li> <li>○ Adequate housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Commissioner John Vars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Address housing on farms and housing not linked to employees</li> <li>○ Housing loan programs for operators</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rita Mancera</li> <li>● Guadalupe</li> <li>● Hyun-mi Kim</li> <li>● Jacqueline Nabor</li> <li>● Drew Gamet</li> <li>● Patrick Horn</li> <li>● Margarito</li> <li>● Rocio Avila</li> </ul>

**4. Report Out**

<p><b>District 3 Report</b>, presented by Marisol Escalera Durani</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As of June, the County received notice from the California Department of Housing and Community Development and was \$5 million to build housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More updates will be given regarding the construction and how funds will be used.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● For any questions or concerns regarding District 3 projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Visit or call District 3’s office at County Center</li> <li>○ Visit the District 3’s coast side office at Shoppes at Harbor Village, 270 Capistrano Rd., Half Moon Bay, CA</li> <li>○ Or contact Marisol to set up an appointment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>County Executive’s Office Report</b>, presented by Emma Gonzalez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The County of San Mateo was granted \$60 million dollars for Measure K funds.</li> <li>● There are 4 priorities: (1) Children and Families, (2) Housing and Homelessness, (3) Mental Health, and (4) Emergency Preparedness.</li> <li>● Met with nearly 100 community-based organizations to get input on what the needs are of the people they represent.</li> <li>● The public is invited to participate in upcoming Listening Sessions to discuss how and where the County should use the Measure K funds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ August 9, 2023, 5:30pm-7pm, at Supervisor Ray Mueller’s Office, 270 Capistrano Road, El Granada</li> <li>○ August 15, 2023, 6pm-7:30pm, La Honda Pescadero School District Office (Board Room) 360 Butano Cutoff, Pescadero</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Feedback will be reported back to the Board of Supervisors in October.</li> </ul>
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**5. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

**Next Commission Meeting: \***

Wednesday September 13, 2023; 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information on future meetings, agendas, minutes, and presentations/presentation materials, please visit: [www.farmworkercommission.org](http://www.farmworkercommission.org)