



**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)

**November 8, 2023**

**7:00pm**

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**

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

**Staff Present:** District 3 Board Liaison Marisol Escalera Durani. Community Affairs Office: Kenny Chu, Megan Gosch, Sarah Dewitt-Feldman, Jennifer Castro-Lara

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**AGENDA**

**3. Farmworker Task Force Update**

<p><b>Presented by Justin Mates, Deputy County Executive</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Task Force was created this early 2023 in the wake of the Half Moon Bay shootings to identify and inspect all housing for farmworkers.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The shooting revealed two farms had inappropriate housing that did not meet minimum habitability standards.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Looking to ensure that all housing units meet minimum habitability standards (as opposed to a complete building code inspection)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ i.e., Basic fire safety, safe electric, basic structural safety, appropriate waste disposal (sewer/septic), and clean water</li> <li>○ The term unit could be a trailer, mobile home, triplex, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If inspectors identify housing to be unsafe and inhabitable, this is referred to as a “red tag”.</li> <li>• Began inspections in the spring. First step was to make a list of all the farms in the County with housing for farmworkers.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After a few months, inspections were put on hold due to concerns from operators; resumed inspections in September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 52 properties have been evaluated (approximately half of the list).</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 110 housing units were inspected of which 90 were occupied by 268 farmworkers.</li> <li>• When corrective work is identified, the goal is to be as flexible as possible to work with operators to find practical solutions and minimize displacements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ About 30% of inspections have required corrective actions</li> <li>○ The operator receives a letter identifying concerns and possible solutions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• They hope to finish inspections early in the new year, improve health and safety of current farmworker housing, as well as better understand the type and amount of housing that exists on agricultural land.</li> <li>• The Task Force will engage in long-term discussions on how to facilitate the development of needed housing.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Judith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Is there a set time frame for what needs to be fixed?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Vice-Chair Corina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is the regional breakdown of inspections in Half Moon Bay and Pescadero?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JoAnn Sandoval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How are you ensuring the water is being tested properly?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**4. Minimum Wage Update for Unincorporated Areas in San Mateo**

<b>Presented by Justin Mates, Deputy County Executive</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last year, the Board of Supervisors approved minimum wage specifically for San Mateo County that increases each year pursuant to a cost-of-living formula.</li> <li>• A 56-cent increase is effective Jan 1st to \$17.06.</li> <li>• Applies to all employers in unincorporated areas in San Mateo County.</li> <li>• This applies to all employees regardless of sector or immigration status.</li> <li>• Ordinance is enforced by the California Labor Commissioner’s Office Enforcement Agency.</li> <li>• A flyer has been developed on the county website and is being distributed through multiple channels.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner John Vars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can you explain the formula for the increase? Will it be used indefinitely?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

**5. San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management (DEM)**

<b>Presented by Shruti Dhapodkar, Director of DEM</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) mission is to advance community resilience involving the whole community in every step of emergency preparedness.</li> <li>• In anticipation for upcoming storms, DEM has met with other County Department heads.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They conducted a full inventory of the four Care and Shelter trailers used for mass care and evacuation locations.</li> <li>• DEM worked with the Human Services Agency who led a temporary evacuation point training in Pescadero.</li> <li>• Sandbags have already been deployed to Half Moon Bay, Princeton, La Honda, and Pescadero.</li> <li>• The Department of Public works has been working in the past year to reinforce and repair roads as well as cleaning debris to prevent flooding.</li> <li>• Emergency Medical Services is prepared to augment staffing and ambulances to the coast during a storm.</li> <li>• Ag ID Program offers a standardized identification system for owners/managers of commercial livestock. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This program allows them access to restricted areas during emergencies to care for animals and support emergency personnel.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Personal preparedness is important. To best prepare: create an emergency plan, build an emergency kit, stay informed, and have a communication plan.</li> <li>• San Mateo County has few emergency alert and warning systems such as SMC Alert, Genasys Protect, and Tsunami Sirens along the coast.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Judith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Do you do anything in-person or work with any agencies to distribute information to farmworkers?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Jorge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are you going to be able to provide any kind of emergency kits for farmworkers?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Vice-Chair Corina <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Are there any updates about repairs on Stage Road?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

**6. Thrive Alliance Overview**

<b>Presented by Ana Miscolta, Director of Community Resilience and Yajaira Ortega, Policy Equity Manager</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thrive Alliance mission is to promote and support the nonprofit sector, which is a major contributor to the economic and social health of San Mateo County.</li> <li>• Goal is to improve the outcomes of all San Mateo County residents through supporting nonprofits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ i.e., Policy and Advocacy, Cross-Sector Collaboration, and Nonprofit Capacity Building</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (REDI) Hub take action to address systemic racism, discrimination and inequities in communities and organizations.</li> <li>• Thrive Alliance hosts an annual Nonprofit Racial Justice Summit which brings together diverse spectrum of change makers.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I.e., Nonprofit leaders, staff, board members, and cross-sector partners</li> <li>○ This year’s theme is Partnership in Collective Responsibility</li> <li>● Thrive Alliance offers free translation and interpretation for San Mateo County nonprofits through their Translation Hub.</li> <li>● In preparations for the Primary Elections on March 4<sup>th</sup>, Thrive’s purpose is to create spaces where community can find accurate information to learn about the election. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thrive Alliance provides election education tool kits for organizations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Thrive leads the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD): a network of various organizations working together to reduce community risk to disasters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus on Response and Recovery efforts with the intent to make resources accessible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Early next year will have 2 trainings on the coast that focus on Continuity of Operations for farmers and small businesses.</li> <li>● Launched a map of the Community and Disaster Services in San Mateo County to have an awareness of all service providers in the county who reduce community risk.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chair Judith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will transportation options be available for the Racial Justice Summit? Will interpretation be available?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

**7. Agricultural Worker’s Rights Booklet**

<b>Presented by JoAnn Sandoval, Community Organizer for Puente</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Know Your Rights booklet was created in partnership with Centro Legal de la Raza; an agency that works with Latino immigrants and other populations and focus on worker rights and tenant rights.</li> <li>● The booklet contains information regarding breaks, minimum wages, extra hours, or double pay.</li> <li>● Farmworkers from del Campo al Cambio provided feedback during the development of the booklet.</li> <li>● The Q&amp;A section of the booklet breaks down the information in detail so it’s easier to understand.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chair Judith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can this information be shared in Half Moon Bay?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hyun-mi Kim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Puente is planning to distribute this booklet to owners and operators because California State Agencies informed that employers are unaware of certain laws.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**8. Update on the Outreach and Education Ad-Hoc committee**

<b>Presented by Ad-hoc Committee representative.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Farmworker Know Your Rights workshop organized by the committee, was held on October 25 at the Cunha Intermediate School.</li> <li>• The Community Legal Series in East Palo Alto (CLESPA) was invited to present.</li> <li>• Approximately 15-20 people attended the workshop.</li> <li>• The committee is planning to another Know Your Rights workshop for Pescadero in partnership with Puente.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	No comment.
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

**9. Update on the Affordable and Quality Healthcare Ad-Hoc committee**

<b>Presented by Ad-hoc Committee representative.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee met with the San Mateo County Department of Health and the Director of Medical and Access and Care for Everyone (ACE).</li> <li>• The committee highlighted the importance of the ACE program and advocated for increases to the income eligibility limits.</li> <li>• ACE needs approximately 2 years to evaluate and consider what the state is doing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They want to hire someone to do the evaluations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Corina suggested that the committee and commission to do the evaluations by compiling a list of people who qualified vs people who qualified but had to ask for time off without pay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently discussing the best way to approach this.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Nicolas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Its important to increase coverage and to consider that an evaluation could result in the loss of coverage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chair Judith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supervisor Ray Mueller will coordinate a meeting with farmworkers to find a solution and not have to wait 2 years for an evaluation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Commissioner Jorge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of health insurance coverage has an impact on farmworker mental health and family stability. We need to advocate for people who must choose between wages or health coverage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

**10. Update on the Affordable Housing Development Ad-Hoc committee**

<b>Presented by Ad-hoc Committee representative.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee met with Larisa Casillas – Program Director of Urban Habitat to discuss available funding through the state, county, and alternative ways.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potentially thinking of asking for funding for farmworker specific housing</li> <li>● In a del Campo al Cambio meeting, John expressed how farm owners could benefit from county support with the permitting process.</li> <li>● John advocates for the County to provide more financial support or free staff support or consultancy for those needing assistance with building.</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioners Comment</b>	No comment.
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.

## 11. Report Out

<p><b>Commissioner's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commissioner Nicolas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attended a meeting in Pescadero with Supervisor Ray Mueller. Main topic of concern discussed was farmworker housing. Every farmworker deserves their own homes.</li> <li>○ Nicolas, Yolanda, Rogelio, and members of del Campo al Cambio asked Supervisor Mueller to reopen Bean Hollow's archive.</li> <li>○ Minimum wage is not enough. Farmworkers are struggling to pay their bills. Need minimum wage to be enough to cover the basic necessities. They asked the County/Supervisor Ray Mueller to pay attention to their petition.</li> <li>○ Another topic discussed was potable water at the schools, specifically in Pescadero.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Chair Judith Guerrero <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Attended the Boards and Commission Recognition and Gratitude Reception held by the County of San Mateo. Hopes it will happen again next year as it's a great opportunity to connect with other commissions and councils from the county.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Supervisor's Report</b>, presented by Marisol Escalera Durani</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Supervisor Ray Muller and District 3 office is working hard to advocate for the needs of their farmworker and family community. As well as families who need better healthcare and housing.</li> <li>● Currently looking for a date to meet and discuss health. If interested in talking about health, contact Marisol directly or contact Rita from Puente or Judith from Coastside Hope.</li> <li>● Still looking at available spaces where housing can be built and developed in the county.</li> <li>● If people have questions regarding preparations for rain, contact Coastside Hope, Puente, or District 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If people need sandbags, they may contact District 3 and they will direct people to the right person.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Supervisor Ray Mueller attended the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting in San Diego County to speak with the coastal commission. He communicated the need for clean water in Pescadero, specifically in schools. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waiting to hear back on next steps and will continue to keep in touch with the coastal commission.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Supervisor Ray Mueller met with del Campo al Cambio and will continue meet with them and work on the issues discussed.</li> </ul>
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## 12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

**Next Commission Meeting: \***

Wednesday January 10, 2024; 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)