



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

March 13, 2024

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

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

2. Public Comment

JoAnn Sandoval: Asking the commission to consider alternating their meeting location between Half Moon Bay and Pescadero. Doing so, will help bring more farmworkers to attend the meetings.

AGENDA

3. Motion: Election of Farmworker Advisory Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

<p>Facilitated by Judith Guerrero</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for nominations, and elections of Farmworker Advisory Commission Chair. <p>Motion to elect Judith Guerrero as Chair of the Farmworker Advisory Commission.</p> <p>Verbal roll call vote was taken: Yes: Rogelio Nabor-Martinez, Stephanie Perez, Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez, Jorge Sanchez, Yesenia Garcia, John Vars (6) No: Judith Guerrero, Corina Rodriguez Perez (2) Abstain: 0 Absent: Yolanda Guzman Calderon, Jonatan Ramirez (2)</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for nominations, and elections of Farmworker Advisory Commission Vice-Chair <p>Motion to elect Stephanie Perez as Chair of the Farmworker Advisory Commission.</p> <p>Verbal roll call vote was taken: Yes: Judith Guerrero, Corina Rodriguez Perez, Rogelio Nabor-Martinez, Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez, Yesenia Garcia, John Vars (6) No: Stephanie Perez, Jorge Sanchez (2) Abstain: 0 Absent: Yolanda Guzman, Jonatan Ramirez (2)</p>
Commissioners Comment	No comment.
Public Comment	No public comment.

4. Informational: Farmworker Taskforce Update

<p>Presented by Heather Forshey, Director of Environmental Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Taskforce is in charge on ensuring safe housing on farms. • Inspections ensures there is clean water, safe electrical wiring, fire safety, waste disposal, etc. • As of the beginning of March, 80% of the agricorporations in the San Mateo County were examined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Of the 80%: 140 housing units were inspected. ○ Of the 440 units: 108 were occupied by farmworkers. ○ Of the 108 units: 38 were found to require some correction or repairs. • The Taskforce has been working with the property owners to ensure that the repairs are made. • The goal is to work with the owners to make the repairs first. • There has only been one property owner who evicted his tenants instead of making the repairs. Tenants were not farmworkers however each family received money to relocate by the property owner. • The County is also working with the cities that have farmworker housing and has offered to assist with inspections. • Inspections are expected to be completed in the next few months. • After the inspections are completed, a report with the results, including the violations found, will be shared. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The report will be shared to the commission and to the community. • Seeking input from the commission and/or recommendations to improve living conditions and improve ways to increase affordable farmworker housing or the community. • Recommendations will be provided to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.
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Commissioners Comment	<p>Jorge Sanchez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How often are ranches or farms inspected? • Are inspectors rotated or do they remain at the County long term? • Is the list of people living in ranches current as of 2024? • Are the ranches on the 92 under the Taskforce jurisdiction? • Are ranches with contracted workers inspected? <p>Judith Guerrero:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you mean by city helping you? You mentioned 38 corrections needed, was there a grace period to complete corrections? Was there any additional support offered to farm owners? <p>Corina Rodriguez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed concern for retired farmworkers who continue to live on farms. Is there a plan in place for them? <p>John Vars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm housing inspections are not being done differently?
Public Comment	No public comment.

5. Informational: Proposal to Create Photo Project “A Tribute to the Farmworkers”

Presented by Jose Aguirre, Program Manager - San Mateo County CARON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposed project will pay tribute to the farmworkers of the coast to showcase who they are and what they do via photos and short videos. • Photos and stories of farmworkers will be taken by Jose Aguirre and then printed into a book by August. • The goal is to raise funds to bring additional resources to farmworker community by organizing an exhibit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ i.e., organize an art gallery gala. • Currently looking for sponsors to support this cause and potential partners to develop the project. • A committee team consisting of partners will meet to review and receive updates on the progress of the project. • During the production, participants will be identified and scheduled for an interview and a photoshoot. • September is the expected date in which the events will begin as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month.
Commissioners Comment	<p>Stephanie Perez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project is a great idea, farmworkers hold a lot of pride in their work and its real special to give them a platform to share their stories. <p>Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very interesting to have people’s life stories captured in a book and shared for years to come. <p>Rogelio Nabor-Martinez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a great idea as there are many people who are unaware of how their food was harvested or of the work we do. <p>Corina Rodriguez:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you continuing to work with youth, specifically in high school students? Perhaps they can help work on this project as well.
Public Comment	No public comment.

6. Informational: Opportunity Center of the Coastsides

Presented by Karen Decker, City of Half Moon Bay, and Stephanie Perez, Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Half Moon Bay City Council decide on 5 priorities every year to focus on for that year and create a budget around the priorities. • Economic Development was chosen as a priority in March 2020. • A Recovery Task Force of 17 coastsiders was created to help the economy. • 4 working teams were created from those 17 people and met for 8 months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Together they gathered data from community members to create a report. • 15 recommendations were made to improve the economy and professional development in coastal communities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new location for the Opportunity Center of the Coastsides is at 367 Main St., Half Moon Bay. • It offers a variety of services to the community from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coastside Venture Studio – provide early-stage support for startups and entrepreneurs. ○ Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center – offer individual mentoring, business development classes, and networking and supportive events. ○ JobTrain – provide individual support, resume building, skill development classes, and referrals to local jobs. • The Opportunity Center is open Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm.
Commissioners Comment	No comment.
Public Comment	No public comment.

7. Informational: MediCal Healthcare Benefits Changes 2024

Presented by Rommel Silva, Human Services Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medi-Cal offers free or low-cost health coverage for California residents. • As of January 1, 2024, Medi-Cal has expanded and now offers full scope benefits to adults ages 26 to 49, regardless of immigrant status. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applying for or using Medi-Cal will not affect an individual's immigration status. • To apply to Medi-Cal individuals must provide the required documents. • Starting 2024, Medi-Cal in San Mateo County will have two managed care plans: The Health Plan of San Mateo and Kaiser Permanente. • Individuals may apply via online, phone, fax, mail, or in-person. • Once approved, everyone will receive a Medi-Cal Choice Packet which includes plan information, guides and more.
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Commissioners Comment	No comment.
Public Comment	No public comment.

8. Informational: Access and Care for Everyone (ACE) Program

<p>Presented by Lorena Vargas de Mendez, San Mateo County Health - Health Coverage Unit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The San Mateo County Health Coverage Unit (SMC HCU) help connect families and individuals to afford healthcare coverage. • SMC HCU workers are best known as Community Health Advocate (CHA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May also be known as Certified Enrollment Counselor (CEC) or Health Benefit Analyst. • Community Health Advocates are available throughout the county. On the coast, they are available in-person at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coastside clinic on Mondays ○ ALAS Half Moon Bay Office on Tuesdays • SMC HCU offer one-on-one assistance and educate participants through the enrollment process to insurance programs or coverage programs. • Health Coverage Programs offered through the San Mateo Medical Center which include Access to Care for Everyone (ACE) and Discounted Health Care (DHC). • ACE is a health coverage program for San Mateo County Residents who are 19 years or older and were not eligible for full scope Medi-Cal or Covered California. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Farmworkers and unhoused individuals will have their yearly fee waived for ACE but still responsible to pay for co-payments. • Temporary ACE is only available when the enrollment period for Covered California is closed. • Excess Income ACE are for individuals with incomes between 200%-225% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), must be experiencing financial hardship, and have a chronic condition. • DHC is a program for individuals with incomes between 200%-400% FDL. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The discount applies to services offered at the San Mateo Center and satellite clinics. • Kaiser Community Health Program is a new program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enrollment opened in December 2023 for the 2024 year, Half Moon Bay had the most applications submitted.
<p>Commissioners Comment</p>	<p>Corina Rodriguez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed gratitude for the programs existing but asked to consider increasing the income limit. • The Kaiser program is excellent but have observed and heard individuals from Pescadero comment on transportation needs, or reluctance to switch due to familiarity with current provider. <p>Jorge Sanchez:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you clarify the enrollment for Kaiser?

Public Comment	No public comment.
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9. Debrief: Storm Related Outreach and Communication Efforts

Facilitated by Judith Guerrero	<p>Motion to reschedule item 9 to the May 8 Farmworker Advisory Commission meeting.</p> <p>Chair Judith Guerrero/Second: Vicechair Stephanie Perez</p> <p>Verbal roll call vote was taken: Yes: Judith Guerrero, Corina Rodriguez Perez, Rogelio Nabor-Martinez, Stephanie Perez, Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez, Jorge Sanchez, Yesenia Garcia, John Vars (8) No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: Yolanda Guzman Calderon, Jonatan Ramirez (2)</p>
Commissioners Comment	No comment.
Public Comment	No public comment.

10. Report Out

<p>Commissioner’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rogelio Nabor-Martinez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Would like to invite farmworkers to the Farmworker Convention on Sunday March 17th, 2024, from 8am to 5pm at Pescadero High School. • Jorge Sanchez <p>Supervisor’s Report, presented by Marisol Escalera Durani and Natalie Handel, member of the San Mateo County Youth Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalie Handel announced that the San Mateo County Youth Commission is awarding 5 immigrant youth pursuing a higher education a \$1,000 scholarship each. The application deadline is May 3, 2024. • The San Mateo County Crop Art Report Contest is calling students grades 6-12 to submit art highlighting San Mateo County’s Agriculture which will be featured as the cover of the Department of Agriculture’s annual report. The deadline to apply is April 26, 2024. • In February, Supervisor Ray Muller visited the Coastal Commission to advocate for the ability to communicate with emergency service providers when there is no power. The Coastal Commission then approved a project with CalTrans to create a redundancy which improves and enhances bandwidth (internet service or connection, cable satellite in the coast). This will improve the infrastructure. • During the storms, District 3 has worked with PG&E to improve the Grid. • Supervisor Ray Mueller has been advocating for AT&T to provide explanations about landline service. AT&T has currently submitted a petition to withdraw from its role as a Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) that provides landline telephone service within its territories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This includes the California Lifeline program which may impact the use of federal Lifeline programs for low-income individuals.
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- Basic services = communication signal transmission
- Access to 911 or their services
- Service to the Printed Directory Service
- Fair rates where consumers are offered unlimited incoming calls.
- Access to the 800 or the 8YY where the caller pays for the call.
- Relay Services for hard of hearing people
- Blocking ability
- Operator Services

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting: *

Wednesday May 8, 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