



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
BOARDS AND COMMISSION
 FARMWORKER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Pescadero High School,
 Multipurpose Room
 360 Butano Cutoff,
 Pescadero, CA
 650-363-1800
www.farmworkercommission.org

July 10, 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 Pescadero High School’s Multipurpose Room (360 Butano Cutoff, Pescadero).

1. ROLL CALL

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

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

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

AGENDA

3. Presentation: Farmworker Taskforce Update

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| <p>Presented by Justin Mates, Deputy County Executive</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmworker Housing Task Force was created to identify and inspect all employee housing on agricultural land within jurisdiction to ensure minimal health and safety standards. • For purposes of this Taskforce, farmworkers are identified to be someone who works on the same farm operation where they live. • Farms that house 5 or more farmworkers are required to be registered with Environmental Health permit programs. • The Taskforces has not red-tagged any housing units to-date. None have been comparable to the conditions of the Mushroom Farm – the location where the shooting took place. • Want to create the base line of understanding of the condition of the type and number of farmworker units on agricultural lands. • Looking at findings at staff level – are there any things we can do at county gov level to help improve the condition of farmworker housing units. • The County welcomes questions, input, and thoughts; and will be going to PMAC, Farm Bureau, Agricultural Advisory Committee, and potential additional community meetings to get public and stakeholder input on |
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| | <p>proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposals: (1) new ordinance for Water System, (2) Modify Septic Ordinance ● The County is exploring the possibility of pursuing a Local Coastal Program amendment to establish a permit exemption for farm labor housing projects. ● The County added more staffing at Planning and Building and Environmental Health to help applicants construct legal units. ● To address financial restraints, the County is exploring the possibility of refreshing the farmworker housing loan program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is a subsidized loan program to help operators with constructions. Funding is currently exhausted. ● A final report will be available on: www.smcgov.org/planning/farm-labor-housing-compliance |
| Commissioners Comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Corina Rodriguez: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How long did units have to do necessary corrections? ○ How long were the 6 units given to make egress and emergency exit corrections? ○ 42 units were non-farmworker units so not evaluated for corrections—is there any plan to ask those individuals to leave? ● John Vars: What is the requirement for paying for relocation if necessary? |
| Public Comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JoAnn Sandoval: Farmworkers were under the impression they would have an opportunity to speak with the inspectors about issues that they can't speak about in front of the landlord or employer. However, inspectors mainly spoke with farm owners. One issue mentioned was of sexual harassment. Is there a plan to communicate with farmworkers? |

4. Presentation: Emergency Communications for San Mateo County

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| Presented by Sandra Firpo, Department of Emergency Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) evolved since its creation in the 1950's. Its purpose at the time was to inform people on what to do during a disaster. ● The current mission is to enhance the safety and resilience of the community in every phase of disaster preparedness. ● DEM are not responders rather they support the cities and unincorporated areas throughout the San Mateo County. ● DEM manages alerts and the software but are not the only agency who sends the alerts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many agencies have authorizations to send communications. ● To best be informed, it's essential to have various methods to receive notifications and alerts. ● SMC Alert and Genesys Protect are 2 examples on where to receive information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People can register to SMC Alert for Spanish alerts. ● DEM seeks the feedback from people on their experiences with the |
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| | <p>communications to best understand and address their needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMC DEM is organizing the 20th annual Disaster Prep Day on August 3, 2024, from 11am-3pm. It's a free, family friendly event at the San Mateo County Event Center. |
| Commissioners Comment | No comment. |
| Public Comment | No public comment. |

5. Presentation: Office of Labor Standards Update

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| Presented by Shireen Malekafzali, Chief Equity Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 2023, the Board of Supervisors, sponsored by Supervisor Mueller and Supervisor Pine, unanimously voted to establish the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE). • The problem - there is not great data. • Disproportionately impacts; low wage workers, families struggling to make ends meet, women, people of color, and undocumented immigrants. • The State Labor Commission has identified as wage theft is over 4.5 million dollars in the San Mateo County. • Working on a phased approach since January to learn from other Labor Standards and Enforcements are doing. • Phase 1 includes exploring ideas and focusing on industries identified as problematic such as restaurant workers, farmworkers, and construction workers. • Phase 2 implements the data gained from phase 1 to expand partnerships, advise the Board of Supervisors, and expand outreach. • Next steps – begin to hire a coordinator position within the Office of Equity and hire additional outreach and educators, the attorney, and to the district attorney’s capacity with their deputy in their district attorney’s office. • Open to feedback for the Spanish name of the Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option 1: Oficina de Asuntos Laborales ○ Option 2: Oficina de Normas Laborales ○ Option 3: Condado de San Mateo Oficina de Normas y Cumplimientos Laborales |
| Commissioners Comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corina Rodriguez: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In favor of Option 1 for its simplicity. ○ Equity was discussed – is there an opportunity for the Equity Office to help with Farmworkers access to healthcare. • Vice-chair Stephanie Perez: In favor of Option 1. • Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez: In favor of Option 2 because the goal is to create norms for both workers and employers. • Jorge Sanchez: |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In favor of Option 3. ○ Asked if there is a timeline of the hiring process. |
| Public Comment | No public comment. |

6. Discussion: Farmworker Need for Medical Services During Non-Traditional Hours

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| Presented by Jocelyn Vidales, Healthcare for the Homeless Farmworker Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The San Mateo County Health Care for the Homeless/Farmworker Health (HCH/FH) is a program dedicated to serving homeless and farmworker individuals as well as families, to provide and increase access to critical health services. • The U.S Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is offering a grant opportunity to expand health center operating hours. • HCH/FH is applying and proposing a Sunday mobile clinic for primary care along the coast at either the Coastside Clinic or the Half Moon Bay Library. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed times: 4 hours (11am-3pm or 12pm-4pm) OR ○ 6 hours (11am-5pm or 12pm-6pm) • These proposed date and times help Farmworkers, and their dependents receive care during non-traditional hours. • Are actively looking for extra funding for this initiative. |
| Commissioners Comment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yolanda Guzman: In favor of having a clinic open on Sunday but wishes for it to be in Pescadero. Personally, feels that farmworker needs in Half Moon Bay are prioritized over the farmworkers in Pescadero. • Corina Rodriguez: Suggested for the clinic to alternate locations between Half Moon Bay and Pescadero. • Rogelio Nabor-Martinez: Agrees with Corina. If possible, requested for the clinic to come 2x or 3x a week. • Jorge Sanchez: Agrees with alternating clinic locations. Is it possible to distribute a survey for more farmworker input regarding the clinic hours? ALAS can support with the survey distribution. • Nicolas Romero-Gonzalez: In favor of the proposal. Asked to consider extending services to Pescadero. • Stephanie Perez: ALAS helps transport farmworkers with their bus. Is there a possibility to bring the clinic to the farms for basic treatment? |
| Public Comment | No public comment. |

7. Report Out

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| Commissioner’s Report |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Vars: Asked question regarding his term with the commission. • Vice Chair Stephanie Perez: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On July 23, 2024, there will be a second Know Your Rights Training in Half Moon Bay. This training will discuss the topics of vacation hours, extra hours, and sick hours. |

- Opportunity Center at 637 Main St., Half Moon Bay from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Supervisor's Report, presented by Marisol Escalera Durani

- Invites everyone to the Memorial Park Centennial Celebration on July 11th at 11am. 9500 Pescadero Creek Rd, Loma Mar.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting: *

Wednesday September 11, 2024; 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m at the **Half Moon Bay Library**.

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