


Memo

To: Members, Board of Supervisors
From: Rich Gordon 
Date: 07/01/02
Re: Appointment to Confined Animal Technical Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Director of Public Health or his/her designee be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Confined Animal Technical Advisory Committee for an individual with environmental health expertise. This appointment would be for a three-year term ending on June 30, 2005.

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Supervisors recently adopted a Confined Animal Ordinance. One essential element of the ordinance was the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee. This was seen by parties involved in the development of the ordinance as an essential tool to gain support for and compliance with the ordinance.

The Technical Advisory Committee as described has three categories of membership: 1.) Stable operators and keepers of confined animals; 2.) Environmental interests; and 3.) Environmental health. The first two categories have more than one member and have alternates. The environmental health category has only one member and no alternate.

The Confined Animal Ordinance requires that one member from each of the three categories be present to constitute a quorum whenever a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee is held.

The Board of Supervisors has previously appointed members and alternates to the categories for stable operators and environmental interests. The initial recruitment for the Technical Advisory Committee did not generate any candidates. A subsequent recruitment generated only one candidate who is an extra-help employee with San Mateo County Environmental Health.

The County Counsel has indicated that there is nothing in the Confined Animal Ordinance or other county policies that would preclude the appointment of a County employee to the Technical Advisory Committee.

Upon further reflection it was noted that the appointment of one individual to the environmental health category of the Technical Advisory Committee would mean that this one individual would be required to be at all meetings in order for a quorum to be constituted for the conduct of business. By appointing the Director of Public Health or his/her designee, the Board of Supervisors can guarantee that there is always someone with environmental health expertise available for meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee.

This appointment at this time would allow the Technical Advisory Committee to begin to meet after many months of delay.

At some future point, it might be worth considering a change in the composition of the Technical Advisory Committee. It is felt that it would be better to consider such a change after the Committee has had an opportunity to function for at least a year in case there are other suggested adjustments to the Committee and its function.

The current recommendation is to appoint the Director of Public Health or his/her designee to the Confined Animal Technical Advisory Committee. The term is for three years to expire on June 30, 2005.

Cc: Marcia Raines
Margaret Taylor