


Memo

To: Members, Board of Supervisors
From: Rich Gordon 
Date: 03/20/03
Re: Report and Recommendations from the 2003 Agricultural Summit

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

1. Direct planning staff to cooperate with efforts that are underway to develop a method to fast-track approval and development of off-stream storage of winter water diversions.
2. Direct planning staff to present possible models of a "right to farm" ordinance to the Agricultural Advisory Committee for comment and then present these models to the Planning Commission for consideration and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.
3. Direct the County Manager to make available County staff with expertise in graphic arts to create a logo for a "San Mateo County Grown" marketing label.
4. Ask the Legislative Director and the Legislative Committee to monitor issues related to any proposed changes in the Williamson Act. Ask them to also explore state legislation that would extend tax credits to land trusts and open space organizations that agree to keep land in agricultural production.

BACKGROUND:

On February 28, 2003, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors hosted the 2003 San Mateo County Agricultural Summit. Premier sponsors for this event were the Peninsula Community Foundation and the San Mateo County Farm Bureau. Co-sponsors were the Committee for Green Foothills, Peninsula Open Space Trust, and the San Mateo County Board of Realtors.

Nearly 200 people attended the summit. There was an initial presentation from Hank Sciaroni on the history of agriculture in San Mateo County. Panels followed to address two key issues: the availability of water and the maintenance of land in agricultural production. Participants met in small groups to further discuss these issues and develop recommendations. Over lunch there was a presentation from

Debra Lambert regarding the marketing program, "California Grown". The day concluded with a reception featuring San Mateo County products.

A final report and summary of proceedings is being developed for distribution to the participants and other interested parties. This report should be available within the next month. In anticipation of that report and in order to maintain momentum on the issues from the summit, the Board of Supervisors is being asked to adopt four recommendations. These recommendations flow from the discussion comments recorded at the summit. They were reviewed by the Summit Planning Committee and are consistent with the March 14th letter to President Rose Jacobs Gibson from the Agricultural Advisory Committee (see attached).

Recommendation 1 is a result of comments relative to issue of water supply. Recommendations 2 and 4 would impact the issues related to maintaining land in agricultural production. Recommendation 3 would assist in the marketing of San Mateo County agricultural products.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Adoption of these recommendations would not require any additional expenditure of County funds. To implement all four recommendations would require some re-allocation of existing staff time or resources, but would not require new resources.

The Board of Supervisors originally allocated an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to support the Agricultural Summit. Based on current expenditure reports and the anticipated cost of production of a final report, it appears that the county expenditure for the summit will be at least \$2,500 less than the maximum allocation. A final fiscal report will be presented to the County Manager when all expenses have been tabulated.



**Environmental Services Agency
Agricultural Advisory Committee**

B.J. Burns	Richard Deeney	Gail Raabe	Marilyn Johnson
Larry Jacobs	Carmen Giedt	Ann King	
Gary Lee Cakebread	Red Marchi	Rixon Rafter	
Neil Curry	Bob Marsh	Jack Olsen	
Deborah Harley	Jose Ramirez	Chuck Kozak	
Leo Del Rosso	Peter Marchi	Lisa Ann Garibaldi	

County Office Building
455 County Center
Redwood City, California 94063
(650) 363-1849

March 14, 2003

The Honorable Rose Jacobs Gibson
Hall of Justice and Records
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063-1662

Dear President Jacobs Gibson:

The San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee (SMCAAC) would like to express our appreciation to you and the other members of the Board of Supervisors for sponsoring and participating in the 2003 Agricultural Summit.

The Summit was a huge success. Fifteen members of the SMCAAC were in attendance throughout the day. The interaction and dialogue created a new and better understanding of critical issues facing agriculture in San Mateo County. From this dialogue and the comments offered by you and Supervisor Gordon, we have identified the following four areas of concentration for the SMAAC and San Mateo County for the coming year:

- Development of off-stream storage and other water resources
- Establishment of a "San Mateo County Grown" label and marketing program
- Preparation and adoption of a County right-to-farm ordinance
- Securing the long term continuance of the California Williamson Act and other legislative efforts that guarantee an equitable taxing structure for agricultural land

The Committee again thanks you and your colleagues for your support. We would also like to thank Supervisor Rich Gordon for serving as the coordinator of the planning team. We look forward to working with the Board of Supervisors and other Summit participants to achieve the goals established at the 2003 Agricultural Summit.

Sincerely,

B.J. Burns
Chairman