



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 6, 2014

Mr. Steve Lavagnino, Chair
County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Sent via email to dvillalo@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

RE: Draft 2015 Legislative Platform

Dear Chair Lavagnino and Members of the Board:

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to further review and comment on this important document. On November 5, 2014, the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Advisory Committee discussed proposed planks for the 2015 Santa Barbara Legislative Platform that relate to agriculture. On a unanimous vote, the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends the following:

Support: Agriculture/Williamson Act Subvention

Support: Funding for Exclusion and Early Pest Detection Programs Against High Risk Pests

Support: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Revise: Pesticide Law Enforcement Activities with the following change: (see strikethrough)

“Action: Support legislative or budgetary proposals that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee that is sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of farm labor, the public and the environment and provides funding for ~~education, outreach and~~ compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.”

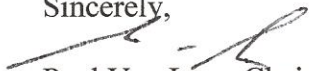
Comment: While we recognize the important role of outreach and education in regulatory compliance, we do not believe that the mill fee is the only or most efficient way to accomplish this goal. Alternative funding mechanisms for education and outreach can be explored with industry.

Revise: Land Use: Enforcement Fines for Land Use Violations:

The AAC has concerns about increasing fines for first violations beyond \$100, particularly on a statewide basis. We are not necessarily opposed to local discretion over fines for second and third violations, although strongly encourage further discussion with stakeholders to determine alternative ways to accomplish the goal of mitigating conflicts.

Thank you again for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Paul Van Leer, Chair

Committee Members

Bradley Miles
Ron Caird
Sharyne Merritt
Mike Ruffoni
Ruth Jensen
Chrissy Allen
Claire Wineman
Paul Van Leer-Chair
June Van Wingerden
Morgan McLaughlin
Willy Chamberlin
Jason Sharrett

Representing

1st District Supervisor, Salud Carbajal
2nd District Supervisor, Janet Wolf
3rd District Supervisor, Doreen Farr
4th District Supervisor, Peter Adam
5th District Supervisor, Steve Lavignino
California Women for Agriculture
Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
Santa Barbara Flower & Nursery Growers' Association
Santa Barbara Vintners
Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Assn.
California Strawberry Commission