

BYLAWS
Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee
Revisions adopted via Resolution No. R-2024-633, December 12, 2024

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee".

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

The purpose of this Committee is to act as a technical advisory panel of experts on matters involving the economic enhancement of agriculture and environmental conservation on applicable agricultural lands in Alameda County.

Among other activities, the committee shall:

- (1) Provide leadership and direction in formulating policies relevant to agriculture and environmental conservation, and in reviewing and advising the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on applicable planning, zoning, and development proposals in the agricultural areas of Alameda County;
- (2) Make recommendations to enhance the economic viability of agriculture and to minimize undesirable environmental impacts;
- (3) Provide active participation and leadership in the development of the Open Space Preservation Plan and promote agricultural involvement in the Plan;
- (4) Undertake, direct special studies funded through Alameda County relating to preservation and economic enhancement of agricultural land; protection of soils, plants and wildlife habitat; water resources; property taxation; and determination of compatible uses; among other topics;
- (5) Participate periodically in the review of Alameda County's guidelines for the Williamson Act;
- (6) Report to the Board of Supervisors on effects of proposed local, State and Federal legislation affecting agricultural resources (such reports may be forwarded to other bodies, as appropriate, through the auspices of the Board);
- (7) Advise and work, through the auspices of the Board, with city, county, district governments, special interest groups and individuals concerning conflicts between agriculture, urban uses and environmental quality;

- (8) Advise and work, through the auspices of the Board, with city, county, state, federal, special interest groups individuals, other entities and district governments concerning open space program funding;
- (9) Advise County departments on the impact of programs affecting agriculture;
- (10) Determine the committee's work schedule, procedures, budget and work products.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

(1) The Committee shall consist of) nineteen (19) regular members and nine (9) ex-officio members.

A. Regular members

1. Committee members shall be technical representatives of their profession or field and advocates for ecologically and economically viable agriculture and open space in Alameda County. They shall demonstrate expertise by documented work in their field of expertise, by professional association and/or by academic achievement.
2. Members shall be able and committed to meet regularly.
3. Members should be able to communicate effectively with interested members of the public.
4. The following categories of Regular Members shall be Alameda County residents:
 - Cattle/Livestock Management: Must be a large parcel owner of Alameda County (or representative) with expertise and professional involvement in cattle/livestock production.
 - Cattle/Livestock Management: Must be a small parcel owner or tenant of Alameda County (or representative) with expertise and professional involvement in cattle/ livestock production.
 - Field/Row Crops Management: Must be a parcel owner or tenant of Alameda County (or representative) with expertise and professional involvement in field or row crop production.
 - Nursery/Floriculture/Horticulture Management: Must be a parcel owner or tenant of Alameda County or representative with expertise and professional involvement in the production of these materials or products.
 - Viticulture/Orchards Management: Must be a parcel owner or tenant of Alameda County or representative with expertise and professional involvement in the production of grapes or orchard produce.
 - Equestrian Management: Must have expertise and professional involvement in Alameda County as a horse facility operator, breeder, and/or trainer.

- Cannabis Management. Must be a parcel owner or tenant in Alameda County or representative thereof with expertise and professional involvement in the production of cannabis.
- Young Producer. Must be a high school junior or senior, member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA), the United States Pony Club, or 4-H Club who is preparing for a career in agriculture.
- Urban Agriculture. Must be a resident of Alameda County with expertise and either professional or scholastic involvement in urban-rural agroecosystems, urban agriculture or, peri-urban agriculture.

5. The following categories of Regular Members may reside outside of Alameda County in the event the desired candidates cannot be identified within the County.

- Agritourism: Must have expertise and professional involvement operating and marketing a diversified, agriculturally-based business that derives income from tourism. Experience in Alameda County preferred.
- Agricultural land trust: Must have expertise and professional involvement in the creation and maintenance of conservation easements on agricultural lands including grazing lands. This includes the development, implementation and oversight of agricultural easements. Experience in Alameda County preferred.
- Agricultural Economics: Must have expertise and professional involvement in the economics of agriculture and agricultural enhancement programs. Experience in Alameda County preferred.
- Recreation/Parks Management: Must have expertise and professional involvement in the management of recreation trails and parks. Experience in Alameda County preferred.
- Resource Conservation District (RCD): Member of Alameda County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors or staff.
- Watershed Ecology/Management: Must have expertise and professional involvement in the field regarding watershed health (including wetlands and riparian corridors), water quantity and quality, effects of irrigation projects, multiple land uses and compliance with existing regulations. Experience in Alameda County preferred.
- Water Resources: Must have expertise and professional involvement in the field regarding agricultural water resources, quantity and quality, and the delivery of water to agriculture lands. Experience in Alameda County preferred.
- Rangeland Ecology: Must have expertise and professional involvement in conservation and management of ecosystems on rangelands including grazing practices, wildlife management (including corridors), riparian habitat conservation, and other interactions between ranching and the natural environment. Experience in Alameda County preferred.
- Plant Ecology: Must have expertise and professional involvement in the distribution and life histories of native and non-native plants; experience in restoration of native flora; and control of invasive plant successful species and cropland ecology. Experience in Alameda County preferred.

- Wildlife Biology: Must have expertise and professional involvement in wildlife and wildlife habitat management (including wildlife corridors), i.e., successfully managing reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, fish, and insects. Must be knowledgeable about rare and sensitive species and possess an ability to discuss and propose effective plans for protecting those species on and around agricultural lands, parks, and open spaces. Experience in Alameda County preferred.
6. *Appointment.* The regular members shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in an application process. The BOS will solicit applications from organized, relevant groups and accept individual applications. The application will request a specific expertise description. In the event there is no organized group, producers of the particular commodity or community members will be canvassed to nominate an applicant.
 7. *Vacancies.* The board of supervisors shall fill any vacancy on the committee and may utilize the committee to screen the applicants' qualifications; the person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the unexpired term of the person he or she succeeds.
 8. *Term.* The staggered terms of the regular members shall be three (3) full years, starting at the time of appointment.
 - No regular member shall serve more than two terms in succession representing the same category or more than two successive additional terms representing a different category.
 - A regular member shall remain on the committee following expiration of the term being served until he or she is reappointed to a successive term or until a successor is appointed.
 - The appointments will be made with 1/3 of the members having 2-year terms, 1/3 of members having 3-years terms, and 1/3 of members having 4-year terms.
 - a) Attendance and Severance Due to Absenteeism
 - Any member who has been absent without excuse from 50% plus one meeting, not counting cancelled meetings, in any consecutive twelve-month period may be recommended to the board of supervisors for expulsion and replacement by the committee, or asked for a resignation by the chairperson and the corresponding position vacancy announced.
 - If the committee recommends a member for replacement, that member will be notified in writing by staff, and copies will be sent to the chairperson.
 - Members may be 'excused' from a meeting by contacting the chairperson and/or the staff in advance of a meeting, or as soon as able.
 - Members whose appointments have been terminated due to nonattendance may not be re-appointed to the committee.
 - b) Resignation Process
 - Should a member desire to resign from the committee, written notice must be sent to the staff or to the Board of Supervisors with a copy to staff.
 - Resignation in good standing shall not preclude future reapplication and

appointment to the committee. As used in this section, “in good standing” means any member who has not been expelled by the board of supervisors or asked by the chairperson to resign.

c) Reappointment

- A former member in good standing may be considered for reappointment after a three-year break (a term length) by submitting an application.

9. Ex-officio members

- Alameda County Planning Director, or designee (Community Development Agency)
- Alameda County Agricultural Commissioner, or designee (Community Development Agency)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- California Department of Fish & Game
- Zone 7
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- Agricultural lending expert
- Las Positas College

10. Technical Advisors. Additional technical advisors will be asked to participate as needed.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

The following officers shall be elected from the regular membership of the Committee:

- (1) A Chairperson, who shall be responsible for the conduct of all meetings and the calling of special meetings, and who shall be the official representative of the Committee except when a representative is otherwise designated.
- (2) A Vice-Chairperson who shall serve in the absence of the Chairperson, and who shall succeed to the office of Chairperson if that office falls vacant before the term is expired.
- (3) A Secretary, who shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee and a staff member of the Community Development Agency. The Secretary shall be appointed by the Chairperson subject to confirmation by the Committee. The Secretary shall maintain all records, conduct correspondence of the Committee, certify all official documents and resolutions of the Committee and, at the direction of the Chair, prepare agendas and give notice of meetings.
- (4) Election of officers shall be held at the first regular scheduled meeting of the Committee and annually thereafter beginning 12 months after the first meeting.

ARTICLE V: STAFF

The Alameda County Community Development Agency will provide primary staff to accomplish the work of the Committee as outlined in a budget approved by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. The Committee may make recommendations to staff and the Board to hire consultants as required.

ARTICLE VII: VOTING

A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the regular positions that are filled. A quorum must be present for the committee to take any action, and no action may be taken by the committee except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present. Ex-officio members are not voting members.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

- (1) The Committee shall meet at 10 regularly scheduled meetings per year.
- (2) The Committee may conduct special meetings at any time called by the Chairperson or a majority of the regular members.
- (3) The Secretary shall give all members seven (7) days written notice of each regular meeting and seventy-two (72) hours written notice for each special meeting.
- (4) All provisions of state statutes concerning notice and conduct of public meetings shall be followed.
- (5) All meetings shall be open to the public.

ARTICLE IX: SUBCOMMITTEES

Subcommittees of the Advisory Committee may be established as necessary by the Chairperson. Examples of potential subcommittees are provided in Attachment A. Subcommittee meetings shall be held as needed to accomplish the work.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made from time to time by approval of the Board of Supervisors.

ATTACHMENT A:
Example of Potential Agricultural Advisory Committee
Subcommittees

- Solar Policy & Planning
- Land Use and Agriculture Enhancement Policy & Planning
- Equine Policy & Planning
- Urban Ag, Social & Environmental Justice Policy & Planning
- Trails Development / Policy & Planning
- Water Resources / Infrastructure Policy & Planning