



R-10-44
Meeting 10-14
July 22, 2010

AGENDA ITEM #2

To: Board of Directors
Open Space Authority

From: Patrick Congdon
General Manager

SUBJECT

Appoint an Agricultural Land Conservation Committee.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of July 8, 2010, the Board directed that consideration of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Agricultural Recommendations be agendized for a future meeting and that Staff provide a recommendation on how to proceed.

After review of the request provided by the CAC, Staff recommends that the Board appoint an Agricultural Land Conservation Committee as recommended by the CAC with some modification: that the Committee consist of three CAC members, and two Board Members and that the Board and the CAC appoint the members they feel should serve on the Committee. The Agricultural Land Conservation Committee would be subject to the Brown Act's requirements for notice, agendas and public participation.

The CAC recommended that there be five CAC members on the Committee. However, Staff is of the opinion that only three members of the CAC should sit on the Committee. Under CAC procedures, if only seven members of the CAC are present for a CAC meeting (the current requirement for a quorum), CAC action only requires four votes, the minimum number allowed to make a majority. Because of this low threshold for CAC action, Staff believes the Committee to be created should consist of less than the minimum number of CAC votes needed for CAC action.

The CAC also recommended that one of the Board appointees be a liaison to the CAC. However, Staff believes that due to the specific nature of the topic, consideration for membership should include Board member interest and expertise in agricultural issues as well. Furthermore, the CAC has recommended, and Staff agrees, that the new committee include the CAC's Agricultural Representative.

Finally, the CAC requested that agricultural land conservation issues be incorporated into the strategic planning process. While the Staff agrees that agricultural issues will be integral to the

future planning of the Authority, formally incorporating this issue into the strategic planning process at this time is premature. Staff requests that the Board consider agricultural land conservation at the appropriate time that the Authority's vision and planning objectives are discussed during the strategic planning process. Staff believes that comprehensive, all-inclusive development of the Strategic Plan is critical to its success and inclusion of items on a piecemeal basis prior to the actual start of the planning process may undermine its success.

Once the Agricultural Land Conservation Committee is formed, Staff recommends that the Committee work with Staff to develop a list of tasks that the Committee will perform. When the tasks are completed and the recommendations of the Committee are forwarded to the Board, Staff recommends that the Committee be dissolved. The CAC envisions that this process would take no more than 12 months to complete.
