



DIANNE JACOB
VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: June 26, 2013

07

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: FOSTERING THE GROWTH OF MICROBREWERIES, CHEESE-MAKING AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL VENTURES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

Agriculture is the 5th leading industry in San Diego County and accounts for a \$5.1 billion annual impact to our local economy. Despite these robust figures, local farming is facing a growing host of challenges which are threatening its viability. One major reason for the decline in agriculture is the rising cost of water. This has made it significantly harder for farmers to maintain their farms year after year.

Reducing regulations would allow property owners to do more with their land and would be an important step to promote farming and agricultural tourism. For example, this Board has already eased regulations for establishing boutique wineries and provided greater opportunities to site local farmers' markets. In addition, we are currently working on an ordinance to ease regulations for the equine industry.

Today's action will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to look at reducing regulations for other agricultural ventures, such as microbreweries and cheese-making, to further support small-scale agricultural operations and promote agricultural tourism. Today's action will also support the Small Brew Act, which would decrease taxes for small breweries so that it is easier for them to start production.

Recommendation(s)

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN DIANNE JACOB

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to look at reducing regulations for other agricultural ventures, such as microbreweries and cheese-making, to further promote agricultural tourism.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate these efforts into Planning and Development Services' workplan.

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3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter expressing this Board’s support for H.R. 494, the Small BREW Act, to the appropriate members of the United States Congress.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include support in the County’s Legislative Program for legislative efforts that would encourage Ag Tourism in the San Diego Region and benefit local businesses involved in Ag Tourism.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

The Board of Supervisors is committed to supporting and encouraging farming in San Diego County through Board Policy I-133. This policy aims to develop and implement programs designed to support and encourage farming, in order to maintain agriculture as a major industry in San Diego County.

Agriculture is the 5th leading industry in San Diego County and accounts for a \$5.1 billion annual impact to our local economy. Agricultural covers over 300,000 acres in our region. We’re also home to over 6,600 small farms (10 acres or less), more than any other county in the nation.

Despite these robust figures, local farming is facing a growing host of challenges which are threatening its viability. One major reason for the decline in agriculture is the rising cost of water. This has made it significantly harder for farmers to maintain their land year after year.

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Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

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AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL VENTURES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Adam D. Wilson

Name
619-531-5522

Phone
Adam.wilson@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-mail

Name

Phone
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E-mail