

December 11, 2023

To Ray Mueller
c/o San Mateo County Board of Supervisor
County Government Center
Redwood City, CA

RE: Support for Farmworker Housing Funding

Dear Supervisor Ray Mueller:

The Agricultural Advisory Committee of San Mateo County requests your support of Farm Worker Housing. We are specifically in support of funding being restored to the program that allows and supports housing on producers' property. We wish you to support this funding for the following reasons:

- Farmers, producers, are supportive of the need for safe affordable housing for the lifeblood of our business and food supply for San Mateo County residents, Farmworkers.
- Decentralized housing for farmworkers, achieves many goals for San Mateo County that are important to the quality of life for all residents in San Mateo. Safe and affordable housing on the property of the farmer makes sense in achieving two critical goals mentioned in most Climate Action Plans. Decentralized housing reduces greenhouse gas emissions and traffic on the Coast and in San Mateo County.
- Larger projects are often met with opposition from neighbors who fear affordable housing projects in their neighborhood.
- Keeping affordable housing on the property of the farmers keeps the housing agriculturally related. Larger projects can evolve into generic affordable housing, which is a critical need and in short supply, but would meet the challenges facing many residents in our area for a safe place to live.
- Given the sometimes-migratory nature of farm work, housing tied to a specific property will maintain the integrity of the intent of Farmworker Housing.

The above points are critical to the success of a \$100 million dollar industry that supports many families, both farmworker and producers in San Mateo County. Our Agricultural industry supports a quality of life for San Mateo County residents that allows them to experience a rural lifestyle along the Coast that allows our fellow citizens a respite from urban living over the hill. Recreation and food are both a basic human need.

Please support the farmers moving forward to obtain the housing needed for our farmworkers that support the citizens of San Mateo County.

Sincerely,

Natalie Sare
Committee Chair, on behalf of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

This letter was finalized and approved at the AAC meeting held on December 11, 2023 with the following voting results:

AYES: ___ NAYS: ___ RECUSALS: ___ ABSENT: ___