



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

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District No. 5

Item Number: 5.2

MEETING DATE: 06/04/2025

DEPARTMENT: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Victor Tafoya

SUBJECT:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY- A. PRADO, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND BUILDING- Adopt the attached resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt proposed amendments to San Benito County Code Title 13 (Animals), including Chapter 13.01 (Animals and Fowl), addressing Article I General Provisions, Article II Dogs, Article III Licenses, Article IV Impoundment, Article V Dangerous Animals, and Introducing Article VI new standards for beekeeping (apiaries).
SBC FILE NUMBER: 790

AGENDA SECTION:

PUBLIC HEARING

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Public Hearing to review and provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding comprehensive updates and amendments to San Benito County Code Title 13 (Animals), including Chapter 13.01 (Animals and Fowl), addressing Article I General Provisions, Article II Dogs, Article III Licenses, Article IV Impoundment, Article V Dangerous Animals, and Introducing Article VI new standards for beekeeping (apiaries).

Title 13 provides critical regulations governing the responsible keeping, management, and treatment of animals within San Benito County. The proposed updates are comprehensive and focus on enhancing public health, safety, and welfare; clarifying existing regulations; and ensuring compatibility between agricultural operations and residential areas.

The Planning Department conducted thorough stakeholder engagement, including detailed input from the Agricultural Commissioner, Animal Control, Code Enforcement and County Counsel. In addition, an Agriculture Stakeholder Planning Group Meeting was conducted on April 15, 2025, inviting broad input from stakeholders, including representatives from the agricultural sector, to gather detailed community feedback on the proposed amendments. Stakeholder comments and feedback were integral in shaping

the final proposed amendments, ensuring they reflect diverse perspectives, practical considerations, and community expectations.

Key Amendments and Updates Include:

1. Livestock Definitions and Limits:

- Clearly defined large livestock (typically animals over 150 pounds) and small livestock (typically under 150 pounds), removing previous ambiguities.
- Livestock keeping explicitly restricted to Agricultural Rangeland (AR), Agricultural Productive (AP), Rural (R), and Rural Transitional (RT) zoning districts with a minimum parcel size of 2.5 acres.

2. Livestock Setbacks and Density Standards:

- Established minimum setback requirements of 1200 feet between livestock grazing areas and adjacent commercial agricultural crops, reducible to 400 feet with proper barriers (permanent fencing or dense vegetative buffers) and Agricultural Commissioner approval.
- Specified livestock density limits per acre to mitigate potential environmental and nuisance impacts.

3. Domestic Animal Regulations (Dogs and Cats):

- Set clear numerical limitations for dogs (5 adults or 12 puppies, maximum total of 12 animals) and cats (9 adults or 12 kittens, maximum total of 15 animals).
- Included detailed exemptions for veterinary hospitals, animal shelters, foster and adoption services, and properties permitted under specific agricultural, educational, or cattery conditions.

4. Dangerous Animals and Enforcement Provisions:

- Enhanced clarity regarding the management and containment of dangerous animals.
- Strengthened enforcement and penalty provisions consistent with County Code Chapter 1.03, explicitly defining administrative and legal consequences for noncompliance.

5. Introduction of Apiary (Beekeeping) Regulations:

- Clearly outlined apiary standards, including mandatory setbacks, water supply requirements, and identification for hives on non-residential properties.
- Detailed notification and enforcement procedures established to protect public safety and support pollinator health.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

Yes

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Planning Commission of the County of San Benito adopt the attached resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed ordinance amendments to Title 13 (Animals) of the San Benito County Code.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Planning Commission Resolution Title 13 Amendments](#)
[BOS Ordinance Amendments Title 13 Animal Ordinance](#)
[Title 13 Redline Amendments \(Attachment A\)](#)
[Presentation](#)
[Free Lance Notice](#)