



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3
Vice-Chair

Angela Curro
District No. 4
Chair

Bea Gonzales
District No. 5

Item Number: 1.3

MEETING DATE: 11/26/2024

DEPARTMENT: CLERK OF THE BOARD

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Vanessa Delgado

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Vanessa Delgado

SUBJECT:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Approve the elimination of the Communications Infrastructure, Public Defender, Santana Ranch, and Board and Procedures Ad Hocs and continue the 150th Anniversary until February 2025, the Financial Ad Hoc until December 2024, the Drought and Water until April 2025, the Sanitary Solutions Option until February 2025, and the Cannabis Ordinance until December 2024, and put the Health Care/Hazel Hawkins Hospital Ad Hoc on hold, per the recommendation of the ad hoc committees.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 156

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Ad Hocs are created to address a limited or single purpose within a limited duration. The committee is disbanded once the issue is resolved or the project is completed. From February 22, 2023, the board has created 10 Ad Hocs.

List of Ad Hocs:

1. 150th Anniversary (Created 2/22/23)
Supervisors Zanger and Gonzales
2. Financial (Created 4/11/23)
Supervisors Kosmicki and Curro

3. Communication Infrastructure (Created 4/11/23)
Supervisors Zanber and Curro
4. Public Defender (Created 5/23/23)
Supervisors Sotelo and Gonzales
5. Drought and Water Ad Hoc (Created 11/21/23)
Supervisors Kosmicki and Curro
6. Health Care/Hazel Hawkins Hospital (Created 6/27/23)
Supervisors Curro and Kosmicki
7. Santana Ranch (Created 12/12/23)
Supervisors Zanger and Curro
8. Sanitary Solution Options (Created 4/16/24)
Supervisors Zanger and Curro
9. Cannabis Ordinance Ad Hoc (Created 5/7/24)
Supervisors Kosmicki and Gonzales

150th Anniversary

Created to celebrate the county's 150th anniversary from February 2024 through February 2025

Had a series of celebration events beginning in February of 2024 and ending in February 2025:

June 28-30 Saddle Horse Show Rodeo Booth

July 27th 150th Celebration: County Historical Park

November 1, 2024, time casual ceremony at 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 5, Latin Dance, Arts Council and Hollister Downtown Association

November 16, 2024, at 3:30 Moonlight walk & sesquicentennial acknowledgment REACH

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 5 pm to 8 pm Dia De Los Muertos with Downtown Association

Spirit of San Juan partnership for events through December 2024:

Small Business Saturday, November 30, 2024

Merchants Open House (11/23, 5-8 pm),

Decorating of State Historic Park (12/07 11-1 p.m.),

Holiday of Lights Celebration (12/07)

Financial

Created to look at contract management and workflow.

Have met regarding the purchasing policy and ARPA updates.

Communication Infrastructure

Created to enhance the safety of communication infrastructure.

The Ad Hoc Committee has evaluated many options for radio communications infrastructure and has decided to proceed with the California Radio Infrastructure System (CRIS). The Sheriff's Office extended an invitation to the Hollister police department Chief and administration to attend the informational meetings and evaluate and learn more about the CRIS system along with the Sheriff's office. The County is moving forward with the CRIS system and on August 2, 2024, the Sheriff's department executed a contract with the state of California for Public Safety Communications. California Governor's Office of Emergency Services for the CRIS system for an amount not to exceed \$1.2 million, which can increase or decrease depending on findings. The agreement will be sent back to the Board of Supervisors for Ratification at a later date. With an executed agreement, the California Public Safety Communications Office of Emergency Services was able to initiate the study, loaners, and assess the infrastructure. They evaluate and assess what equipment will be needed. Once the survey is complete, they will return with

the implementation and actual cost. The communications ad-hoc met on Thursday, November 7, 2024, and the recommendation is to eliminate the ad-hoc. Staff will keep the Board of Supervisors informed of progress and implementation timelines through the Clerk of the Board.

Board Rules and Procedures

Board adopted Board Rules and Procedures recommended by County Counsel on 11/12/2024.

Public Defender

Created to approve an RFP incorporating the Office of the State Public Defender evaluation and form the Oversight Committee with By-Laws and appointees

The Public Defender Oversight Committee was created on July 23, 2024 and has been having regular monthly meetings.

Drought and Water Ad Hoc

Under Senate Bill 552, County government is required to have a standing drought task force to prepare and act in the case of a water shortage event. The bill outlined the requirements for county governments to implement more proactive drought planning and be better prepared for future water shortage events or dry years. Each county is also required to develop a plan demonstrating the potential drought and water shortage risk and proposed interim and long-term solutions for state small water systems and domestic wells within the county.

The Drought Resilience DRAFT Plan (attached to this item) is currently in review. Chapter 1 has been through the review process and has been updated with more background information on the County. The Risk Assessment is in review now, with comments from the Task Force due back by November 6th. The consultants are working on short-term response actions and long-term mitigation strategies (chapters 4 & 5 of the DRP).

Health Care/Hazel Hawkins Hospital

Created to discuss options to support and save Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital.
The Ad hoc has been put on hold until the election results are complete.

Santana Ranch

Created to provide updates on basin work, plan, and construction timeline
Ad Hoc is no longer meeting.

Sanitary Solution Options

Under the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), counties were required to prepare and submit a Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. AB 939 further requires the County to maintain 15 years of disposal capacity. The County's John Smith Road Landfill currently holds less than 15 years of capacity and thus the County needs to plan for its future solid waste needs. The operator of the John Smith Road Landfill, Waste Solutions Group of San Benito, LLC, had sought to expand the landfill, which would have provided for additional capacity beyond 15 years. The Planning Commission denied the conditional use permit and recommended the Board of Supervisors deny the General Plan amendment for that proposed expansion. Waste Solutions Group of San Benito, LLC withdrew its appeal of those decisions and thus there is no proposed expansion at this time.

While it is possible that the landfill operator may submit a new project application for a proposed landfill expansion at some point in the future, the County has not yet received any such application and should evaluate all options when planning for future capacity needs. The Sanitary Ad Hoc was formed by the Board of Supervisors on April 16, 2024, and its primary objective is to explore long-term disposal capacity for County residents and businesses for the Board's consideration and future discussion. As part of the Sanitary Ad Hoc, staff continue to evaluate regional disposal options and potential

partnerships. These efforts include evaluating the feasibility, potential design, and costs of a transfer station. It is recommended staff provide a presentation in January or February of 2025 to present to the Board on findings and to determine the Ad Hoc's continuance.

Cannabis Ordinance Ad Hoc

Staff are proposing the following amendments to be presented at a special meeting of the Planning Commission on November 6, 2024, with the goal of coming before the Board of Supervisors in late November/ early December:

Cannabis Application Fee Schedule – The application fee schedule has been updated and significantly reduced.

- Chapter 7.02 (Cannabis Businesses) – Removal of duplicative processes that are conducted with the State permitting department, added outdoor and large cannabis licenses, updated definitions, establishes cultivation canopy limits in San Benito County, updated application submittal requirements.
- Chapter 7.04 (Hemp Entities) – Reduction of hemp exclusion zones from one mile to one half mile of a Sphere of Influence or Wine Tasting room within the wine hospitality priority area and reducing the roads buffer from 500 feet to 100 feet. The following zones have been removed from the hemp exclusion zone: County Service Areas, Tres Pinos Water District, and public roads.

Chapter 19.43 (Cannabis Business Land Use) – Comprehensive amendments to the entire chapter.

Some notable amendments include: permitting of various cannabis activities in various zoning districts if located within an existing structure, removal of cumbersome application requirements like the 1:1 water offset, reduction of sensitive setback from 1,000 feet to 600 feet as compliant with state code, reduction of cumbersome security requirements like 24-hour on-site security, updated operating requirements to match state code, reference to administrative citations under Title 1 for illicit activities and violation of cannabis business permit.

Additional amendments to other chapters which regulate commercial cannabis (these items should all be coming to the Board at the same time and will be part of comprehensive amendments to Title 1 and Title 25)

- Chapter 1.04 (Administrative Citations) – Fines for illicit cannabis activities without a business permit shall be 10,000 daily as pursuant to state law. Fines for violations of cannabis business license include 1,000 for the first violation, 2,000 for the second violation, and 5,000 and revocation of business permit for the third violation. Each is allowed a reasonable time to abate before fines are levied.
- Chapter 25.03 (Zoning Map and Zoning Districts) – allowable uses in various zoning districts for commercial cannabis activity was updated to comply with the land use table updates in 19.43

On November 12, 2024 the Board of Supervisors approved the adoption of the Board Rules and Procedures recommended by County Counsel, eliminating the Board Rules and Procedures Ad Hoc.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

RFP AND BID HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

No

BUDGETED:

N/A

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

N/A

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff Recommends:

1. Elimination of the following Ad Hoc:

A. **Communications Infrastructure** as the contract with California Radio Infrastructure System (CRIS) has been executed; staff will keep the Board of Supervisors informed of progress and implementation timelines through the Clerk of the Board;

B. **Public Defender** as the Public Defender Committee has been created and bylaws have been created and approved by the Board of Supervisors on 10/22/2024; and

C. **Santana Ranch** as no longer needs to meet; and

D. **Board Rules and Procedures** as the board adopted new Board Rules and Procedures on 11/12/2024.

2.. Continuation of the following Ad Hoc:

A. **150th Anniversary** until February 2025 to finish celebrations and bring a final presentation to the board in February 2025;

B. **Financial Ad Hoc** until December 2024 to align with ARPA deadline;

C. **Drought and Water** until April 2025 when the performance period for the grant will end;

D. **Sanitary Solutions Option** until February 2025 to have staff provide a presentation in January/February 2025 to present on findings; and

E. **Cannabis Ordinance** until December 2024 to have staff provide a presentation in December 2024 to the board; and

4. Putting the following Ad Hoc on hold:

A. **Health Care/Hazel Hawkins Hospital.**

ATTACHMENTS:

[Ad Hoc Committees Review 2024](#)

[AD HOC Committee List](#)

[San Benito County Risk Assessment](#)