

7/19/2024

Chair Martinez and Commissioners
Santa Barbara County Planning Commission
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA, 93101

RE: Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance

Dear Chair Martinez and Commissioners:

The Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce, representing the South Coast business community from Goleta to Carpinteria, would like to express our support for the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance, allowing a variety agricultural uses on lands zoned AG-II countywide.

This ordinance has the potential to provide significant economic benefits throughout Santa Barbara County, particularly for small properties that often represent the greatest opportunity for creating additional positive economic impacts. By allowing these properties to diversify their agricultural activities through new enterprises like campgrounds, farm-stays, and small-scale events this ordinance will foster an environment where these properties will enhance local agritourism and further contribute to a diverse and thriving agricultural economy that will benefit the entire County. Likely positive economic benefits include increased local employment, enhanced community development, and a stronger, more resilient local agricultural industry.

Implementing this ordinance with as little burden and restrictions on property owners as is achievable is crucial to not undermining the ordinance's potential to significantly benefit the local economy. By limiting unnecessary restrictions, the small property owners will be able to fully capitalize on the new opportunities this ordinance is meant to provide. The more properties that can participate, the more positive economic impacts can be realized. Additionally, by reducing restrictions and administrative burdens associated with compliance the Commission would be encouraging broader participation and ensuring that the economic benefits of the ordinance are distributed equitably to properties of all sizes.

Please support the development of the Agricultural Enterprise Ordinance while limiting the impact any potential restrictions could have on the intent of this forward thinking and impactful ordinance.

Sincerely,



Kristen Miller
President & CEO
Santa Barbara South Coast Chamber of Commerce