

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 7**

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

**OVERVIEW:**

Agriculture is the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**VICE-CHAIRWOMAN 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.

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.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Jacob, seconded by Supervisor D. Roberts, the Board took action as recommended.

AYES: Cox, Jacob, D. Roberts, R. Roberts, Horn

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State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

THOMAS J. PASTUSZKA  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



By   
Andrew Potter, Chief Deputy