



Serving the cities of:
El Cajon
La Mesa
Lemon Grove
Poway
Santee

Serving the communities of:
Agua Caliente
Allied Gardens
Alpine
Barrett
Blossom Valley
Bostonia
Boulevard
Campo
Canebrake
Casa de Oro
Crest
Cuyamaca
Dehesa
Del Cerro
Descanso
Dulzura
Eucalyptus Hills
Fernbrook
Flinn Springs
Granite Hills
Grantville
Guatay
Harbison Canyon
Jacumba
Jamul
Julian
Lake Morena
Lakeside
Mount Helix
Mount Laguna
Pine Hills
Pine Valley
Potrero
Ramona
Rancho San Diego
Rolando
San Carlos
San Pasqual
Santa Ysabel
Shelter Valley
Spring Valley
Tecate
Tierra del Sol
Vallecitos

Serving the Indian reservations of:
Barona
Campo
Cosmit
Ewiiaapaayp
Inaja
Jamul
La Posta
Manzanita
Santa Ysabel
Sycuan
Viejas

DIANNE JACOB
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2013 JUN 18 PM 2 53

THOMAS J. HANZKA
CLERK OF BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: June 26, 2013

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

SUMMARY:

Overview:

Agriculture is the 5th 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.

Recommendations:

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN DIANNE 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.

SUBJECT: FOSTERING THE GROWTH OF MICROBREWERIES, CHEESE-MAKING AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL VENTURES

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.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Supervisors is committed to supporting and encouraging farming in San Diego County through Board Policy I-133. This policy aims to develop and implement programs designed to support and encourage farming, in order to maintain agriculture as a major industry in San Diego County.

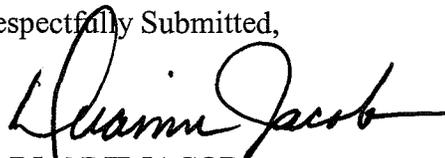
Agriculture is the 5th leading industry in San Diego County and accounts for a \$5.1 billion annual impact to our local economy. Agriculture covers over 300,000 acres in our region. We're also home to over 6,600 small farms (10 acres or less), more than any other county in the nation.

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 land 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.

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Respectfully Submitted,



DIANNE JACOB
Vice-Chairwoman

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Other Concurrence(s):	N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Vice-Chairwoman Dianne Jacob

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AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: _____