



**AG + OPEN SPACE**  
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

**Online Meeting Due to Sonoma County's Shelter in Place Order**  
**May 26, 2022 | 5:00 pm**

MEMBERS PLEASE CALL IF UNABLE TO ATTEND

In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom's March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer's Recommendation for Teleconferenced Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the May 26, 2022 Sonoma County Ag + Open Space Advisory Committee meeting will be held virtually.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON**

**\*UPDATE REGARDING VIEWING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN  
May 26, 2022 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING\***

May 26, 2022 Advisory Committee Meeting will be facilitated virtually through Zoom. There will be no option for attending in person. Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting using one of the following methods:

Join the Zoom meeting on your computer, tablet or smartphone by clicking:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/98316944769?pwd=MURud1o3TDV RWStOSEF5Z225M dElzd z09>

1. If you have the Zoom app or web client, join the meeting using the Password: 778144
2. Call-in and listen to the meeting: Dial 1 669 900 9128 Enter meeting ID: 983 1694 4769

**PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MEETING:** You may email public comment to [Mariah.Robson@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Mariah.Robson@sonoma-county.org). All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all Committee Members and read aloud for the benefit of the public. Please include your name and the relevant agenda item number to which your comment refers. In addition, if you have joined as a member of the public through the Zoom link or by calling in, there will be specific points throughout the meeting during which live public comment may be made via Zoom and phone.

**DISABLED ACCOMMODATION:** If you have a disability which requires an accommodation or an alternative format to assist you in observing and commenting on this meeting, please contact Mariah Robson by email to [Mariah.Robson@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Mariah.Robson@sonoma-county.org) by 12pm Wednesday, May 25, 2022 to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Public Comment**

Comments on items not listed on the agenda. Time is limited to 2 minutes per person/item.

**3. Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2022 Attachment A**

**ACTION ITEM**

**4. General Manager's Report**

**5. Proactive Conservation of High Priority Areas\***

**WORKSHOP**

Misti Arias, General Manager

Jennifer Kuszmar, Acquisition Manager

Allison Schichtel, Senior Conservation Planner

\*In addition to ongoing acquisition efforts, Ag + Open Space will be initiating proactive conservation of high priority areas as part of implementing the Vital Lands Initiative and its 18 month work plan. Staff will present and seek input from the Committee on draft priority areas, which include lands that support biodiversity and ecological resilience; greenbelts and fire risk reduction; riparian areas; and networks of farms and grazing lands.

**6. Projects in Negotiations Attachment B**

**7. Announcements from Advisory Committee Members**

**8. Adjournment**

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 23, 2022



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## FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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**7/28/22**

Farmland for All Program Overview  
Form MGP Subcommittee

**8/25/22**

Summer Break

**9/22/22**

New Monitoring Tools & Technology (Remote Monitoring)





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**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**Virtual Meeting Due to Sonoma County's Shelter in Place Order**  
**April 28, 2022 | 5:00 pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Steve Rabinowitsh	Don McEnhill	Tawny Tesconi	Curt Nichols
Brian Barnacle	Bill Smith	John Nagle	Cary Fargo
Paul Martin	Jan McFarland	Sue Conley	Neysa Hinton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Michelle Whitman	Kristina Tierney
Oswaldo Jimenez	Jesús Guzmán
Wendy Eliot	

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Misti Arias, General Manager; Jennifer Kuszmar, Acquisition Manager; Mary Chambers, Agricultural Specialist; Kim Batchelder, Vegetation Management Coordinator; Sara Ortiz, Administrative Aide; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair, Don McEnhill, standing in for Chair Michelle Whitman, called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

**Public Comment**

Chair McEnhill asked for any public comments on items not on the agenda. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2022**

Chair McEnhill asked for any comments or revisions regarding the March 24, 2022 minutes. There were none. Paul Martin motioned for the minutes to be approved as is. John Nagle seconded the motion. All in favor except Cary Fargo, Curt Nichols, Tawny Tesconi, John Nagle and Neysa Hinton who abstained as they were not present at the March meeting.

**General Manager's Report**

- The Americorps Trail Matching Grant Project is going to the Board on May 3, 2022.

- The Saddle Mountain Wildland Ladder Fuel Reduction Contract is going to the Board on May 24, 2022.
- The Vegetation Management Grant Program, being led by Kim Batchelder, Vegetation Management Coordinator, was featured in the Tuesday, April 26 Press Democrat with a photo of a 2021 project site. The Board of Directors approved eighteen projects on April 19, 2022 for \$3.3 million. In addition, the Board approved \$500,000 to be used to develop a mini-grant program for technical and planning assistance for projects that are high priorities and show excellent potential.
- On May 5-6, 2022, Sonoma County will host the Governor's Task Force on Wildfire Prevention and Forest Resilience event at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. Ag + Open Space will be staffing tables and co-leading tours with the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative about our collective vegetation management work in the Sonoma Valley.
- The California Artisan Cheese Festival will be held on May 7, 2022 and we are sponsoring the event and will have a booth right next to Vivien Straus and her Cheese Trail Map.
- The Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Water Summit will be held on May 10 and 11, 2022. We are sponsoring the event and several staff will be attending. You can find more information on this event on the Farm Bureau's website.
- The North Bay Science Discovery Day will be held on May 15, 2022. We will be hosting a booth at the event. You can go to our website for more information on all of these events.
- Ag + Open Space launched the 2022 cycle of the Matching Grant Program. There was a virtual information session held last Thursday, April 21, 2022. The deadline for applications is July 1, 2022. For more information, including a recording of the virtual information session, go to our website at [SonomaOpenSpace.org/MGP](https://SonomaOpenSpace.org/MGP).

Chair McEnhill asked if there were any comments from the Advisory Committee members or from members of the public on the General Managers report out, and there were none.

#### **Vegetation Management Grant Awards Update**

Kim Batchelder, Vegetation Management Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the comprehensive view of the progress being made with the Vegetation Management Grant program. He discussed selection criteria and project ranking, projects highlights, conditionally approved projects, and next steps in the program. Since its inception, the Grant Program has steadily improved by focusing on landscape level projects in the most vulnerable areas. The program has supported the development of shaded fuel breaks, prescribed fire and grazing, some targeted roadside and defensible space projects and educational efforts. To date, the program has supported 44 projects with \$8.2 million of grant funds.

Chair McEnhill opened up the meeting for discussion with the Advisory Committee members and members of the public.

For more information, please feel free to contact Mr. Batchelder at Ag + Open Space. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Chair McEnhill realized a roll call had not been taken yet for this meeting and called for one now:



Sue Conley, yes; John Nagle, yes; Steve Rabinowitsh, yes; Jan McFarland, yes; Curt Nichols, yes; Cary Fargo, yes; Paul Martin, yes; Bill Smith, yes; Brian Barnacle, yes; Neysa Hinton, yes; Tawny Tesconi, yes; Don McEnhill, yes.

#### **Agricultural Support and Protection (ASAP) Program Update**

Mary Chambers, Agricultural Specialist, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Agricultural Support and Protection Program. This is a one-time emergency matching grant program created to respond to economic impacts of the pandemic, and to help prevent land conversion by ensuring that local farmers and ranchers can continue productive use of Sonoma County's agricultural lands. Nine applications were accepted with a total funding of \$177,148.

Chair McEnhill opened up the meeting for discussion with the Advisory Committee members and members of the public.

For more information, please feel free to contact Ms. Chambers at Ag + Open Space. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

#### **Projects in Negotiations**

Chair McEnhill asked if there were any comments or questions from the Advisory Committee members or members of the public on the projects in negotiations spreadsheet found in the packet, and there were none.

#### **Announcements from Advisory Committee Members**

No announcements from Committee members.

Sue Conley did ask when Advisory Committee meetings could meet in person again, and Ms. Arias responded that Ag + Open Space is working on that and that they will hopefully be able to meet in hybrid meetings by the end of summer. She will follow up with Julie Mefferd, the Administrative & Fiscal Services Manager who handles COVID related protocols for the District.

#### **Adjournment**

Chair McEnhill adjourned the meeting at 6:05.

Next Meeting: May 26, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson  
*Advisory Committee Secretary*



PROJECT	Acres (approximate)	Supervisory District	Acquisition Plan Category	Project Design	Appraisal Process	Approvals/Baseline	Escrow	Comments
Abril Ranch	1,929	4	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x				Reviewing Prelim - Project Structure phase
Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve	320	5	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x				Developing project structure (internal review in process)
Baumert Springs	372	5	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas					Reviewing Prelim - Project Structure phase
Big Sulphur Creek (Krasilsa)	507	4	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x				Initiating project
Correia	146	2	Farms & Ranches					Initiating project
Crawford Gulch	92	5	Recreation & Education					Developing project structure
Deniz (Old Adobe Road)	217	2	Farms & Ranches	x				Reviewing Prelim - Project Structure phase
Deniz (Sonoma Mountain Road)	355	2	Farms & Ranches	x				Awaiting Prelim - Project Structure phase
Denner Ranches	489	5	Farms & Ranches	x				Negotiating CE (NRCS reviewing CE)
Diamond W Ranch	849	2	Farms & Ranches	x				Initiating project
El Recreo	289	1	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside	x	x	x		Escrow and Closing
Lafranchi (Laguna)	127	5	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x				Landowner reviewing CE
Limping Turkey Ranch	158	2	Farms & Ranches					Initiating project
Mark West Wikiup Preserve	31	4	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x	x			Offer under consideration by landowner
McClelland Dairy	337	2	Farms & Ranches	x				Negotiating CE
McCormick Ranch - Regional Parks	253	1	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x	x			Appraisal process
Miguel-Tocci	489	5	Farms & Ranches					Initiating project
Petersen Rd Dairy	96	2	Farms & Ranches					Initiating project
Preston Farm	133	4	Farms & Ranches	x				Project Structure phase
Rincon Hills	218	1	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside					Project Structure phase
Rowland Mack	168	1	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside	x				Project Structure phase
Russian River Habitat Restoration	63	4	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas					Initiating project
Ryan Ranch	806	5	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas					Initiating project
Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve – Local	266	1	Recreation & Education	x	x			Project Structure; Fee appraisal reviewed
Soda Springs Ranch Open Space Preserve	209	4	Recreation & Education	x				CE drafting
Sonoma Developmental Center 5 (Transformation)	945	1	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside					Project Structure phase
Sonoma Mountain Vernal Pools	174	1	Recreation & Education	x				CE drafting
Spring Hill Ranch	642	2	Farms & Ranches					
Starrett Hill	319	5	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas					Project Structure phase
Witt Home Ranch	395	2	Farms & Ranches					Initiating project
Wolf Creek Ranch	1,195	5	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas					Initiating project
<b>Total Acres:</b>	<b>12,589</b>							

Matching Grant Project	Acreage (approximate)	Supervisory District	Location	Begin Grant Process	Appraisal Process	Approvals/Baseline	Escrow	Comments
A Place to Play	87	5	Western Santa Rosa					Initiating project
AmeriCorps Trail	12	5	Sebastopol	x	n/a	x		Approved by BOD, CEQA period ends 6/10/22
Badger Park	20	4	Healdsburg					Initiating project
Bayer Farm Development***	6**	3	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	x	x	x	Reimbursement ongoing, Grant extended
Bodega Bay Trail	179	5	Bodega Bay					Initiating project
Colgan Creek Phase 3 MG***	7	3	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a	x	x	Extension granted to 10/14/21
Crane Creek Regional Trail	6	1	East of Rohnert Park	x	n/a			Drafting docs. Grant extended to 12/6/21
Denman Reach	2	2	North Petaluma	x	n/a			Drafting documents
Falletti Ranch	4	2	Cotati	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
Forever Forestville***	4	5	Downtown Forestville	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
Graton Green	1	5	Downtown Graton	x	x	x		Escrow closed April 5, 2019. Tracking match.
Healdsburg Montage Park	36	4	North Healdsburg					Initiating project
Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension	56	2	Petaluma					Initiating project
Keiser Park Expansion 2	2	4	Windsor					Initiating project
Maxwell Farms	79	1	Northwest of Sonoma	x	n/a			Drafting Documents
Paula Lane Open Space Preserve	11	2	West Petaluma	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
Petaluma River Park	20	2	Petaluma					Kickoff meeting scheduled
River Lane***	1	5	West of Guerneville	x	x	x	x	Finalizing docs; Grant extended to 10/25/24
Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1c	3	3	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	x			Negotiating CE, Rec Covenant
SMART Pathway – Hearn to Bellevue*	6	3	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a	x		Finalizing documents
SMART Pathway - Payran to Southpoint	14	2	Petaluma	x	n/a			Negotiating CE, Rec Covenant
Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway***	61	1	Southeast Santa Rosa	x		x		Initiating project; extended to 10/25/24
Steamer Landing Park Development (McNe)	27**	2	Downtown Petaluma	x	n/a			Initiating project
Taylor Mountain Regional Park & Open Spa	54	3	Southeast Santa Rosa	x				Closed 4/1/20. Tracking match
Tierra de Rosas***	1	3	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a			Drafting documents
<b>Total Acres:</b>	<b>665</b>							

\* District approved a 2-year extension

\*\* Restoration/Development Project on previous acquisition.

\*\*\* District approved 5-year extension (MGP 2 year, fire 3 year)



TRANSFER	Acreage (approximate)	Supervisory District	Transaction Type	Project Design	Transfer Agreement	Approvals/Baseline	Escrow	Comments
Saddle Mountain Open Space Preserve	960	1	Transfer					Initiating project
Tierra Vegetables	15	4	Resale	x				Resale
Young-Armos	56	5	Transfer/Sale	x				Initiating project
<b>Total Acres:</b>		<b>1,031</b>						

Public Comment received 5/26/22

Hello,

It is my understanding that public questions for tonight's Advisory Committee meeting should be emailed ahead of time.

Could the following questions regarding Agenda item #6 "Projections in Negotiations, Attachment B" please be answered at tonight's Advisory Committee meeting:

- How is the Project Status Chart maintained and how frequent is it updated?
- Who updates it?
- I have heard that there is a project on Llano Road (in Santa Rosa), but I don't see it listed on the Project Status Chart. Do you know if there is currently a project on Llano Road?
- Who should be contacted to find out if there is currently a project on Llano Road?

Thank you