

**Policy Focus:** Agricultural Workforce**Producer Need:**

Industry-wide labor shortage, regional housing shortage, high startup cost for beginning farmers

**Proposed Solution:**

Increase availability of subsidized farmworker housing by coordinating existing programs

**Project Description:**

The working group should work toward a short term goal of creating more subsidized units for agricultural workers by consolidating existing programs such as the County program for Accessory Dwelling Units, affordable housing incentives, grants programs and apprenticeships. This proof of concept can be used later on to develop a largescale farmworker community that is fundable by state and federal grants. This will address the high cost of living which is a barrier to farmworkers. Streamlining the permitting process will allow farmers to take advantage of existing zoning for farmworker housing. Subsidizing off-farm farmworker housing as affordable housing can take advantage of existing designation of farmworkers as vulnerable populations in the County of San Diego General Plan and other municipal plans. Co-benefits include ease of entry for beginning farmers, supporting vulnerable populations, and reducing vehicle miles travelled for climate action goals.

**Examples of Similar Projects:**

[County of Ventura Standardized Plans for Accessory Dwelling Units and Farmworker/Animal Caretaker Dwelling Units](#) – 600 to 1,200 SF, pre-approved for reduced review fees. Includes families, seasonal workers, mobile trailers. Up to 4 units. Up to 1,800 sf per lot. Density depends on crop type and zoning.

[County of San Diego Standard Accessory Dwelling Unit Plans](#) – 600 to 1,200 SF, pre-approved for fee waiver and use in unincorporated communities.

**Participants:**

## Stakeholder

- Craig Kolodge, San Pasqual Valley Soils (Producer) [craig.kolodge@spvsoils.com](mailto:craig.kolodge@spvsoils.com)

## Government

- Garrett Cooper, County of San Diego Dept of Ag Weights and Measures (Government) [garrett.cooper@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:garrett.cooper@sdcounty.ca.gov)
- Chloe Hird, County of San Diego Building Department (Government) [chloe.hird@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:chloe.hird@sdcounty.ca.gov)
- Rebecca Appel, County of San Diego Land Use and Environment Group (Government) [rebeca.appel@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:rebeca.appel@sdcounty.ca.gov)
- Consuelo Martinez, City of Escondido City Council (Government) [consuelo@sdfsa.org](mailto:consuelo@sdfsa.org)

### Organizations

- Toni Kraft, Community Health Improvement Partners (Organization) [akraft@sdchip.org](mailto:akraft@sdchip.org)
- Deysi Merino, Vista Community Clinic (Organization) [deysi.merino@vcc.org](mailto:deysi.merino@vcc.org)

### **Suggested Participants:**

#### Stakeholders

- Farmworkers via Vista Community Clinic
- Labor Contractors (Ex: Serrato)

#### Government

- County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health
- County of San Diego Housing and Community Development
- Municipal Housing Departments
- Community Planning Groups (Ex: Ramona)
- CA Dept of Food and Agriculture

#### Organizations

- UCANR – County of San Mateo Farmworker Planning Program
- Center for Land-Based Learning
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers

### **September Action Items:**

#### Administrative:

- Set meeting date
- Delegate upcoming tasks

#### Outreach:

- Invite farmworkers, labor contractors and government agencies to attend as listed below

#### Research

- Number of farmworkers in San Diego County or locate responsible agency
- Regulations on tiny homes and trailers to resource list
- [County of San Diego Agricultural Economic Impact Report \(2015\)](#) for workforce statistics
- Status of County Housing and Community Development policy to waive fees for employee housing of more than 4 people
- Status of farmworker housing policies for municipalities
- Identify priority communities to locate off-farm housing with existing ADU program
- Available subsidies for affordable housing for vulnerable populations

**Funding Opportunities:**

Short Term

[State of California Low-Income Weatherization Program](#)

Largescale

[State of California Joe Serna Junior Farmworker Housing Grant Program](#)

[State of California Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities](#)

[USDA Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge](#)

[USDA Off-Farm Labor Housing Direct Loans and Grants](#)

**Resources:**

[California Health and Safety Code Sec. 50714.5](#) - San Diego County Farmworker Housing Discretionary Account

[County of San Diego Farm Employee Housing Application](#) - Fee waiver available under certain conditions.

[County of San Diego 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element Update](#)

[City of Santee 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element Draft](#)

[County of San Diego Agricultural Economic Impact Report \(2015\)](#)

[Ventura County Non-Coastal Zone Ordinance](#), Section 8107-41.3 - Permitting and Development Standards for Agricultural Worker Housing

[California Department of Migrant Housing](#)

[County of San Mateo Farm Labor Housing Loan Program](#)

[Association of Bay Area Governments – Farmworker Housing Toolkit](#)

[California Rural Legal Assistance – Vista Office](#)

[City of Gilroy Arturo Ochoa Migrant Center](#)

[Child Migrant Anecdote on Farmworker Housing](#)

[Center for Land-Based Learning Beginning Farmer and Ranch Management Apprenticeship Program](#)