MINUTES of the Administration			A COUN ember 8, Maidu	2016,		PM,			,	Eric Rood California
MEMBERS PRI	ESENT: Cl	nair Aguil	ar and Co	ommiss	sioners	s Pou	ılter, Dı	ıncan, Ja	ames	and Jenser
MEMBERS ABS	SENT: Non	e.								
STAFF PRESE Agricultural Cor Administrative A	mmissioner,	Chris 1	Flores; I					•		_
PUBLIC HEAR	INGS:									
1. Agricultur PLN16-00	ral Ordinand 050; ORD16							Page	2, Li	ine 51
STANDING OR	DERS: Sal	ute to the	Flag - R	oll Call	- Cor	recti	ons to A	Agenda.		
CALL MEETIN taken.	IG TO ORI	DER: Th	ne meetin	g was o	called	to or	der at	1:30 p.m	. R	Roll call was
CHANGES TO	AGENDA:	None.								
PUBLIC COMN items not appeari matter jurisdictio otherwise authori	ng on the a	genda whanning C	nich are o ommissio	f intere n, prov	st to t	he p	ublic ar no actio	nd are ware on shall	ithin be t	the subjectaken unless
1. Acceptance 2. Acceptance 3. Acceptance	ce of 7-28-2 ce of 8-25-2	016 Hear	ing Minu	tes						
Motion to accept Commissioner Jast Hearing Minutes on a voice vote. second by Comm	ames. Mo th by Comming Motion to	t ion carr ssioner D accept th	ried on a Juncan; so le 9-22-20	a voice econd 016 He	e vote by Co earing	. Mo mmi Min	otion to ssioner utes by	James.	the Mot	e 8-25-2016 ion carried
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2016-12-08 Draft PC Meeting Minutes -1-

Poulter.

PUBLIC HEARING:

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PLN16-0050; ORD16-1; EIS16-0001: A public hearing to consider the Nevada County Agricultural Advisory Commission's September 21, 2016 recommendation to approve PLN16-0050; ORD16-1; EIS16-001 which includes proposed amendments to the Nevada County Zoning Ordinance (Land Use and Development Code Chapter II) related to agricultural uses including Section L-II 3.3 Agricultural Uses (to update definitions and standards for agricultural direct marketing) and includes updates to the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) Allowable Use and Permit Requirements Tables for all zoning districts to reflect permitting requirements for Field Retail Stands, Farm Stands and Certified Farmer's Markets; Section L-II 3.10 Employee Housing and Section L-II 3.15 Recreational Vehicle Use and Temporary Occupancies (to allow use of a temporary recreational vehicle for agricultural employee housing, to update outdated references/standards and to increase the duration of time allowed for recreational vehicle use as security housing at the site of a church, other community or public facility); and Section L-II 4.3.4 Important Ag Lands (to add the County's updated definition of Farmlands of Ordinance). Local **Importance** to the County Zoning RECOMMENDED **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** Negative Declaration. **PLANNER:** Barrington, Principal Planner.

Planner Barrington: These amendments are the result of direction from the Nevada County Agriculture Advisory Commission and the Agriculture Commissioner's office. Note that staff prepared a memo detailing proposed changes to the employee housing section of the code. County Counsel requested that we pull the consideration of those particular changes at this time in order to consider their potential impact county wide. Introduced Chris Flores.

Agricultural Commissioner Chris Flores: Discussed the make-up of the Ag Advisory Commission. Recently included a Board of Supervisor representative which is currently Ed Scofield. The Ag Commission has been looking at the changes before the Planning Commission today since 2008. The direct marketing language discussion recently evolved to make it consistent with state law. In 2015, the Ag Commission started looking at what the Food and Ag code defines farm stands and field retail stands as and then trying to align Nevada County zoning ordinance definition so that when the Ag Department goes out to do enforcement, we are looking at the same definition. The first item is a change in the definition of the field retail stand to be a basic field stand that is on or near the property of production where they would only be allowed to sell what they are growing on the property. Farm stand definition, based on Food and Ag code, allows what is sold at a field retail stand but also allows value added products like jellies and jams, prepackaged non-hazardous food items, bottled water and soda. In the zoning ordinance, we have added a definition for community supported agricultural. That is now defined in the Food and Ag code. So we would like to add that to the zoning code.

Planner Barrington: The overall purpose of this ordinance is to support our local agriculture economy. It aligns county definitions of field retail stands, farm stands, and certified farmers markets with state codes and adds the community supported agriculture definition. After discussions with County Counsel, we feel it is necessary to reintroduce the definition of agriculture products so it is clear to the people running these stands exactly what it is they can sell. Standards were carried over from the prior ordinance with minor changes. In the proposed ordinance, a farm stand becomes a field retail stand, a produce stand goes away and becomes a farm stand, the certified farmers market and growers market become a certified farmers market. The most substantial changes related to this portion of the ordinance relate to the permitting requirements for these facilities. Under the proposed ordinance, field retail stands will be treated similarly to the way farm stands were previously treated and be an allowed use in the AG

exclusive, General AG, Forest and Residential Agricultural zoning districts. This would be an 100 allowed use subject to zoning compliance and the specific standards of the ordinance. Field 101 retail stands would continue to be prohibited in all other zoning districts. 102

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Regarding farm stands, where this ordinance differs from the previous ordinance, we are 103 proposing to simplify the permit processing and allow for farm stands to be located in zoning districts such as the Agriculture Exclusive, General AG, Forest and Residential Agricultural as 105 an allowed use. Previously, this did require an administrative development permit. We felt that 106 the type of use is very similar to a field retail stand and therefore, it would be appropriate to be allowed in those zones. Also, expanding upon where these facilities could be located, staff has 108 proposed, at the recommendation of the Agriculture Advisory Commission, that farm stands be 109 allowed in all of the commercial zoning districts, the business and industrial zoning districts, as well as some special purpose zoning districts. The primary purpose for allowing this is a lot of these areas already have infrastructure that can support a small, temporary, seasonal farm stand 112 113 such as adequate parking, restroom facilities, and adequate roads. It would be prohibited, under the proposed ordinance, in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 zoning districts to help protect those zoning districts. It continues to prohibit the use in Open Space and in the Timber Production Zone 115 (TPZ). One of the minor changes to the proposed ordinance, over our existing ordinance, is we are proposing to allow farm stands to be permitted for a period of three years. We found that we 117 had a lot of producers and a lot of people who were doing this where they would have to come in 118 each year and they'd be doing it on the same site on the same exact scale and we felt it would be more appropriate to provide them with a little bit longer duration for them to be permitted in doing this activity.

Regarding certified farmers markets, under this proposal, certified farmers markets could be 122 allowed in virtually all zoning districts with an administrative development permit. They would 123 be prohibited in the R-1, R-2, R-3, Open Space, and TPZ zones. We are, again, looking at 124 125 allowing these to be permitted for a period of three years versus the one year we currently allow in order to be supportive and minimize the bureaucracy. 126

As Chris mentioned, we are proposing adding a definition of Community Supported Agriculture 127 (CSA). This is an activity that is occurring in our county. It is something that does not result in 128 conflicts with neighborhoods. It is essentially an agreement between the producer and the 129 consumer where they do a prepaid subscription and then pick up locations are identified and 130 approved. The proposed ordinance would require no permits to continue to operate as a CSA. 131

The purpose of these changes is to help support our local agriculture community and provide 132 local foods to our citizens. 133

The next change, as previously mentioned, originally was dealing with temporary occupancy of seasonal employee housing in a recreational vehicle. Again, at the request of County Counsel, we would like to not consider that today. (See attached memo from staff.) But, during the public outreach process, we did get comments from the Penn Valley Fire District and from the Nevada County Fire Marshal requesting minor amendments related to updates and requirements for carbon monoxide detectors in a recreational vehicle. They requested that we update some of our outdated references to the Uniform Building and Mechanical Code which is now the California Fire and Building Code. That has been done.

The other change is not actually related to agriculture but we felt, since we were opening this 142 section of the code, we would like to propose this change as a result of clear direction from the 143 Planning Commission. On several occasions we have permitted parks and other institutional 144 type facilities that have recreational vehicles as security housing. Our current code allows for a 145 recreational vehicle to be security housing through approval of a use permit for a period of three 146 years with one additional two year extension of time. The county's permit timeline requirement 147

allows use permits to be extended for two additional two year periods. We are proposing to allow that second two year extension for the security housing in a recreational vehicle.

Agricultural Commissioner Flores: "Farmlands of Local Importance." The CA Department of Conservation and their farmland mapping and monitoring program create maps for local jurisdictions. They create farmland maps related to soil classifications and land use. They also create maps of prime farmland statewide, important farmland, and unique farmland. You have before you the recommended change from the Ag Advisory Commission. They have been working on this, jointly with the Planning Commission, to update Nevada County's definition of farmlands of local importance and to update the criteria that define it. (Summary of the history of committee work on the issues: categories, grazing land, soil types, definitions of important farmland for Nevada County, etc.) Final result: five soil types that are high rating rangeland production soils. Propose that these be the soil types for our criteria for Farmlands of Local Importance and create a new definition that makes sense for Nevada County.

Planner Barrington: Purpose of this proposed ordinance amendment is to update and codify the County's definition of Farmlands of Local Importance (FLI). The USDA has this definition but it is not actually in the County's Zoning Ordinance. We do have a section of the code that talks about important agricultural lands so we think this is an appropriate place to locate this definition. Current definition is based on historical agricultural uses in Nevada County but does not take into account any development patterns over time. It does not include a way to measure what the mapping of Farmlands of Local Importance can be based on. This proposal does provide a tangible metric for measuring FLI to be mapped by the USDA using the County's soil survey and the Zoning Ordinance. This will reduce the overall FLI acreage by approximately 10,000 acres bringing it down to 11,000. But that is only based on the soils. The state will look at several factors when they do their new mapping for 2016. This does not change development requirements. A management plan would still be required for non Ag projects; setbacks would still apply, etc. Important to note that there is no impact on ability to farm or use land for agricultural purposes. It just gives the USDA and the County a clear definition and a clear metric for mapping this resource.

Based on these proposed changes, staff prepared a draft initial study and proposed negative impact declaration which were distributed and posted as required. We received a comment letter from CVRQCB which really does not apply and a call from Department of Conservation with no formal comment from them. No other public comments were received. The AG Advisory Commission recommended approval to BOS.

Chair Aguilar asked for questions of staff.

Commissioner Jensen asked if by changing the definition, fifty percent of the FLI is lost.

Planner Barrington confirmed that is his understanding, as it effectively removes the designation from sites that are not actually Farmlands of Local Importance.

191 Commissioner Jensen asked for clarification on the acreage.

Planner Barrington confirmed the acreage, and noted that it was based on soils alone.

Agricultural Commissioner Flores clarified that acreage was lost when certain designations were pulled out of Farmlands of Local Importance, though those areas are still considered choice soils and still require a Management Plan.

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Commissioner Jensen asked if this process requires a General Plan change.

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Planner Barrington said it does not require a General Plan change. It is meant to better define where the Farmlands of Local Importance are. It does not change agricultural zoning.

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204 Commissioner Jensen asked how downgrading the importance affects the General Plan.

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Planner Barrington said it does not change any standards of the zoning ordinance or any General Plan designations. It better defines where the areas are and which might require a Management Plan for non-agricultural uses.

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Commissioner Jensen clarified that some land that is currently classified as Important Farmland actually is not so owners will be able to request a change in their classification.

212

Planner Barrington gave an example. He noted that while it is a reduction in Farmlands of Local Importance, it is meant to be based on what is truly productive agricultural land.

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216 Commissioner Jensen said he has other questions for after public hearing.

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Commissioner Duncan said there are not special provisions for CSA designations outside agriculturally zoned areas.

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221 Planner Barrington said correct.

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223 Commissioner Duncan asked why this is included under zoning.

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Planner Barrington said the purpose is to recognize as an activity that is occurring in the county.

The zoning ordinance ties to it to specific language in the land use tables. It also gives the Agricultural Commissioner's office the ability to enforce regulations.

228

229 Commissioner Duncan asked if there are special regulations that relate to land use with a CSA.

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Planner Barrington said just that the use has to be in an area where crop and tree growing is an allowed use.

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234 Commissioner Duncan said it is excessive to regulate CSAs.

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Director Foss said because the County has a permissive ordinance, if a use is not listed it is presumed to be not allowed. By putting in, the County is recognizing that CSAs are an allowed use that will continue to be allowed. Their existence will be codified and protected. Whether or not they are in the land use code, they are still regulated through the Agricultural Commissioner's office. The intent is to eliminate any confusion that they might not be an allowed use.

Commissioner Duncan said it is excessive government regulation to include the definition under land use zoning. It is not necessary as it is no different from other agricultural uses. Director Foss said it is the component of the public coming to the site and the commercial aspect. Commissioner Duncan said it is excessive. She asked about farm stands and whether a co-op could exist for farmers to sell together. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said farm stands can have up to ten growers sharing a site if they are growing in Nevada County selling near the point of production. Her office certifies the producers and validates their certificates. This minimization of regulations is based on state law. Chair Aguilar asked if that takes a permit. Planner Barrington said in the agricultural zones, it is an allowed use and no permit is required. Other zones take a ADP permit. Chair Aguilar asked about selling eggs in residential zones. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said that is different from the true commercial aspect being discussed today. Chair Aguilar said CSAs are regulated. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said yes, through the state. Chair Aguilar said they don't take a permit. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said they do, certifying that they are producers. Planner Barrington clarified they do not take a land use permit. Commissioner Duncan asked whether the public going to a site to pick a crop requires a permit. Planner Barrington said there is nothing about that. Commissioner Duncan said there is no definition or regulation of the public going to land to pick a crop. Planner Barrington said they don't have that.

Commissioner Duncan said it is troubling that that is not regulated but that CSAs require a permit.

Planner Barrington said there is no permit required for a CSA. The intent is to codify that it exists and is a land use that is beneficial.

Commissioner Duncan said to pick your own would not be recognized.

Chair Aguilar asked for a map of the three definitions being removed from the choice land. 292

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Agricultural Commissioner Flores said there is a GIS layer.

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Planner Barrington explained a map from his presentation.

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Commissioner James asked about the extension for security housing in parks. Concern about 298 how financially adequate districts are. Why not consider every two years to review the housing 299 and, if no problems, give another two years? Park districts may be in a bind after only two years 300

due to finances. 301

- Planner Barrington responded that recreational vehicles are not meant to be permanent housing 302 and seven years is a long time to occupy one. So this balances what we would allow and what is 303 actually considered permanent. 304
- 305 Chair Aguilar brought up possibility that, if finances prevent a park from securing permanent housing for a guard, that guard would have to go away. Then we create a more serious problem. 306
- Commissioner James discussed important factor of possible loss of security and other services 307 for parks if the park cannot afford to build permanent housing after the allowed time period to 308

utilize a recreational vehicle for these staff. 309

- Chair Aguilar stated that they will not vote on this item at this time. 310
- Planner Barrington noted that it is within the purview of the Planning Commission to amend and 311
- 312
- Director Foss stated correction that this item is still in the recommended approval today. 313
- Chair Aguilar discussed understanding of the need for a time limit. 314
- Chair Aguilar stated the benefit outweighs the potential of "blight." He likes Commissioner 315
- James's idea. He asked for other commissioner ideas. 316
- Commissioner Poulter stated use of a recreational vehicle for housing can't go on forever. Seven 317
- years is a long time. We are not creating new parks, these parks already exist. They need to have 318
- a plan. She asked about Penn Valley. 319
- Commissioner James stated that RV is gone. The individuals who were providing security to the 320
- 321
- Commissioner Poulter asked if they need security there? 322
- Commissioner James replied yes, in his opinion they do. 323
- Commissioner Poulter reiterated that she does not feel the use of an RV can go on forever and it 324
- doesn't seem to take a lot to get an extension. 325

326

Commissioner Duncan expressed concern about public investments being vandalized and 327 budgets being stretched thin to make repairs. Having security living on site was meant to deter 328 this type of criminal activity. She argued that seven years is a short time span when trying to 329 raise money to build permanent housing. She agreed with Commissioner James's proactive 330 solution.

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Chair Aguilar said it does take time.

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Commissioner Jensen said RVs are a pile of junk after living in one for seven years. Two year 335 renewals must include an evaluation of appearance in the County's inspection. 336

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Commissioner James said he agrees.

Chair Aguilar said the Commissioner would like to consider the issue so it could be pulled if staff needs more time to work on it.

342

Planner Barrington said staff would like clear direction from the Commission regarding the extensions. He expressed concern about being in conflict with the code in regard to Use Permits.

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Chair Aguilar asked about the Staff Report packets and the State's definitions.

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Planner Barrington confirmed Chair Aguilar's statement.

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Director Foss explained the current allowance for extensions. He presented the option of recommending approval of the ordinance today with direction to continue to look at it.

352

Commissioner Duncan asked if it would be appropriate to review it with the RV component.

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Director Foss said the Commission could.

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Commissioner Duncan said it is hasty to give them two more years now. She suggested staff take it back and talk about more options.

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Director Foss said the Commission could remove it and give staff a completely different direction.

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Commissioner Duncan said it is a matter of being realistic and assessing the situation.

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Director Foss said he hesitates because there are a lot of issues and concerns countywide regarding RV use. He is concerned it will not move forward at all so he is encouraging the Commission to take what it can get.

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Commissioner Duncan said she thought RV use is restricted to agricultural.

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Director Foss said security housing applies to all zoning districts if there is an active permit.

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Chair Aguilar said Director Foss's advice is well taken. If the Commission decides to approve it, the additional two year extension is approved with the direction to look into the issue.

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Chair Aguilar opened the public hearing at 2:22 p.m.

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Rich Johansen of Penn Valley introduced himself as being on the Agricultural Advisory Commission. He said the state of Nevada County agriculture is not healthy. He discussed small farmers, markets and labor. He asked that the Commission consider temporary employee housing today and urged approval of both items.

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Susan Hoek of Penn Valley said agriculture is alive and well in Nevada County. The county benefits from supporting farmers to stay in business. She hopes the Planning Commission will pass the items.

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Chair Aguilar closed the public hearing at 2:26 p.m. and brought it back to staff.

Planner Barrington said there were no questions from the public. Chair Aguilar said he was pleased to see this effort to help farming. Commissioner Jensen mentioned a mandarin festival and asked if that was similar to what is being discussed today. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said no. Commissioner Jensen clarified that he was talking about the physical stands. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said yes, if they are permanent stands. Commissioner Jensen asked how sales tax is handled, in selling food and antiques. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said farm stands and field retail stands can only sell food. Commissioner Jensen asked how marijuana fits into this issue. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said it does not. The Food and Ag Code is very specific about what can be sold. Various departments are adamant about protecting the rights of food producers and have no interest in cannabis being sold at farm stands, field retail stands or farmer's markets. Commissioner Jensen said the codes say what can be sold. He would be more comfortable with explicitly saying no cannabis. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said the ag product definition in the Zoning Ordinance specifically says what can be sold at farm and field retail stands in the County. Commissioner Jensen said an ordinance like this is constrained by rules and regulations. He asked what percentage of County farmers fit under the current written ordinance. He asked if the ordinance would be eliminating many of them with regulations. He gave the example of driveways. Agricultural Commissioner Flores said the zoning code proposal expands the allowance by expanding the zoning districts that allow the uses. If farmers aren't able to set up a stand on their property because of issues like access, they may be able to at a close location. Commissioner Jensen said driveways were a difficult issue for grape growers. Planner Barrington said these existing standards are basic health and safety and are carried over. Commissioner Jensen confirmed that there was an effort to include as many farms as possible. Commissioner Duncan asked if farms stands have to have direct access onto a public road. Planner Barrington read the applicable section and clarified that the stands need to be on a public

road or participate in private road maintenance.

Commissioner James said he had a question.

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Commissioner Duncan asked for a discussion on security housing.

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- Commissioner James asked for elaboration on the removal of the section on employee housing.
- He asked for a timeline on when it would come before the Commission.

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Planner Barrington said it is specifically related to the potential for misuse for non-agricultural uses in Nevada County.

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Commissioner Duncan said that has been a perpetual suspicion on the part of the County. The public has said it is essential and the Commission should be as open minded as possible. She asked for the schedule of the issue coming back to the Commission.

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Counsel VanderPloeg said the issue must be vetted further with input from other agencies and entities.

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Commissioner Duncan asked if the input had not yet begun to be gathered.

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Counsel VanderPloeg said it is being gathered and it is a very fluid area.

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Commissioner Duncan said it is a touchy subject but also a critical component to farmer's operations. She asked it be taken care of in real time rather than government time.

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Chair Aguilar said the Commission can make a statement in the recommendation that they see the need for this critical housing for agriculture and that the Board of Supervisors continue expanding the allowance. All the Commission is doing today is making a recommendation, not approving the issue. He suggested that the recommendations include a strong statement that this is something the Commission wants pursued.

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Commissioner Duncan asked if the Commission wanted to separate out the issue of time extensions.

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Commissioner Poulter said no.

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Chair Aguilar said the problem is that if the Commission doesn't include the additional two year extension now, it may be a long time before it is brought up again and he doesn't want the Commission to regret that delay. He thinks the Commission should include it with idea that they would like to pursue the housing issue further. Temporary housing is a complicated issue. He mentioned building permit extensions, for example.

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Director Foss said the Building Department sometimes allows a lot of extensions that can go on for years.

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Chair Aguilar said that is true.

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Commissioner James said he likes Director Foss's suggestion to go forward with the two year extensions now and direct staff that the Commission would like to see it come back.

ommissioner James said he is thinking of parks. anner Barrington said it is also allowed as part of an institutional use, for example by a school church.							
ommissioner Duncan said she would like to continue offering this as a source of security.							
hair Aguilar asked if that was enough direction.							
anner Barrington said yes.							
hair Aguilar asked for a motion.							
Totion by Commissioner Duncan to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the esolution approving the proposed Negative Declaration (EIS16-0001), finding that the adoption flects the judgment that the project will not result in a physical change to the environment; cond by Commissioner Jensen. Motion carried on a voice vote 5/0.							
lotion by Commissioner Duncan to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the rdinance (ORD16-1) amending Chapter II of the Nevada County Land Use and Development ode Sections L-II 3.3, 3.10, 3.15 and 4.3.4; second by Commissioner Jensen.							
Planner Barrington clarified the changes and that the ordinance being recommended is the one attached to the memo, not the staff report.							
ommissioner Duncan amended the motion.							
ommissioner Jensen seconded the amended motion.							
lotion carried on a voice vote 5/0.							
hair Aguilar said there is no appeal period as it is a recommendation.							
iscussion ensued regarding upcoming Commission meetings.							
lotion by Commissioner Poulter; second by Commissioner Duncan to adjourn. Motion arried on voice vote 5/0.							
here being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 46 p.m. to the next meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2017, in the Board of Supervisors hambers, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City.							
assed and accepted this day of , 2017.							
the Contract of the Contract o							