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To: Oscar Villegas; Mary Vixie Sandy; Lucas Frerichs; Sheila Allen; Angel Barajas; Clerkoftheboard
Subject: Flexibility for Farm worker Housing

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Hello Honorable Supervisors,

I was hoping to speak tomorrow at the Supervisors meeting, unfortunately I have a scheduling conflict. As we look at flexible zoning possibilities for farm worker housing, I would like to emphasize that it should be placed where it is needed. We also must recognize the difference between conventional farming needs and that of organic farming. A conventional farm of 5,000 acres may only need 20 workers part of the year and an organic row crop farm of 500 acres will need 50 or 60 people. An example would be our Capay Valley where 150 plus people work eleven months a year commuting many miles if not fortunate enough to live in the valley or Esparto. This makes Esparto the obvious candidate as it has the infrastructure. Guinda could be called the hub of organic farming in the Capay Valley but lacks the infrastructure. With some zoning flexibility, things could happen albeit on a smaller scale. The closer we can get folks to their work the smaller the carbon footprint etc. and the less impact on their wallet. Consideration of creation of an Agricultural Overlay District would also enhance the possibilities for housing. We also need to understand that these worker's children may choose the same vocation as their parents or they may choose a different path. They may work at grocery stores, sell us insurance or become doctors or a County Supervisor. Families do better when they have a good foundation.

Best Regards,

Wyatt Cline