

# ATTACHMENT

For Item

# 3

Wednesday,  
December 4, 2013

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE  
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**From:** Cox, Greg  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 03, 2013 9:57 AM  
**To:** FGG-DL, LSDOCS  
**Subject:** FW: PACE  
**Attachments:** FB PACE.pdf

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**From:** Eric Larson [<mailto:eric@sdfarmbureau.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2013 5:06 PM  
**To:** Cox, Greg; Jacob, Dianne; Roberts, Dave; Ron-Roberts; Horn, Bill  
**Cc:** De La Rosa, Michael A; Wilson, Adam; Kohatsu, Sachiko; Gutierrez, Gabriel; Sprecco, Edward; Aghassi, Sarah; Wardlaw, Mark; Schneider, Matthew  
**Subject:** PACE

Letter attached regarding Farm Bureau's position for item #3 on the December 4, 2013 agenda. We will be present to speak.

Eric Larson  
Executive Director  
San Diego County Farm Bureau  
760-745-3023

\_\_\_\_\_ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 9122 (20131202)  
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<http://www.eset.com>

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# FARM BUREAU SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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December 2, 2013

The Honorable Greg Cox  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Dear Chairman Cox and Members of the Board,

The San Diego County Farm Bureau is pleased to support the continuation of the County of San Diego's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) program.

Support for the PACE program extends to requesting that staff be directed to implement recommendations 2a, b, and c. We further request that staff be directed to prepare a mitigation program as an expanded component of the PACE program.

We believe the PACE program provides the County of San Diego with an excellent vehicle for durable farmland preservation. Moving from a pilot program to a permanent program would be in keeping with the recently adopted General Plan, where it was stated in the Purpose and Scope Section of the Conservation and Open Space Element:

*Agricultural Resources—Minimize land use conflicts, preserve agricultural resources, and support the long-term presence and viability of agricultural industry as an important component of the region's economy and open space linkage.*

Specifically, Goal COS-6.4 states:

*Conservation Easements. Support the acquisition or voluntary dedication of agriculture conservation easements and programs that preserve agricultural lands.*

In addition to meeting the intent of the General Plan, a permanent PACE program would also serve as an equity mechanism to make whole some number of farmland owners who suffered substantial reduction of density and property values. Also, a great benefit will be enjoyed by the community as a whole over time when the farms that have been protected by a PACE program easement go on the market and potential buyers will be limited to individuals interested in

continuing the agricultural operation because the property will not be attractive to developers or speculators.

In addition to the recommendations that have been forwarded to you by staff we recommend the following:

1. Establish the PACE program as a permanent county program.
2. Provide for continuous funding through an annual General Fund appropriation in addition to funding through mitigation.
3. Periodically reopen the PACE application process to interested property owners.

Thank you for the successful implementation of the pilot PACE program and we look forward to working with you on the establishment of a permanent program.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. Larson".

Eric Larson  
Executive Director