

RESOLUTION NO. 24-079

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF VENTURA APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE VENTURA COUNTY
GENERAL PLAN'S ECONOMIC VITALITY ELEMENT (PL24-0027)**

WHEREAS, the County of Ventura ("County") has prepared amendments to the Economic Vitality Element of the Ventura County General Plan in the form attached to this Resolution ("General Plan Amendment") as part of the County's proposed amendments to the General Plan and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to allow and establish regulations for the processing of locally grown food in conformance with the County's 2050 SOAR Ordinance (collectively, "Proposed Amendments");

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2024, the Ventura County Planning Commission held a legally noticed public hearing regarding the Proposed Amendments at which time the Planning Commission heard and received oral and written testimony from the general public and County staff, including the staff report and all exhibits;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission voted 3-0 to recommend that the County's Board of Supervisors ("Board") approve and adopt the Proposed Amendments;

WHEREAS, the Board held a legally noticed public hearing regarding the Proposed Amendments in Ventura, California, on June 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Board considered the Planning Commission's recommendation as well as all written and oral testimony from County staff and members of the public regarding the Proposed Amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board:

1. **FINDS** that the County's approval of the General Plan Amendment and Proposed Amendments as a whole is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections: (1) 15301 (Class I) because it involves the potential use of developed facilities; (2) 15303 (Class 3) for new, small facilities or structures or the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another; (3) 15304 (Class 4) because it involves the potential minor alterations in the condition of land and/or vegetation; and, (4) that no unusual circumstances or other exception set forth in CEQA Guidelines 15300.2 precludes use of these categorical exemptions.
2. **FINDS** that the General Plan Amendment is in the public interest, consistent with all other applicable federal and state laws, and consistent with the goals, policies and programs of the Ventura County General Plan; and
3. **APPROVES** the General Plan Amendment in the form attached to this Resolution.

Upon a motion by Supervisor Gorell, and seconded by Supervisor Parvin, duly carried, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this 4th day of June, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors LaVere, Gorell, Parvin, Lopez, Long
NOES: Supervisors none
ABSENT: Supervisors none

Kelly Rung
CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
DR. SEVET JOHNSON
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura, State of California

By Hon'Key
Deputy Clerk of the Board



GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

EV-2

To improve the economic viability of agriculture through policies that support agriculture as an integral business to the County.

EV-2.1

Agricultural Diversification

The County should encourage the growth and expansion of new, innovative agricultural-related business opportunities, including technological advancements in irrigation, crop production and pest control, new crop types, and agritourism, and "farm-to-table" programs and events. (RDR, PI)

EV-2.2

Value-Added Agriculture

The County shall encourage the expansion of value-added agricultural products (e.g., processing, packaging, product development) within Existing Communities, where zoning allows, and on agricultural land consistent with SOAR policies. (RDR, MPSP, JP)

EV-2.3

Processing of Locally Grown Food

In accordance with Section 2, subsection I(m) of the County's 2050 Save Open-Space and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) Ordinance, facilities for the processing of locally grown food are authorized for approval on up to a cumulative total of 12 acres in the unincorporated area on land designated Agricultural Exclusive, Open Space, and Rural, provided that:

- a) the locally grown food processing facility is approved on or before January 1, 2030;
- b) no more than 3 acres per legal lot is devoted to the locally grown food processing facility use;
- c) the locally grown food processing facility does not require the expansion or extension of new sewer lines;
- d) the locally grown food that is processed at a facility would otherwise likely be transported out of Ventura County for processing as determined by the Agricultural Commissioner; and
- e) the locally grown food processing facility use will not result in a direct or indirect loss of soils on land classified as "Prime" or "Statewide Importance," and/or "Unique" by the California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Inventory, unless the Planning Director, in consultation with the Agricultural Commissioner, determines that the land is developed or otherwise unsuitable for agricultural activities.



Additional policies on the agricultural economy are located in Chapter 8, Agriculture Element.