



Board of Supervisors COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: August 11, 2020

Public Hearing Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Tammie Weyker-Adkins PHONE: 559.636.5000		

SUBJECT: Approve a letter of support for AB 2043 (Rivas)

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve a letter of support for AB 2043 (Rivas) in regards to occupational safety and health for agricultural employers and employees within the Covid-19 response.

SUMMARY:

Agricultural workers have been classified as essential workers due to the critical role they play in our society. Existing law promotes the improvement of working conditions and opportunities of wage earners; assures safe and healthful working conditions through the enforcement of effective safety and health standards, conditions, and education and training; establishes the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (known as Cal/OSHA) to propose, administer, and enforce occupational safety and health standards; and prohibits an employee from being laid off or discharged for refusing to perform work in violation of prescribed safety standards, where the violation would create a real and apparent hazard to employees.

AB 2043 (Rivas) directs the Division of Occupational Safety and Health to enforce its own COVID-19 guidance already issued by Cal/OSHA, conduct a robust culturally competent outreach campaign, via public service announcements, workplace signs, and other communications methods, to educate employers and employees related to workplace and home health and safety, and compile and report, via its website, statistics and summary information relating to investigations involving agricultural workplaces.

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For Tulare County, these measures will significantly add value to the culturally competent outreach our Public Health Branch and Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer has conducted during this pandemic and ensure that our agricultural workforce is educated on health and safety best practices and receive the education and resources it needs to remain safe in the workplace.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no Net County Cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Approve a letter of support for AB 2043 (Rivas) is linked to the Quality of Life initiative – Promote public health and welfare, educational opportunities, natural resource management and continued improvement of environmental quality.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Tammie Weyker-Adkins

Tammie Weyker-Adkins

Chief of Staff

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Letter of Support

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVE)
A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR) Resolution No. _____
AB 2043 (RIVAS)) Agreement No. _____
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

Approved a letter of support for AB 2043 (Rivas) in regards to occupational safety and health for agricultural employers and employees within the Covid-19 response.



County of Tulare

August 4, 2020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kuyler Crocker
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Amy Shuklian
District Three

Eddie Valero
District Four

Dennis Townsend
District Five

✧

BOARD STAFF
Tammie Weyker-Adkins, Chief of Staff

Samantha Ferrer
Alicia Balderas

✧

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Melinda Benton, Chief Clerk

✧

Administration Bldg. 2800
West Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291

TEL: (559) 636-5000
FAX: (559) 733-6898

The Honorable Jerry Hill
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment & Retirement
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2043 (Rivas): SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Hill:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors is proud to support AB 2043 (Rivas) as it will protect California's agricultural employees and keep the food supply chain safe, healthy, functioning. The Tulare County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of our agricultural workers and the service they, and their employers, provide by keeping our food supply safe and accessible.

AB 2043 directs Cal/OSHA to disseminate culturally competent information consistent with the guidance documents and enforce the health and safety best practices as specified in the guidance documents for agricultural employers and employees. AB 2043 also funds a culturally competent and targeted outreach campaign to raise awareness around COVID-19 workplace health and safety guidance. Additionally, many workers are unaware they are entitled to paid sick leave and workers' compensation should they become infected with COVID-19; the outreach campaign will educate them on these COVID-19-related employment benefits.

Part of protecting our vital agricultural workforce means providing employees with the resources they need to address the risk of COVID-19 infection, and that includes providing them with Cal/OSHA contact information. Lastly, Cal/OSHA will be required to compile and report statistics on investigations related to agricultural workplaces.

California's agricultural employees comprise a vulnerable population -- a workforce performing intense physical labor daily. They are often medically underserved, with decreased access to healthcare, and the state must ensure that agricultural employees are able to take appropriate safety precautions in the workplace to protect themselves against infection from COVID-19. Agricultural employees are an essential and indispensable part of our workforce. It is imperative that the legislature therefore act swiftly to ensure enforcement of the Cal/OSHA issued health and safety guidance, as well as educate workers about risks in the workplace and the steps they can take to protect themselves.

These workers are putting their health and safety on the line to ensure our access to nutritious food. We have to ensure that they are able to do their very necessary work in the safest conditions possible.

For these reasons, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors supports AB 2043 (Rivas). We respectfully ask for your AYE vote in the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment & Retirement.

Sincerely,

Pete Vander Poel, Chair
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Amy Shuklian, Vice Chair
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Kuyler Crocker, District 1
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Eddie Valero, District 4
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Dennis Townsend, District 5
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

cc: Tulare County Delegation
Paul Yoder, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Jason T. Britt, Tulare County CAO