



CONSTITUTION

of the
Santa Barbara County Ag Futures Alliance
Adopted by Consensus, September 10, 2008

Our Purpose

To promote the long-term viability of agriculture in Santa Barbara County while addressing environmental and social concerns through an alliance that values dialogue and collaboration.

Principles of Organization

Recognizing that mutual trust and a common purpose are the basis for reaching consensus, the Ag Futures Alliance has set forth the following principles to guide behavior of the organization's members as they work to set goals and define activities.

1. Our fundamental principle is the inherent respect each individual and each viewpoint deserves. We strive to treat each other with the highest level of respect possible.
2. We believe that diversity in our membership and in our community is a strength that will allow us to adapt and cope with the challenges we face.
3. Our individual thinking is enhanced by the vibrant and full exchange of ideas by Roundtable members. In the end what we conclude as a group is stronger than what we might find on our own.
4. Each of us serving on the Roundtable is an equal and we value the unique contribution of each individual.
5. We are stronger for being a voluntary effort. We are not here because we have to; we are here because we care deeply about our community.
6. Our best decisions will come when we feel free to explore and express ideas, therefore we will do everything we can to both fully share our ideas and to deeply listen and consider the ideas of others.
7. To be successful through the inevitable challenges we face, each of us needs to come to the Roundtable with firm desire to succeed as a group and a positive intent and attitude towards the issues and fellow members.

Principles of Practice

Recognizing that we will need to periodically remind ourselves of our core beliefs, that the actions of the Alliance must be consistently implemented over the long-term, that the community's consent is needed to achieve our purpose, we have set forth the following principles to guide implementation of our programming.

1. We work on practical solutions, but do not settle for that which may be expedient at the cost of our longer-term needs and beliefs.
2. The problems we are dealing with are deep and systemic. Their origins begin in the past and their implications stretch far into the future. Therefore we look at the root causes of the challenges we face and propose solutions that operate at the root level.
3. We believe there is potential for change and progress in Santa Barbara County and that it is possible to move forward in a meaningful way even if it means challenging potentially powerful interests.
4. We strive to find the balance in all the issues we face, believing the common interest in general lies somewhere between the polar views.
5. We believe our credibility will be based on how deeply we understand the issues and the needs of all community members before we take action. Therefore we take careful and thoughtful action reflecting real consensus.
6. We recognize how much is at stake in our work. We keep the needs of the community as a whole paramount in our minds while understanding that often the costs of these needs are born by individuals who may not have the resources to pay for them.
7. Community health is a key indicator of our success. We strive to consider and include health impacts in all our recommendations.
8. The issues facing farmers and the urban community are interdependent. We succeed and fail together. A lack of understanding about this interdependency is one of the key reasons the community has not come together around key issues.
9. Increasing our mutual understanding of each other will help build the community we want.

Guidelines for Membership

Introduction

AFA guidelines for membership are intended to provide a consistent and understandable set of policies to guide members of AFA in maintaining the integrity of the AFA process. They are developed in accord with the following assumptions:

1. The guidelines will be in line with the foundational work of the first year of the AFA and designed to achieve the purpose of AFA in accordance with the principles set forth in the Constitution.

2. The Guidelines will maintain and enhance the unique dynamic, balance, and pattern of relationships within the AFA resulting from the diversity of affected views and interests at the table.
3. The Guidelines will be generic in design and equitable to avoid individual and /or organizational politics of representation.

Structure

SIZE. The AFA Round Table will have a maximum size of 20 and a minimum of 10.

Categories and Composition

There are five main categories of membership. Within each category, there are specific interest groupings that need to be considered as valuable perspectives to be represented in AFA. Representation from these interests will ensure the appropriate balance necessary to achieve the AFA purpose. The composition of the group will be balanced as shown.

Category	Description	Representatives
<i>Agriculture</i>	Small, large, organic, conventional producers and ag support organizations like Farm Bureau	6
<i>Farm Labor</i>	Employees of farming operations and/or their advocates	2
<i>Environmental</i>	Traditional environmental organizations and health/welfare groups	3
<i>Consumer/Civic</i>	Public health, food security, and civic groups, government, media, education	3
<i>Food Service</i>	Trucking, wholesaling, retailing, food service, restaurant, institutional buyers	2

Membership

Members will be drawn from residents living in or businesses operating in Santa Barbara County. Individuals running for or holding political elected office are not eligible for core group membership, unless the entire group agrees by consensus that the nominee’s qualifications, background, and perspective are valuable enough to AFA to warrant an exception to this rule. If accepted for membership, an individual running for or holding public office must agree not to use AFA membership for any political purpose, such as (but not limited to) citing AFA membership in campaign materials or using AFA membership in such a way as to imply AFA endorsement of a candidate or position not explicitly endorsed by the group. Violations of this agreement will

constitute grounds for expulsion from AFA upon request by any one member of the group.

Membership Intent

Emphasis should be given to the following membership intents:

INDIVIDUAL BASIS. Membership and participation in AFA is on an individual basis. There are no group memberships. Members may come from and represent the perspective of a particular interest group, but when involved in the activities of AFA, members balance constituency allegiances with the special obligation to be responsible to the larger AFA process. In AFA, members are expected to pursue group consensus in accordance with the AFA Constitution. Likewise, the individual member's group is not bound by any decision or action of the AFA.

ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATIONS. While membership is essentially individual, it is desirable that a high proportion of AFA members come from well-established community organizations. This arrangement is important for purposes of AFA credibility. It is also desirable that represented community organizations support the purpose and principles of the AFA.

Selection of Members

When a vacancy occurs, filling the seat is initiated by nomination from a sitting member. A departing member may suggest a nomination. There must be group consensus in order to decide on the nominee. The above membership guidelines shall be followed.

A minimum of two AFA sitting members shall then meet with the nominee to discuss and ascertain both willingness/commitment to serve and the willingness and capacity to subscribe to the purpose and principles of AFA.

The AFA sitting members shall then report back to the group at its next regular meeting. The nominee must be approved by group consensus. The new member begins service at the following regular meeting.

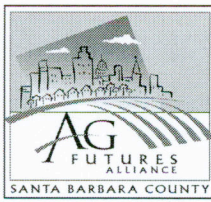
Process of Renewal

Periodic rotation of membership is desirable to allow a fresh infusion of new ideas and perspectives, which is necessary to keep the organization relevant and responsive to the needs of the wider community. Accordingly, members are expected to commit to a cycle of 10 meetings a year for a term of three years. Members wishing to remain on the roundtable beyond three years may do so if granted permission by group consensus, up to a maximum of seven years. The seven-year service limitation may be waived by group consensus for members representing core AFA constituencies, including (but not limited to) Farm Bureau of Santa Barbara County, League of Women Voters, California Rural Legal Assistance/United Farm Workers and Environmental Defense Center.

Termination

The effective functioning of the Round Table is absolutely dependent on the commitment and regular participation of its members. Therefore AFA shall have a termination of membership policy as follows:

1. A member who misses 2 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings shall be considered to have resigned.
2. A member who misses 3 meetings in a calendar year shall be considered to have resigned.
3. A member who is deemed by the core group to have failed to live up to the purpose and principles of the AFA Constitution may be terminated by group consensus, less the affected member.
4. In the event of A or B, on an exceptions basis a resigned member may be re-instated by group consensus at the following meeting. Meeting attendance shall be reviewed regularly by the facilitator and reported to the group.
5. The facilitator shall notify an affected member of his or her effective resignation or termination.



THIS document, designated as the *Constitution*, is the product of a full year of work, by those participants in the consensus and community building process known as the of the Santa Barbara County Ag Futures.

THE contents herein define and describe the our purpose, our guiding principles, and our operating understandings.

THE contents are living, meaning they may be amended by the process participants at any time consensus confirms the need.

THIS *Constitution* is in force and empowered on the tenth day of September in the year 2008.

As witnessed by those undersigned,

Veri Bentzgers

Eric Andersen

Bonnie Scrouse

James G. ...

W. D. ...

Ken ...

J. ...

Chet ...