

APPENDIX D. Outline of process for agricultural planning

The following is a brief outline of proposed steps for an agricultural planning process that leads to the formal adoption of an Agricultural Area Plan (AAP).

- The timing of an AAP would ideally be before an OCP update (so that the AAP could be included as a secondary plan in the new OCP).
- Inform applicants of:
 - The benefits of a agricultural planning.
 - The intended outcomes, which include:
 - Better understanding of agriculture within local government.
 - Agricultural representation in planning processes.
 - Reduced urban-rural conflict through land-use planning, policy, and decision-making/conflict resolution frameworks.
 - Improved agricultural viability through infrastructure planning and economic development.
 - Improved public awareness as a secondary result of the planning process and policy implementation.
 - OCP amendment and inclusion of AAP policies and strategies.
 - An itemised implementation strategy, with clear goals, allocated funding, committed parties, and a set time-line.
 - On-going support/mentoring and follow-up by IAF
 - Support can be given by mentoring, providing information, and advising applicants through the process
- Local government sets goals, identifies the economic and social importance of agriculture.
 - Determines whether an AAP is an appropriate policy for the agricultural area
 - Explicitly states goal in terms of (1) developing an agricultural plan, (2) recommending changes to existing land use policies and regulations, or (3) formally adopting an Agricultural Area Plan as a secondary plan.
- Completes land-use inventory.
- Creates an Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)
 - AAC should include farmer representation from all commodity groups.
 - AAC should be structured as a “Committee of Council” with councillor representation, as well as staff representation (planner).
 - The AAC should continue to operate as a committee indefinitely after the creation of the plan.
- Development of plan begins, including public consultation.
- The planning process leads to two possible reports:
 - The first document will essentially be an “Issues and Opportunities”, or “Agricultural Strategy” report, outlining issues and objectives, economic developing, and such. This can include issues that are perhaps beyond the

jurisdiction of LG, but still within reach. Addressing these can be done by an itemized list of goals and implementation strategies, with set timelines.

- As required, the second document is the AAP structured as a “neighbourhood plan” to be adopted as a secondary plan of the OCP (refer to Smith (1998) for suggested contents). The AAP should contain OCP-type language, and include policies and procedures related to agriculture that are under the direct control of the local government, such as:
 - Buffer zones.
 - Covenants.
 - Infrastructure policy/plans.
 - Homeplate policies.
 - Framework for decision-making
 - ALR referrals
 - Signage policies
 - Zoning
 - Water use
 - Farmer’s market
 - Infrastructure (roads, access, irrigation, drainage).
- Develop a plan for implementation. Establish a committee to oversee the implementation process. Define the continuing role of the AAC.