RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Consider recommendations of Mariposa Agriculture Tourism Advisory Committee for County Code amendments for provisions for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism.

Adopt a resolution of intention to initiate amendments to the Mariposa County Code, including Chapter 17.40 Agriculture Exclusive; Chapter 17.148 Definitions; Chapter 17.114 Administrative Use Permits (new chapter); and Chapter 17.108 Supplementary Standards to add provisions and standards for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism.

The recommended action is based upon previous Board of Supervisors direction in establishing the Mariposa Agriculture Tourism Advisory Committee, including Resolution 09-44. Detailed justification is provided in the attached staff report.

The recommended action “directs” staff to process the amendments through the public review and hearing process. The amendments will be considered by the Agricultural Advisory Committee (meeting scheduled for July 9th), the Planning Commission (public hearing to be scheduled following Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendation) and then the Board of Supervisors for final action (public hearing to be scheduled following Planning Commission recommendation). The recommended action does not commit the Board of Supervisors to any future action.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

10/2/07: Board discussed the “Use, Density and Operational Requirements for Agritourism
11/27/07: Board had presentation on Ag / Nature Tourism
1/26/08 & 3/1/08: Board hosted two public workshops on Agritourism
8/26/08 & 12/9/08: Board hosted two workshops on Agritourism. Direction to staff was given on 12/9/08.
1/27/09: Board directed staff to develop emergency ordinance temporarily suspending agritourism provisions in code; Board established Mariposa Agriculture Tourism Advisory Committee
3/10/09: Board appointed members to Mariposa Agriculture Tourism Advisory Committee

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not initiate amendment or amend text in recommended amendment. Action could have to be based on finding that Committee did not follow direction per resolution adopted on 1/27/09.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No Current FY Cost: $ 
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded 
Amount in Budget: $ 
Additional Funding Needed: $ 
Source: 
Internal Transfer 
Unanticipated Revenue 4/5’s vote 
Transfer Between Funds 4/5’s vote 
Contingency 4/5’s vote 
( ) General ( ) Other

Staff Report with Attachments:
A. Draft Ordinance Amendments 
B. Section 52262, CA Food and Agriculture Code 
C. Chapter 8.28 Public Assemblage Permits 
D. Minutes from Agriculture Tourism Adv Committee 
E. Resolution No. 09-44 establishing Committee 
F. Draft Resolution of Intention initiating amendment

CLERK’S USE ONLY:
Res. No.: CA-296 Ord. No. ______
Vote - Ayes: 5  Noes: ______
Absent: ______
( ) Approved 
( ) Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary 
The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office. Date: 

Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board 
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: ________________
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
\(\checkmark\) Requested Action Recommended 
\(\checkmark\) No Opinion 
Comments:

CAO: ____________________________
TO: KRIS SCHENK, Planning Director
FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Presentation of Agritourism Advisory Committee Recommendations for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism Ordinance and Adopt a Resolution of Intention Initiating Amendments to the Mariposa County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 17.40 (Agriculture Exclusive Zone), Chapter 17.148 (Definitions), Chapter 17.114 (Administrative Use Permits – New Chapter), and Chapter 17.108 (Supplementary Standards) to Add Provisions for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on June 16, 2009

ACTION AND VOTE:

2:04 p.m. Kris Schenk, Planning Director;
Presentation of Agritourism Advisory Committee Recommendations for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism Ordinance and Adopt a Resolution of Intention Initiating Amendments to the Mariposa County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 17.40 (Agriculture Exclusive Zone), Chapter 17.148 (Definitions), Chapter 17.114 (Administrative Use Permits – New Chapter), and Chapter 17.108 (Supplementary Standards) to Add Provisions for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism

BOARD ACTION: Kris Schenk advised of the work that has been done to arrive at this point. Karen Robb gave a presentation on the Agritourism Advisory Committee’s work and recommendations. Supervisor Bibby asked about addressing enforcement and suggested that the annual report be posted on-site – Karen will discuss this suggestion with the Committee. Discussion was held and Board members commended staff and the Committee members for their work. Supervisor Cann asked about the education guide, and Karen advised that she is working on that. Sarah Williams, Deputy Planning Director, responded to questions relative to families being able to stay and the maximum occupancy versus the number of rooms that are allowed.

Input from the public was provided by the following:

Jeanetta Phillips stated she is a member of the Agri-Nature Trail Association but is speaking as an individual. She feels the definition of agritourism means that it generates income for the owner; and she feels that the proposal has too many restrictions to be able to generate income – it would only allow for hobby uses. She asked whether competition trail rides are included in the arena, commercial for fee event uses.
MaryAnn Huff, President of the Chamber of Commerce and landowner and Master Gardener, agreed that the numbers are restrictive. She agrees with having a two-year review of the policy. She asked why bird watching was not included in the listed uses.

William Carter, resident of Nevada, stated he is speaking as a person who has seen agritourism work in a small County and he feels that reasonable growth should be allowed. Speaking for Manuel Souza, he questioned why this meeting is being held during the day when he has to work; he feels that the Plan should not be so restrictive for businesses so that they can make money; feels there is a fear of competition with the fairgrounds; feels that Coyote Springs Ranch was not allowed to apply for what they wanted with the restaurant; and he questioned whether the Board is here representing the people.

Jeanetta Phillips stated she would like to see the Board establish regulations for agritourism in Mountain Home and Mountain General land use classifications.

Ken Pulvino, Greeley Hill rancher and Vice-Chair of the Committee, stated the document does not reflect his personal views; but he recommended that the Board take a leadership role in understanding that the Committee worked hard to reach a consensus and he feels that the document is a starting point and he agrees with reviewing it after a year or two. He stated he does not want to see this document taken apart or he feels that things will go back to a dysfunctional state. He advised of a meeting he attended relative to geotourism in Yosemite.

Ken Baker questioned the purpose of the agritourism program – he stated he agrees that this is a good starting point, but he encouraged the Board to look at the numbers as he does not know of a business that can operate on ten people a day. He commented on his recent trip to Calaveras and their tourism. He agrees with the requirement for guests to sign a disclaimer. He encouraged the Board to have more meetings on this and that they be held when working people can attend.

Kris Casto, member of the Committee, stated the document is a consensus as a result of the collaborative process. She suggested that the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission put together reports versus marking this document up, so that the Board can compare the input and people can follow the process. She noted that she would like higher numbers.

Rita Kidd advised that the Committee relied on ex-officio members for technical input on things such as “for fee events” and to provide advice on the one-third mile buffer for petting zoos to prevent contamination of animals on a neighboring ranch or farm. She agrees that we need to keep this moving through the process and she feels that the Agricultural Advisory Committee has a right to weigh in if things were missed. She advised that she would like to see more conservative numbers. She feels that the following should have been included as ex-officio members: Building Department, Public Health and County Counsel; and she asked that ex-officio support be provided for attendance at the meetings of the Agricultural Advisory Committee and that they be available for questions during deliberations with the Committee and the Planning Commission. She further stated that she feels that there needs to be more information about the dollars involved; especially with glamping to know what is viable.

Ken Pulvino referred to a comment made by Mike Hubert during a Committee meeting that “property owners might be successful” with agritourism.

William Carter commented on the decline of the cattle herds and argued again for sensible growth.

Cathi Boze, Agricultural Commissioner, advised that agriculture is alive and well in the County and that the ranchers took a hit because of the drought last year. She agrees with having agritourism to help support the ranchers; however, she feels it is easier to start small and build.

Discussion was held with staff relative to the annual reports, two-year review of the policy; and further processing with the Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission. Supervisor Turpin asked about consideration of holding an evening meeting. (M)Cann, (S)Turpin, Res. 09-296 was adopted initiating amendments to the Mariposa County Code as recommended/Ayes: Unanimous.

Cc: File
WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors included agritourism as a permitted use in Chapter 17.40 of the Mariposa County Code in June, 2006, absent clear definitions and standards distinguishing agritourism from guest ranches and other uses in the Agriculture Exclusive zone; and

WHEREAS, the General Plan, adopted in December 2006, contains policies enabling agritourism uses, definitions and standards to be established in the Agriculture/Working Landscape and other land use classification; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of agritourism policy provisions of the Mariposa County General Plan is a high priority of the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has established funding within the current (FY 2008-09) budget of the Planning Department to undertake and complete the agritourism work program utilizing the services of a private consultant; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has authorized and held a series of public workshops during 2007 and 2008 to invite and consider the comments of ‘stakeholder’ organizations and individuals in the creation of agritourism standards and regulations appropriate for Mariposa County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors established a Mariposa Agriculture Nature Tourism Advisory Committee on the 27th day of January 2009, comprised of stakeholders and ex-officio members; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors appointed members of the Mariposa Agriculture Nature Tourism Advisory Committee on the 10th day of March 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors directed the committee to develop recommendations for draft amendments to the Mariposa County Code to add provisions and standards for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism within 120 days; and

WHEREAS, the Mariposa Agriculture Nature Tourism Advisory Committee has convened at publicly-noticed meetings on March 20th, 2009; March 27th, 2009; April 13th, 2009; April 24th, 2009; and May 15th, 2009 continued to May 22nd, 2009; and
WHEREAS, the Mariposa Agriculture Nature Tourism Advisory Committee developed recommendations for draft amendments to the Mariposa County Code to add provisions and standards for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this Resolution of Intention to initiate amendments to the Mariposa County Code, including Chapter 17.40, the Agriculture Exclusive Zone; Chapter 17.148, Definitions; Chapter 17.114, Administrative Use Permits (new chapter); and Chapter 17.108 Supplementary Standards to add provisions and standards for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism. The amendments to process are included as Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors directs staff to process the amendments through the public review and hearing process pursuant to requirements of state law and county code.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Supervisors establishes that the processing of this amendment remains a high priority item.

ON MOTION BY Supervisor Cann, seconded by Supervisor Turpin, this resolution is duly passed and adopted this 16th day of June, 2009 by the following vote:

AYES: Aborn, Turpin, Bibby, Cann, and Allen

NOES: None

EXCUSED: None

ABSTAIN: None

Brad Aborn, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Margie Williams
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Approved as to Form:

Steven W. Dahlem
County Counsel
Exhibit A
Amendments to Mariposa County Code

Chapter 17.40

AGRICULTURE EXCLUSIVE ZONE (AEZ)

Proposed new code text shown in italicized underlined text
Proposed deleted code text shown in strike thru text

Sections:

17.40.010 Agriculture exclusive zone (AEZ).

17.40.010 Agriculture exclusive zone (AEZ).

The Agriculture Exclusive Zone (AEZ) as designated on the Mariposa County land use map, is applied to land considered to be most desirable for agriculture use. The purpose is to preserve the agricultural industry of Mariposa County as a viable economic activity.

A. Development standards for the AEZ. Development standards for the AEZ shall be as follows, with the express provision that any agritourism or agri-nature tourism use shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations. In this code, agritourism and agri-nature tourism are subject to the same standards and regulations:

1. Uses:
   a. Permitted uses: Ranching and commercial vineyards and orchards, nurseries, greenhouses, wineries, processing plants for products grown on-site (not including dairies), agritourism uses in conjunction with the primary agriculture production use of the property, seasonal sale of agricultural products grown on-site from roadside stands or produce stands, permanent facilities for sale of and/or tasting rooms for agricultural products produced or processed on-site in accordance with the standards established by Section 17.108, u-pick operations, agricultural homestays in accordance with standards established by Section 17.40.010.A.4 and in conjunction with the primary agriculture production use of the property, commercial row crops and other similar agricultural uses when conducted in a manner consistent with proper and accepted customs, standards, and practices, except those listed as administrative or conditional uses below; low density residential and employee housing in accordance with the density standards of this chapter; accessory buildings and accessory uses, barns, private stables, farm equipment shelters, and other out buildings; home enterprises, rural home industry, public schools, public parks and other public facilities, such as volunteer fire departments, utility transmission and distribution lines, towers, poles and substations; mining, rock and mineral processing when in compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act; private airstrips and heliports for personal use by the property owner; and agricultural activities associated with a 4-H and/or FFA project or projects; and those applicable uses listed under Chapter 17.108. Limited agritourism and agri-nature tourism uses and activities pursuant to the definitions for agritourism and agri-nature tourism and in accordance with the development standards established by Section 17.40.010.A.4 shall be permitted when conducted in compliance with all of the following:

3
i. A daily use or activity is limited to no more than an average of 10 persons per day with a maximum of less than 75 in any given week (not counting employees).

ii. There are no more than 12 days of organized “Special Events” per calendar year; this includes ag-related events and non-ag-related events; no event shall exceed 3 days in length;

iii. Submittal of an agritourism facility compliance form to the Mariposa County Planning Department is required annually for reporting of agritourism activities and events.

b. Administrative Use Permit uses: Larger and more frequent agritourism uses and activities pursuant to the definition for agritourism, and including but not limited to petting zoos of resident animals, and horseback riding, hunting dog trials when no firearms are discharged, when conducted in compliance with all of the following:

i. A daily use or activity is limited to no more than an average of 30 persons per day with a maximum of less than 250 in any given week (not counting employees). Special event numbers are not included in these counts;

ii. The use or activity is for groups of between seventy-five to less than 250 persons (not including employees) per day for special events.

iii. The use or activity is conducted in accordance with the development standards established by Section 17.40.010.A.4.

iv. There are no more than 24 days of organized “events” per calendar year; no event shall exceed 3 days in length.

v. Submittal of an agritourism facility compliance form to the Mariposa County Planning Department is required annually for reporting of agritourism activities and events. In addition, a written report shall be submitted to the Planning Department within 10 calendar days following an agritourism event. The report shall include information on the number of participants, days of activity, and hours of operation.

Agricultural activities associated with a 4-H and/or FFA project or projects shall not be subject to an administrative use permit.

Prior to issuance of an administrative use permit, the use or activity is subject to submittal of proposed use or activity and site plans for review by County departments and State agencies as to compliance with applicable laws, policies, codes and regulations.

Said County department review may determine that proposed activity or use is required to obtain a conditional use permit as defined below in this section.

c. Conditional uses: Intensive commercial agricultural uses including but not limited to the following: commercial hog ranches, livestock feed lots when confinement is for the purpose of finishing livestock for market, and commercial poultry farming; fertilizer plants or yards; animal sales yards; dairies; dairy processing plants; experimental agricultural operations determined by the planning director that the operation could impact other agricultural operations in the county, including, but not limited to, those associated with the agri-biotech industry and genetic technologies; dormitory style housing facilities for employees; slaughter houses; very large and frequent agritourism uses and activities pursuant to the definition for
agritourism for groups of 31 or more persons per day for ongoing activities up to more than 250 people per week, or for more than 24 ‘event days’ per calendar year, with more than 250 people per special event and in accordance with the development standards established by Section 17.40.010.A.4; commercial hunting, hunting dog trials when fire arms are discharged, and game bird clubs; commercial target or shooting ranges, including archery; dude or guest ranches if not a permitted agritourism use as listed above, riding clubs, commercial stables or animal boarding facilities and similar activities; private schools, except as permitted by Section 17.108.060(L); churches; and recreational camps or religious organization camps. In addition to other conditions placed on them by the planning commission, slaughter houses shall have a minimum setback of fifteen hundred (1500) feet from state highways and adjacent higher density land use classifications or property lines. Agricultural activities associated with a 4-H and/or FFA project or projects shall not be subject to a conditional use permit. Special events, as defined, are subject to requirements established by Chapter 8.28 for Public Assemblies.

d. **Prohibited uses:** All other uses not listed above are prohibited, except similar uses in compliance with Section 17.08.120 and 17.108.030 of this Title.

2. **Minimum parcel or lot size:** No parcel of real property in the AEZ shall be divided or split into two (2) or more parcels by voluntary transfer, court action or other conveyance where any one (1) of the parcels so created will be less than one hundred sixty (160) acres or a legal quarter section in gross area.

3. **Density:** Two (2) single family residences per one hundred sixty (160) acres or a legal quarter section.

4. **Special Development and Performance Standards for Agritourism and Agri-Nature Tourism Uses and Activities in the Agriculture Exclusive Zone:**

   a. Agri-Nature uses or activities are subject to the same development standards as agritourism uses or activities.

   b. An agritourism use or activity is subject to all of the following road access and maintenance requirements, if the use or activity generates more than 7.5 Average Daily Trips (ADTs):

      i. Any agritourism use or activity which is established shall have access from a road or roads which have adequate capacity for existing traffic and the traffic proposed by the agritourism activity or use as defined by the Mariposa County Road Improvement and Circulation Policy. Any and all road improvements (public and private) must be made only as allowed by the provisions of a recorded access easement. If the agritourism activity is on a non-standard county maintained road, then an agritourism activity may only occur if the non-standard county maintained road is improved by the project proponent to provide adequate capacity as described above.

      ii. Any agritourism use or activity which is established shall have access from roads which are maintained. If primary access is not from a county maintained road or a State Highway, then the proponent of the agritourism use or activity shall participate in any existing active road maintenance organization for all privately maintained access road(s). If no road maintenance organization exists, then the proponent of the agritourism use or activity shall record a road maintenance agreement which provides for maintenance of drainage and erosion control devices, fuel modification, and upkeep of road surfaces from at least the proponent’s property to the nearest County maintained road or State highway. The road maintenance agreement provisions shall be developed by the project proponent and shall:
- Be in effect for the life of the project unless said maintenance is taken over by the County, a special district, other governmental entity, or a recorded private road maintenance association.

- Provide for annual maintenance and the immediate correction of emergency and hazard situations.

  c. Any exterior activities for agritourism uses and activities shall not commence prior to eight o’clock (8:00) a.m. and shall cease by ten o’clock (10:00) p.m.

  d. If the agritourism use or activity is immediately adjacent to a commercial poultry operation, there shall be no exterior lights for the agritourism use or activity (except as minimally necessary for public safety) and there shall be no organized agritourism activities after sunset.

  e. The agritourism uses and activities shall not require more than 1 (one) employee per acre up to a maximum of 5 (five) employees on-site at any one time.

  f. The owner of the agritourism enterprise shall be present throughout the duration of the agritourism use or event. If there is more than one owner, there shall be at least one owner present throughout the event.

  g. Petting zoos of resident animals shall have a minimum of 1/3 mile buffer from adjacent properties.

  h. Activities shall be limited to the on-site agritourism parcel or parcels. Parcel boundaries and no trespassing signs shall be clearly posted. A release form shall be signed by participants acknowledging property line boundaries, acknowledging how property line boundaries are marked, acknowledging the importance of closing gates, and acknowledging a requirement for no littering and no trespassing due to impacts on agricultural production.

  i. The primary use of the parcel on which the agritourism use or activity is located shall be for commercial agricultural production. Pursuant to the 52262 of the Food and Agricultural Code, this shall mean a place of agricultural production which has annual sales of agricultural products of one thousand dollars ($1,000) or more. Agritourism is permitted as a secondary use to the primary commercial agricultural production use. No more than 10% of a parcel’s acreage or 5 acres of total land area, whichever is the lesser amount, may be used for agritourism development or improved facilities for agritourism uses to comply with this primary use standard. If there are multiple parcels involved in the agritourism use and development, the maximum amount of agritourism development shall be calculated based upon the parcel on which the improved facilities are located, using the % calculation, and there shall be no more than 5 acres cumulative agritourism development allowed on all of the parcels combined.

  j. The agritourism use or activity shall have adequate provisions for sewage disposal as determined by the Mariposa County Health Department.

  k. The agritourism use or activity shall have adequate provisions for public water as determined by the Mariposa County Health Department.

  l. An agricultural homestay is subject to all of the following requirements:

  i. The parcel on which an agricultural homestay is proposed shall be at least twenty (20) acres in size or greater;

  ii. The agricultural homestay is located in a residence occupied by the property owner, an accessory dwelling or other existing dwelling; The agricultural homestay is located on property occupied by the property owner, as evidenced by a homeowners’ exemption carried on the latest equalized assessor rolls, accessory dwelling or other existing dwelling.
Failure to maintain the homeowners’ exemption shall be grounds for prohibition of further occupancy as an agricultural homestay:

iii. The agricultural homestay has not more than five (5) guest rooms and accommodates not more than ten (10) guests;

iv. The agricultural homestay serves meals only to its registered guests and serves meals at any time, and with respect to which the price of meals is included in the price of the overnight transient occupancy accommodation;

v. Lodging and meals are incidental and not the primary function of the agricultural homestay establishment;

vi. The agricultural homestay establishment is located on, and is a part of, a farm, as defined in Section 52262 of the Food and Agricultural Code, that produces agricultural products as its primary source of income [pursuant to the referenced section of code, this shall mean a place of agricultural production which has annual sales of agricultural products of one thousand dollars ($1,000) or more];

vii. The primary purpose of the homestay establishment is the guest’s education and active participation in the on-site agricultural activities;

viii. Any activities or events that involve more than ten (10) guests at an agricultural homestay are prohibited.

ix. A Bed and Breakfast / Transient Rental Permit pursuant to Section 17.108.190 of the Mariposa County Code shall be obtained prior to establishing an agricultural homestay, including a valid Transient Occupancy Tax Certificate.

B. **Agricultural advisory committee.** As part of the review of an application for rezoning to place property into or remove property from the Agriculture Exclusive Zoning district, the planning director shall refer the application to the agricultural advisory committee. The committee shall review each action described above and may, if necessary, inspect the property in question to determine if the property is bona fide agricultural land appropriate for the Agriculture Exclusive Zoning district and if such action is consistent with the general plan. The committee shall forward their recommendation for action on the rezoning application to the planning commission.
Chapter 17.148

DEFINITIONS

Proposed new code text shown in italicized underlined text
Proposed deleted code text shown in strike thru text

Sections:

17.148.010 Definitions of terms and phrases.
The following terms and phrases shall be used in this title and are listed alphabetically:

(Only new proposed new or amended definitions are included.)

Accessory dwelling:
"Accessory dwelling" means either an attached or detached dwelling unit which provides
potential living facilities for one or more persons. Included are caretaker quarters.

Agricultural homestay:
"Agricultural homestay use" means a business that provides overnight transient occupancy
accommodations in five or fewer guest rooms with not more than ten (10) guests and serves
meals at any time to only registered guests, who actively participate in the guest’s education
and the on-site agricultural activities. Agricultural homestays are located in the residence of
the property owner or accessory dwelling or other existing dwelling.

Agricultural product sales:
"Agricultural product sales use" means the sale of food or fiber commodities of any kind
directly associated with the agricultural operation on-site. Agricultural product sales include:
A. On-farm sales of products grown, raised or manufactured on-site;
B. Road-side stands displaying products grown, raised or manufactured on-site, available
for purchase;
C. U-pick operations where the public is invited to select or harvest products grown on-site.

Agritourism use:
"Agritourism" means visitor-oriented destinations and experiences which are centered on
agricultural production. The act of visiting a working farm or any agricultural, horticultural, or
agribusiness operation for the purpose of enjoyment, education, or active involvement in the
activities of the farm or operation. an enterprise located at a working farm (as defined by
Section 52262 of the California Food and Agriculture Code), ranch, or other agricultural
operation or agricultural plant/facility, which is conducted for the enjoyment and education of
visitors, guests or clients, and that generates income for the owner/operator. Agritourism is the
act of visiting a working farm/ranch or any agricultural, horticultural or agricultural operation
for the purpose of enjoyment, education or active involvement in the activities of the farm/ranch
or agricultural operation that also adds to the economic viability of the agricultural operation.

Examples of limited agritourism uses and activities allowed as permitted uses include but are
not limited to an agricultural/environmental center, an agricultural homestay, educational and
interpretive seminars, clinics, tours, and youth exchange programs when related to an on-site
agricultural operation and in accordance with agricultural homestay requirements and photography.

Examples of larger and more frequent agritourism uses permitted through an administrative use permit include, but are not limited to petting zoos, horseback riding, and hunting dog trials in which no firearms are discharged.

Arena events such as roping competitions, horse shows, rodeos and similar commercial-for-fee sporting events are specifically excluded from the allowed uses and activities in the definition of agritourism. Weddings and concerts are specifically excluded from the allowed uses and activities in the definition of agritourism. A RV park and camping is specifically excluded from the allowed uses and facilities in the definition of agritourism.

Agri-nature tourism use:

"Agri-nature tourism use" means visitor-oriented destinations and experiences, which are centered on an agricultural and/or natural theme. The act of visiting a working farm (as defined by Section 52262 of the California Food and Agriculture Code) or any agricultural, horticultural, or agribusiness operation, for the purpose of enjoyment, education, or active involvement in the activities of the farm or operation and/or activities and experiences taking place in natural areas that also adds to the economic viability of the agricultural operation. Agriculture must be the primary use of the land, pursuant to the standards and criteria established by Section 17.40.010.A.4.a.h.

Examples of limited agri-nature tourism uses and activities allowed as permitted uses include but are not limited to educational and interpretive seminars, clinics, walks, cross-country skiing, picnics, gold panning, hiking, tours, working dog trials, wagon rides when confined to the agritourism parcel, wildlife viewing, and photography.

Examples of larger and more frequent agri-nature tourism uses permitted through an administrative use permit include, but are not limited to petting zoos, horseback riding, and hunting dog trials, in which no firearms are discharged.

Commercial stable:

"Commercial stable use" means an equine facility, barn or stable that is used by the residents, who occupy the property and is also used by private invited clients or guests for the purpose of raising, boarding, breeding, training and riding. Use may include lessons, professional training, educational seminars and clinics. These activities may be undertaken for equines not owned by the resident of the property and such services are limited to invited or scheduled guests and/or clients as a business or income source.

Ecotourism:

"Ecotourism use" means travel to fragile, pristine, and usually protected areas that strives to be low impact and (often) small scale. Ecotourism development helps educate the traveler; provides funds for conservation; directly benefits the economic development and political empowerment of local communities; and fosters respect for different cultures and for environmental justice and human rights. Ecotourism appeals to ecologically and socially conscious individuals. Generally speaking, ecotourism focuses on volunteering, personal growth and learning new or adaptive ways to live on the planet. Responsible ecotourism includes
programs that minimize the negative aspects of conventional tourism on the environment and enhance the cultural integrity of local people.

**Geotourism:**

"Geotourism use" means tourism that sustains the geographical character of a place – its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and the well-being of its residents. Geotourism is not just about where places are, but what places are. Geotourism celebrates what makes one place different from the next. That includes not only flora and fauna, which is the realm of ecotourism, but also historic structures and archaeological sites, scenic landscapes, traditional architecture, and locally grown music, cuisine, crafts, dances, and other arts. Geotourism is environmentally responsible, committed to conserving resources and maintaining biodiversity; it is culturally responsible, committed to respecting local sensibilities and building on local heritage.

**Guest ranch or dude ranch:**

"Guest ranch or dude ranch use" means a transient occupancy facility where guests occupy detached cabin units, bunk units or other similar type units but which are not conventional hotel or motel facilities and are not an agricultural homestay as defined within County Code. Payment for accommodations at a guest ranch or dude ranch specifically includes entertainment or participation in activities at the ranch, as well as the overnight lodging and meals.

**Permanent land use:**

"Permanent land use" shall mean regular or typical use of land and/or facilities on land or parcels within Mariposa County. "Permanent land use" means the use of land on a daily basis, a weekly basis, or other regular basis, or for any more than four (4) times (events) per calendar year. Permanent land uses are subject to compliance with the Mariposa County Code, Zoning Ordinance.

**Petting zoo:**

"Petting zoo" means resident domestic animals and some resident wild species docile enough to touch and feed.

**Private stable:**

"Private stable use" means an equine facility, barn or stable that is used for and by the residents, who occupy the property, for the purpose of raising, breeding, training and riding their own horses. The use may also include training and breeding outside horses (horses not owned by the residents; however lessons for riders are not allowed as part of the business.

**Special event:**

"Special event" means the temporary use of land and/or facilities, for which a fee may or may not be charged, for meetings, gatherings, celebrations and events, where there is a gathering of people in one geographical location within the county regardless of whether such gathering occurs on public or private property. A single "special event" may not exceed 3 days. Excluded from the definition of "special event" are gatherings entirely composed of persons related to each other by blood or marriage. A maximum of twelve event days of "special events" per calendar year may be conducted on a parcel or group of parcels owned by the same person(s) or business beyond or above which the use
or activity shall be subject to zoning ordinance compliance as a permanent land use in accordance with all applicable standards contained in Mariposa County Code. “Special events” are subject to other codes and regulations, including those established by Chapter 8.28 for public assemblages.
(This is a proposed new Chapter in its entirety.)

Proposed new code text shown in italicized underlined text

Chapter 17.114

ADMINISTRATIVE USE PERMITS

Sections:

17.114.010 Purpose and issuance.
17.114.020 Form of application.
17.114.030 Public hearing not required.
17.114.040 Findings of approval.
17.114.050 Administrative use permit revisions.
17.114.060 Time limits.
17.114.070 Extension of time limits.

17.114.010 Purpose and issuance.
The purpose of the administrative use permit is to allow the proper integration of uses into the community, only if such uses are designed or arranged on the site in accordance with established development standards of this title and policies of the General Plan.

Administrative use permits may be issued, as provided in the Chapter, for any of the uses or purposes for which such permits are required or permitted by the terms of this Title, upon conditions designated by the planning director.

The planning director may approve, deny, or conditionally approve an application for an administrative use permit.

The planning director may impose such conditions as deemed necessary to secure compliance with the requirements of this Title, the General Plan or other regulations, and may impose such requirements and conditions with respect to location, construction, maintenance, operation, site planning, traffic control, and time limits for the administrative use permit, as are deemed necessary, for the protection of the property owners and the public interest, and may require tangible guarantees or evidence that such conditions are being, or will be, complied with.

17.114.020 Form of application.
Application for an administrative use permit shall be made in writing by the owners of the property or by a lessee, purchaser in escrow or optionee with the consent of the owners, on a form prescribed by the county. The application shall be accompanied by a fee, as set by the board of supervisors, and plans showing the details of the proposed use.

17.114.030 Public hearing not required.
A public hearing in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 17.132 shall not be required on any application for an administrative use permit prior to action being taken by the planning director to approve, deny, or conditionally approve the application.

The planning director's action to approve an administrative use permit shall be noticed pursuant to the requirements established in Section 17.08.120.D, Mariposa County Code.
17.114.040 Findings of approval.

In evaluating a proposed project, the planning director prior to approving an administrative use permit, must find that all the following findings can be made:

A. That the proposed use is consistent with the policies and development standards of the general plan, the zoning ordinance, other county codes, any applicable area plan, and any other applicable code and regulations;

B. That there is no substantial evidence that the project as approved will have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and will not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare.

C. The planning director shall impose any conditions and/or requirements necessary to guarantee compliance with the findings in this Section.

17.114.050 Administrative use permit revisions.

The planning director may approve one or more revisions to an approved administrative use permit provided such revision does not result in a cumulative expansion of more than ten percent (10%) of the original site or use area or such revision, other than expansion, and such revision is consistent with all applicable General Plan policies, County Code standards and other applicable codes and regulations. Notice of an approved administrative use permit revision shall be the same as specified by Section 17.08.120.D of this Title.

17.114.060 Time limits.

An approved administrative use permit shall be null and void if the project is not completed within three (3) years from the date of approval thereof, unless the planning director finds and stipulates in his original approval that a different time limit is necessary and not detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare, or, unless an extension of time has been approved. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Title, and notwithstanding the length of time for which permits may be issued pursuant to this Title, nothing contained herein shall in any way affect the length of time for which permits are issued pursuant to the Mariposa County Building and Construction Code (Title 15).

17.114.070 Extension of time limits.

The planning director may approve one extension of time on an approved administrative use permit approved pursuant to this Title, for up to eighteen (18) additional months after notice is given in the same manner as the original approval, if it finds that such extension is necessary and not detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare.
Chapter 17.108

SUPPLEMENTARY STANDARDS

(Only Section 17.108.180 of this Chapter is proposed for amendment. The Planning Commission has recently initiated an amendment to this section of code to increase the number of bedrooms allowed in a Bed & Breakfast to 5, pursuant to the General Plan, however until this amendment is processed, it is not shown in this text.)

Proposed new code text shown in italicized underlined text
Proposed deleted code text shown in strike thru text

17.108.180 Bed and breakfasts, agricultural homestays, and residential transient rentals.

Bed and breakfast and transient rental establishments shall be considered a permitted home enterprise in all principal zones, except the AE, M-1 and M-2 zones. These provisions shall also be applicable in town planning areas with adopted specific plans unless otherwise specifically regulated or prohibited. Approval of a conditional use permit shall be required for a bed and breakfast or residential transient rental use for properties in the AE zone. An agricultural homestay is a permitted use in the AE zone, subject to compliance with development standards established by the zone. Bed and breakfast establishments are defined as a single family structure which is occupied by a non-transient. Residential transient establishments are defined as a single family structure which is available for rental to a family or a group on a transient basis. These structures are also defined as single family dwelling units wherein title is held by a deed which describes only that property on which the structure is located or the single family dwelling unit together with any common areas. Notwithstanding other code provisions, a duplex shall be considered a single family dwelling for purpose of this chapter. Agricultural homestays are defined in Chapter 17.148 and are located in the residence of the property owner or accessory dwelling or other existing dwelling. Bed and breakfasts, agricultural homestays and residential transient rentals shall meet the following requirements:

A. No more than three (3) bedrooms are available for occupancy by transients for residential transient rentals and bed and breakfasts. No more than five (5) bedrooms are available for occupancy by transients for agricultural homestays.

B. The structure and facilities used shall be approved for such use by the Mariposa County health department and shall at a minimum comply with the following standards:
   1. The residence shall be serviced by an approved community sewage disposal system, or have an individual system satisfying current code requirements.
   2. Water supply shall be by an approved community system, or from an individual well having quality and quantity satisfying current code requirements.
   3. The structure and facilities used shall be approved by all fire protection agencies necessary to comply with applicable provisions of the Public Resources Code.
   4. A sign of not more than four (4) square feet shall be posted and clearly visible from the nearest road. The sign shall require the street address and may contain the name of the owner or the establishment. Large signs shall require planning commission approval.

C. At a minimum, an 8 1/2 x 11 inch written notice must be placed in each rental unit which contains the following information:
   1. Instructions in case of fire or other emergency.
   2. Quiet hours are between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., and shall be strictly enforced.
3. Water and energy conservation measures.
4. Proper use of wood burning stoves and fireplaces.
5. Parking and snow removal requirements if necessary. No parking on roadway is permitted during snow removal periods declared by the director of public works, pursuant to county code, Section 10.08.110.
6. An identification of the character or area in which the unit is located (i.e. rural, agricultural, residential).
7. A statement relative to respect for adjacent property owner's rights and trespassing concerns.

F. At the time the permit is approved, the structure must be found in conformance with current building code requirements by the chief building inspector relative to the basic health, safety and welfare of the occupants.

G. The following on-site parking standards shall apply:
   1. Bed and breakfast and agricultural homestay establishments shall have two (2) parking spaces for the residence plus at least one (1) space for each bedroom available for rent.
   2. Residential transient rental establishments shall have one (1) parking space for each bedroom to be rented.
   3. Parking provided shall be maintained so that it is accessible, usable, and utilized at all times during the year, when it is occupied.

H. The applicant shall apply to the Mariposa County planning department for site plan review and approval. The planning department shall forward the application to the building department division, health department, and a fire protection agency for review.

I. Following approval by all appropriate agencies, a valid transient occupancy registration certificate shall be issued by the Mariposa County treasurer/tax collector's office.

J. These establishments are specifically excluded from the definition of "hotel" as described in this Title.