

#17 Public comment
BOS Rcvd 8/25/25



BOS Meeting 8-26-25 Item 17 (File# 25-1433) Public Comment

From Michael Ranalli <Mike@ranallivineyard.com>

Date Mon 8/25/2025 9:04 AM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Cc Karen L. Garner <Karen.L.Garner@edcgov.us>; LeeAnne Mila <leeanne.mila@edcgov.us>

1 attachment (125 KB)

BOS 8-26-25 Item 17 (File#25-1433) Budget.pdf;

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Madam clerk,

Please include my attached public comment for the BOS Meeting 8-26-25

Item 17 (File# 25-1433)

Kind regards, Michael Ranalli



Attention: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

August 24, 2025

RE: 8/26/25 Agenda Item 17 (File# 25-1433)

Budget Ad Hoc Committee, revenue generating options.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Expanding revenue from tourists rather than residents is a fiscally understandable strategy, provided it is guided by thoughtful land-use initiatives that enhance, not compromise, our agricultural foundation. To achieve this balance, careful coordination and strong leadership will be essential.

We therefore urge the Board to reaffirm the Strategic Economic Enhancement Development (SEED's) role, ensure alignment with the Agricultural Commission, and support regular updates, joint discussions, and inclusive public workshops. SEED is uniquely positioned to provide the cross-sector perspective needed to connect agriculture, tourism, and economic development in a way that benefits the whole County.

California's farms and ranches generate over \$59 billion annually in production value, according to CDFA. Agritourism—already a \$4–5 billion industry statewide—offers farmers a vital way to diversify, connect with the public, and sustain rural economies. From U-pick orchards to winery stays and farm tours, agritourism strengthens both agriculture and local businesses.

Farm and ranch families today need multiple sources of income to remain viable. Many rely on off-farm jobs in trades like construction to subsidize their operations. Agritourism provides a more direct, farm-centered alternative—helping families stay on the land while reducing dependence on outside employment.

El Dorado County is well-positioned to grow this sector, but only if local policy keeps pace with neighboring regions. Without a clear and competitive permitting

framework, our producers will fall behind other counties. Lodging and overnight stays are especially critical, as visitors who stay longer multiply their spending across farms, restaurants, and small businesses.

We respectfully urge the Board to convene a Public Workshop on the current and future state of agriculture in El Dorado County, with a focus on agritourism, lodging, and rural economic development.

The workshop should:

- Engage key departments and advisory committees (Agriculture, Planning, SEED, Economic Development, and Treasurer-Tax Collector, El Dorado Water Agency (EDWA).
- Include growers, ranchers, agritourism operators, and hospitality partners.
- Identify barriers and opportunities in permitting, infrastructure, water, workforce, and overnight accommodations.

With thoughtful planning and broad engagement, El Dorado County can honor its agricultural heritage while positioning for new models of rural prosperity. The Farm Bureau, alongside our partners, stands ready to work with the Board to implement strategies that ensure the County's long-term wellbeing.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Ranalli



President, El Dorado County Farm Bureau