

Steering Committee for City of Auburn  
**Agricultural Economy Project**

November 29, 2017

**Purposes of Steering Committee:**

**1. Understand the agricultural and natural resource economic context in which Auburn farmers and consumers lead their daily lives.**

**2. Consider and possibly make recommendations for refining the Agriculture and Resource Protection District adopted by the City of Auburn in 1964 and amended in later years.**

In particular, the following two provisions have been identified as problematic by many parties in Auburn:

- Requirement that to build a new house, 50% of one's household income must be earned in agriculture or natural resource extraction.
- Requirement that to build a new house, at least 10 acres must be available for a "houselot".

Other recommendations may be made at the discretion of the Steering Committee. Of course the Steering Committee may exercise the option of keeping the Ordinance as it is.

Consultants will provide economic data, technical information, and strategic guidance as requested.

**Deliverable:** Steering Committee will adopt a report (to be drafted largely by Consultants in its early stages) proposing recommended actions to the Auburn City Council.

**Potential Purposes of the Refined ARPD:**

Following are some of the purposes that a refined ARPD might advance (Consultants have identified these through our interviews, meetings, and previous community surveys executed by city staff in 2016). These may be refined, and others may be added, at the Steering Committee's discretion.

It is not necessary for the Steering Committee to select a single purpose, because the zone may well accomplish multiple public purposes. Yet by the end of the discovery process, it would be helpful for the Steering Committee to adopt a clear set of priority purposes. This priority should be established based on the Steering Committee's understanding of the highest public purpose

for the 20,000-acre district and the broader agricultural and natural resource economy in Auburn.

The list below is NOT prioritized; it is meant for the Steering Committee to use in its deliberations.

1. Limit public costs for utility and school services by concentrating development in specific zones where roadways and services already exist.
2. Protect open space to protect rural character, landscape views, property values, recreation, the unique heritage of the city, and/or other reasons.
3. Protect agricultural lands for future generations of farmers.
4. Promote sustainable and diversified family farming and forestry.
5. Protect environmental quality in the City of Auburn and beyond. Special attention is paid to water quality in Lake Auburn, as the source of the city's drinking water with significant cost savings to municipal water users, including residents and industries.
6. Promote recreational opportunities and open space utilization in the ARPD and the broader Auburn community.
7. Advance the City's Food Sovereignty Policy adopted in 2017.
8. Ensure food security (equitable access to healthy foods for all residents).
9. Ensure that sufficient land is available over the long term to feed all Auburn residents.
10. Promote health for residents of the City of Auburn and elsewhere.
11. Ensure that families having significant heritage as landowners in the ARPD can maintain ownership and use over multiple generations should they wish to.
12. Ensure that new farmers, and new property owners, have an opportunity to establish farms in Auburn.
13. Promote robust community-based food systems in the City of Auburn and beyond.
14. Build a sense of belonging in and loyalty to Auburn through raising and preparing food.
15. Build a culture of collaboration among Auburn residents.
16. Integrate rural and urban economic development.

17. Brand Auburn as an agricultural city, one that serves as a destination for tourists and consumers.
18. Maintain, and possibly expand, the city's tax base.
19. Develop and promote a community that is attractive to new residents, particularly young families.
20. Foster and promote economic development.