

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is Hereby Given that the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, Siskiyou County Courthouse, 311 Fourth Street, Yreka, California on the following item:

Proposed Changes to Siskiyou County's Guidelines for Establishing and Administering Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts

During the public hearing the Board of Supervisors will review, consider, and take possible action on amending the County's "Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts", which was last updated September 15, 2020. Staff proposes to include an Agricultural Preserve Advisory Committee to advise the Agricultural Administrator, guidelines to better define Commercial Agricultural Use, outline what qualifies as a Commercial Agricultural Use, better define Compatible Uses, clarify the County's process of compliance monitoring, fees to recoup the cost to the county should a landowner not comply with compliance monitoring, and include a procedure for landowners to non-renew a contract without going through the Planning Application Process. Lastly, staff recommend to include a policy that would allow the County and landowners to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for only a portion of contract. The proposed amendments would not alter existing contracts, they are proposed as directed by the board and in an attempt to bring the County's Williamson Act program into compliance with state law.

Staff is recommending that the Board determine the proposed amendments to the "Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves, and Williamson Act Contracts" be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15307 of the CEQA Guidelines. A "categorical exemption" implies that the project will not result in any significant adverse environmental effect. The Board of Supervisors will consider the appropriateness of said environmental recommendation based on the record of evidence before them. If substantial evidence has been presented demonstrating a more appropriate environmental determination than the one that has been recommended, the Board of Supervisors may require and/or approve an alternative environmental determination pursuant to the requirements of CEQA.

The public may attend by zoom/teleconference or in person. All interested persons are invited to be present and be heard thereon or present comments in writing to the Board of Supervisors, 311 Fourth Street, Room 201, Yreka, CA 96097 or to the following email: wendy@sisqvotes.org. All items presented to the Board of Supervisors during a public hearing, including but not limited to, letters, e-mail, petitions, photos, or maps, become a permanent part of the record and must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. It is advised that the presenter bring 7 copies of anything presented to the Board and that the presenter create copies in advance for their own records.

All public records related to an open session item on the agenda, which are not exempt from disclosure pursuant to the California Public Records Act, that are distributed to a majority of the legislative body will be available for public inspection at 311 Fourth Street, Room 201, Yreka CA 96097 at the same time that the public records are distributed or made available to **a majority of** the members of the legislative body. All supporting documentation is available for public review in the office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, located in the Siskiyou County Clerk's Office, 311 Fourth Street, Room 201, Yreka, CA 96097, during regular business hours, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you challenge the proposed guideline changes in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Laura Bynum, County Clerk

By: Wendy Winningham, Deputy