

Notice of Public Hearing

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 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 (SP-24-03)

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 December 13, 2022. Staff proposes to disestablish existing Agricultural Preserves and put all property encumbered by Williamson Act Contract into one single Agricultural Preserve, remove the Growing and Harvesting of Timber as an allowed Primary Use, provide a minor amendment option for change in use applications, add Short-Term Vacation Rentals as an allowed compatible use, better clarify the responsibilities of property owners when entering into other Conservation Easements and Programs, clarify the withdrawal process from a Notice of Non-Renewal, and to consider changes to application requirements. The proposed amendments would not alter existing contracts, they are proposed in an attempt to simplify the County's Williamson Act program and provide less cumbersome application requirements.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendments to the "Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts" will be determined to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), which states that "CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA." 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.

All project documents are on file at the Planning Division of the Siskiyou County Community Development Department and are available for public review and a staff report, and all attachments will be available for public review three working days prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting either at the Planning Division office or online on the Siskiyou County website.

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. As a courtesy to the public, Siskiyou County offers teleconference/Zoom access to the hearing, however, if no member of the Board of Supervisors is attending the hearing via teleconference and a Zoom disruption, outage, or technical error occurs, the Board reserves the right to discontinue Zoom access and to continue conducting the hearing.

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, 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. and 1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you challenge the categorical exemption and/or Amendment 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: s/ Wendy Winningham, Deputy