

Staff Report

Meeting Date: October 7, 2025

To: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

From: Bernadette Cizin, Associate Planner

Subject: Proposed Martin Williamson Act Rescission with Re-entry, Agricultural Preserve Amendment (APA-24-05) and CEQA Determination. Continued from August 5, 2025

Background and Discussion

J. T. Martin has requested that his 37.5 acre property, which is involved in a multi-owner contract, be removed from the existing multi-owner contract. Additionally, the property is within an Agricultural Preserve which also includes multiple properties under multiple ownerships and is not contiguous.

This project was brought before the Board on August 5, 2025, with a recommendation not to approve the request and issue a notice of non-renewal for the subject property as it does not meet minimum acreage or soils requirements for a contract nor does it meet required acreage for a preserve.

The board directed staff to bring the project back to the September 16 meeting with additional options prepared. The project was then continued to today's meeting.

Staff has analyzed additional information regarding the soils equivalency requirement in the Siskiyou County Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts (Rules).

County Rules: Required 40-acres Class I or II equivalent soils

The subject property consists of mainly Class III, IV & VI soils. Since the original staff report was prepared, the applicant has provided additional information on the irrigated acreage of the subject property. This is reflected in the tables below. Table 1 shows the soils calculations as the property is currently being irrigated. Table 2 shows the soils calculations as the property was at one time irrigated and has the potential to be irrigated again, with 14.25 acres of irrigated pasture as opposed to the current dry pasture.

Soil Type	Acres +/-	Class	Ratio to	Calculation	Equivalent
210 irrigated	8	II	1:1	$8 / 1 = 8$	8.0
210 dry	9	III	2:1	$9 / 2 = 4.5$	4.5
214 irrigated	1	IV	2:1	$1 / 2 = 0.5$	0.5
214 dry	12	VI	6:1	$12 / 6 = 2$	2.0
139 irrigated	6.5	II	1:1	$6.5 / 1 = 6.5$	6.5
139 dry	1	III	2:1	$1 / 2 = 0.5$	0.5
Total	37.5				22

Table 1: As currently being irrigated

Soil Type	Acres +/-	Class	Ratio to	Calculation	Equivalent
210 irrigated	14	II	1:1	$14 / 1 = 14$	14.00
210 dry	3	III	2:1	$3 / 2 = 1.5$	1.50
214 irrigated	9	IV	2:1	$9 / 2 = 4.5$	4.50
214 dry	4	VI	6:1	$4 / 6 = 0.67$	0.67
139 irrigated	6.75	II	1:1	$6.75 / 1 = 6.75$	6.75
139 dry	0.75	III	2:1	$0.75 / 2 = 0.38$	0.38
Total	37.5				27.8

Table 2: As Historically and Potential acreage could be irrigated

Considering both the current irrigation and historic/potential future irrigation, the property does not meet the minimum 40-acre equivalent soils requirement under the County rules.

As additional information provided does not change the elements of the property that do not meet minimum requirements, staff provides the original recommendation.

Recommended Action

Option 1

Should the Board of Supervisors concur with staff's analysis provided in the September 16, 2025, and October 7 staff reports, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors find that the issuance of the Notice of Non-Renewal for the Williamson Act contract is exempt from CEQA.

A draft motion to this effect is provided below.

Recommended Motion

Option 1

I move to take the following actions:

1. Determine the issuance of a Notice of Non-Renewal exempt from CEQA in accordance with Section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts and Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines; and
2. Adopt the attached resolution directing staff to process the Notice of Non-Renewal for the subject property with any changes directed by the Board.

Alternative Motion

Option 2 (Please provide staff direction as to what the Board requires to take action on this proposal)

I move to take the following actions:

1. Continue the public hearing to December 2, 2025, to allow staff to implement one or more of the options described in the body of the September 16, 2025 staff report as further directed by the Board.

Exhibits to the Staff Report

- A. Draft Resolution, a Resolution of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, Directing Staff to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for 37.5-acres under Contract No. 75008
1. Exhibit A-1 within Draft Resolution: Parcels, Map and Description of Property
 2. Exhibit A-2 within Draft Resolution: Notice of Non-Renewal – Draft