# Staff Report

Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

To: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

From: Bernadette Cizin, Associate Planner

Subject: Proposed Marchio Williamson Act Rescission with Re-entry, Agricultural Preserve Amendment (APA-25-24) and CEQA Determination

## Background and Discussion

On July 23, 2025, the County received an application for a Williamson Act Contract amendment to bring approximately 476.28 acres, under one Williamson Act contract consisting solely of property under this ownership with the Agricultural Use of intensive farming – hay production with livestock grazing. The property is currently under a Williamson Act contract which has two separate property owners.

During the review, it was found that there are three substandard parcels and a 51.6-acre portion of a parcel, which is proposed to be included in the new contract, is not within an Ag Preserve or under Williamson Act Contract. The applicant proposes to include this additional 51.6 acres and is not opposed to the issuance of a Notice of Non-Renewal for the three substandard parcels. This would be an increase in acreage of 51.6 acres and a decrease of 25.23 acres.

Additionally, the existing Agricultural Preserve should be amended to remove the subject property and a new Agricultural Preserve created as the existing preserve consists of property that is not contiguous nor owned in common.

**Agricultural Preserve Administrator Review**

Staff prepared a detailed report (Exhibit C) for review and recommendation by the Agricultural Preserve Administrator. Based on the report, the Administrator found the applicant’s request is consistent with the County Rules for the Establishment and Administration of Agricultural Preserves and Williamson Act Contracts and recommends the Board rescind and reissue the contract as proposed and amend the existing preserve to remove the subject property and establish a new agricultural preserve.

## Environmental Review

Staff is proposing that the proposed project be considered categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15317, *Open Space Easements or Contracts.* A Categorical Exemption implies that the project will not result in any significant adverse environmental effects. CEQA Guidelines Section 15317 specifically exempts the making and renewing of open space contracts under the Williamson Act, which is applicable to the subject action.

The Board of Supervisors must consider the proposed CEQA exemption together with any comments received during the public review process. Further, the exemption can only be approved if the Board finds, based on the whole record before it, that there is not substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, a finding to this effect has been incorporated into both draft resolutions prepared for the Board’s consideration.

Map

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Figure 1: Subject Property

## Comments

Agency Comments

***Siskiyou County Assessor – September 2, 2025***

The Assessor’s office has provided estimated tax assessment values for the three parcels included in this project (Exhibit D).

Planning Response: No Response necessary.

Public Comments

Notice of the project was published and posted as required prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting and no public comment was received as of the preparation of this staff report.

## Recommended Action

Should the Board of Supervisors concur with staff’s analysis, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors find that the proposed modifications to the Williamson Act contracts and Agricultural Preserves are exempt from CEQA and approve said modifications.

A draft motion to this effect is provided below.

## Recommended Motions

I move to take the following actions:

1. Determine the project exempt from CEQA in accordance with Section 15317, Open Space Easements or Contracts; and
2. Adopt the attached resolution approving amendment to the existing Agricultural Preserves and establishment of a new preserve including an additional 51.6 acres; and
3. Adopt the attached resolution approving the rescission and reentry of the applicable Williamson Act contracts, including an additional 51.6 acres.
4. Adopt the attached resolution directing staff to process the Notice of Non-Renewal for the three substandard parcels, approximately 25.23 acres, with any changes directed by the Board.

Exhibits to the Staff Report

1. Draft Resolution amending the existing Agricultural Preserves and establishing a new preserve
2. Draft Resolution Approving the Rescission of the subject property from the existing contracts and Reentry into a new Williamson Act Contract
3. Exhibit A within Draft Resolution: Williamson Act Contract – Draft
4. Draft Resolution directing staff to issue a Notice of Non-Renewal for a 2.51-acre, 10.47-acre and 12.25- acre substandard parcel.
   * + 1. Exhibit A-1 within Draft Resolution: List of Parcels and Map
       2. Exhibit A-2 within Draft Resolution: Notice of Non-Renewal – Draft
5. Agricultural Preserve Administrator Staff Report with Recommendation
6. Comments