

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

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From: Mel Graham
Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2025 2:07 PM
To: Katherine Douglas; sbcob; Paul Van Leer
Cc: Tashina Sanders; Lottie Martin
Subject: AAC Signed Letter to the BOS RE: Williamson Act
Attachments: Scan-AAC Letter, 6-5-25 to the BOS, IE Williamson Act Review.pdf

Clerk-

Please see attached a letter from the Ag Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors and please let me know if you have any questions.

Also, can you please reply to let me know you received this email.

Thank you.

-Mel

Scan-AAC Letter, 6-5-25 to the BOS, IE Williamson Act Review.pdf

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6/5/2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu
Santa Barbara Ca. 93101

RE: Williamson Act Review

Dear Chair Capps, and Members of the Board,

The Agriculture Advisory Committee is aware of a proposed review of the Williamson Act as it pertains to Santa Barbara County and its landowners. We are writing to emphasize the importance of this program and the efforts on its behalf in order to maintain our agriculture heritage and working spaces. As you are aware, the Williamson Act plays a crucial role in preserving agricultural lands and working spaces. By assessing these lands based on their agricultural and open space value rather than full market value for landowners who commit to keeping their land in agriculture, the Act helps to prevent urban sprawl, protect the environment, and sustain our crucial agriculture economy and employment.

The AAC also understands that compliance with the terms of the Williamson Act is essential to ensure that the program continues to achieve its intended goals. Landowner compliance to the terms of the contracts helps to guarantee that the land remains dedicated to agriculture use, thereby helping to support the feasibility of continued agricultural operations and preserving the rural character our county. Adherence to the terms of the program also ensures that the tax benefits are rightly allocated to those who contribute to the preservation of our ag lands and also ensures that our public funds are used responsibly and effectively.

In conclusion, we urge the County Board of Supervisors to continue supporting the Williamson Act. By doing so, we can help to safeguard our agriculture heritage and natural resources for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Van Leer", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Van Leer, Chair

Committee Members

Andy Sheaffer
Ron Caird
Paul Van Leer, Chair
Brett Ferini, Vice Chair
Djamila Cabugos

Claire Wineman
Russel Doty
Alex Van Wingerden
Mike Testa
Larry Mendez Jr.
Chrissy Allen

Representing

1st District Supervisor, Das Williams
2nd District Supervisor, Laura Capps
3rd District Supervisor, Joan Hartmann
4th District Supervisor, Bob Nelson
5th District Supervisor, Steve Lavagnino
California Women for Agriculture
Grower-Shipper Association of SB and SLO Counties
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
Santa Barbara Flower & Nursery Growers' Association
Santa Barbara Vintners
Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Assn.
California Strawberry Commission