

**ATTACHMENT 8: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSISTENCY**

Amendments to the Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones

REQUIREMENT	DISCUSSION
<b>AGRICULTURAL ELEMENT</b>	
<p><i><b>Agricultural Element, Goal I:</b> Santa Barbara County shall assure and enhance the continuation of agriculture as a major viable production industry in Santa Barbara County. Agriculture shall be encouraged. Where conditions allow, (taking into account environmental impacts) expansion and intensification shall be supported.</i></p> <p><i><b>Agricultural Element, Policy IA:</b> The integrity of agricultural operations shall not be violated by recreational or other non-compatible uses.</i></p> <p><i><b>GOAL II.</b> Agricultural lands shall be protected from adverse urban influence.</i></p> <p><i><b>Agricultural Element, Policy II.D:</b> Conversion of highly productive agricultural lands whether urban or rural, shall be discouraged. The County shall support programs which encourage the retention of highly productive agricultural lands.</i></p>	<p><b>Consistent:</b> The proposed amendments to the Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones would assure and enhance the continuation of agriculture as a major viable production industry in Santa Barbara County by allowing growers enrolled in the County’s Agricultural Preserve (Williamson/Land Conservation Act) Program to include value-added production that would increase viability of individual farming operations and contribute to the regional economy.</p> <p>Proposed development standards would ensure that land use incompatibilities with surrounding agricultural and non-agricultural are minimized, and that agricultural lands are protected from adverse urban influences. The proposed Uniform Rule amendments would not allow for the conversion of highly productive agricultural lands whether urban or rural.</p> <p>The retention of highly productive agricultural lands would be encouraged by allowing growers enrolled under the County’s Agricultural Preserve Program to apply for permits to construct and operate small scale agricultural processing facilities which are ancillary to onsite agricultural and horticultural cultivation. Therefore, the proposed amendments to the Uniform Rules are consistent with these Goals and Policies.</p>