



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning and Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: December 15, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Planning and Development
Director Glenn Russell, Ph.D., Director, 568-2085
Contact Info: Alice McCurdy, Deputy Director, 934-6559
Development Review Division
SUBJECT: Sycamore Valley Ranch Company, LLC Notice of Nonrenewal of Agricultural Preserve Contract, Los Olivos area, Third Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive notice of nonrenewal (15AGP-00000-00021) submitted by the landowner for Agricultural Preserve 71-AP-101 (Attachment 1); and,
- b) Find that the proposed action is an administrative activity of the County which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a "project" as defined for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

Summary Text:

The property owners requested nonrenewal of 71-AP-101 on September 24, 2015 as the majority of the ranch is no longer under contract. The contract applies to Assessor Parcel number 133-080-032 which is approximately 131.97-acres. The property is uncultivated and is undeveloped. The property is located approximately 4 miles east of the intersection of Foxen Canyon and Alisos Canyon Road, known as 5225 Figueroa Mountain Road, in the Los Olivos area, Third Supervisorial District (Attachment 4).

On November 6, 2015, the Agricultural Preserve Advisory Committee reviewed 15AGP-00000-00021 and acknowledged the request of the landowner not to renew the agricultural preserve contract. Sycamore Valley Ranch Company, LLC clarified their request was to non-renew, as opposed to cancel, the agricultural preserve contract. The subject property has been in an agricultural preserve since January 1, 1971. Until the contract expires on December 31, 2024, the property must continue to comply with the Williamson Act and Uniform Rules for the duration of the contract.

Background:

Government Code §51200 (known as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 or the Williamson Act) provides that local jurisdictions may establish an agricultural preserve program having the goal of retaining land in an agricultural use. The County of Santa Barbara has adopted such a program, which is codified under the Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones. Both the County's Uniform Rules and the Government Code provide that agricultural preserve contracts between the County and landowners are voluntary. Section 51245 of the Government Code provides that if either the landowner or the County desires in any year not to renew an agricultural preserve contract, that party shall serve written notice of nonrenewal of the contract upon the other party in advance of the annual renewal date of the contract. Upon receiving notice of nonrenewal by the landowner, the Clerk of the Board is required to record the notice of nonrenewal. Upon recordation, the County's role related to the notice of nonrenewal is complete.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

The total estimated cost to process this non-renewal is approximately \$1,888.00 and is borne by the applicant through the payment of processing fees, and is budgeted in the Permitting Program of the Planning and Development Department, on page D-289 of the 2015/17 FY budget.

After recordation of non-renewal, property taxes on this site will be incrementally increased for the next nine years until full property taxes are assessed.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board shall distribute copies of the recorded contract (with legal description and vicinity map) and Minute Order, as follows:

- David Villalobos, Planning and Development Department, Hearing Support
- Florence Trotter-Cadena, Planning and Development Department
- Assessor's Office
- Surveyor's Office
- Clerk Recorder's Office
- Owner: Sycamore Valley Ranch Company, LLC, 515 South Flower Street, 44th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071

Attachments:

1. Landowner Application for Non-Renewal
2. Approved Legal Description
3. CEQA Notice of Exemption
4. Vicinity Map

Authored by:

Florence Trotter-Cadena, Planner (805) 934-6253
Development Review, Planning and Development Department

Attachment 1: Landowner Application for Non-Renewal

Attachment 2: Approved Legal Description

Attachment 3: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Attachment 4: Vicinity Map