



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation

December 28, 2022

Assessor, County Clerk, Recorder
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020
Ukiah, CA 95482

Via Email: Katrina Bartolomie, bartolok@mendocinocounty.org

RE: Discussion and Possible Action Including Approval to Establish Shorter Williamson Act Contracts, Effective in Calendar Year 2023

Dear Ms. Bartolomie,

AB 2530 was unanimously approved by the Legislature on August 31, 2010, and an urgency clause was added as part of SB 863, a budget trailer bill. To meet time constraints in 2010, eight counties (Kings, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Shasta, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Yolo) began to proceed with the steps necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. Mendocino County Farm Bureau supported the County of Mendocino in the pursuit of implementing the contractual changes found in AB 2530/ SB 863 in 2010 as we saw this as an opportunity to preserve the Williamson Act program and the many benefits that go with it.

In 2011, AB 1265 (Nielsen) reinstated the Williamson Act alternative funding mechanism contained in AB 2530/SB 863, both of which provided a local option for funding the Williamson Act. In 2014, SB 1353 (Nielsen) was signed into law and removed the previous 2016 sunset date included in AB 1265 that authorizes counties to revise the term for Williamson Act contracts from 10 years to nine years, which is the focus of this agenda item before you.

MCFB appreciates Mendocino County's willingness to support the Williamson Act program. The county is encouraged to continue to implement compliance verification as defined in the county code for the properties under Williamson Act contracts to maintain the integrity of the program and to allow for the consideration of accepting additional properties into the program.

Since it has been over ten years since Mendocino County adopted the shortened 9-year term for Williamson Act contracts, MCFB requests that the county consider returning to the full ten-year term for Williamson Act contracts in 2024. Until that conversation can occur, MCFB supports the implementation of the 9-year contract length for 2023.

Sincerely,

George Hollister
President