

December 30 2005

Dear Interested/Affected Party,

This letter is to advise you of a public meeting regarding proposed changes to the County of Santa Clara's Williamson Act Program. The meeting will be held on January 24, 2006, 2:00 p.m., in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, County Government Center, 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose.

The County Board of Supervisors' Committee on Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation (HLUET) met on November 29, 2005 to consider the proposed changes to the County's Williamson Act Program. Following public comment, HLUET recommended additional changes and consideration by the Board of Supervisors at their January 24, 2006 meeting.

I encourage you to review the attached summary of final proposed Williamson Act program policies and guidelines. The summary reflects many changes from the program summary provided to you in September, 2005. The changes incorporate comments from two public information meetings held in the fall, and Board of Supervisors/HLUET Committee direction taken from several November meetings. Proposed program guidelines, a staff report and related materials will be available for review on the County's web site (www.sccgov.org) and/or County Planning Department's web site (www.sccplanning.org) after 1/18/06.

Following approval (anticipated to occur on January 24th) of the proposed policies and guidelines, additional meetings will be scheduled to address adoption of implementing ordinances and related documents. Staff will continue to keep you informed by letter and web postings of future meetings.

If you have additional questions, please contact the County staff members noted below:

Planning and Development Department, Re: Compatible Use Development, Non-renewal, Open Space Easements:

Mike Lopez- (408) 299-5772 or Mike.Lopez@pln.sccgov.org

Dana Peak - (408) 299-5798 or Dana.Peak@pln.sccgov.org

Cherry Maurer - (408) 299-5746 or Cherry.Maurer@pln.sccgov.org

Assessor's Office, Re: Property Valuation:

Frank Giordano – (408) 299-5350 or Frank.Giordano@asr.sccgov.org

Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Re: Commercial Agricultural Guidelines:

Greg Van Wassenhove – (408) 918-4600 or Greg.Van.Wassenhove@aem.sccgov.org

Kevin O'Day – (408) 465-2902 or Kevin.O'Day@aem.sccgov.org

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in this ongoing process to update and improve the County's Williamson Act Program – and I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jody Hall Esser
Consultant, Department of Planning and Development

Attachment