

Summary of discussion points from 1/12/2022 Ag Commission meeting

- 1) A survey was conducted to find out if any counties allow cannabis cultivation on Williamson Act contracted properties. Counties that responded that allow cannabis cultivation on Williamson Act properties include Alameda, Calaveras, Lake, Mendocino, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma and Trinity.**

A Question was asked about why Stanislaus County does not allow cannabis on Williamson Act properties.

Stanislaus does not allow any outdoor cultivation of cannabis. All cultivation must be in a permitted, fully enclosed building or greenhouse. Since Stanislaus does not recognize cannabis as an agricultural commodity buildings associated with cannabis are not an allowable use on Williamson Act contracted properties.

Questions were raised about why Lake County has 4 Farmland Protection Zones.

The 4 Farmland Protection Zones are to prevent outdoor cannabis grows in areas with significant conventional ag activity to prevent pesticide drift issues from occurring. This may need further discussion.

- 2) Cannabis cultivation is only allowed on RL, AG, LA and PA zoned properties and any Commercial Cannabis Cultivation application is currently required to be reviewed by the Ag Commission. Since any parcel in a Williamson Act contract will have an Agricultural zoning this will trigger a review by the Ag Commission.**
- 3) Commercial Cannabis Cultivation shall not be used to qualify for a Williamson Act Contract.**
- 4) A Williamson Act Contracted parcel shall continue to meet the original criteria for establishment of the agricultural preserve contract if they conduct commercial cannabis cultivation.**

- 5) The County cannabis ordinance has existing limits on total maximum canopy based on zone district and parcel size. Two acres of total canopy coverage is the maximum, but this excludes any nursery area.**

Nursery area can be the starter plant area for the operation but could also include a Commercial Nursery license. This may need further discussion.

- 6) Allowing Commercial Cannabis cultivation as a compatible use could provide additional income to maintain agricultural production on Ag lands.**