

COUNTY OF EL DORADO



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

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Greg Boeger, Chair - Agricultural Processing Industry
John Winner, Vice-chair - Forestry/Related Industries
Tom Heflin - Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Dave Pratt - Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Lloyd Walker - Other Agricultural Interests
Gary Ward - Livestock Industry
Chuck Barchi - Livestock Industry

MEMORANDUM

June 14, 2007

TO: Helen Baumann, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Greg Boeger, Chair *W/S*
El Dorado County Agricultural Commission

SUBJECT: Agricultural Commission Support for Continued State Williamson Act
Subvention Payments

*Hard copy will
be in the
inter-office
mail.
M. Appleworth*

At the regularly held meeting of the El Dorado County Agricultural Commission on June 13, 2007, the following motion was unanimously passed:

It was moved by Mr. Winner and seconded by Mr. Walker that the Agricultural Commission submit a letter to the Board of Supervisors that encourages the State of California to continue the subvention program under the Land Conservation Act and to urge the Legislature and the Governor to include the subvention in the adopted State budget for fiscal 2007/08.

Prior to passing this motion, the members of the Commission discussed their concerns with the Governor's intention to remove the subvention payments to the participating counties. Briefly, members of the Agricultural Commission felt that the Williamson Act program and the accompanying subvention to the counties are critical components in stemming the loss of agricultural lands to development. It was their collective opinion that the preservation of these lands is a priority of both State and local governments. Also, the elimination of the subvention payments would result in corresponding reductions in other priority programs.

Additionally, many counties, including El Dorado, are adjusting their revenue growth downward due to the declining real estate market. It was the opinion of the members that the proposed Williamson Act subvention elimination will further exacerbate this situation.

In conclusion, we support and encourage any and all your efforts to continue to maintain the financial support provided by the Williamson Act subventions received by the counties.

cc: Board of Supervisors