



EL DORADO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**MEMORANDUM**

September 2, 2009

**To:** Bill Stephans

**FROM:** Chris Flores

**SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION OF NON-RENEWAL OF WAC 259; KEITH PETTUS & CELIA DOMINGUE-PETTUS**

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**Background:**

A site visit concerning APN 078-280-15 (Williamson Act Contract # 259), by the Agriculture Department, was conducted on September 9, 2008, in accordance with BOS Policy C-9. At the time, it was noted that there were remnants of a vineyard (grape stakes, empty plastic sleeves, etc.) but no grapevines. There was no other agricultural activity occurring on the 40 acre parcel.

In response to the site visit, a certified letter was mailed to the owners of the parcel, Keith Pettus and Celia Domingue-Pettus, on September 23, 2008, notifying them that the Agricultural Department would be recommending the Non-renewal of WAC #259 to the Agricultural Commission on October 8, 2008, as the parcel did not meet the minimum requirements for a low intensive or high intensive farming operation. The certified letter was received by the Pettus' on October 1, 2008. No response to the letter was received by the department.

After conducting a public hearing on October 8, 2008, the Agricultural Commission recommended the Non-renewal of WAC #259. On August 31, 2009, Bill Stephans and Chris Flores conducted a second site visit. This site visit confirmed that there has been no attempt by the parcel owners to re-establish a vineyard or conduct an agricultural operation (see attached photos). The property is located in the Pleasant Valley area, at the corner of Pleasant Valley Road and Bodega Way (Supervisorial District II).

**Reason for Recommendation:**

In accordance with BOS Policy C-9, property owners taking advantage of the tax benefits under the Williamson Act must continue to comply with the requirements of the Act. On October 8, 2008, the Agricultural Commission determined that this property was not being used in a manner consistent with the Williamson Act requirements. After approximately one year of inactivity, the second site visit of August 31, 2009 confirmed the Agricultural Commission's previous determination.

**Photos:**

