



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MADERA

MADERA COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
200 WEST FOURTH STREET / MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93637
(559) 675-7700 / FAX (559) 673-3302 / TDD (559) 675-8970

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

FRANK BIGELOW
VERN MOSS
RONN DOMINICI
MAX RODRIGUEZ
TOM WHEELER

TANNA G. BOYD, Clerk of the Board

August 20, 2009

WILLIAMSON ACT CRISIS

Residents of Madera County,

Through his line-item veto authority, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has effectively eliminated subventions for the Williamson Act program. This action has left Madera County facing decisions it shouldn't have to face: cancellation of contracts, rejection of new contracts, or continue the program without subvention funding.

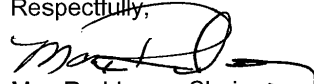
Madera County has joined forces with California State Association of Counties (CSAC: <http://www.csac.counties.org/>), Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC: <http://www.rcrcnet.org/>) and 36 organizations dedicated to the preservation of agriculture and open land. The intent of this Williamson Act Coalition is to restore funding and secure long-term protection of the subvention program.

During a recent conference call organized by CSAC and RCRC, County representatives from throughout the State voiced their outrage and made clear they—along with Madera County—will stand strong, create a solid political force in the effort to protect the Williamson Act program and subvention funding.

The Coalition is working on efforts to protect the Williamson Act from future attacks. You can help in this effort. Let your voice be heard. Attached is a letter you can sign and send to Governor Schwarzenegger, urging him to restore Williamson Act funding.

Please take the time to read, print and sign the letter. Then mail the letter to Governor Schwarzenegger, and send a copy to the Madera County Board of Supervisors. Together, we can fight this battle.

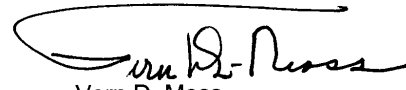
Respectfully,




Max Rodriguez, Chairman
Supervisor, District 4



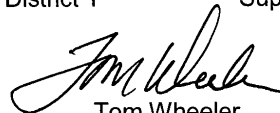
Frank Bigelow
Supervisor, District 1



Vern D. Moss
Supervisor, District 2



Ronn Dominici
Supervisor, District 3



Tom Wheeler
Supervisor, District 5



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INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE WILLIAMSON ACT LETTER TEMPLATE

- 1) Fill in today's date at the top of the page
- 2) Sign your name at the end of the letter if you agree with the statements. Feel free to add additional concerns or comments on a separate sheet of paper and include with the letter
- 3) Include your address and phone number(s) so the State may verify your Madera County residency and respond to your concerns and recommendations
- 4) Mail the completed letter to:

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
1st Floor State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
- 5) If possible, send a copy of the letter to the Madera County Board of Supervisors, 200 W 4th Street, Madera, CA 93637 or email Glenna.jarvis@madera-county.com or Rhonda.cargill@madera-county.com.

Date: _____

To: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
1st Floor State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: WILLIAMSON ACT CRISIS

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

The Williamson Act allows farmers to stay in business. The Subvention funding allows Counties to offer this program. When you executed your line-item veto authority and effectively eliminated the Williamson Act Subvention, you placed California's largest economic base in jeopardy and negatively impacted Madera County's already fragile budget.

In 2008 Madera County Agricultural Crop Report showed the total value of agricultural products at \$1,310,875,000. This revenue stream that helps support the State of California is in danger of collapsing.

The Williamson Act has a proven track record of preserving California's precious farmland and open space. For cities and counties, the financial support provided by the subvention program has provided a tangible incentive for local governments to stay in the program. When you eliminated the subvention funding you took the first step toward unraveling the broadest based agricultural conservation program in the state. And with the plunge in both sales and property tax, you landed a near-crippling blow to Counties.

I urge you to restore the Williamson Act Subvention program and help the Legislature work toward statutory changes to protect this funding for future generations.

Respectfully,

Resident, Madera County

My name and address:

My phone number(s):

(Home) _____
(Cell) _____