



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Scott Powers
County Chief Financial Officer

Danielle Keys
County Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

September 10, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: **Approve Transferring Administration of the Land Conservation Act (LCA) program from the Resource Management Agency to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office; Approve Changes to the County's LCA Guidelines to Reflect Such Change (Exhibits 1 & 2); Adoption of a Resolution to Transfer and Reclassify One Position of a Planner II from the Resource Management Agency to an Environmental Resource Analyst I from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.**

Recommendation:

1. Approve transferring the administration of the Land Conservation Act (LCA) program from the Resource Management Agency to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.
2. Approve the amended Ventura County LCA Guidelines to reflect such change (Exhibits 1 & 2).
3. Adoption of a Resolution to transfer and reclassify one position of a Planner II from the Resource Management Agency to an Environmental Resource Analyst I from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Fiscal/ Mandates Impact:

There will be no new net County Costs associated with the transfer of the LCA Program or positions and budgetary funds to the Agricultural Commissioner. Currently the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget does not include appropriations associated with the proposed action. This will be monitored, and we will return to your Board if additional appropriations are necessary. The transfer would include the transfer of one Planner II position to the

September 10, 2024
Board of Supervisors

Agricultural Commissioner's office, which would be reclassified as an Environmental Resource Analyst I:

Description	Dept. Unit	From Unit	To Unit	FTE	Compensation Frequency	Annual Range
Environmental Resource Analyst I	AGR	2911	2850	1	Bi-Weekly	\$69,909.58 - \$97,609.03

Strategic Plan Priority:

This item contributes to the Board of Supervisors' 2024–2027 Strategic Plan Priority *Diverse and Innovative Workforce Dedicated to Service Excellence* Goal #2, to leverage innovation and continuous improvement to provide efficient and effective services related to the County's LCA program.

Discussion:

The LCA (also known as the Williamson Act) was adopted by the State Legislature in 1965 and has been implemented in Ventura County since 1969. Under LCA Contracts, property owners agree to keep their land in agricultural crop production, grazing or open space for a period of 10 or 20 years in exchange for a statutory percentage reduction in the taxable value of the property. This program has historically been administered by the RMA – Planning Division as the contracts must be consistent with several zoning and General Plan policies. At the direction of your Board, the Planning Division added a Planner II position to their budget for administration of the program. However, with the recent creation of several Environmental Resource Analyst positions with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and a 2019 Board-directed LCA enforcement element, staff has determined that this program would be better suited with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

The Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer is responsible for various types of inspection and enforcement activities in fruit and vegetable production, quality and labeling standardization, organic enforcement, crop statistics, and other agriculture-related program activities. Centralized management of the LCA program within the Agricultural Commissioner's Office would facilitate ease of processing LCA Contract applications, enforcement and monitoring of LCA Contracts, and in implementing new policies and procedures. Concurrent with the reassignment of the programmatic responsibilities, the budget allocation for the Planner II position shall be reassigned to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office for the creation of an Environmental Resource Analyst I.

This proposed change is supported by the CEO, RMA, and the Agricultural Commissioner. This letter has been reviewed by County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller's Office. If there are questions related to this matter, please contact Justin Bertoline, Program Management Analyst, at (805) 677-8759.

September 10, 2024
Board of Supervisors

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sevet Johnson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Attachments: Exhibit 1 – Amended LCA Guidelines (legislative version)
 Exhibit 2 – Amended LCA Guidelines (clean version)
 Exhibit 3 - Resolution