Yolo LAFCO Agricultural Conservation Policy

Yolo County Local Agency Formation Commission

Commissioners

★ Public Member Olin Woods, Chairman ★
★ City Members Tom McMasters-Stone, Stephen Souza ★
★ County Members Helen M. Thomson, Matt Rexroad, Vice-Chairman ★
Alternate Commissioners
Public Member Robert Ramming ★ City Member Skip Davies ★ County Member Mariko Yamada
Overview

- Yolo LAFCO Agricultural Conservation Policy was established in 1994

- The Policy allows the Commission to clearly communicate its purpose and expectations relative to agriculture
Policy:

- Outlines the relationship of LAFCO laws, policies, factors and standards
- Clarifies expectations
- Establishes and implements a 1:1 agricultural mitigation ratio
Mitigation Land:

- Standards for agricultural easements:
  - Character
  - Location
  - Participants
  - Vehicle
Commission Policy Encourages:

- Orderly growth and ag protection are not mutually exclusive
- Adoption of local policies
- Awareness of LAFCO policy
- Early implementation
Additional Tools:

- **LESA**
  - Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model
  - Measures land evaluation
  - Measures site assessment
  - Includes a four tiered rating system
Changes/Issues over the years:

- No annexation of Williamson Act lands
- Mitigation for schools
- Out of Agency Agreements
- State law authored to allow exceptions
- Waiver for school sites
- All undeveloped areas subject to policy
Changes/Issues Over the Years

- Combination of Ag and Habitat Easements
- Easement Holder
- Use of In Lieu fees
- If habitat does not affect agriculture
- Non-profit entity favored - public agency can be coholder
- Payment to agricultural conservation entity
IN LIEU FEE

- purchase of conservation easements
  - Strongly encouraged for less than 20 acres
  - Formula based on average of recent agricultural land purchases
  - Agricultural conservation entity standards
Questions?