

Farmland of Local Importance

Background

Farmland of Local Importance is land of importance to the local economy, as defined by each county's local advisory committee and adopted by its Board of Supervisors. Farmland of Local Importance is either currently producing, or has the capability of production, but does not meet the criteria of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland. Authority to adopt or to recommend changes to the category of Farmland of Local Importance rests with the Board of Supervisors in each county.

ALAMEDA

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Alameda County.

AMADOR

Land that is currently in agricultural production and that is providing an economic return equal to that from the prime soil types.

BUTTE

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Butte County.

COLUSA

The following lands are to be included in the Farmland of Local Importance category: All farmable lands within Colusa County that do not meet the definitions of Prime, Statewide, or Unique, but are currently irrigated pasture or nonirrigated crops; or nonirrigated land with soils qualifying for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance; or lands that would have Prime or Statewide designation and have been improved for irrigation but are now idle; or lands with a General Plan Land Use designation for agricultural purposes; and lands that are legislated to be used only for agricultural (farmland) purposes.

CONTRA COSTA

The lands within the Tassajara area, extending eastward to the county boundary and bordered on the north by the Black Hills, the Deer, Lone Tree and Briones Valleys, the Antioch area, and the Delta. These lands are typically used for livestock grazing. They are capable of producing dryland grain on a two year summer fallow or longer rotation with volunteer hay and pasture. The farmlands in this category are included in the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service's Land Capability Classes I, II, III, and IV, and lack some irrigation water.

EL DORADO

Lands that do not qualify for the Prime, Statewide, or Unique designation but are considered Existing Agricultural Lands, or Potential Agricultural Lands, in the Agricultural Land Element of the County General Plan. Timberlands are excluded.

FRESNO

All farmable lands within Fresno County that do not meet the definitions of Prime, Statewide, or Unique. This includes land that is or has been used for irrigated pasture, dryland farming, confined livestock and dairy, poultry facilities, aquaculture and grazing land.

GLENN

Local Importance (L): All lands not qualifying for Prime, Statewide, or Unique that are cropped on a continuing

or cyclic basis (irrigation is not a consideration). All cropable land within Glenn County water district boundaries not qualifying for Prime, Statewide, or Unique.

Local Potential (LP): All lands having Prime and Statewide soil mapping units which are not irrigated, regardless of cropping history or irrigation water availability.

IMPERIAL

Unirrigated and uncultivated lands with Prime and Statewide soils.

KERN

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Kern County.

KINGS

Land that supports the following commercial agricultural activities: dairies, confined livestock, and poultry operations.

LAKE

Lands which do not qualify as Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland, but are currently irrigated pasture or nonirrigated crops; and unirrigated land with soils qualifying for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Areas of unirrigated Prime and Statewide Importance soils overlying ground water basins may have more potential for agricultural use.

LOS ANGELES

Producing lands that would meet the standard criteria for Prime or Statewide but are not irrigated.

MADERA

Lands that are presently under cultivation for small grain crops, but are not irrigated. Also lands that are currently irrigated pasture, but have the potential to be cultivated for row/field crop use.

MARIN

Land which is not irrigated, but is cultivated; or has the potential for cultivation.

MARIPOSA

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Mariposa County.

MENDOCINO

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Mendocino County.

MERCED

Farmlands that have physical characteristics that would qualify for Prime or Statewide except for the lack of irrigation water. Also, farmlands that produce crops that are not listed under Unique but are important to the economy of the county or city.

MODOC

Irrigated and dry cropland classified as Class III and Class IV irrigated land if water is or becomes available.

MONTEREY

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Monterey County.

NAPA

These farmlands include areas of soils that meet all the characteristics of Prime Farmland or of additional Farmland of Statewide Importance with the exception of irrigation. These farmlands include dryland grains, haylands, and dryland pasture.

NEVADA

Farmlands that have physical characteristics that would qualify for Prime or Statewide except for the lack of irrigation water. Farmlands that produce crops that are not listed under Unique Lands but are important to the economy of the county are: Christmas trees, Sudan grass, Meadow hay, chestnuts, poultry houses and feedlots, improved dryland pasture (not rangeland), and irrigated pasture (it is under Statewide or Prime if soils are listed as such, otherwise as Local).

Also, lands that are legislated to be used only for agricultural (farmland) purposes, such as Williamson Act land in western Nevada County.

ORANGE

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Orange County.

PLACER

Farmlands not covered by the categories of Prime, Statewide, or Unique. They include lands zoned for agriculture by County Ordinance and the California Land Conservation Act as well as dry farmed lands, irrigated pasture lands, and other agricultural lands of significant economic importance to the County and include lands that have a potential for irrigation from Placer County water supplies.

RIVERSIDE

Soils that would be classified as Prime and Statewide but lack available irrigation water. Lands planted to dryland crops of barley, oats, and wheat.

Lands producing major crops for Riverside County but that are not listed as Unique crops. These crops are identified as returning one million or more dollars on the 1980 Riverside County Agriculture Crop Report. Crops identified are permanent pasture (irrigated), summer squash, okra, eggplant, radishes, and watermelons.

Dairylands, including corrals, pasture, milking facilities, hay and manure storage areas if accompanied with permanent pasture or hayland of 10 acres or more.

Lands identified by city or county ordinance as Agricultural Zones or Contracts, which includes Riverside City "Proposition R" lands. Lands planted to jojoba which are under cultivation and are of producing age.

SACRAMENTO

Lands which do not qualify as Prime, Statewide, or Unique designation but are currently irrigated crops or pasture or nonirrigated crops; lands that would be Prime or Statewide designation and have been improved for irrigation but are now idle; and lands which currently support confined livestock, poultry operations, and aquaculture.

SAN BENITO

Land cultivated as dry cropland. Usual crops are wheat, barley, oats, safflower, and grain hay. Also, orchards affected by boron within the area specified in County Resolution Number 84-3.

SAN BERNARDINO

Farmlands which include areas of soils that meet all the characteristics of Prime, Statewide, or Unique and which are not irrigated.

Farmlands not covered by above categories but are of high economic importance to the community. These farmlands include dryland grains of wheat, barley, oats, and dryland pasture.

SAN DIEGO

Land that meets all the characteristics of Prime and Statewide, with the exception of irrigation.

Farmlands not covered by the above categories but are of significant economic importance to the county. They have a history of good production for locally adapted crops. The soils are grouped in types that are suited for truck crops (such as tomatoes, strawberries, cucumbers, potatoes, celery, squash, romaine lettuce, and cauliflower) and soils suited for orchard crops (avocados and citrus).

SAN JOAQUIN

All farmable land within San Joaquin County not meeting the definitions of "Prime Farmland," "Farmland of Statewide Importance," and "Unique Farmland." This includes land that is or has been used for irrigated pasture, dryland farming, confined livestock or dairy facilities, aquaculture, poultry facilities, and dry grazing. It also includes soils previously designated by soil characteristics as "Prime Farmland," "Farmland of Statewide Importance," and "Unique Farmland" that has since become idle.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Local Importance (L): areas of soils that meet all the characteristics of Prime or Statewide, with the exception of irrigation. Additional farmlands include dryland field crops of wheat, barley, oats, and safflower.

Local Potential (LP): lands having the potential for farmland, which have Prime or Statewide characteristics and are not cultivated.

SAN MATEO

Lands other than Prime, Statewide, or Unique that produce the following crops: oats, Christmas trees, pumpkins, dryland pasture, other grains, and haylands. These lands are not irrigated.

SANTA BARBARA

All dryland farming areas and permanent pasture (if the soils were not eligible for either Prime or Statewide). Dryland farming includes various cereal grains (predominantly wheat, barley, and oats), sudan, and many varieties of beans. (Although beans can be high value crops the production areas are usually rotated with grain, hence the decision to include them under Local rather than Unique. Also, bean crop yields are highly influenced by climate, so there can be a wide variance in cash value.)

SANTA CLARA

Small orchards and vineyards primarily in the foothill areas. Also land cultivated as dry cropland for grains and hay.

SANTA CRUZ

Soils used for Christmas tree farms and nurseries, and that do not meet the definition for Prime, Statewide, or Unique.

SHASTA

Dryland grain producing lands. Also included are farmlands that are presently irrigated but do not meet the soil characteristics of Prime or Statewide. The majority of these farmlands are located within the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District. These soils include Newton gravelly loam (8 to 15 percent slopes), Moda loam, seeped (0 to 3 percent slopes), Moda loam, shallow (0 to 5 percent slopes), and Hillgate loam.

SIERRA VALLEY

Plumas County: Lands designated as "agricultural preserve" in the 1984 Plumas County General Plan and rangelands with a carrying capacity of 8 acres/animal month, as well as irrigable lands.

Lassen and Sierra counties: Farmlands that include areas of soils that meet all the characteristics of Prime or Statewide and which are not irrigated. Also, all dry land wheat, barley, oats, hayland, and pasture.

SISKIYOU

Farmlands that include dryland or sub-irrigated hay and grain and improved pasture forage species; these dry farmed lands commonly have inclusions of uncultivated shallow, rocky, or steep soils; farmlands presently irrigated but which do not meet the soil characteristics of Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance; areas currently shown as Prime Agricultural Land in the Siskiyou County General Plan; areas under contract as Agricultural Preserves in Siskiyou County (currently mapped only for the Scott-Shasta-Butte Valley and Tule Lake soil survey areas); other agricultural land of significant importance to the county (currently mapped only for the Scott-Shasta-Butte Valley and Tule Lake soil survey areas); areas previously designated by soil characteristics as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance that have since become idle; lands enrolled in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program.

SOLANO

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Solano County.

SONOMA

The hayland producing areas of the Santa Rosa Plains, Petaluma Valley, and Tubbs Island Naval Reservation. Additional areas also include those lands which are classified as having the capability for producing locally important crops such as grapes, corn, etc., but may not be planted at the present time.

Examples of these areas include the coastal lands from Fort Ross to Stewarts Point, areas surrounding Bloomfield, Two Rock, Chileno Valley, and areas of Sonoma Valley in the vicinity of Big Bend, Vineburg, and Schellville.

STANISLAUS

Farmlands growing dryland pasture, dryland small grains, and irrigated pasture.

SUTTER

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Sutter County.

TEHAMA

All lands which are not included in Prime, Statewide, or Unique and are cropped continuously or on a cyclic

basis (irrigation is not a factor). Also, all lands included in the L category which have soil mapping units listed for Prime or Statewide and which are not irrigated.

TULARE

Lands that produce dryland grains (barley and wheat); lands that have physical characteristics that would qualify for "Prime" or "Statewide Important" farmlands except for the lack of irrigation water; and lands that currently support confined livestock, poultry, and/or aquaculture operations.

VENTURA

Soils that are listed as Prime or Statewide that are not irrigated, and soils growing dryland crops--beans, grain, dryland walnuts, or dryland apricots.

YOLO

Local Importance (L): cultivated farmland having soils which meet the criteria for Prime or Statewide, except that the land is not presently irrigated, and other nonirrigated farmland.

Local Potential (LP): Prime or Statewide soils which are presently not irrigated or cultivated.

YUBA

The Board of Supervisors determined that there will be no Farmland of Local Importance for Yuba County.