

Department of Conservation

Senate Bills 863 and 80

Updated Advisory Statement

Senate Bill 863 (Chapter 722, Statutes of 2010) was (see note below on SB 80) a budget trailer bill that replaced Assembly Bill 2530 (Nielsen) and became effective on October 19, 2010. The goal of SB 863 was to provide counties an alternative to exiting the California Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) by allowing the counties to re-capture a significant portion of their foregone property tax revenues due to their participation in the Williamson Act program.

Essentially, SB 863 provided: 1.) a one-time, \$10 million subvention to counties that participate in the Williamson Act for fiscal year 2010-11, and 2.) a provision allowing eligible counties to re-capture 10 percent of the property tax benefits provided to owners of Williamson Act lands.

Please note that SB 80 (Chapter 11, Statutes of 2011) has effectively eliminated both the above mentioned \$10 million subvention to counties that participate in the Williamson Act for fiscal year 2010-11 and the provision allowing eligible counties to re-capture 10 percent of the property tax benefits provided to owners of Williamson Act lands.

SB 80 was approved by the Governor on March 24, 2011. The above changes to SB 80 and 863 can be found in Government Code Sections 16148 and 51244, respectively.

For additional information, please contact the Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection at (916) 324-0850.