

Williamson Act Statistics

2022-2023

Our Mission

The Department of Conservation balances today's needs with tomorrow's challenges and fosters intelligent, sustainable, and efficient use of California's energy, land, and mineral resources. The Department administers multiple programs to promote the conservation of working lands and orderly growth and development.

The Williamson Act

The Williamson Act, also known as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, has helped preserve agricultural and open space lands since 1965. Local governments and landowners enter into voluntary contracts to restrict enrolled lands to agricultural and open space uses, typically for 10-year rolling terms, in exchange for property tax reductions. The Act supports California's conservation, food security, and orderly growth goals while helping farmers and ranchers stay in production.

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Biennial Statistics

Government Code Section 51207 directs the Department of Conservation (DOC) to post on its website biennial statistics on Williamson Act implementation, including enrolled acreage and removals due to cancellation, public acquisition/eminent domain, and annexation. Senate Bill 574 adopted in 2022 by the state legislature streamlined Williamson Act enrollment reporting by requiring cities and counties to submit enrollment data as Geographic Information System (GIS) files. These data are accessible on DOC's website in the "Doc Maps" agriculture section or <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov>.

While GIS-based enrollment data is available on DOC's website, the detailed information required by Government Code Section 51207 will continue to be published separately in the "Reports" section of the DOC Williamson Act website as a PDF document. The following table summarizes enrollment totals and contract terminations based on self-reported data from cities and counties for the 2022–23 reporting period (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023).

Biennial Statistics Table:

Year	WA Acres Reported ¹	Final Cancellations Approved ²	Acres Cancelled ³	Pending Tentative Cancellation ⁴	Outstanding Cancellation Fees (\$) ⁵	Acres Removed (Public Acquisition) ⁶	Acres Removed (Annexation) ⁷
2022	15.1M	8	1,284	9	\$1,604,875	1,675	None Reported
2023	15.3M	8	361	11	\$1,604,875	37	None Reported
Totals	N/A	16	1,645	57	\$1,604,875	1,712	0

¹ **WA Acres Reported:** WA Acres are derived from county and city self-reported data.

² **Final Cancellations Approved:** A **Final Certificate of Cancellation** was recorded within the reporting year, and the county notified the DOC.

³ **Acres Cancelled:** Includes only the acres where a **Final Certificate of Cancellation** was recorded by the county and reported to DOC during the reporting year.

⁴ **Pending Tentative Cancellations:** A **Tentative Certificate of Cancellation** was recorded within the reporting year and is still awaiting a **Final Certificate of Cancellation** to be recorded. Tentative cancellations can remain on record for up to **10 years**, and the total reflects all tentative cancellations remaining on record at end of the reporting year by DOC.

⁵ **Outstanding Cancellation Fees:** A **Final Certificate of Cancellation** was issued by the county within the reporting year, but the cancellation fees were **not forwarded** to the State Controller's Office.

⁶ **Acres Removed through Public Acquisition:** Public agencies that acquire Williamson Act land through eminent domain/in lieu of eminent domain or some other means are required to notify DOC within 10 days of acquiring the land. The table reflects the acres notified to DOC.

⁷ **Acres Removed by Annexation:** Derived from **Board of Equalization tax data** compared to **Williamson Act contract data** reported to the Department.

https://services6.arcgis.com/snwvZ3EmaoXJiugR/ArcGIS/rest/services/City_and_County_Boundary_Line_Changes/FeatureServer/0