



COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION
DRIVE, ROOM 102A
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

SUMMARY REPORT

Agenda Date: 10/8/2019

To: Board of Supervisors

Department or Agency Name(s): Permit Sonoma

Staff Name and Phone Number: Hannah Spencer, 565-1928

Vote Requirement: Majority

Supervisory District(s): Fourth

Title:

9:00 AM -AGP16-0018 New Land Conservation Act Contract

Recommended Action:

Hold a public hearing and adopt a Resolution to expand Agricultural Preserve 1-465 by adding 10.15 acres and, approve a new Prime Land Conservation (Williamson) Act Contract and Land Conservation Plan on the same 10.15 acre parcel, for a vineyard property located at 22517 Geyserville Ave., Geyserville; APN 140-210-004; PRMD File No. AGP16-0018; Supervisory District 4.

Executive Summary:

Sonoma County's Land Conservation Act program has four contract-types: a) Prime contracts for crop agriculture with a 10-acre minimum parcel size requirement; b) Non-Prime contracts for grazing with a 40-acre minimum; c) Open Space contracts with a 40-acre minimum, and d) Hybrid contracts with a mix of agricultural and open space also with a 40-acre minimum. This is a combined request to approve an expansion of an existing Agricultural Preserve by adding 10.15 acres and, to execute a new Prime Land Conservation Act Contract for the same 10.15-acre parcel. Land Conservation Act contracts assist in the preservation of agricultural and open space lands throughout Sonoma County. In exchange for retaining land in agriculture and/or open space, the landowner receives reduced property taxes. Staff recommends the Board of Supervisors approve the Agricultural Preserve Expansion and new contract request.

Discussion:

KBarr Daughters LLC seeks approval to expand Agricultural Preserve 1-465 by establishing a new Prime Land Conservation Act Contract on an adjacent 10.15 acre parcel with 9 acres of vineyard and adding the parcel to the existing Preserve.

Site Characteristics:

The project site is located 2 miles north of Geyserville, between the Northwestern Pacific Railroad and the Russian River. The relatively flat site contains 9 acres of vineyard, a well and a one-acre area used for temporary storage of agricultural equipment. The landowner has no future plans to build a residence or other non-agricultural structures onsite. The property is zoned LIA (Land Intensive Agriculture) B6 20-acre density, F1 (Floodway), F2 (Floodplain), RC50/25 (Riparian Corridor with 50-foot and 25-foot setbacks), SR (Scenic Resources), and VOH (Valley Oak Habitat).

Uniform Rules:

As part of the Board of Supervisors' December 2011 update of the *Sonoma County Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones* ("Uniform Rules") the Board eliminated the distinction between Prime (Type I) and Non-Prime (Type II) Agricultural Preserves. This allows the County to enter into either a Prime or Non-Prime contract in any established Preserve. The new preserve land is adjacent to Preserve 1-465.

Also, as part of the update of the Uniform Rules, the County implemented a Land Conservation Plan which is incorporated into Land Conservation (Williamson) Act Contracts. Land Conservation Plans show locations for open space, agricultural, permitted, and compatible land uses on contracted land. Future changes to the Land Conservation Plan may be approved by the Director of Permit Sonoma and recorded on title of the subject parcel.

Enlargement of the Agricultural Preserve:

To be considered for a contract, land must be in a designated Agricultural Preserve. The Board may consider adding adjacent land to a designated Agricultural Preserve, and consider its qualification for a contract. The 10.15 acre subject parcel is currently not in an existing Agricultural Preserve; this application will add the property to Preserve 1-465 and establish eligibility for a Williamson Act contract. The subject parcel is more than one mile from any incorporated city limits. The subject parcel qualifies for inclusion in the Agricultural Preserve Area for the reasons specified in Resolution Findings 1 through 4 (see Attachment 1). Additionally, the project is Categorical Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) per Section 13517 of the CEQA Guidelines.

New Land Conservation (Williamson) Act Contract:

To be eligible for a new Prime (Type I) Williamson Act contract, the subject parcel must be at least 10 acres in size, have 50% of the total parcel dedicated to permanent crop uses and once in a designated Agricultural Preserve meet the minimum income requirements of the Williamson Act. The subject parcel is 10.15 acres in size, and has 9 acres of land planted in vineyard. The vineyard is projected to provide sufficient income to qualify for a Land Conservation Act contract for prime agricultural land.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board approve the request because all the state and local requirements for expansion of an Agricultural Preserve Area and approval of a new Prime Land Conservation Act Contract for the 10.15 acre parcel can be met.

Prior Board Actions:

- a. On December 13, 2011, the Board approved the Sonoma County Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones (Resolution No. 11-0678).

FISCAL SUMMARY

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

Approval of the Land Conservation Act Contract means that the owner will pay reduced property taxes based upon the value of the agricultural uses rather than the land value under Proposition 13. This reduces the County's share of property tax revenue for the subject parcel. For this particular contract, the Assessor estimates the property assessment value will be reduced by approximately \$78,566.00. Property taxes are generally 1.1% of assessed value.

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

N/A

Attachments:

ATT 1-A: Draft Board of Supervisors Resolution

ATT 1-B: Attachment A-Agricultural Preserve Map

ATT 2: Proposal Statement prepared by applicant

ATT 3: Site Plan

ATT 4: Assessor's Parcel Map

Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:

Land Conservation Act Contract with attached Exhibit A (legal description) and Exhibit B (Land Conservation Plan with attached Site Plan).