

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DATE: August 24, 2004

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Santa Barbara County Planning and
Development, Comprehensive
Planning Division
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Staff Contact: Alex Tuttle
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SUBJECT: NOP for DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT: Santa Barbara County Agricultural Preserve Uniform Rules Update

This notice is to inform other agencies and interested parties that Santa Barbara County Planning and Development (P&D) will be the Lead Agency to prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the update to the *Santa Barbara County Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones* (Uniform Rules). The EIR will evaluate proposed changes including:

- Eligibility requirements for lands enrolled in the Agricultural Preserve Program
- Residential allowances on contracted land
- Compatible uses allowed on lands enrolled in the Agricultural Preserve Program
- Incorporation of legislative amendments to bring the Uniform Rules into conformance with the Williamson Act

As a result of these proposed uniform rule changes, the following resources may be significantly impacted:

- Agricultural resources
- Land use
- Traffic
- Visual resources/aesthetics

This notice provides you with an opportunity to review and comment on the scope and content of the analysis to be considered in the EIR. Pursuant to division 21080.4 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), agency comments germane to the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project will be considered and incorporated in the EIR. Public comments will also be considered.

The attached Project Overview and Issue Summary (Attachment A) provides a general project description of the proposed Uniform Rule changes. A complete draft of the proposed update to the Uniform Rules is included as Attachment B.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Comments should be submitted to the address above by **Thursday, September 23, 2004**.

The Project Overview and Issue Summary and draft Uniform Rules are also available online at:
www.countyofsb.org/plandev/comp/programs/uniformrules/default.html

Cc: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board (please post for 30 days)
Chron file
Comp Chron

Attach: A Project Overview and Issues Summary
B Draft of Updated Uniform Rules