



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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Ventura LAFCo Informational Guidelines for the Consideration of Agricultural Mitigation Measures¹

The Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission has adopted policies encouraging lead agencies to consider agricultural mitigation measures in their environmental documents for projects that are likely to lead to the conversion of prime agricultural land. Section 1.4.3.1.d of the Commission's Administrative Supplement to the California Environmental Quality Act (found in Division 1 Chapter 4 of the Ventura LAFCo Commissioner's Handbook²) provides, in part:

For projects that would result in the conversion of prime agricultural land to non-agricultural uses, the environmental document should consider mitigation measures to address the potential loss of the agricultural land, as provided for under Government Code Section 65965 et.al.

Examples of mitigation measures that could be considered, at the discretion of the lead agency, if feasible, are:

- Agricultural conservation easements
- Agricultural land mitigation bank and credits
- Fee title (ownership)
- Fees in lieu of agricultural conservation easements, agricultural land mitigation bank and credits, or fee title

When considering such mitigation measures, lead agencies should consider related implementation factors, including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Permanent preservation of other prime agricultural land (such as in a 1:1 ratio, or greater, to that proposed to be converted)
- Preservation of land of a similar soil quality and/or classification as that proposed to be converted
- Preservation of land that possesses the related resources (water, drainage, etc.) to ensure that on-going agricultural production would be viable
- Preservation of land located within Ventura County (but not necessarily within the lead agency's sphere of influence).

¹ These informational guidelines were approved by the Ventura LAFCo on May 17, 2017

² Available on the Ventura LAFCo website at <http://www.ventura.lafco.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Ventura-LAFCo-Commissioners-Handbook-Revised-4.20.2016.pdf>