

## 7.0 AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

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### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

#### LEGAL BASIS AND REQUIREMENTS

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The California Government Code requires that an Open Space Element and a Conservation Element be included in general plans to address a combination of issues including: agricultural lands, timber resources, water quality, wildlife resources, mineral production, natural land resources, and historic and archeological resources. As part of this Tehama County General Plan, the County has exercised the option of combining the Open Space and Conservation Element. However, due to the importance of agricultural lands and timberlands in Tehama County, this separate element has been prepared to expand in more detail on these two resource topics.

### 7.2 OVERVIEW

#### AGRICULTURE

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Agriculture has long been the backbone of Tehama County's economy. The favorable growing season, arid climate, fertile soils, and abundance of water contribute to making Tehama County an agricultural cornucopia in the northern Sacramento Valley. The areas that surround the Sacramento River are prime agricultural lands for irrigated crops. The foothills provide valuable grazing land and land for the production of dry-land hay and grain. The mountains provide timber and rangeland forage for summer grazing. All of these factors have contributed to shape the agricultural evolution of the County.

##### **Historical Agriculture**

Tehama County is rich with agricultural history. Since the early settlement of the County with the Mexican Land Grants, agriculture has intensified with the development of new technologies, fertilization, and irrigation systems. Tehama County was home to what was once one of the world's largest vineyards, the Vina Ranch, owned by Leland Stanford. The County also had one of the world's largest planned agricultural communities, the Maywood Colonies near Corning.

Agriculture, both historically and currently, is the County's highest income-producing industry, making it vital within the County. Agriculture provides Tehama County with its rural character, many of its open space resources, and a lifestyle that is highly-valued by its residents. This lifestyle is easily affected by urban growth and changes in the environment. Several resource groups and County agencies focus on educating the public about the value of agriculture to the quality of life in Tehama County.

##### **Farm Acreage**

Total acreage in farms steadily increased between the 1880's and the mid 1970's. During that time, total acreage peaked at nearly 1.3 million acres. From 1970 to the late 1980's, total acreage exhibited a slight decline. Between 1987 and 2002, it was reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) that total acreage had dropped from 1,104,584 acres to 862,440 acres.





### **Cropland**

Land that has been used for producing crops has fluctuated much over the years. Data indicates that, at its peak in 1950, over 280,000 acres in Tehama County was designated as cropland (NASS). Many lands were farmed without irrigation, producing dry-land grain hay and other crops. This trend has slowly decreased over the years, with a low in the 1990's around 120,000 acres. In 2002, total cropland was estimated at approximately 141,000 acres. More information on the specifics of cropland within Tehama County can be found in Chapter 8-E (Agricultural Resources) of the Tehama County Background Report.

### **Orchard Production**

Orchard production within the County was reported for the first time by the NASS in 1930. Between 1930 and the mid-1960s, orchard production remained relatively stagnant (between 10,000 and 15,000 acres), until it jumped to over 20,000 acres in the late 1960s. Since that time, orchard production has experienced a steady increase to 45,236 acres in 2002 (NASS). The increase in orchard acreages can be attributed to a combination of advances in irrigation technologies, the availability of irrigation water, and the availability of processing facilities within the area.

Tehama County orchards are made up of primarily walnuts, almonds, prunes, and olives. Walnuts are the most widely-planted crop in the County, with acreages currently estimated at 14,057. Walnut acreage is primarily focused along the Highway 99 Corridor between Red Bluff and Vina. Dried plums are the second most widely-planted crop in the County, with 2003 estimates at approximately 8,848 acres. However, overproduction has recently led to the USDA's voluntary tree removal within the County. Almond planting has also steadily increased in the County over the last 30 years, with recent estimates reported at 7,268 acres. Olives have also remained a very stable orchard crop within Tehama County, with recent counts totaling 5,560 acres, primarily around the Corning area.

### **Livestock Production**

Tehama County serves as grazing ground for many Northern California and Southern Oregon cattlemen. Both historically and today, cattle are wintered in the lower foothills of the County and summered in the mountain meadows, although it should be noted that some livestock producers keep cattle on irrigated pasture on the valley floor during the summer months.

Cattle are the primary livestock within the County, with recent estimates at approximately 68,000 head. Sheep are the second-highest livestock commodity within the County, estimated at approximately 5,800 head. Hogs are the third-highest livestock commodity, estimated at approximately 1,000 head. It should be noted that chickens and turkeys have been large commodities within the County in the past, but over the years, these populations have dramatically declined from nearly 135,000 chickens in 1939 to the point where population estimates are not calculated by the local Ag Commissioner's office due to today's low number of poultry in the County.

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### TIMBER

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Timber resources cover a substantial portion of land in the Eastern and Western areas of Tehama County. The 1983 General Plan summarized that, of the County's 1,909,000 acres, 460,000 (approximately 24 percent) were commercial forestlands. This term is defined as lands capable of producing at least 15 cubic feet per acre per year of industrial wood.

Historically, Tehama County has been one of the leading counties in timber production in California. But over the last two decades, timber harvests in Tehama County have dropped significantly. Between 1980 and 2003, harvests fell from 147,208,000 board feet to 74,207,000 board feet, a drop of 49.6 percent. The decline of public timber harvests since the end of the 1980's is primarily due to increased harvesting restrictions on public lands.

### SOIL RESOURCES

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#### Farmland Classifications and Rating System

Two classification programs are generally used to determine a soil's potential agricultural productivity. The USDA Soil and Conservation Service (USDA-SCS) Soil Capability Classification System takes into consideration soil limitations, the risk of damage when the soils are used, and the way in which soils respond to treatment. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) administered by the California Department of Conservation, maps out agricultural areas based on soil quality and land use. Each rating system provides unique definitions for describing and determining important and productive farmland. In addition, various other descriptions and definitions are often utilized to describe soil productivity potential and appeal. While numerous definitions and rating indexes exist, the Tehama County General Plan recognizes the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program developed by the California Department of Conservation as the soil capability classification system utilized by Tehama County. These programs are described below.

#### Soil Capability Classification System

The Soil Capability Classification System designed by the USDA takes into consideration soil limitations, the risk of damage when the soils are used, and the way in which soils respond to treatment. Capability classes range from Class I soils, which have few limitations for agriculture, to Class VIII soils, which are deemed unsuitable for agriculture. Generally, as the ratings of the capability classification system increase, the yields and profits are more difficult to obtain. A general description of soil classification, as defined by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), is provided in **Table 7-1**.





**TABLE 7-1  
SOIL CAPABILITY CLASSIFICATION**

CLASS	DEFINITION
I	Soils have few limitations that restrict their use.
II	Soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants, or that require special conservation practices.
III	Soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants, require conservation practices, or both.
IV	Soils have very severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants, require very careful management, or both.
V	Soils are not likely to erode but have other limitations; impractical to remove that limits their use largely to pasture or range, woodland, or wildlife habitat.
VI	Soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuited to cultivation and limit their use largely to pasture, or range, woodland, or wildlife habitat.
VII	Soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuited to cultivation and that restrict their use largely to pasture or range, woodland, or wildlife habitat.
VIII	Soils and landforms have limitation that preclude their use for commercial plant production and restrict their use to recreation, wildlife habitat, or water supply, or to aesthetic purposes.

Source: USDA Soil Conservation Service.

### **Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

The Farmland Mitigation Monitoring Program (FMMP) was established in 1982 to continue the important Farmland mapping efforts begun in 1975 by the USDA-SCS. The intent of the USDA-SCS was to produce agricultural resource maps based on soil quality and land use across the nation. As part of the nationwide agricultural land use mapping effort, the USDA-SCS developed a series of definitions known as Land Inventory and Monitoring (LIM) criteria. The LIM criteria classified land's suitability for agricultural production; suitability included both the physical and chemical characteristics of soils and the actual land use. Important Farmland Maps are derived from the USDA-SCS soil survey maps using the LIM criteria.

Since 1980, the State of California has assisted the USDA-SCS with completing its mapping in the state. The FMMP was created within the California Department of Conservation (DOC) to carry on the mapping activity on a continuing basis, and with a greater level of detail. The DOC applied a greater level of detail by modifying the LIM criteria for use in California. The LIM criteria in California utilize the SCS and Storie Index Rating Systems, but also consider physical conditions such as a dependable water supply for agricultural production, soil temperature range, depth to the ground water table, flooding potential, rock fragment content, and rooting depth.

Important Farmland Maps for California are compiled using the modified LIM criteria (as described below) and current land use information. The minimum mapping unit is 10 acres unless otherwise specified. Units of land smaller than 10 acres are incorporated into the surrounding classification. The Important Farmland Maps identify five agricul-

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ture-related categories: prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, unique farmland, farmland of local importance, and grazing land. Each is summarized below, based on *A Guide to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (1994)*, prepared by the Department of Conservation. The FMMP data is updated and released every two years. The most current information available from the FMMP is from 2004. This information is presented below. Farmland data for 2006 is currently being gathered and is not yet available. Descriptions and information on each farmland classification are presented below. As defined in Public Resources Code Section 21060.1 and State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, "agricultural land" that is of concern under environmental review includes designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Class I and II soils in the USDA-SDS are considered to be generally equal to Prime Farmland in the FMMP.



### **Prime Farmland**

Prime Farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed, including water management, according to current farming methods. Prime Farmland must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date. It does not include publicly owned lands for which there is an adopted policy preventing agricultural use.

### **Farmland of Statewide Importance**

Farmland of Statewide Importance is land other than Prime Farmland that has a good combination of physical and chemical characteristics for the production of crops. It must have been used for the production of irrigated crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date. It does not include publicly owned lands for which there is an adopted policy preventing agricultural use.

### **Unique Farmland**

Unique Farmland is land which does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance, that has been used for the production of specific high economic value crops at some time during the two update cycles prior to the mapping date. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high quality and/or high yields of a specific crop when treated and managed according to current farming methods. Examples of such crops may include oranges, olives, avocados, rice, grapes, and cut flowers. It does not include publicly owned lands for which there is an adopted policy preventing agricultural use.

### **Farmland of Local Importance**

As defined by the state, Farmland of Local Importance is either currently producing crops, has the capability of production, or is used for the production of confined livestock. Farmland of Local Importance is land other than Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland. This land may be important to the local economy due to its productivity or value. It does not include publicly owned lands for which there is an adopted policy preventing agricultural use. In a few counties the local advisory committee has elected to additionally define areas of Local Potential (LP) farmland. This land includes soils that qualify for Prime Farmland or Farmland of State-



wide Importance, but generally are not cultivated or irrigated. However, the Board of Supervisors in each County within the state has the authority to adopt or recommend changes to the category of Farmland of Local Importance.

In Tehama County, Farmland of Local Importance includes areas of soils that meet all the characteristics of Prime Farmland or of additional Farmland of Statewide Importance with the exception of irrigation. These farmlands include dry-land grains, haylands, and dry-land pasture.

### ***Urban and Built-up Land***

Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, construction, institutional, public administration, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.

### ***Other Land***

Land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than forty acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.

### ***Water***

Perennial water bodies with an extent of at least 40 acres.

### ***Tehama County Soil Characteristics***

Soil types and their characteristics in Tehama County are controlled in part by location, i.e., valley or hillside. The principal soil series in Tehama County is the Tehama Series. Soils of this series have formed on the nearly level to gently sloping, deep alluvium of the Valley. The soils are well drained to somewhat poorly drained loams, silt loams, and clay loams on flood plains, alluvial fans and terraces. These soils are among the most agriculturally productive in the County. Along the alluvial plains of the Sacramento River and its tributaries, and generally between State Highway 99 and Interstate Highway 5 between Red Bluff and the southern County boundary, these soils are considered Class I-III soils in the USDA-SDS, and Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Farmland of Local Importance in the FMMP.

Soils present on the ridge systems to either side of the Valley have formed from a wide range of parent materials under varying conditions of slope steepness and stability, slope aspect, time, and annual rainfall. Therefore, the properties of these soils, including their hazards, are more variable than those formed on the more uniformly flat Valley floor (stable geomorphic surface), with its more homogeneous parent materials (alluvium). Soils in the foothills and ranges of Tehama County on the eastern and western sides of the valley are considered Class IV and below soils in the USDA-SDS and mostly Grazing Land in the FMMP.

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### 7.3 GOALS, POLICIES, AND IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

Many of the policies in this General Plan are designed to encourage and support agriculture in Tehama County. The policies are divided into elements to aid in implementation of the General Plan, but focus on agriculture nonetheless. The following table summarizes those policies that exist in other elements but are intended to assist in agricultural practices:



**TABLE 7-2  
AG-RELATED POLICIES LOCATED IN OTHER ELEMENTS**

REFERENCE	POLICY TEXT
Policy LU-1.1	The County shall encourage future residential development to be located adjacent to existing communities and established residential areas or within areas for which Specific or Master Plans have been prepared. Small, isolated housing tracts in outlying areas shall be discouraged as they disrupt surrounding rural and productive agricultural lands, forests, and ranches and are difficult to provide with services.
Policy LU-1.4	The County shall ensure that zoning and subdivision regulations protect agricultural lands, open space, and natural resources which include: grazing, timber, and wildlife lands, by not allowing land divisions intended for residential use to be developed in areas which are not specifically designated as residential in the General Plan, or for which appropriate long-term planning has not been completed as outlined within the General Plan, or for which appropriate long-term planning has not been completed as outlined within the General Plan.
Policy LI-1.5	The County shall Prepare and adopt an Oak Woodlands Protection Program, which will provide standards and guidelines for the harvesting and removal of Oak Woodlands.
Policy LU-2.1	The County shall develop a land use database that can be utilized as a resource to aid decision-making regarding agricultural land conservation and preservation.
Policy LU-2.2	The County shall protect and conserve existing prime agricultural and sensitive natural resource lands from residential development.
Policy LU-5.3	The County shall accommodate growth and other non-agricultural development by directing new growth to the following lands; that do not exhibit characteristics which would support agricultural uses and to areas for which services and infrastructure have been planned to support new growth.
Policy NI-5.4	The development pattern shall accommodate growth within the rural community of Bend and the rural service center of Bowman in a manner that preserves the agricultural values of lands surrounding these communities.
Policy NI-5.7	Valley Floor Agriculture and Upland Agriculture land uses shall be recognized and future development shall, to the extent feasible, be only accommodated (initially) within the residential land use categories designated on the Land Use Diagram.
Policy CI-5.1	The development pattern shall recognize the predominantly agricultural land use of the planning area.
Policy CI-5.3	The rural service center of Proberta and Gerber shall accommodate growth consistent with their agricultural support function and in a manner that preserves the agricultural value of lands surrounding these communities.
Policy SI-5.3	The rural service centers of Vina and Richfield shall accommodate growth consistent with their agricultural support function and in a manner that preserves the agricultural resource value of lands surrounding these communities.

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REFERENCE	POLICY TEXT
Policy EI-5.3	The development pattern shall recognize ranching and related agricultural operations, as well as the timber, habitat, and scenic values the planning area affords.
Policy WI-5.2	The development pattern shall recognize existing ranching operations and grazing activities which dominate the land use activity of this planning area.
Policy WI-5.4	The development pattern shall recognize the timber resources of this planning area and shall recognize the proximate boundaries of the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness area and the Shasta-Trinity and Mendocino National Forests.
Policy ED-5.1	The County shall support land use decisions that recognize the importance of airports to commercial, agricultural, and general aviation users.
Policy ED-6.1	The County shall work toward the protection of agricultural lands from development pressures or uses that will adversely impact or hinder existing or foreseeable agricultural operations and consider land use alternatives such as buffers, green belts, zoning and other methods whenever feasible.
Policy ED-6.2	The County shall recognize and promote agricultural based industries, and provide for the expansion of value added industries in an economically viable manner consistent with available resources.
Policy ED-6.3	The County shall accommodate urban growth and other non-agricultural development by utilizing, whenever possible, lands that do not have agricultural viability as defined in the Agriculture and Timber Element of the County General Plan.
Policy ED-7.1	The County shall continue to preserve Tehama County's natural resources including: agriculture, timberlands, water and water quality, wildlife resources, minerals, natural resource lands, recreation lands, scenic highways, and historic and archaeological resources. The protection of natural resources is of the utmost importance and promoting business expansion, retention, and recruitment should compliment and enhance the natural resources while reducing negative impacts.
Policy OS-1.5	The County shall ensure the high quality of groundwater by emphasizing programs that minimize erosion and prevent the intrusion of municipal and agricultural wastes into water supplies.
Policy OS-2.2	The County shall avoid siting sensitive land uses in the vicinity of agricultural processing, industrial, or other uses where odors or emissions could adversely affect the sensitive use.
Policy OS-9.1	The County shall strive for the protection and enhancement of resource lands for the continued benefit of agriculture, timber, grazing, recreation, waterfowl, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and quality of life.
Policy OS-9.4	The County shall actively promote outdoor recreation opportunities such as agri-tourism, nature-tourism, and environmental learning tourism.
Policy OS-12.1	The County shall recognize the need to protect and conserve areas where soils have high resource values, especially in terms of potential agricultural productivity.
Policy OS-12.3	The County shall continue to encourage sound soil management, erosion prevention and control programs and projects, including the use of windbreaks, minimum tillage practices, grazing management, and riparian area rehabilitation.

**Table 7-2** is provided for reference and convenience; please see the appropriate element for discussion of the Policy and its related goal. Notwithstanding the policies in **Table 7-2**, the following pertains specifically to agriculture and timber uses in Tehama County.

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### AGRICULTURAL LANDS

#### GOAL AG-1

To preserve and protect agricultural lands.



#### **Policy AG-1.1**

*The County shall provide for the protection of agricultural lands from non-agricultural development pressures and uses that will adversely impact or hinder existing or foreseeable agricultural operations through a separation utilizing natural buffers and land use transition areas that mitigate or prevent land use conflicts with the development interest providing the buffers.*

#### **Implementation Measure AG-1.1a**

Non-agricultural lands located adjacent to designated agricultural lands shall be subject to agricultural buffer overlay zoning regulations as delineated in the zoning code. The agricultural buffer zone will be a minimum of 300 feet between any new residential subdivision developments and "classified" agricultural lands, or pre-existing agricultural processing facilities, or industrial lands as discussed in Implementation Measure LU-2.2a.

#### **Implementation Measure AG-1.1b**

Direct urban uses to less valuable farmland when conversion is justified. Justification will include, but is not limited to, analysis of the criteria listed under Policy AG-1.2, Implementation Measure AG1.2c.

It will be the responsibility of the Board of Supervisors to consider findings relating to the criteria. Prior to approving a boundary expansion, the Board must determine, based on evidence in the record, that the benefits of the proposed conversion of agricultural land outweigh the impacts of the conversion.

#### **Implementation Measure AG-1.1c**

Continue to utilize and adhere to the principles and guidelines of the Tehama County "Agricultural Uses Disclosure" Ordinance.

#### **Implementation Measure AG-1.1d**

In order to protect agricultural operations from interference related to cellular or communication tower siting, the County will implement the measures identified under Policy LU-9.1 of this General Plan.

#### **Implementation Measure AG-1.1e**

The County shall adopt policies and/or guidelines for enhanced or additional notification to surrounding property owners when considering applications to convert agricultural lands to developed lands.

#### **Policy AG-1.2**

*The County shall establish criteria for demonstrating appropriateness of conversion of agricultural land to other uses.*



### **Implementation Measure AG-1.2a**

Designated agricultural lands may be subdivided into separate parcels to create one site for a life estate home site provided conditions delineated in the Zoning Code are met.

### **Implementation Measure AG-1.2b**

Beside the principal uses of agricultural lands, lands so classified may be used for residential purposes accessory to the principal use. Such accessory uses shall be limited to "family member" housing and agricultural labor housing subject to the requirements in the Zoning Code.

### **Implementation Measure AG-1.2c**

The following criteria is to be applied during review of proposals for General Plan amendments to change Valley Floor Agriculture and Upland Agriculture land use designations and/or rezone of a UA or EA district outside of areas for which a Specific Plan or Master Plan has been prepared and approved:

#### 1) Soil:

Is the soil suitable for agriculture according to the soil capability?

In general, unique or higher quality soil as identified on the Important Farmland Map of the State Mapping and Monitoring Program shall be deemed suitable for agriculture, unless verifiable evidence is provided identifying a diminished soil capability.

#### 2) Parcel Size:

Is the present parcel a sufficient size for economic agricultural use? (In general, conforming to the minimum parcel size for the respective zoning classification.)

#### 3) Use:

Is the land presently used, has it been recently used or could it be used, for agriculture?

#### 4) Compatibility:

Will a nonagricultural use create conflicts as to compatibility with adjacent or nearby agricultural uses?

#### 5) Consistency:

Is the proposal consistent with the goals and policies of the Tehama County General Plan?

For each criterion which raises a concern, the Board of Supervisors shall make (a) finding(s) that the value of the project provides an overall benefit to the County that outweighs the issue(s) identified outside of areas designated as Special Planning under this General Plan for which a Specific Plan and/or Development Agreement has been prepared and approved.

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### **Implementation Measure AG-1.2d**

Continue to support the principles of the Tehama County "Agricultural Uses Disclosure" Ordinance.

### **Implementation Measure AG-1.2e**

Allow lands designated for a non-agricultural land use by the General Plan, to continue the agricultural use of the property.

### **Implementation Measure AG-1.2f**

Promote the protection of agricultural resources by encouraging new development to protect one acre of existing farmland of equal or higher quality for each acre of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance that would be converted to non-agricultural uses. This protection may consist of the establishment of farmland conservation easement, farmland deed restriction, or other appropriate farmland conversion in perpetuity, but may also be utilized for compatible wildlife conservation efforts. The farmland to be preserved shall be located within Tehama County and must have adequate water supply to support agricultural use. As part of the consideration of land areas proposed to be protected, the County shall consider the benefits of preserving farmlands in proximity to other protected lands.

### **Policy AG-1.3**

*The County shall encourage the diversification and development of all Agricultural enterprises including Natural Agricultural practices and Agricultural Tourism activities.*

### **Implementation Measure AG-1.3a**

Agricultural lands may be used for institutional purpose and youth ranch projects provided that such operations are developed utilizing the agricultural and open space attributes of the site to a maximum extent (Board Resolution 51-1998).

### **Implementation Measure AG-1.3b**

Lands classified as Valley Floor Agriculture or Upland Agriculture may be used for treatment of non-hazardous contaminated soils through enhancement (blending, aeration, cultivation, fertilization, composting, emulsification, etc.) and bio-remediation upon the approval of a Use Permit in each individual case. "Non-hazardous contaminated soils" means those soils contaminated at levels beneath the hazardous threshold established in the California Health and Safety Code, Title 22, Section 25117 and sections 66261.10 thru 66261.33. (Board Resolution 144-1992).

### **Implementation Measure AG-1.3c**

Support the creation of new markets for traditional and higher value crops and commodities

### **Implementation Measure AG-1.3d**

Maintain sites for agricultural industry to meet the demand of agricultural product suppliers, laboratory research, field research, seed research and development, food processing and other agricultural-





related activities.

**Implementation Measure AG-1.3e**

Encourage and support new and emerging agricultural uses and practices within the County, such as vineyards and organic farming.

**Implementation Measure AG-1.3f**

Continue to encourage and support the ranching of alternative and historically-significant types of livestock, to include goats and sheep.

### TIMBERLANDS

#### **GOAL AG-2**

**To preserve and protect timberlands.**

***Policy AG-2.1***

*The County shall provide for the conservation of commercial timberland resources and related habitat.*

**Implementation Measure AG-2.1a**

The Timberlands land use category shall be used to identify and protect lands currently under Timber Production Zoning.

**Implementation Measure AG-2.1b**

Development of Timberlands shall be subject to the conditions established in the Zoning Code.

***Policy AG-2.2***

*The County shall protect timberlands from adjacent development that has the potential to adversely impact timber growing and harvesting operations.*

**Implementation Measure AG-2.2a**

Lands adjacent to Timberlands shall be assigned land use designations that do not adversely impact timber growing and harvesting operations. These lands shall be restricted to Resource Lands, Habitat Resource, Upland Agriculture, or Public. Commercial recreation may be a conditional use, subject to use permit approval.

***Policy AG-2.3***

*The County shall take an active role in the various timber management improvement and education programs as a means to improve timber yields and protect wildlife habitat and watersheds consistent with Timber Harvest Plans.*

**Implementation Measure AG-2.3a**

Promote the use of recognized forest improvement practices and programs.

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### **Policy AG-2.4**

*The County shall encourage the construction and maintenance of public access roads valuable for timber production and fire control and allow for a range of options that promotes a healthy and Fire Safe Forest.*

#### **Implementation Measure AG-2.4a**

Provide for the construction and maintenance of public access roads through the implementation of Development Impact Fees as described under Policy LU-6.1a of this General Plan.

### **Policy AG-2.5**

*The County shall promote various timber management improvement and education programs, and shall encourage the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) as a means to improve timber yields and protect wildlife habitat and watersheds, as consistent with Timber Harvest Plans.*

#### **Implementation Measure AG-2.5a**

The County should support the State of California's regulatory authority over forest practices on timberlands, because current forest practice rules and regulations already provide protection and consideration for watershed, wildlife, fisheries, range and forage, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment values.

#### **Implementation Measure AG-2.5b**

The County should formally request that the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection include educational materials for residents in its Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber. Such materials should include information concerning the Forest Practice Act, Forest Practice Rules, and Department of Forestry Timber Harvest Plan review process.

