



Item #16-6-3

Land Use & Natural Resources Committee Information

May 26, 2016

Preliminary Analysis of Impacts from Urbanizing Agricultural Land

Issue: Studies conducted as part of the Rural-Urban Connections Strategy help the region better understand possible impacts and tradeoffs from the use of land for agriculture or urban purposes.

Recommendation: None, this item is for information only.

Discussion: RUCS data and tools have been used to conduct a range of analyses of changes to the use of rural lands. These studies have looked mainly at how changes in cropping patterns and related businesses affect economic value and jobs resulting from the agriculture and food cluster. This work is useful in helping stakeholders understand market and environmental changes and the potential for the region to respond to opportunities and challenges.

Recently, RUCS analyses have also included assessments of impacts from agricultural lands converting to urban uses. In particular, case studies conducted over the last two years have helped stakeholders understand some of the potentially less-desirable results from urbanizing rural lands including increases in greenhouse gas emissions and increases in municipal infrastructure and services costs. The work provides more information in the decision making process to help stakeholders better understand potential unintended consequences of growth.

Staff will present related findings from case studies conducted in Yuba and Yolo counties, as well as a study conducted by the American Farmland Trust.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Chief Executive Officer

MM:DS:ts

Key Staff: Kacey Lizon, Planning Manager, (916) 340-6265
David Shabazian, Rural-Urban Connections Strategy Manager, (916) 340-6231