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*Long a major foundation of our economy and our culture, agriculture remains a thriving part of Riverside County. While we have lost some agriculture to other forms of development, other lands have been converted to agriculture. We remain a major agricultural force in California and in the global agricultural market.*

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– RCIP Vision Statement

### Prime Farmlands

Prime Farmland is land best suited for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is available for these uses: cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other land, but not urban land or water. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed (including water management) according to modern farming methods.

### Statewide Important Farmlands

Farmland of Statewide Importance is land other than Prime Farmland that has a good combination of physical and biological characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is available for these uses (the land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land or other land, but not urban land or water).

### Unique Farmlands

Unique Farmland is land other than Prime and Statewide Important Farmland, that is currently used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high quality of a specific crop when treated and managed according to modern farming methods. Examples of such economically important crops are citrus, olives, and avocados.

### Local Important Farmlands

These farmlands are not covered by the above categories but are of locally significant economic importance. They include the following:

- Lands with soils that would be classified as Prime or Statewide Important Farmlands but lack available irrigation water.
- Lands planted in 1980 or 1981 in dry land grain crops such as barley, oats, and wheat.
- Lands producing major crops for Riverside County but that are not listed as Unique Farmland crops. Such crops are permanent pasture (irrigated), summer squash, okra, eggplant, radishes, and watermelon.
- Dairylands including corrals, pasture, milking facilities, hay and manure storage areas if accompanied with permanent pasture or hayland of 10 acres or more.
- Lands identified by the County with Agriculture land use designations or contracts.
- Lands planted with jojoba that are under cultivation and are of producing age.

### Williamson Act

The California Land Conservation Act, better known as the Williamson Act, has been the state’s premier agricultural land protection program since its enactment in 1965. This program allows owners of agricultural land to have their properties assessed for tax purposes on the basis of agricultural production rather than current market value. Participation in this program is voluntary, and requires 100 contiguous acres of agricultural land under one or more ownerships to file an application for agricultural preserve status with the Riverside County Planning Department.