Protecting oak woodlands

This summer, learn more about oak woodlands and the vital services that they provide with these two publications from UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.

At more than 260 pages, Oaks in the Urban Landscape provides a comprehensive look at the management of urban oaks. Learn to protect these trees with detailed information on pest and risk management, preservation during development and genetic diversity.

A Planner’s Guide for Oak Woodlands offers a more detailed look at managing oaks, including issues related to their biology, wildlife habitat, watershed management, regional planning, mapping, risk modeling and more. This is a perfect decision-making guide for professional planners, consultants and landscape architects.

Oaks in the Urban Landscape, ANR Pub No 3518, 265 pages, $55
A Planner’s Guide for Oak Woodlands, ANR Pub No 3491, 116 pages, $15

To order:
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Implications of eliminating the Williamson Act

Budget cuts have resulted in dramatic reductions of funding for the Williamson Act, California’s land protection program that reduces property taxes for the owners of 15 million acres of farms and rangeland. In the next issue of California Agriculture journal, researchers report the results of a study in which ranchers were asked their plans under a hypothetical scenario including the elimination of all Williamson Act contracts. More than 70% of the rangeland parcels enrolled in Williamson Act contracts contained habitat important for statewide conservation goals, and survey respondents reported that they would sell 20% of their total 496,889 acres under the proposed scenario. A majority (76%) of the ranchers who reported that they would sell land predicted the buyers would develop it for nonagricultural uses, suggesting substantial changes to California’s landscape in a future without the Williamson Act.