



PHOTO CREDIT: VIRGINIA JAMESON

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Supporting agricultural conservation, economic growth, and sustainable development



The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) utilizes Cap-and-Trade proceeds to protect agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion to other uses. Studies show that farmland produces 70 times less greenhouse gas emissions than urbanized land, and protecting farmland provides an opportunity to capture carbon in the land base. SALC's mission is to support California's need for agricultural conservation, economic growth, and sustainable development.

“SALC fights climate change by protecting our productive farmlands and encouraging compact transit-oriented communities.”



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Planning Grants

- » Cities
- » Counties
- » Special Districts
- » Resource Conservation Districts
- » Local Agency Formation Commissions

Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants

- » Cities
- » Counties
- » Nonprofit Organizations
- » Resource Conservation Districts
- » Regional Park or Open-Space Districts or Authorities

WHAT DOES SALC FUND?

SALC funds projects that protect at-risk agricultural lands from conversion to more pollution-heavy land uses such as residential or commercial development. The program provides two types of awards: Planning grants and Agricultural Conservation Easement grants.

Planning grants support the development of local and regional land use policies and economic development strategies to protect critical agricultural land. The program funds strategies related to establishing and implementing goals, policies, and objectives to support the economic viability of the local agricultural sector. It also supports planning processes to identify and designate priority lands for conservation and development.

Agricultural Conservation Easement grants are used to permanently protect croplands and rangelands that are at-risk of conversion to sprawl development. Agricultural conservation easements are deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to preserve the land's agricultural uses.

HOW ARE OUTCOMES TRACKED AND MONITORED?

Outcomes for each Agricultural Easement Grant award are monitored through tracking greenhouse gas emissions reductions and identifying co-benefits of funded projects. The greenhouse gas quantification methodology is certified by the California Air Resources Board. Co-benefits include health, environmental, and economic features identified in the grant proposal.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

SALC simultaneously supports California's food security and protects farmlands while encouraging the development of compact, sustainable communities. It fights climate change by making it easier for Californians to live in locations where they can reach key destinations by walking, biking, and using transit. By keeping land in farming, SALC also promotes the retention of local jobs and agricultural revenue. Other co-benefits include improved air and water quality, the protection of wildlife habitat, and improved human health.

**62 EASEMENTS
PROJECTS**
— TOTALING —
**90,700
ACRES**
— TO BE CONSERVED —

CONTACT

Virginia Jameson

salcp@conservation.ca.gov

<http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/salc/>