



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



2015-2016 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Award Recommendations

Action Item

August 9, 2016

Recommended Action:

Approve staff recommendation to award **\$37,417,000** to 21 agricultural land conservation projects (20 agricultural conservation easements, 1 Strategy & Outcome, as well as 2 alternate easement projects.)

These projects will result in greenhouse gas emission reductions and provide various co-benefits.



SALC Program Purpose

To avoid increases in GHG emissions associated with conversion of California's irreplaceable croplands and rangelands to urban and rural residential development



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Two project types:

Agricultural Strategy & Outcomes

- Up to \$2.5 million available for this category
- Grant awards up to \$250,000
- 5 Eligible Strategy Types

Agricultural Conservation Easements

- Up to \$37.5 million available for this category
- No maximum grant award

GHG Quantification Methodology

The SALC 2015-16 GHG Quantification Methodology is posted to the California Air Resources Board website at:

www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/quantification.htm

Or via the link provided on the SGC website for the SALC Program

Some of the Factors used to Evaluate Projects

- GHG Emission Reductions
- Demonstrates a risk of conversion
- Extinguishes development rights
- Project readiness
- Attributes of project, review of potential hazardous waste, mineral rights, oil and gas wells, etc...
- Associated co-benefits, such as ag operation viability, neighboring protected lands, habitat value, creates a greenbelt buffer, etc...

SALC Round 2 Overview

Applications were due May 2, 2016.

- Received 25 Agricultural Conservation Easement proposals and 2 Strategy & Outcome applications, requesting over \$50 million.
- Applications reviewed for completion and eligibility. Projects ranked into four groups based on title constraints, project readiness and ability to meet selection criteria.

SALC Round 2 Recommendations

Overall, the SALC Program received a strong representation of quality proposals. The projects recommended represent:

- Approximately 9% irrigated cropland, 65% rangeland, and 25% mixed use;
- Locations across 14 counties;
- And 2 projects demonstrating benefits to disadvantaged communities per the SALC Guidelines criteria.

Regarding the Strategy & Outcome Project Type

Only two applications received, one of which was eligible and promotes program goals and priorities.

For Round 3, staff will work with interested stakeholders on ways to address potential applicant needs in a way that meet State's statutory and administrative requirements.

STRATEGY & OUTCOME PROJECT SNAPSHOT
MONTEREY COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

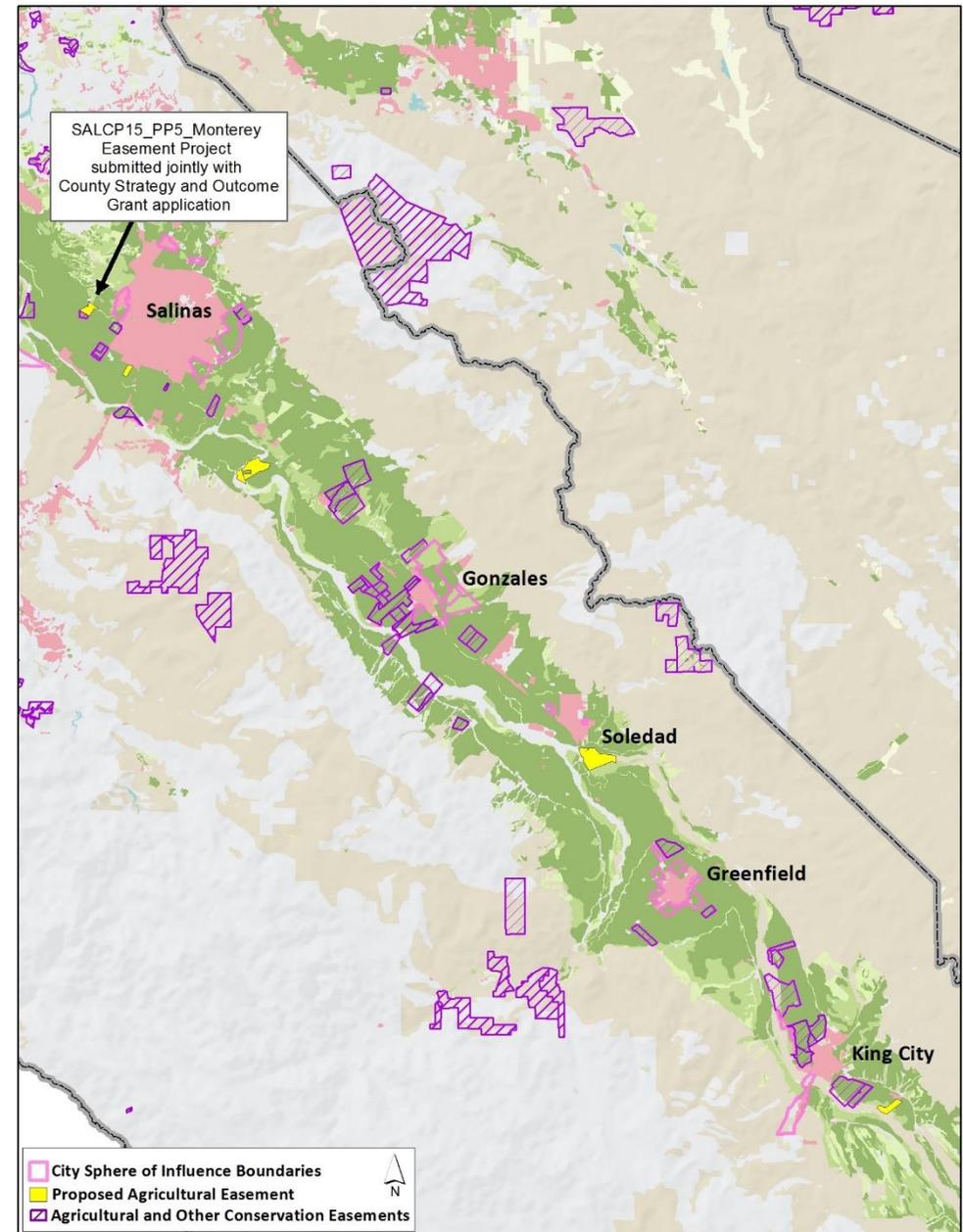
Strategy & Outcome Grant

Monterey County Resource Management Agency

Location: Monterey County

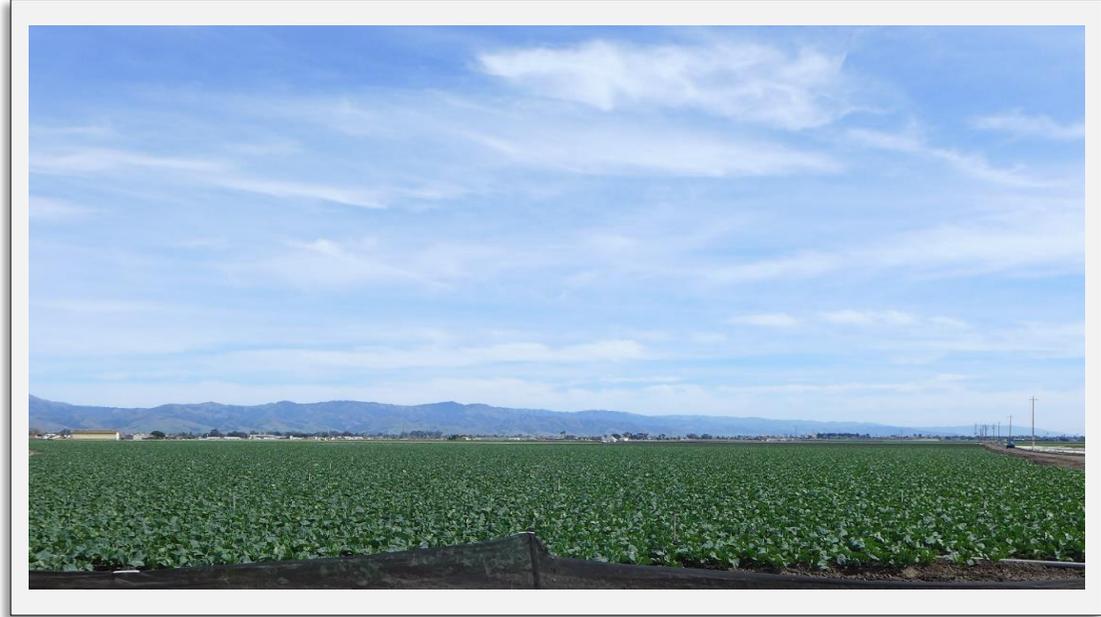
Establishes agricultural mitigation ordinance in fourth highest agricultural value county in the State.

*CO₂ estimated reduction:
Application linked with
Easement Project, 425,227 metric tons.¹*



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS PROJECT SNAPSHOTS

ACE Project: Monterey County



129 acres

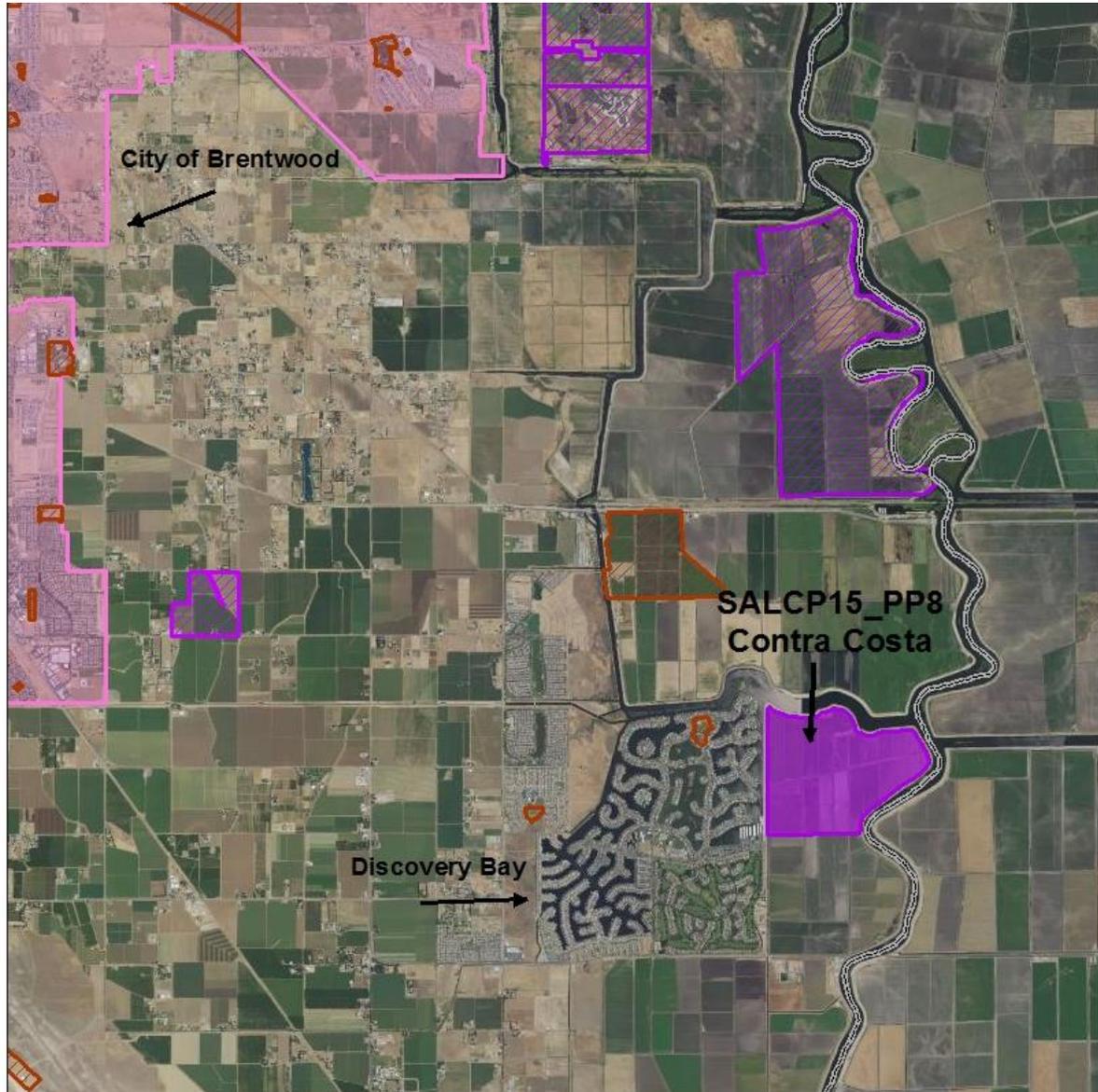
1 mile from the City of Salinas

CO₂ estimated reduction:

425,227 metric tons.¹

Prime vegetable growing area

ACE Project: Contra Costa County



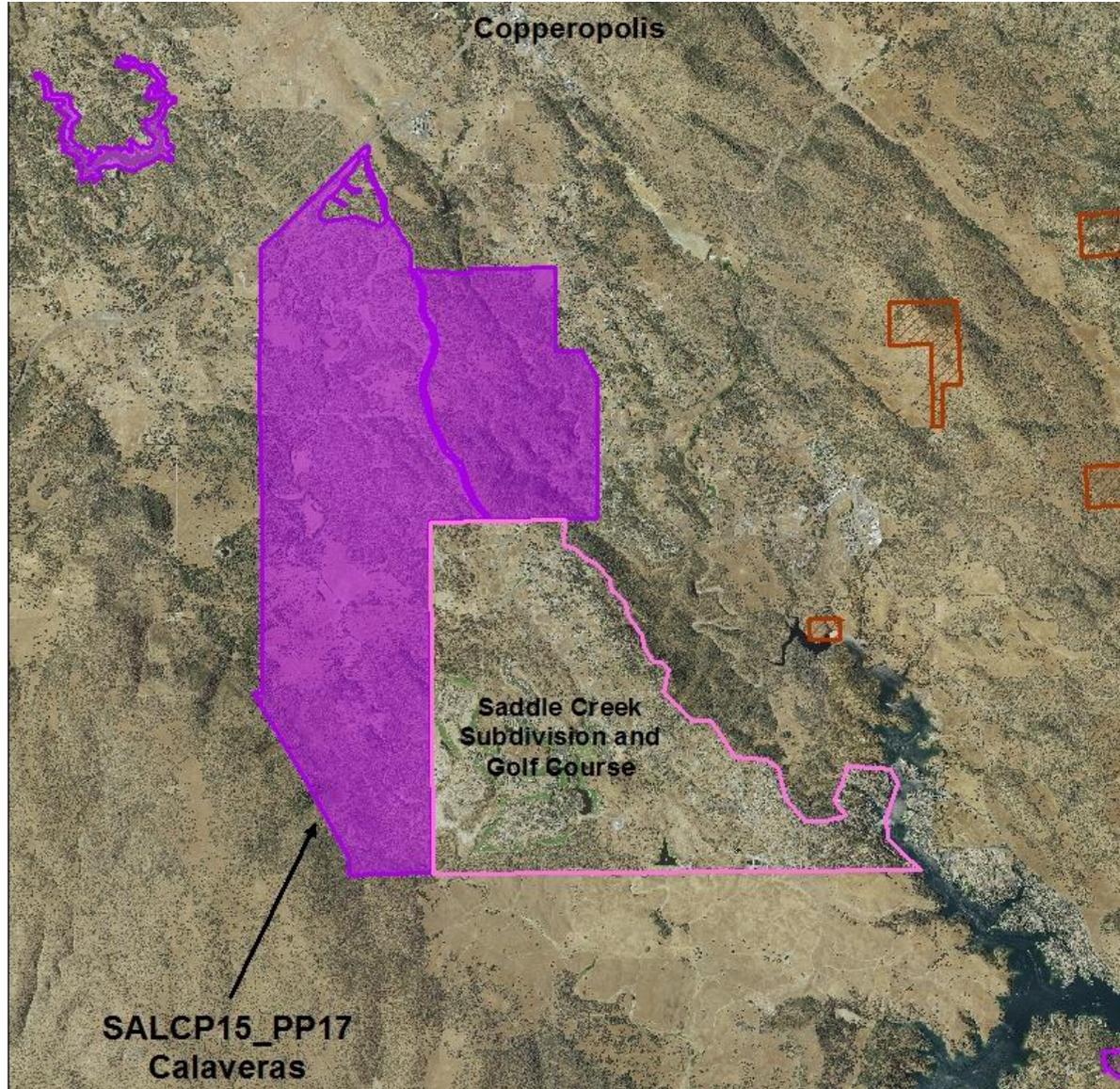
551 acres

Adjacent to Discovery Bay

*CO₂ estimated reduction:
1,017,704 metric tons.¹*

Productive land & community buffer

ACE Project: Calaveras County



3,256 acres

Within Copperopolis SOI

CO₂ estimated reduction:

8,459,224 metric tons.¹

Retires development agreement

NEXT STEPS

COUNCIL APPROVES ROUND 2 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

DOC Staff begin preparing grant agreements

SGC SALC Team Holds Round 2 “Lessons Learned” and meets with individual stakeholders to inform Round 3 Program Changes.

Recommended Action:

Approve staff recommendation to award **\$37,417,000** to 21 agricultural land conservation projects (20 agricultural conservation easements, 1 Strategy & Outcome, as well as 2 alternate easement projects.)

