

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP01_SON

Applicant

Sonoma County Agricultural
Preservation and Open
Space District

Project Location

Sonoma County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning
density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

324 potential development
rights extinguished
56,072,548 VMT
51,913 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±348.11

Funding Requested

\$800,000

Match Funding

Applicant – Funding Secured

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

Applicant is requesting grant funding for an easement acquisition on a ±348-acre organic dairy near Petaluma in Sonoma County. The property has rolling to flat terrain, abundant water secured through wells, spring boxes and water rights, a mild climate, forage and haylage production that has supported the family dairy and crop production for over 100 years. The owners have a strong history of conservation and environmental stewardship, including early adoption of riparian restoration, conservation plans and NRCS EQIP projects, an existing carbon farm plan, and long-range sustainability plans.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: Rural residential development is significant in the area, as evidenced by the unincorporated town of Liberty. Protection of the property would encourage residential development towards existing urban areas.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: Existing Carbon Farm Plan and ongoing riparian restoration.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: Numerous NRCS EQIP Projects and organically managed.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: Riparian habitat along the upper reaches of Stemple Creek.

Economic: Employment of 30 workers.

Environmental:

Proximity to Protected Land: Within 5 miles of 20 protected ranches within Sonoma County and 13 protected properties in Marin County.

Source Water Protection: The property is located within a Major Natural Recharge Area and the Wilson Grove Formation Highlands groundwater basin.

Notable Features

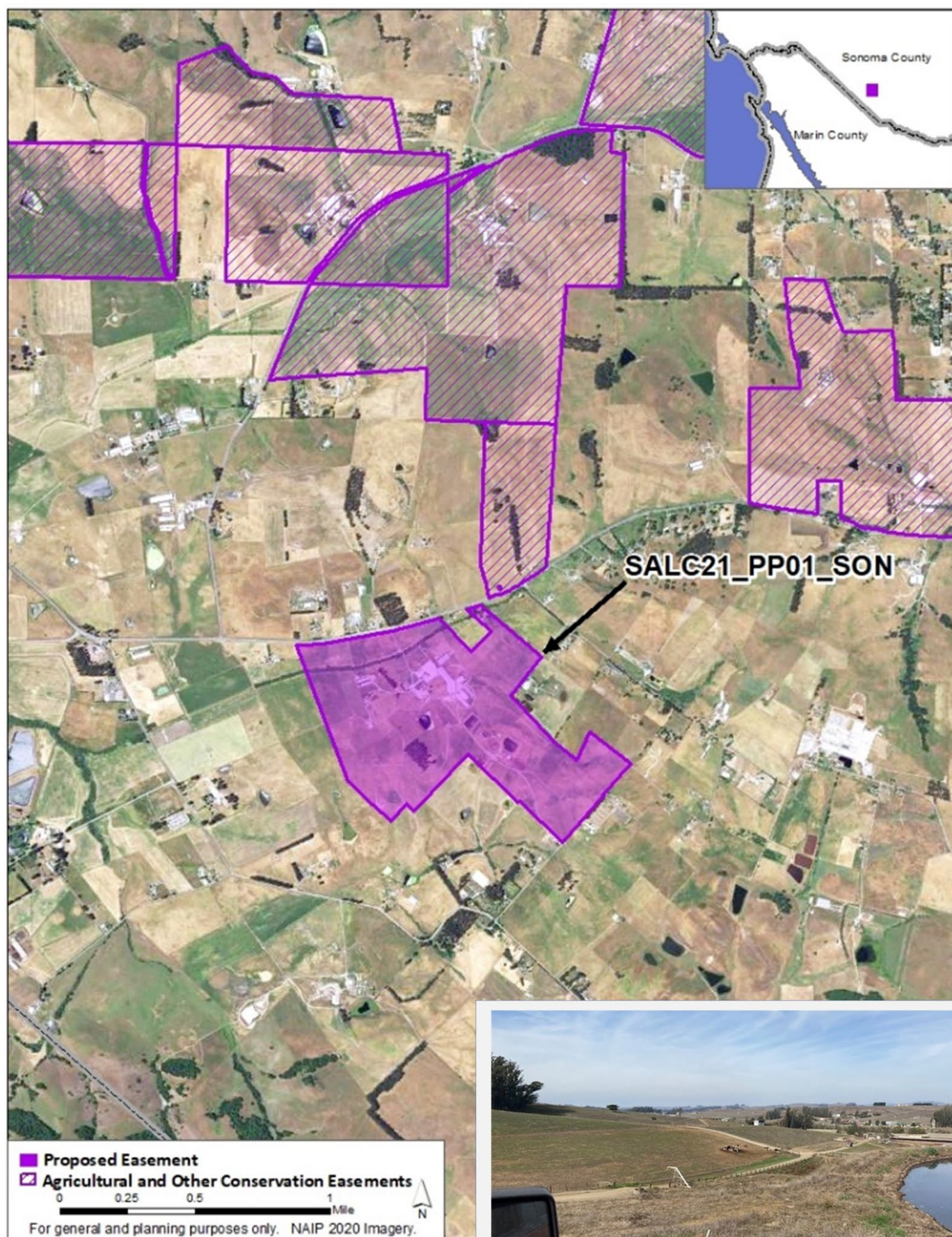
Applicant may purchase an affirmative covenant requiring ongoing productive agricultural use.

Landowner wishes to reserve the right to continue the seasonal pumpkin patch.

Agricultural intensification may be restricted along Stemple Creek.

The project includes development and implementation of a SALC funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP02_SOL

Applicant

Solano Land Trust

Project Location

County of Solano

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

484 potential development

rights extinguished

42,791,669 VMT

31,028 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±217 acres

Funding Requested

\$2,966,250

Match Funding

Match Funders Identified - City of Dixon and City of Davis are potential match funders with agricultural mitigation funds.

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed project is for a conservation easement on a ±217 acres in which ±43 acres are grazed by cattle and ±169 acres is farmed in row crops (tomatoes, wheat and sunflowers). The property is located in Solano County in the Agricultural Region of Dixon Ridge. The property borders the City of Davis and Yolo County line to the North, along with its adjacency to both Putah Creek to the North and the Putah South Canal to the South. The property has two agricultural wells as well as riparian rights via Putah creek. The property is part of the Dixon/Solano Water Quality Coalition. The property is newly owned by a beginning farmer and is owner-operated with a farm manager for support.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: Project is adjacent to the City of Davis and is located 5.48 miles from the City of Dixon. There is increased pressure to develop in both Yolo and Solano counties. Protection of the proposed project will support infill within these two cities.

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property would add to a greenbelt along the City of Davis border and serves as community separator between the cities of Davis and Dixon.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: Cover cropping to improve soil quality.

Water Management Practices: Landowner participating in the SWEPS program to improve irrigation and water use.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property has North Putah creek on the northern border and south Putah Creek on the south and provides riparian habitat to birds and wildlife. The property lies in a region known for Swainson's hawk and other raptors.

Environmental:

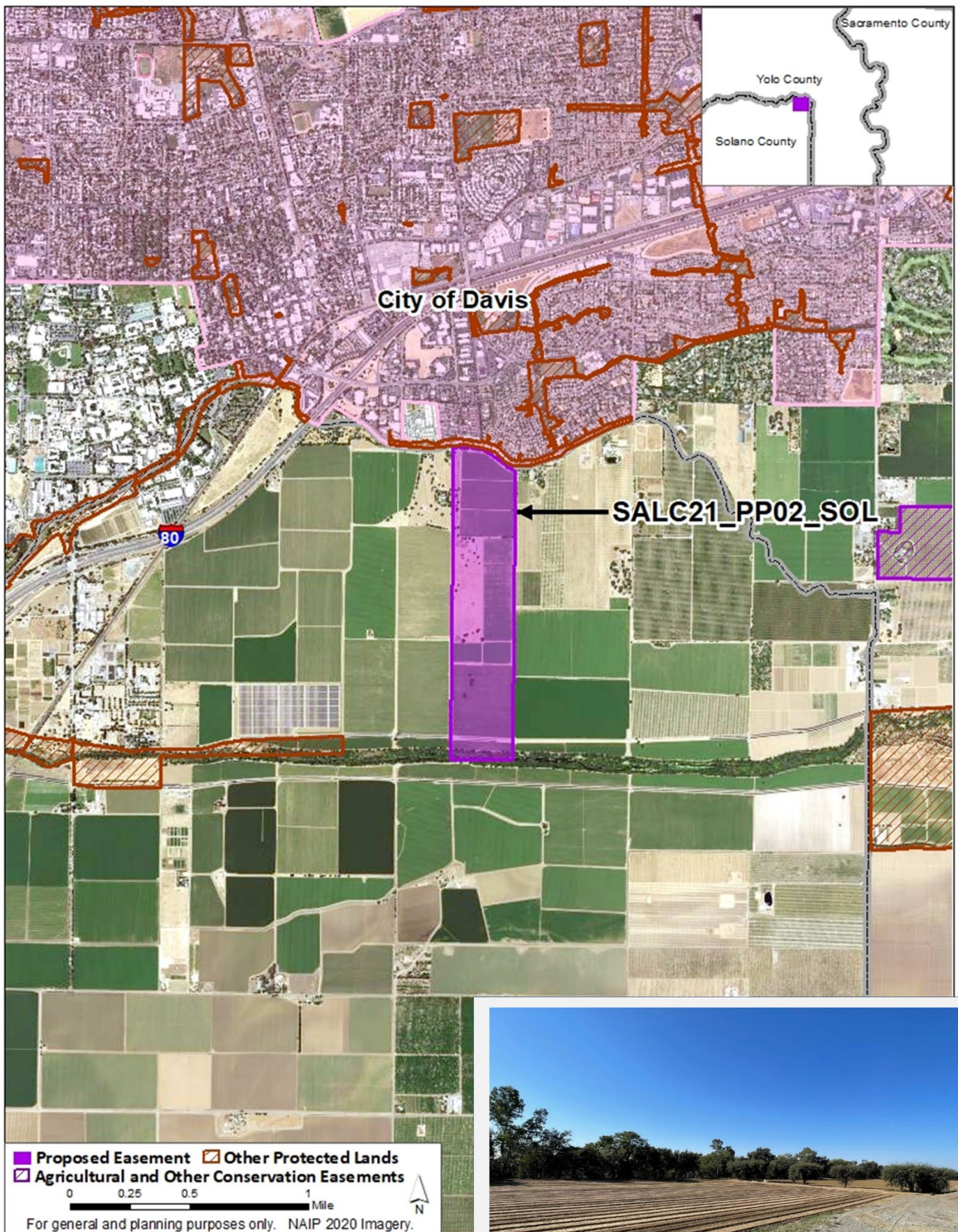
Proximity to Protected Land: The property is located within a few miles of approximately 3,400 acres of protected lands.

Viewshed: The property is located within the viewshed of Highway 80.

Notable Features

Not applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP03_SBA

Applicant

California Rangeland Trust

Project Location

Santa Barbara County

Recommended Ranking

C-Larger potential
issue

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural at Risk zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

7 potential development
rights extinguished

5,175,632 VMT

2,353 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±1,012

Funding Requested

\$1,312,500

Match Funding

Match Funder(s) Identified –
Smart Foundation, Kiewit
Foundation, NRCS, WCB

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

Applicant is seeking grant funding to purchase an agricultural conservation easement on a ±1,012-acre ranch in Santa Barbara County. The ranch supports a commercial cow/calf operation (typically 50-100 pairs) with cattle grazing as the primary use of the property. The property contains 2 wells, 2 active springs, and a 2-acre reservoir. The entire property is classified as Grazing Land by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program and includes 163 acres of coastal oak woodlands.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: Eliminating the subdivision potential of this large ranch would help drive development into existing residential areas.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The property's rangelands and oak woodlands act as natural carbon sink while the managed grazing helps reduce wildfire fuel loads on the property, thereby providing a natural firebreak between the Los Padres National Forest and the nearby communities.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property is proximal to mapped critical habitat and the Los Padres National Forest and Siquoc River corridor.

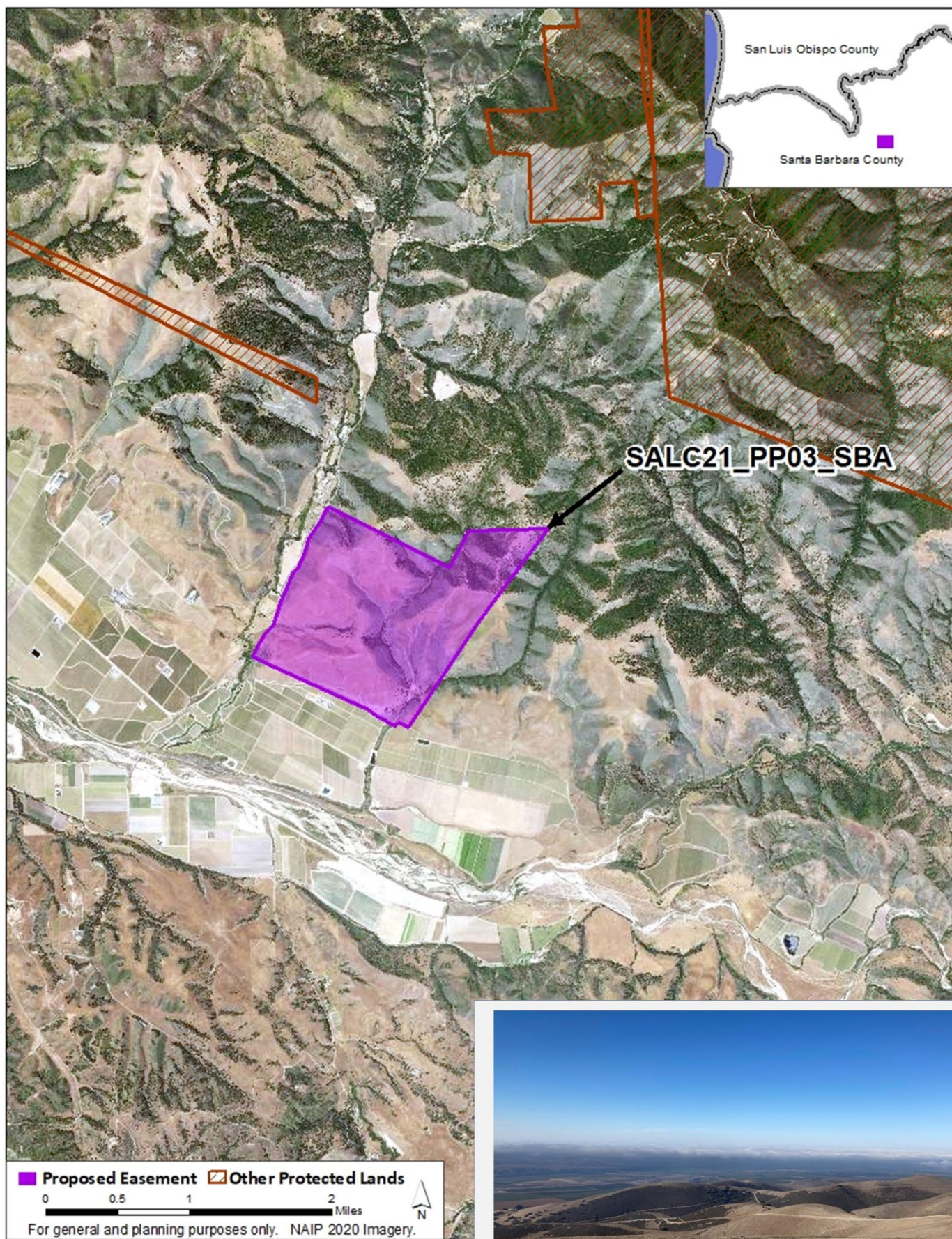
Food Production: The property supports the production of sustainably raised grass-fed beef.

Notable Features

The legal description of the property's eastern boundary is in the process of refinement to address existing gaps.

The landowner has reserved the right to develop intensified agriculture on 10% of property

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP04_CAL

Applicant

California Rangeland Trust

Project Location

Calaveras County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

138 potential development rights extinguished
101,445,239 VMT
48,215 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±3,004

Funding Requested

\$2,538,000

Match Funding

Match Funder(s) Identified – SNC, NRCS, CDFW, WCB

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

Applicant is seeking grant funding to purchase an agricultural conservation easement on a ±3,004-acre ranch adjacent to Salt Spring Valley Reservoir in Calaveras County. The ranch is one of the largest contiguous private land holdings in western Calaveras County and supports a commercial cow/calf operation. The ranch contains three active springs, seven stock ponds, a 2-mile stretch of Rock Creek, and numerous perennial streams. The property is classified primarily as Farmland of Local Importance by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: Eliminating the subdivision potential of this large ranch would help drive development into existing residential areas, such as Rancho Calaveras, Copperopolis, and Valley Springs. The property's adjacency to Salt Spring Valley Reservoir makes it appealing for lake-view lots.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The property's rangelands and oak woodlands act as a natural carbon sink while the managed grazing helps reduce wildfire fuel loads on the property.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity/Habitat: A portion of the property lies within the Salt Spring Valley Important Bird Area. Expansion and connection of two large existing conservation easement held by CDFW.

Environmental:

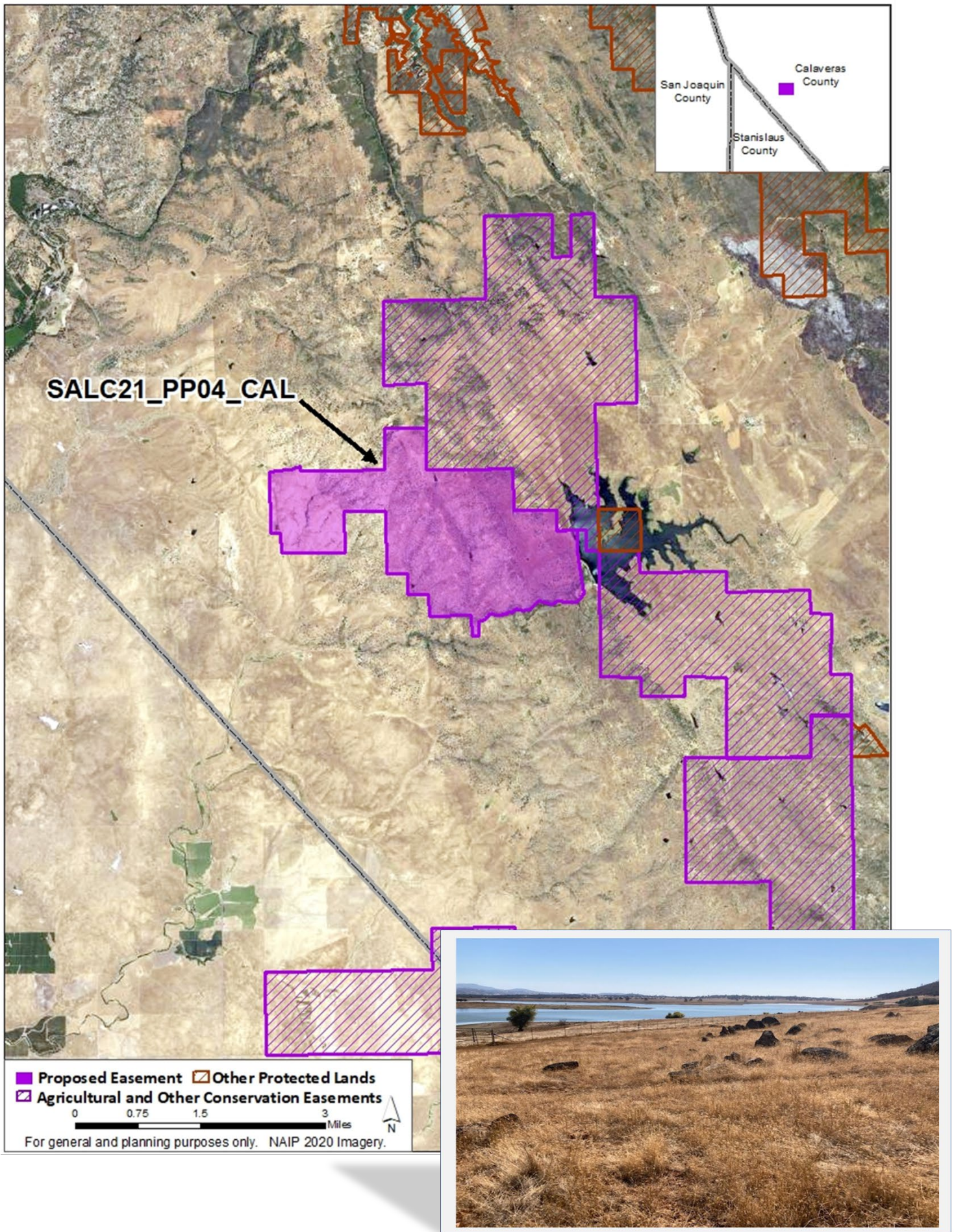
Proximity to Protected Land: The property is adjacent to the Salt Spring Valley Conservation easements held by CDFW, totaling over 7,548 acres in size.

Food Production: The property supports the production of sustainably raised grass-fed beef.

Notable Features

The landowner has reserved the right to develop intensified agriculture on 10% of property.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP05_SUT

Applicant

Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

Project Location

Sutter County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

2 potential development rights extinguished

1,708,246 VMT

722 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±137.19

Funding Requested

\$493,723

Match Funding

Application Not Yet

Submitted – NRCS-ACEP

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed project is for an agricultural conservation easement on a ±137.19-acre ranch located in the northwestern portion of Sutter County approximately 2.5 miles from Meridian and 17 miles west of Yuba City. Comprised of three non-contiguous parcels, the property is 90% prime farmland. It is currently planted with ±116.4 acres of walnuts and ±6.9 acres of fruit trees. The walnuts and fruit grown on the ranches are distributed locally, nationally and internationally. Irrigation water is supplied through onsite wells and is distributed through water-efficient micro-sprinklers.

The project is located within the State Mandated Flood Hazard Area, and would contribute to the protection of the

larger floodplain. It also provides habitat to the migrating bird populations and is located near the Sutter Buttes.

Strategic Value

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil Quality: The project provides soil building benefits through compost application, mulching of tree cuttings and no-till practices.

Water Management Practices: Irrigation with micro-sprinklers for water efficiency.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: Property is located on the pacific flyway and has occurrences of Swainson's Hawk, bank swallow, tricolored blackbird, greater sandhill crane, and San Joaquin Pocket Mouse.

Environmental: The property provides flood protection

Proximity to Protected Land: Adjacency to wildlife areas and other protected properties.

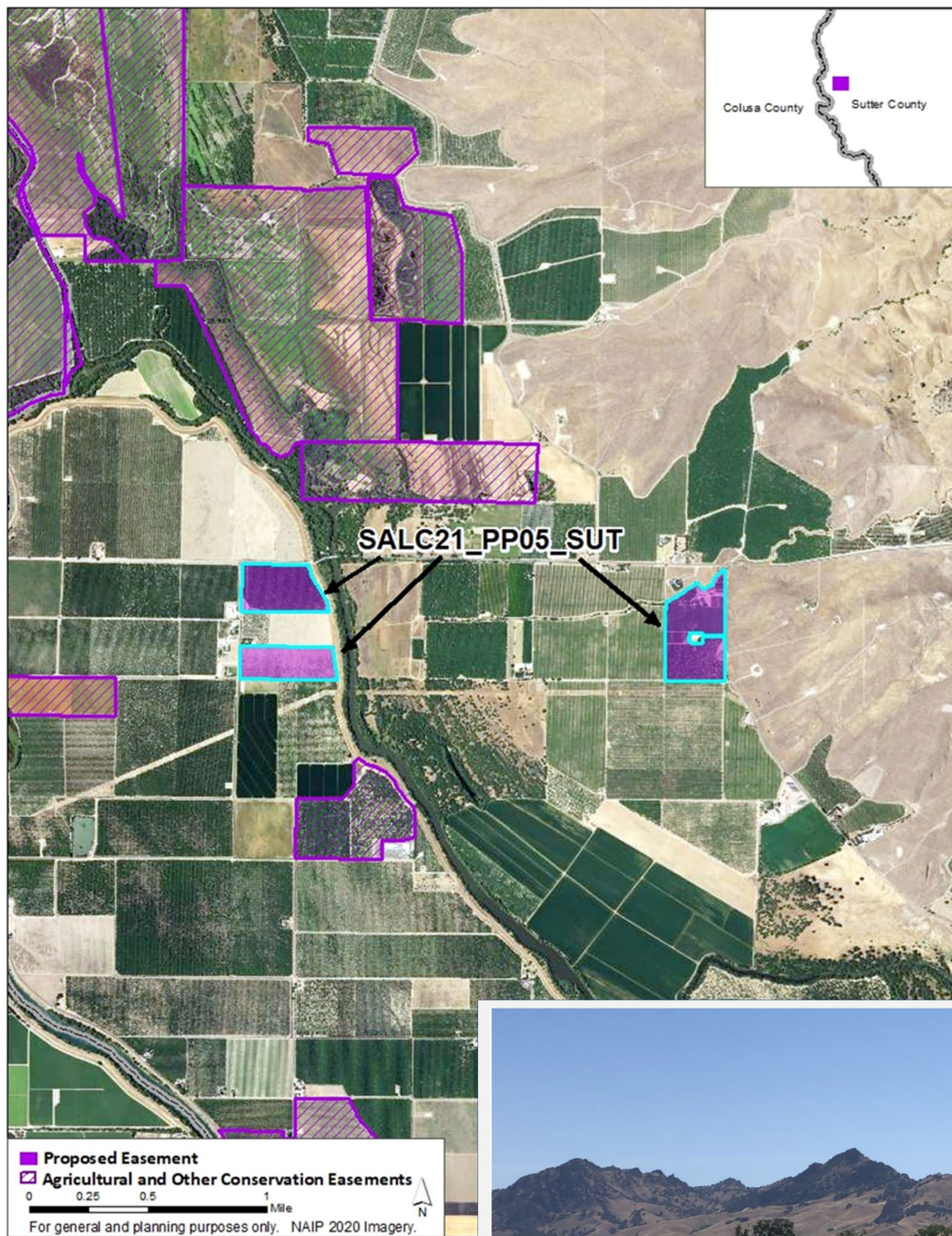
Viewshed: Protection of the scenic views of the Sutter Buttes.

Public Health: The landowner works with a pest control advisor to adjust pesticides, fertilization and micro-nutrient applications to reduce pests, build soil health, and maximize production.

Notable Features

Not applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP06_BUT

Applicant

Northern California Regional
Land Trust

Project Location

Butte County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires
resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

202 potential development
rights extinguished

0 VMT

3,943 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±255 acres

Funding Requested

\$3,008,098

Match Funding

Match Committed –
Landowner Donation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

Applicant is seeking grant funding to purchase an agricultural conservation easement on a +255-acre orchard north of the City of Chico in Butte County. The established orchard is composed of almond and walnut trees. The property has four irrigation wells and minimal infrastructure. The entire property is classified as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance by Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The property location and zoning have been considered ideal for ranchette development in the past. Protecting this property with an easement will extinguish the conversion potential and encourage more efficient infill within the City's planning jurisdiction.

Greenbelt/Community Separator: Adjacent to the Green Line located along the western side of Chico.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: Bio-solarization, compost, and cover crops.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: Demonstration site for regenerative agriculture practices.

Water Management Practices: Irrigation water efficiency.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: Wildlife travel corridor along Mud Creek / Keefer Slough. Cover crops support pollinators.

Economic: Almond and walnut production support food security and contribute to the ag economy of the state.

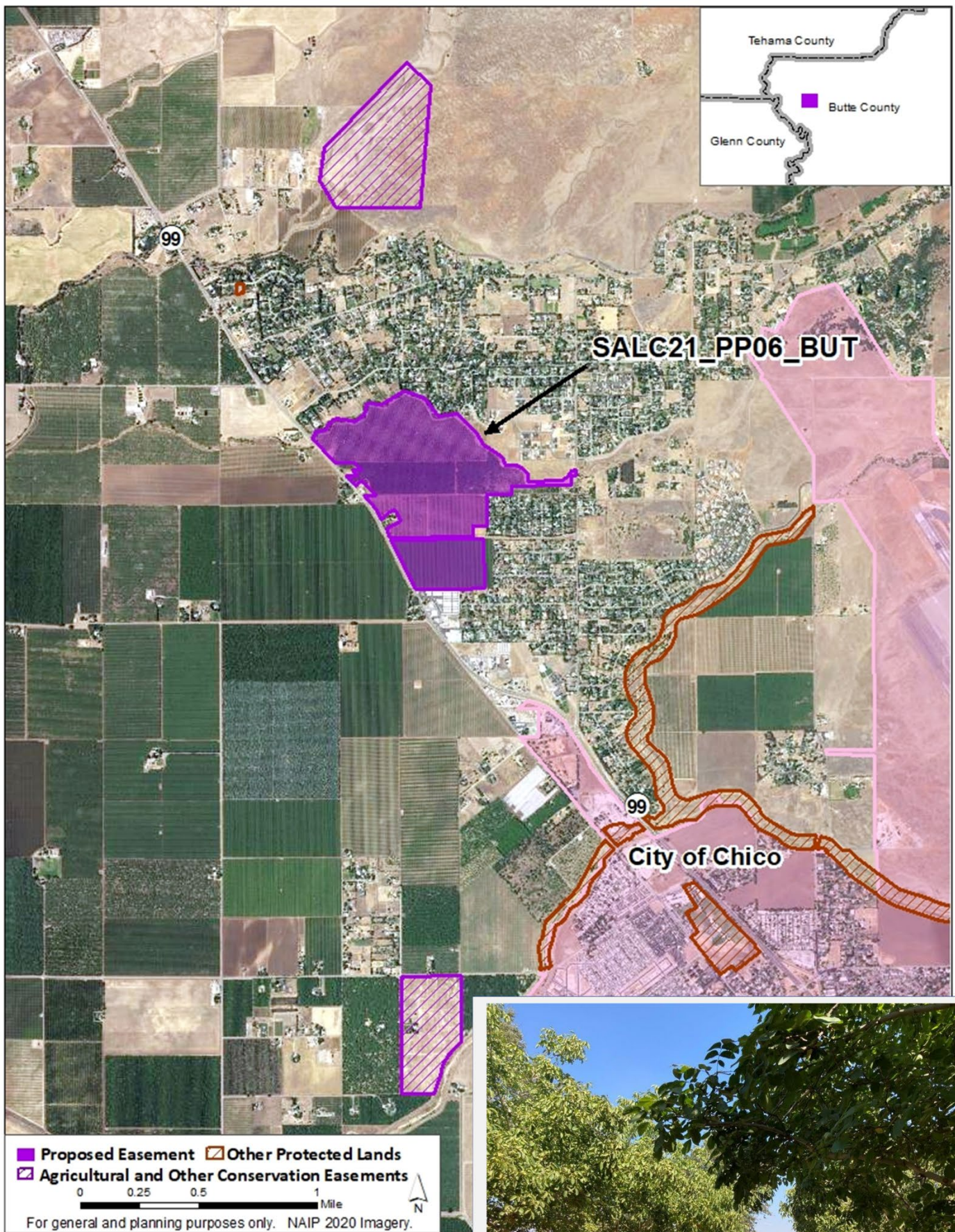
Environmental:

Proximity to Protected Land: Proximal to 29 conservation easements and other public lands.

Notable Features

The property is a demonstration site for the CSU Chico Center for Regenerative Agriculture and Resilient Systems (CRARS). The land trust does not wish to prohibit the sale or transfer of separate ownership interests in the property to be encumbered by the conservation easement. The project includes development and implementation of a SALC funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP07_BUT

Applicant

Northern California Regional
Land Trust

Project Location

Butte County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning
density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

99 potential development
rights extinguished

18,107,811 VMT

15,253 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±1,170

Funding Requested

\$2,157,374

Match Funding

Qualifies for 100% SALC
Funding

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Description

The easement acquisition project is for a +1,170-acre property that supports a CCOF-certified organic, grass-fed beef cattle operation. The property is ranched regeneratively under a holistic management plan developed out of training and resources provided through the Savory Institute. The property currently has 2 agricultural wells and 2 residential wells that sustain the beef cattle operation and domestic needs. The applicant is reserving the right to develop 1-2 additional wells to ensure all cattle pasture units can support rotational grazing during extreme drought, and to support any future crop needs.

Strategic Value

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The property is operated under a holistic management plan and uses regenerative practices that support sustainable land management. The landowner maintains full control over how the cattle graze the property even if the cattle are leased. These regenerative practices increase soil carbon stores and water-and nutrient-retention capabilities, which contributes to carbon neutrality. The property helps protect biodiversity by protecting oak woodland habitat and riparian corridors that support a variety of wildlife and vegetative species.

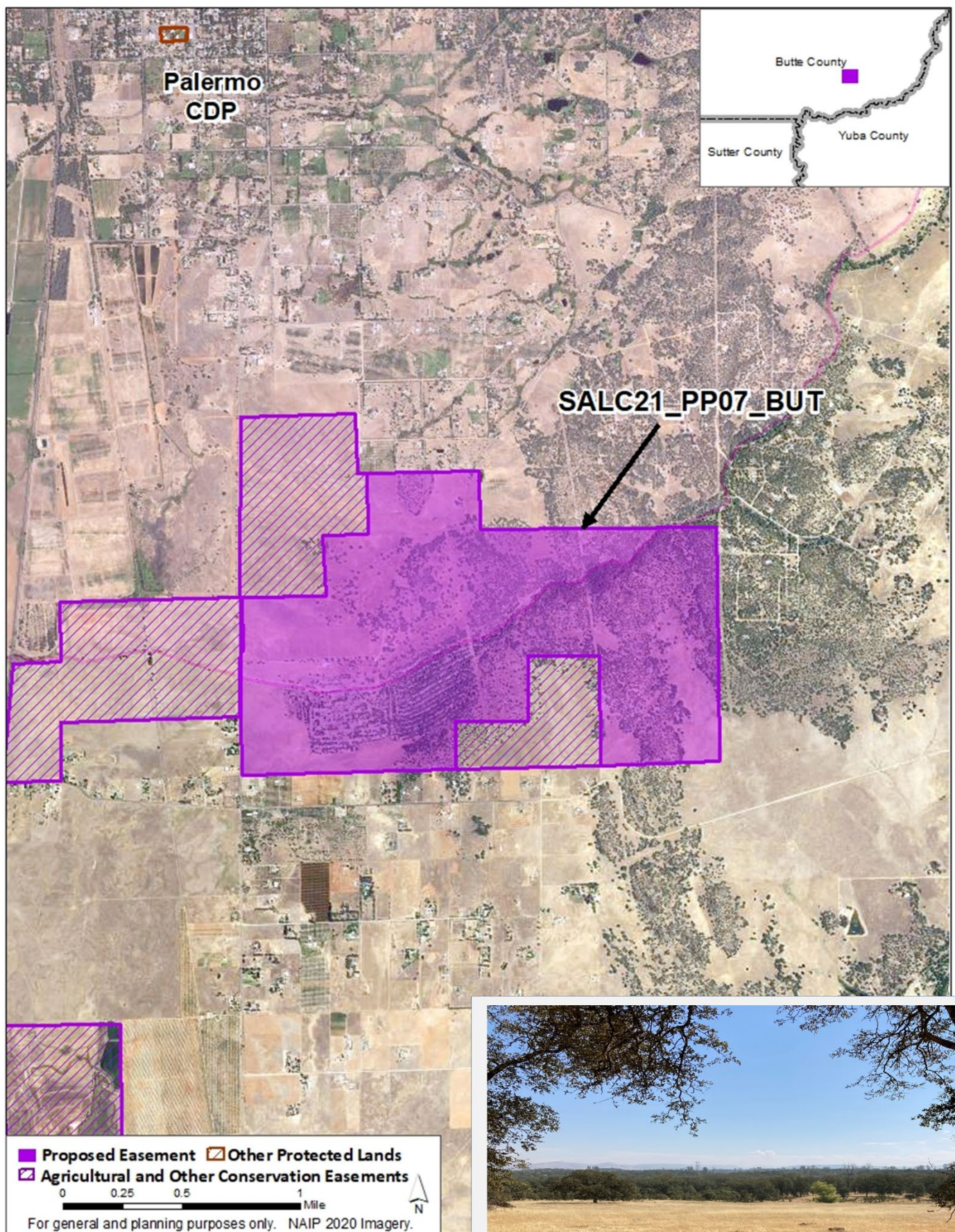
Equity

Priority Populations Benefits: The property provides priority population benefits by continuing educational practices. The ranch has been used as an outdoor classroom and learning site for multiple organizations including the Jefferson Center for Holistic Management, CSU Chico, Center for Regenerative Agricultural and Resilient Systems, and the Future Farmers of America chapter at Las Plumas High School.

Notable Features

The project includes development and implementation of a SALC funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP08_SCL

Applicant

Santa Clara Valley Open
Space Authority

Project Location

Santa Clara County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning
density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

22 potential development
rights extinguished

4,795,089 VMT

3,274 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±78.96

Funding Requested

\$1,245,000

Match Funding

Agreement Executed – Local
Agricultural Preservation
funds via agreement with the
County

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

This project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ±79-acre irrigated farm located within San Martin, a census designated place in Santa Clara County. The property has been in production for over 55 years producing crops such as peppers, pumpkins, beans, broccoli, corn, cucumbers, garlic, onions, cabbage, tomatoes, and other row crops. Existing infrastructure on the property includes a large barn and a well.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: Protection of the property would build on the previously funded Sustainable Agricultural Conservation Program easement property and provide a block of conserved lands between San Martin and Gilroy. The proposed easement would remove the potential for high density development over important agricultural lands and promote infill development in already established urbanized communities.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: The property consists of prime and important farmland soils.

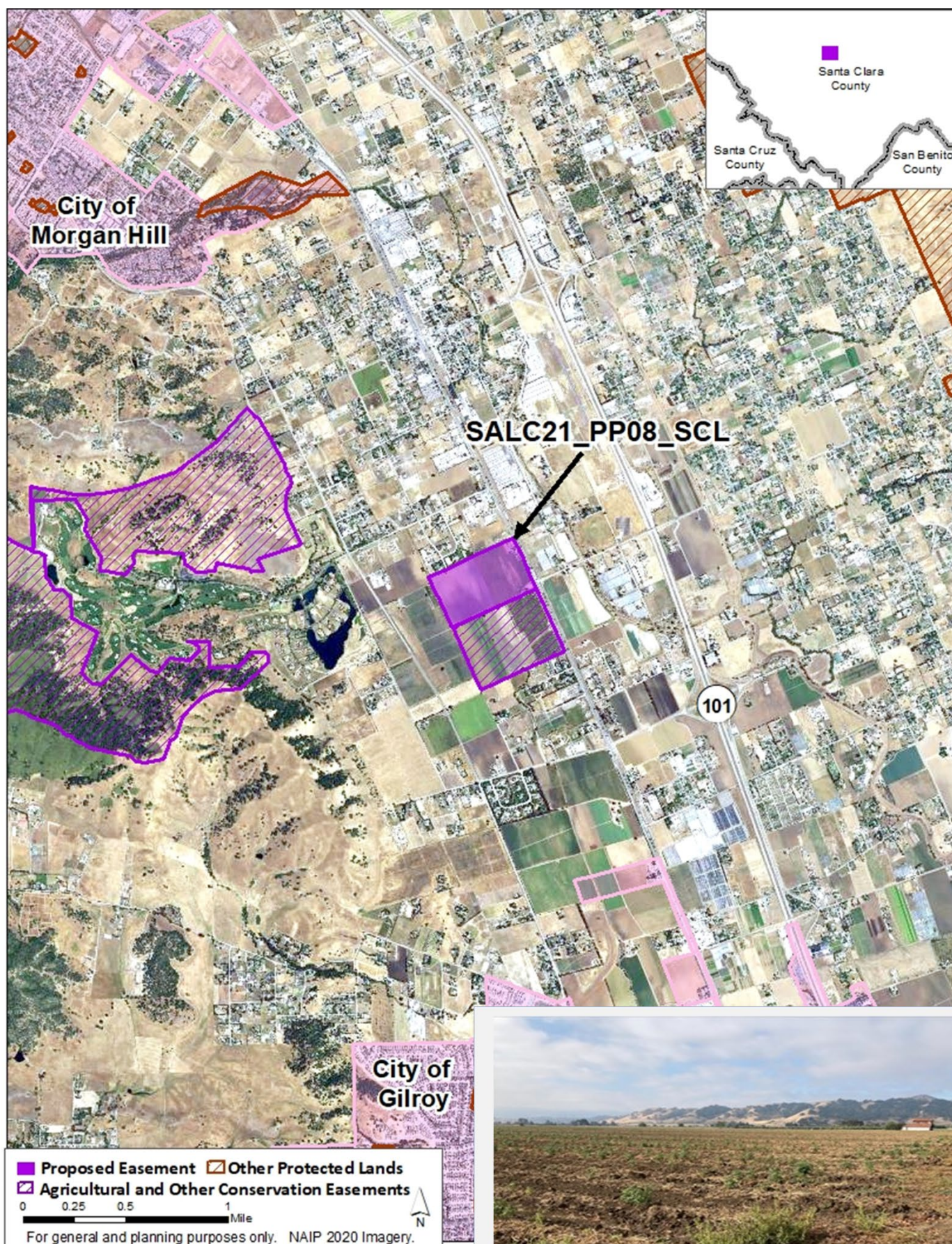
Co-Benefits

Economic: The property supports regional economic stability. Food produced on the property is distributed locally, nationally, and international, which support local supply chains and regional food security.

Notable Features

The property is located in San Martin, which is part of the Agricultural Resource Area, as defined in the SALC-funded Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan and is identified as a priority conservation area for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP09_MER

Applicant

California Farmland Trust

Project Location

Merced County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural At Risk zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

2 potential development
rights extinguished

1,669,762 VMT

739 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±66.93

Funding Requested

\$561,975

Match Funding

Funding Committed –
Landowner Donation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

Applicant is seeking grant funding for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on a +66.93-acre farm located two miles west of the City of Gustine. A former dairy, the farm has been owned by the same family since 1918 and is currently planted with walnuts. Irrigation water is available through the Central California Irrigation District via the Sullivan Extension and a deep well. The farm is located in agricultural region characterized by its high soil quality, dependable water supply, and access to critical processing and marketing infrastructure. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program classifies the property as predominately Prime Farmland.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: Proximity to the City of Gustine and the I-5 Highway create residential/commercial conversion pressure.

Greenbelt: Protection of the property will contribute to greenbelt forming to the west of Gustine.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: Soil disturbance is reduced through no-till methods.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality & Water: Soils are predominately classified as Prime Farmland. Multiple sources of dependable irrigation water.

Co-Benefits

Economic: The agricultural operation provides jobs and contributes to the regional economy. Walnuts are one of Merced County's top producing agricultural commodities, contributing \$17M in cash receipts to the regional economy in 2010. The landowner utilizes local business for harvesting, hulling, drying and shelling.

Food Security/Production: The property produces a nutritious crop with a relatively long shelf life.

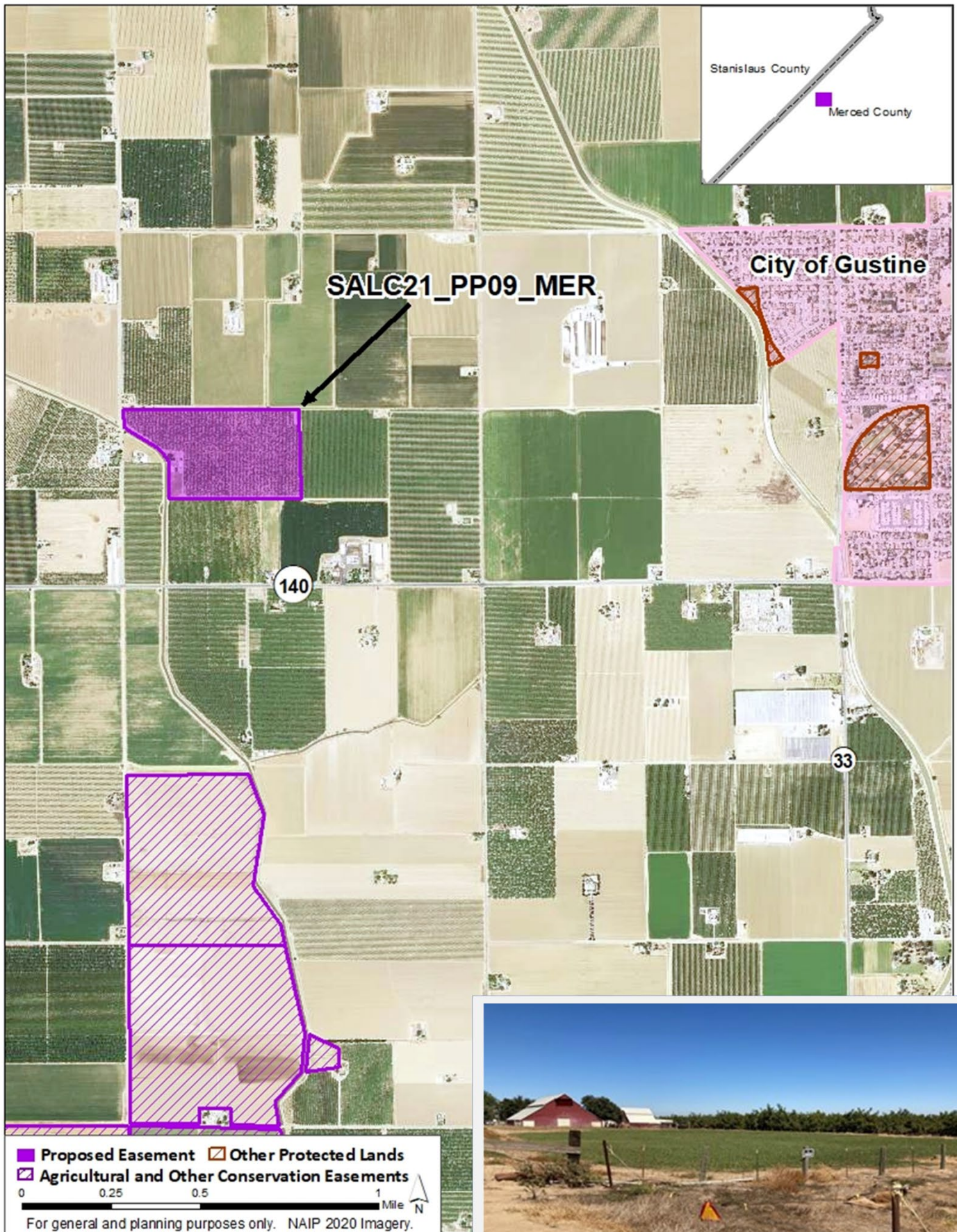
Environmental:

Proximity to Protected Land: Numerous other protected lands in the proximity. There are approximately 564 acres of protected lands within 2 miles.

Notable Features

Not applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP10_MER

Applicant

California Rangeland Trust

Project Location

Merced County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural At Risk zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

7 potential development rights extinguished

5,844,166 VMT

2,685 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±1,307

Funding Requested

\$1,260,000

Match Funding

Match Funder(s) Identified – BOR, WCB, NRCS

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ±1,307-acre cattle ranch located one mile north of Snelling, a census designated place in Merced County. The property consists of mostly grasslands with vernal pools scattered throughout the proposed easement area. The landowners run a seasonal cow/calf and stocker program, which includes a stocker program that grazes 440 head from October through May and a cow/calf program that grazes in ten to twelve pairs during the summer months. Water is supplied from the North Side Canal, streams, and stock ponds. No other infrastructure is located on the proposed easement property.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The property is located one mile north of Snelling and contributes to a block of easements to the North of University of California Merced, which will promote infill development and lessen the likelihood of the conversion of farmland/grazing land in the area to be converted to non-agricultural uses.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The landowner utilizes a management plan which contributes to soil health and sustainable dryland grazing operation.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The project will permanently protect vernal pool habitat scattered throughout the easement area and supports habitat for Fairy Shrimp and California Tiger Salamander.

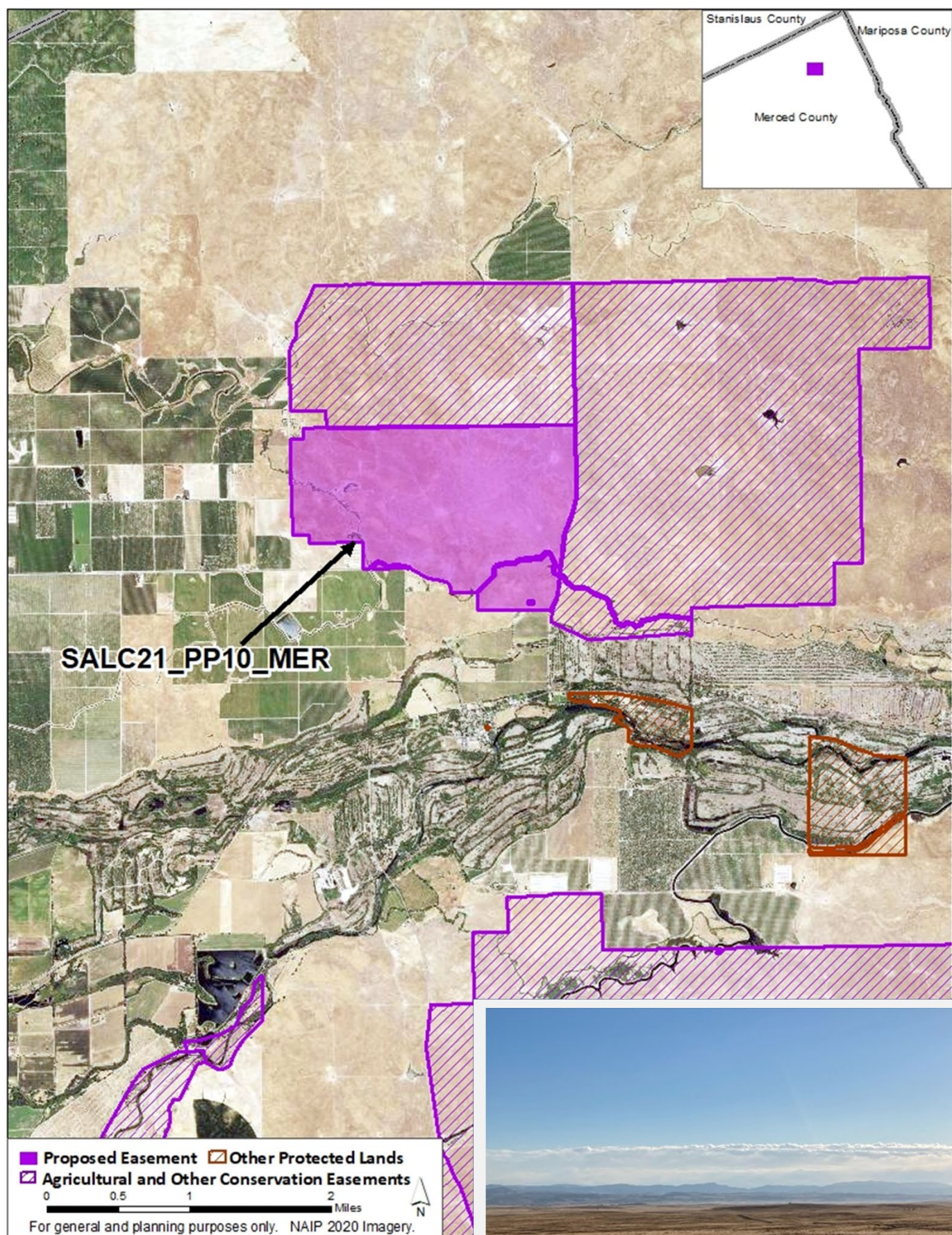
Environmental:

Proximity to Protected Land: The property is adjacent to 4,428 acres of permanently protected lands and would add to a block of over 25,000 acres of conserved lands North of the City of Merced.

Notable Features

Not applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP12_YOL

Applicant

City of Davis/Yolo Land Trust

Project Location

Yolo County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

550 potential development
rights extinguished

487,216,175 VMT

181,565 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±120

Funding Requested

\$915,000

Match Funding

Funding Secured - Special
Open Space Acquisition
Parcel Taxes (Measure O)
and Open Space
Development Impact Fees

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed project is for an agricultural easement on a ±120-acre almond orchard located approximately one-half mile from the City of Davis. The property is comprised of 100% prime soils and has two highly productive agricultural wells. The family that owns and operates the farmland are third generation farmers and farm other properties nearby including one that is protected by another SALC easement.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The property is less than a mile from the City of Davis and will support compact development by protecting agricultural land and encouraging infill in nearby Davis.

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The project would build on an existing greenbelt around the city of Davis and would serve as a community separator between the cities of Davis, West Sacramento and Woodland.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: Protection and enhancement soil through cover cropping.

Water Management Practices: Water conservation through micro jet irrigation.

Co-Benefits

Economic: Project provides jobs for local residents and contributes to the local agricultural and support services economy.

Environmental:

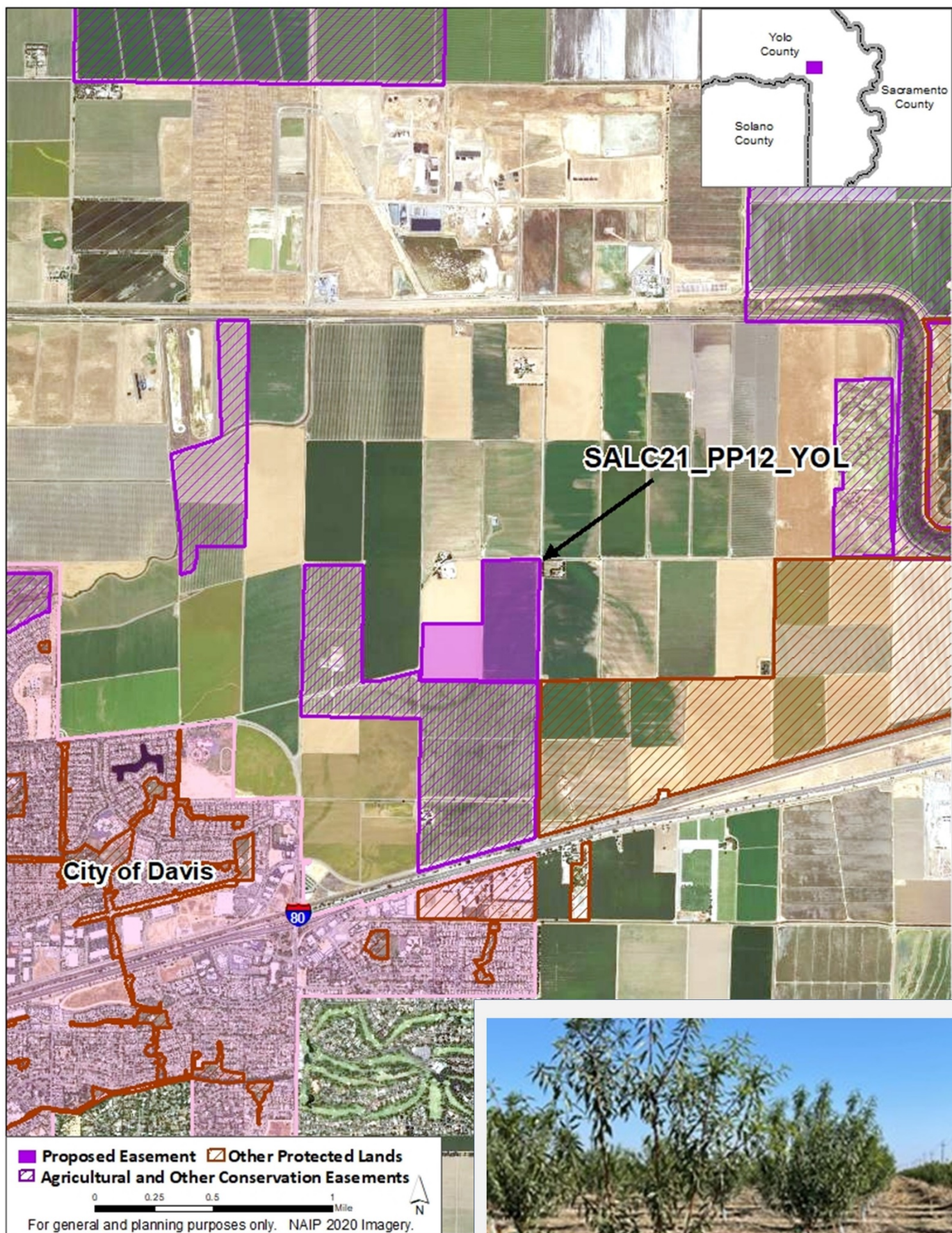
Proximity to Protected Land: the property is adjacent to a 359-acre agricultural conservation easement held by the City of Davis and the Yolo Land Trust and the southeast corner of the subject property touches the Howat Ranch property, which the City of Davis owns in fee.

Viewshed: Protection of the property would protect the viewshed along Mace Boulevard and Roads 30, 105 and 30B. Protection of the property would also protect the view of the Sacramento skyline which is visible from the property.

Notable Features

Not Applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP14_FRE

Applicant

California Farmland Trust

Project Location

Fresno County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

1 potential development rights extinguished

834,881 VMT

347 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±57.77

Funding Requested

\$753,240

Match Funding

Qualifies for 100% SALC Funding

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Description

Applicant is seeking grant funding for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on a 58-acre farm located approximately 5 miles north of the City of Kerman. Formerly a vineyard, the property was planted to almonds in 2018. Irrigation water is available through either the Fresno Irrigation District or an onsite groundwater well. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program classifies the property as Prime Farmland.

Strategic Value

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: Soil disturbance is reduced through no-till methods and cover cropping.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality & Water: Soils are predominately classified as Prime Farmland. Multiple sources of dependable irrigation water.

Co-Benefits

Economic: The agricultural operation provides jobs and contributes to the regional economy.

Food Security/Production: The property produces a nutritious crop with a relatively long shelf life.

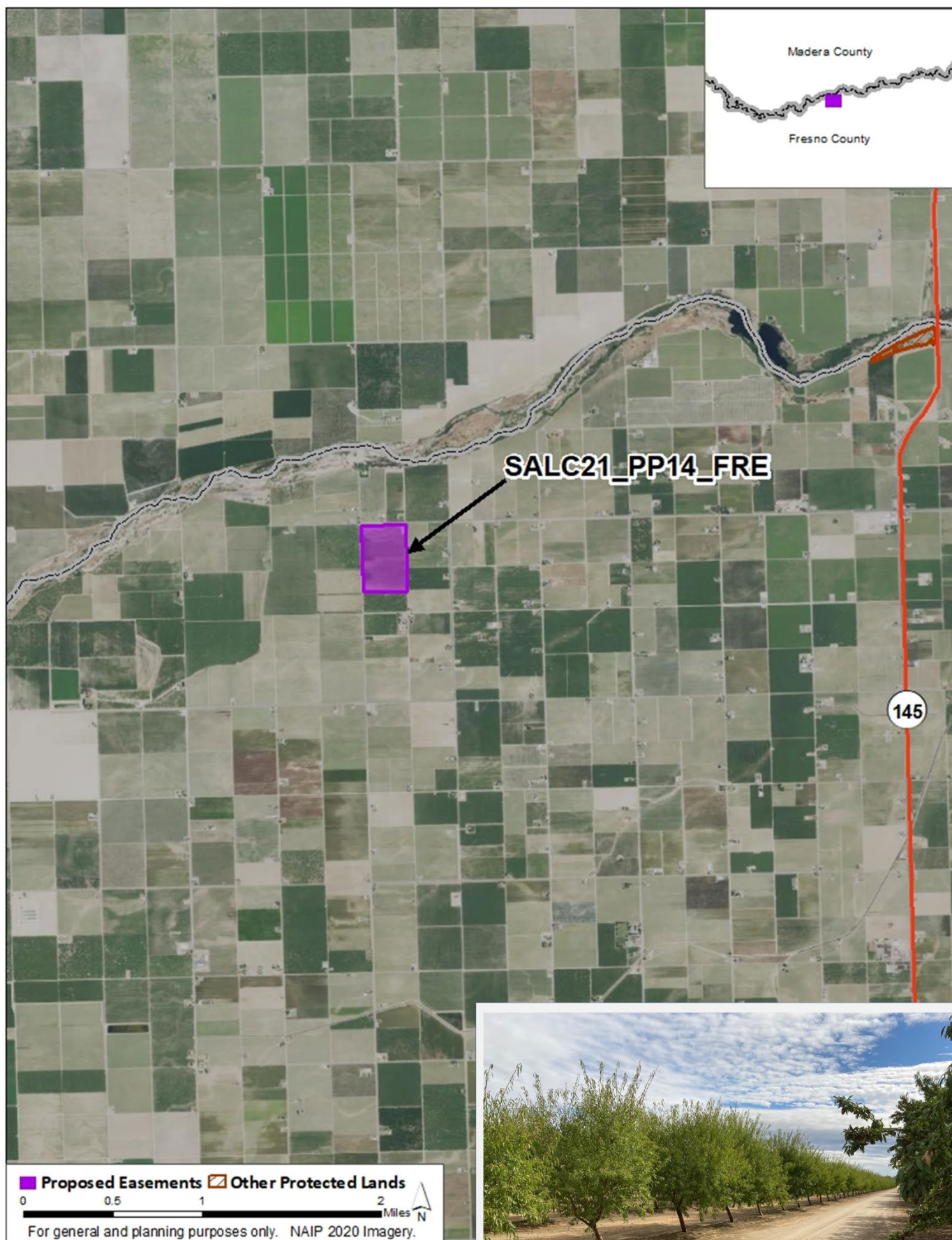
Groundwater Recharge: The property provides beneficial groundwater recharge in the form of permeable soils and flood irrigation.

Priority Populations: The property is located within a disadvantaged community and provides meaningful benefits to a school located within a disadvantaged community. Through community engagement, the landowner is providing a unique educational opportunity to students relating to honeybee pollination on almond farms. The landowner hosts field trips to the farm where 5th and 6th grade students from students located within a disadvantaged community get hands-on experience with beekeeping and pollination.

Notable Features

Not Applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP15_SLO

Applicant

The Land Conservancy San Luis Obispo County

Project Location

San Luis Obispo County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural At Risk zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

71 potential development rights extinguished

47,738,683 VMT

22,495 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±27,512

Funding Requested

\$5,060,000

Match Funding

Match Funder(s) Identified – WCB, State FY22/23 Budget Allocation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

This project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ± 27,512-acre ranch located between Highway 41 and Highway 58 and within seven miles of Shandon, a census designated place in San Luis Obispo County. The property consists of rolling hills, grasslands, and oak savanna that stretches from the Los Padres National Forest to the San Juan Valley. The property is utilized for cattle grazing, dryland farming, and irrigated agriculture. The cow-calf herd consists of ~350 cattle and are sold to conventional livestock markets annually. Another 300 cattle are run as part of a fall calving herd that sustains a direct-to-consumer. Many farm products grown on the property are sold to local restaurants and families. Water sources include wells, springs, and riparian areas.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The Shandon Community Plan suggests that the population will increase from approximately 1,200 residents in 2011 to a maximum of approximately 5,260 residents through 2037. This poses risk of conversion to the property that currently holds 97 certificates of compliance. Protection of the property will ensure compact development within the surrounding area of Shandon.

Equity

Priority Populations Benefits: Property provides agritourism and educational opportunities for surrounding community members.

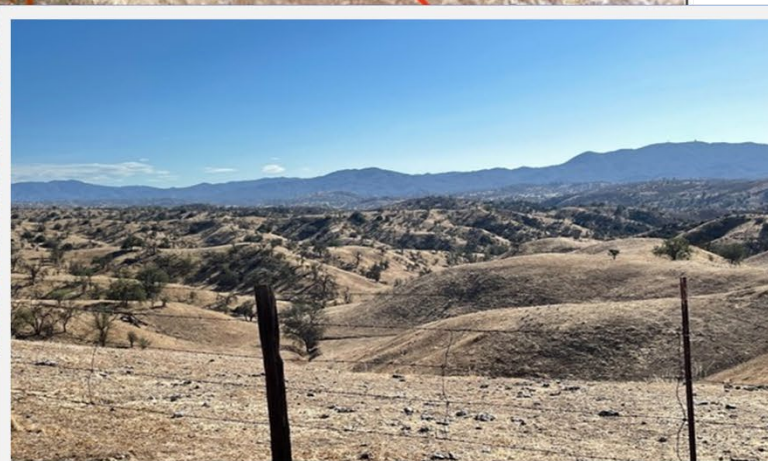
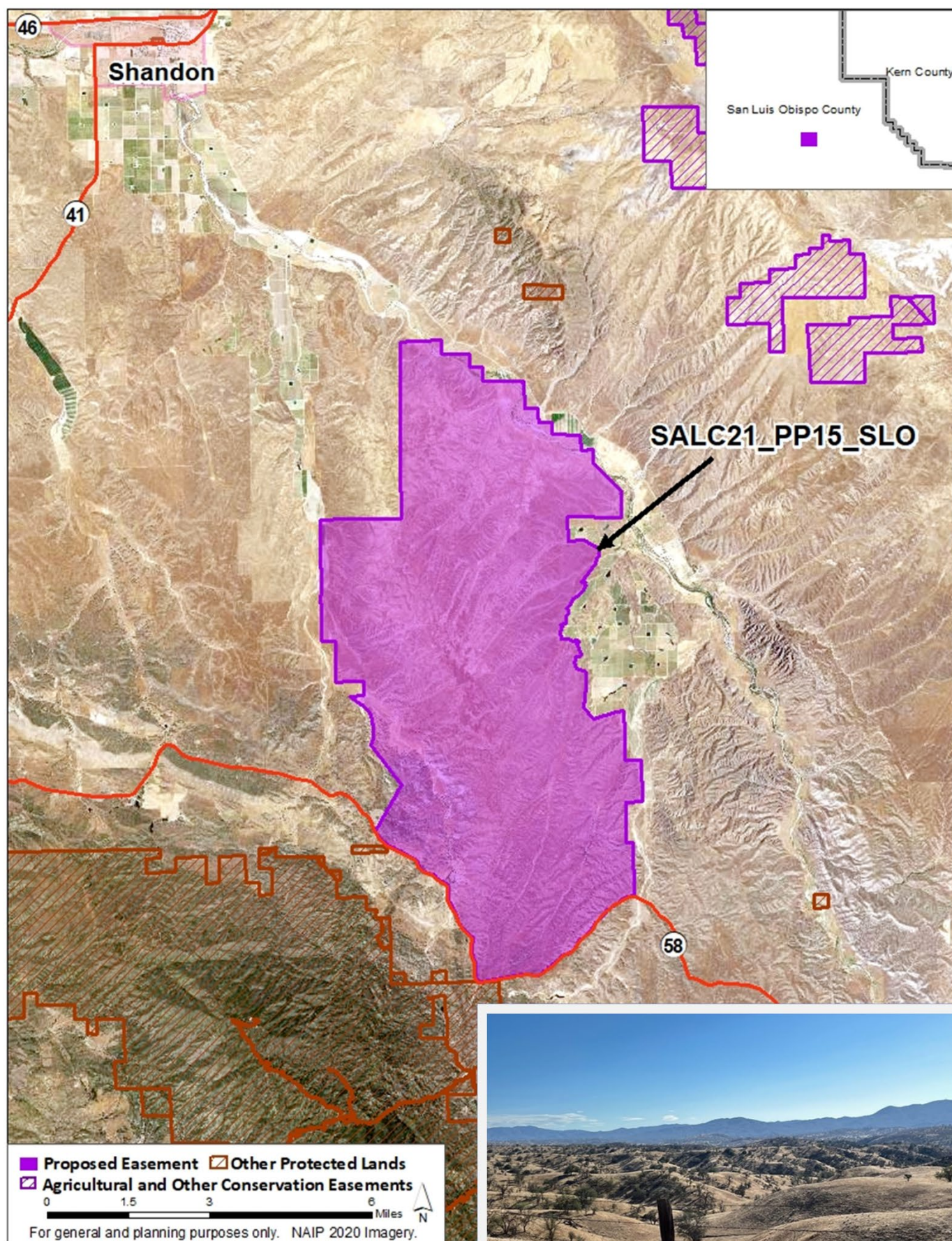
Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: Protection of the property will provide landscape-level protection for wildlife habitat, enhance long-term climate resilience within a major wildlife corridor, and maintain critical habitat for threatened and endangered plant and animal species, including the endangered San Joaquin kit fox. The easement would also virtually remove the need to list the federally threatened Camatta Canyon amole, an endemic flowering plant whose population is found almost exclusively on the ranch property.

Notable Features

Proceeds for this conservation easement are essential to raise the funds needed to conserve the SALC21_PP27_MER property located in Merced and Mariposa Counties and owned by the same family.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP16_SLO

Applicant

The Land Conservancy of
San Luis Obispo County

Project Location

San Luis Obispo County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires
resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural At Risk zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

3 potential development
rights extinguished
2,017,127 VMT
951 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±891

Funding Requested

\$2,670,000

Match Funding

Match Funder(s) Identified –
WCB, Adelaida CAPP,
General Grant

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed ±891-acre agricultural conservation easement is located approximately eight miles west of Templeton in San Luis Obispo County. Cattle are rotated between several livestock pastures on the property. Approximately 150 acres are fenced exclusively for sheep grazing. Meat produced on the ranch is sold direct-to-consumer and in Templeton markets. Fifty acres of wine grapes are grown and sold direct-to-consumers and to other nearby wineries. Agricultural infrastructure includes a 1,000-square foot vineyard shop, 1,200-square foot barn and housing for workers. Irrigation water is supplied from an onsite reservoir, extensive spring fed gravity stock water system, troughs, and water tanks.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The Ranch is located in northern San Luis Obispo County, less than ten miles from the Highway 101 corridor communities of Paso Robles, Templeton, and Atascadero. Protection of this property will promote infill development and limit sprawl to the west.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The ranch's existing oak woodlands, grasslands, and chaparral have a high level of climate change resilience. This project will build climate resilience by prohibiting the removal of native vegetation and ensuring that high-quality, climate resilient wildlife habitat is protected for species displaced by future climate change impacts.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property includes oak woodland, grassland, and shrub land habitat and is located within the wildlife corridor between Los Padres National Forest and Santa Lucia Range.

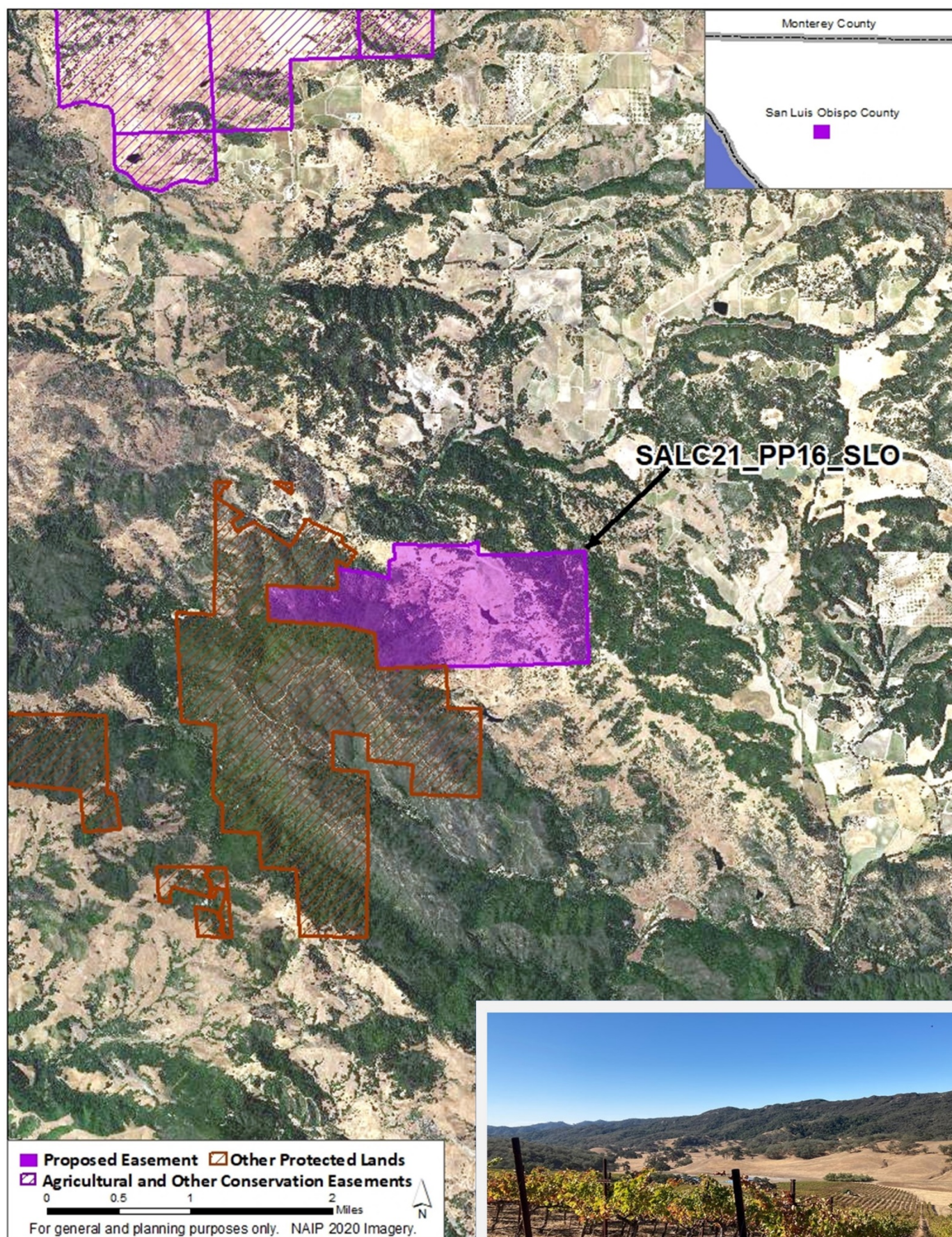
Environmental:

Proximity to Protected Land: The project is located within three miles of the Bonnheim conservation easement and is located within five miles of the SALCP-funded Fitzhugh Hill conservation easement. The property is located adjacent to the Cypress Mountain Sensitive Resource Conservation Area, managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Notable Features

Not Applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_P17_NEV

Applicant

Bear Yuba Land Trust

Project Location

Nevada County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

16 potential development rights extinguished

11,761,767 VMT

5,333 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±106

Funding Requested

\$1,025,000

Match Funding

Funding Committed –
Landowner Donation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed project is for an agricultural conservation easement on a ±106-acre ranch located adjacent to Penn Valley and approximately 3 miles from the city of Grass Valley. The ranch provides year-round pastures to a grass-fed cattle operation. The family has been ranching on the property since the mid 1800's.

There are approximately 40 calf-cow pairs that graze on the property. Water is supplied through onsite wells and the Nevada Irrigation District which provides ample water supply to irrigate the 40+ acres of pasture.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The project adds to an existing greenbelt along the edge of Penn Valley and provides a community separator between Penn Valley and Grass Valley.

Climate Resilience

Wildfire buffer: The property serves as a wildfire buffer for the nearby community.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Water Management Practices: Groundwater recharge through irrigation of pasturelands.

Co-Benefits

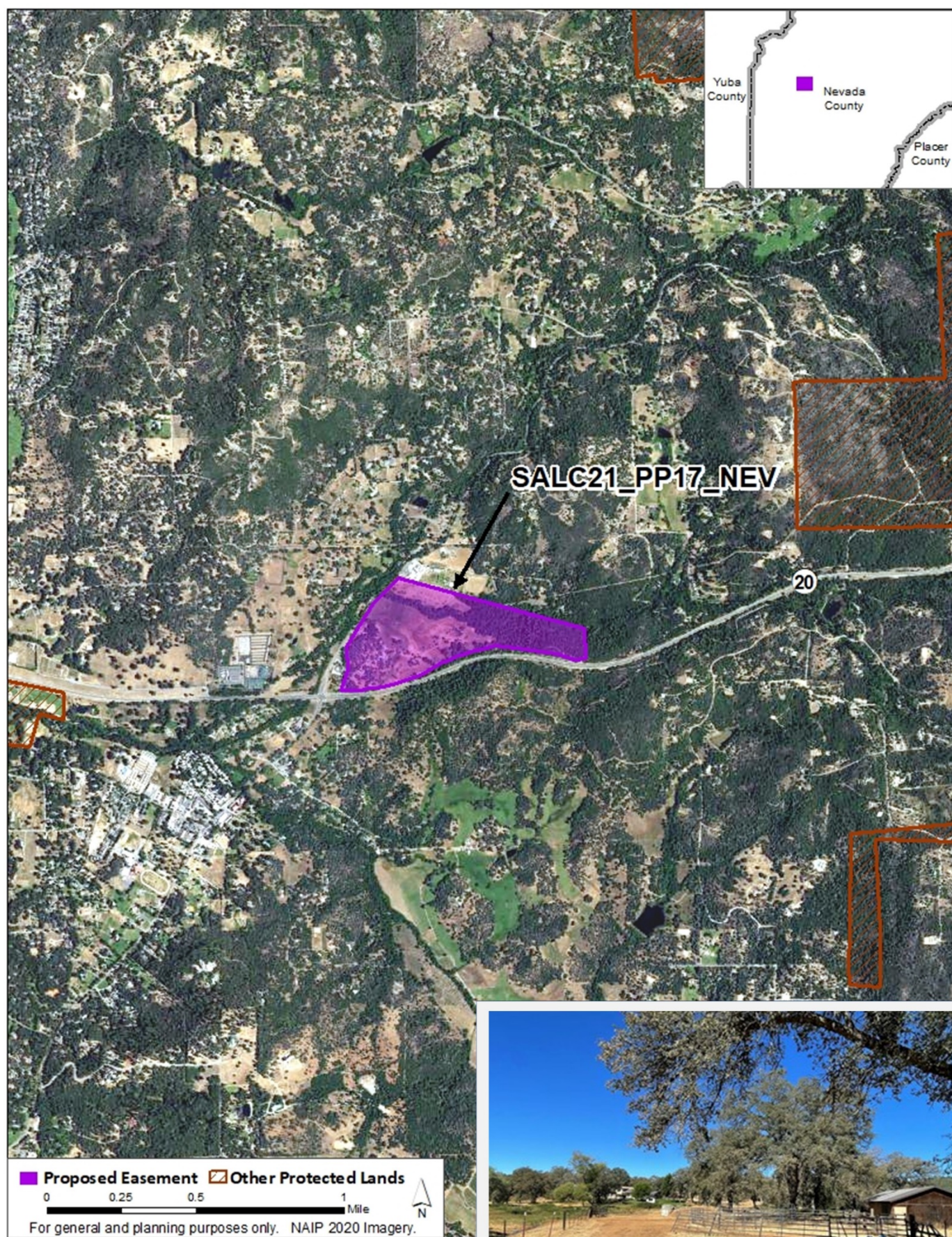
Biodiversity: Riparian habitat along Grub Creek and established oak woodlands.

Viewshed: The project would protect the viewshed along State Highway 20 and the Rough and Ready Highway.

Notable Features

Not Applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP18_MNT

Applicant

Ag Land Trust

Project Location

Monterey

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

760 potential development rights extinguished

77,678,310 VMT

52,167 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±200.4

Funding Requested

\$1,700,000

Match Funding

Funding Committed –
Landowner Donation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed project is for an agricultural conservation easement on a ±200.4-acre ranch approximately 1.2 miles from the census designated place of Chualar. The property is comprised of one legal parcel and is farmed by the landowner in a variety of row crops, including lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli and mixed vegetables.

Irrigation water is provided by groundwater wells and the property has senior overlying groundwater rights. The irrigation water is distributed by an underground piping system and is applied by water conserving drip methods.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: Protection of the property adds to a growing greenbelt adjacent to Chualar.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Water Management Practices: Water conservation with drip irrigation.

Co-Benefits

Economic: Annual farmgate on the property is over \$3,000,000 providing local economic value and jobs for local residents.

Environmental:

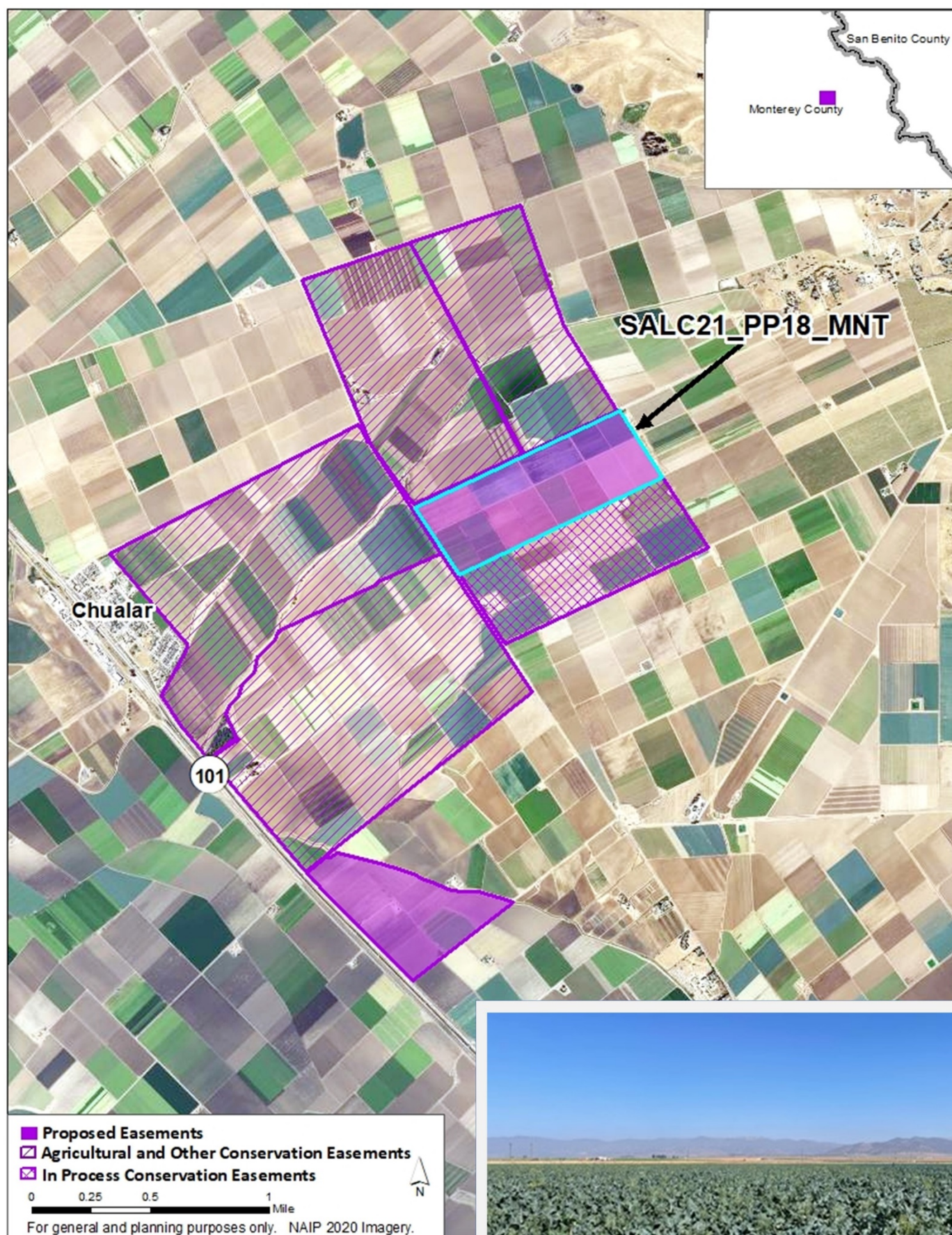
Proximity to Protected Land: There are four recorded agricultural conservation easements consisting of 1,800 acres of prime farmland in the immediate neighborhood of the Ranch.

Viewshed: The property protects open space and the scenic viewshed in Salinas Valley.

Notable Features

Not Applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP19_MNT

Applicant

Ag Land Trust

Project Location

Monterey County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

748 potential development
rights extinguished

76,678,310 VMT

51,733 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±260

Funding Requested

\$2,375,000

Match Funding

Funding Committed –
Landowner Donation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed project is for a conservation easement on a ±260-acre ranch located approximately 1 mile southeast of Castroville. The ranch is farmed primarily in brussel sprouts and strawberries with additional crop rotations of lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower and other row crops. The property has been owned and farmed by the same family for nearly 100 years. Espinosa Creek and Tembladero Slough are along the southern border of the property. These water bodies drain into the North Monterey County Local Coastal Zone which is designated as protected coastal wetland.

Irrigation water is provided through irrigation wells and recycled water from one of Monterey County's Reclamation Projects. The ranch is supported through a wide variety of local agriculture infrastructure including services and a strong labor pool.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The project adds to an existing greenbelt around Castroville and provides a community separator between Castroville and Salinas.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property includes riparian areas along Espinosa Creek and Lake which provide habitat for migratory and resident birds and wildlife.

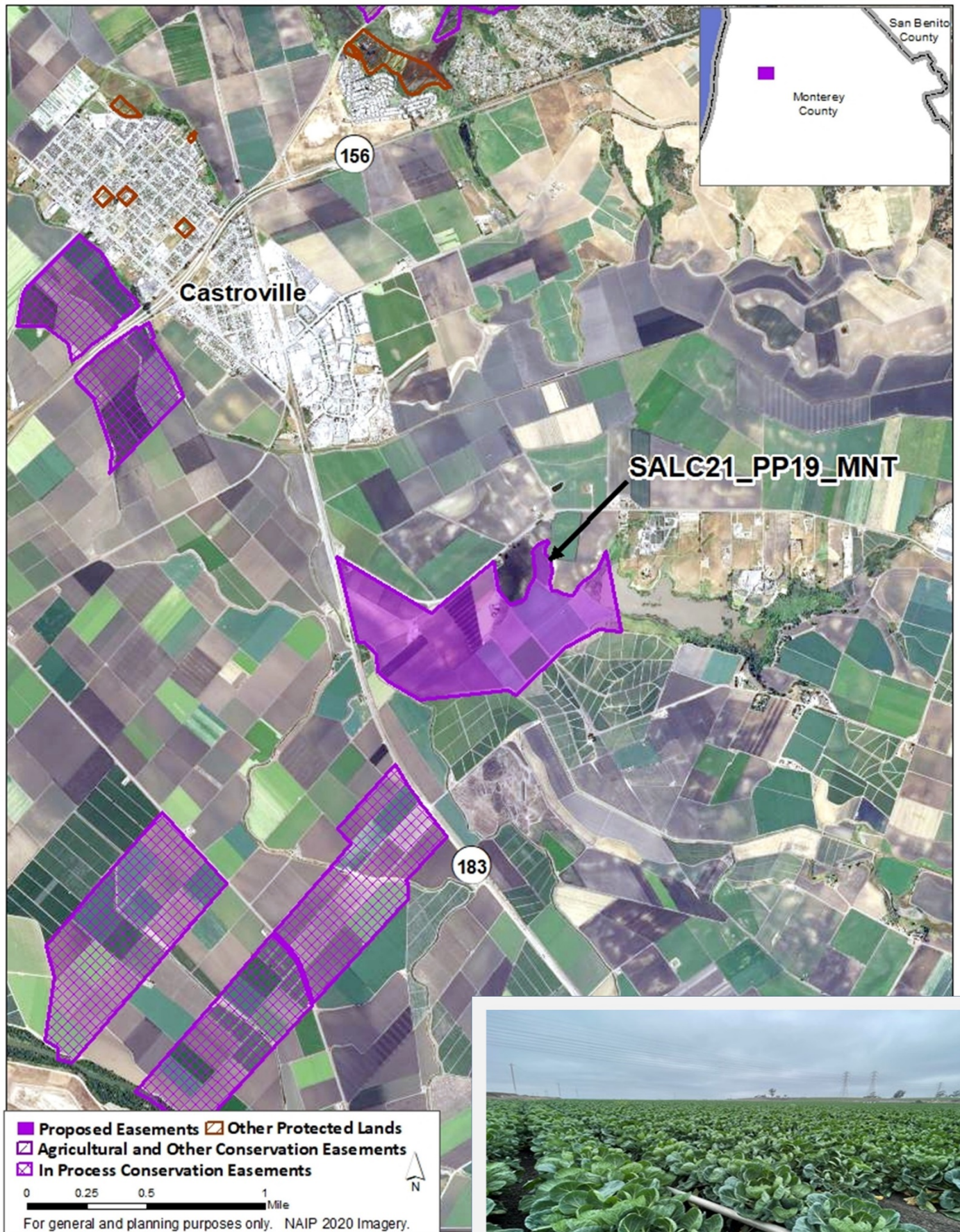
Economic: The farm is economically productive and provides jobs for a local labor pool and provides revenue to local support services.

Viewshed: The property provides open space viewshed of the Salinas valley along Highway 183 between Castroville and Salinas.

Notable Features

Not Applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP20_MNT

Applicant

Ag Land Trust

Project Location

Monterey County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

518 potential development
rights extinguished

52,943,901 VMT

35,562 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±138.64

Funding Requested

\$1,175,000

Match Funding

Funding Committed –
Landowner Donation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ±138.64-acre ranch located off Highway 101 between Chualar and Gonzales in Monterey County. The property is comprised of one legal parcel and produces a variety of row crops, including lettuce, cauliflower, broccoli and mixed vegetables. Irrigation water is provided by groundwater wells and the property has senior overlying groundwater rights. The irrigation water is distributed by an underground piping system and is applied by water conserving drip methods.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: Project is strategically located between Chualar and Gonzales and will add to a block of conserved lands that will promote infill development in surrounding communities.

Equity

Priority Populations Benefits: Property provides numerous farmworker jobs to surrounding communities.

Co-Benefits

Economic: The project supports agricultural economic sustainability and food security on a large scale. The property supports numerous crops rotated throughout the year and supplies jobs for farmworkers in the area.

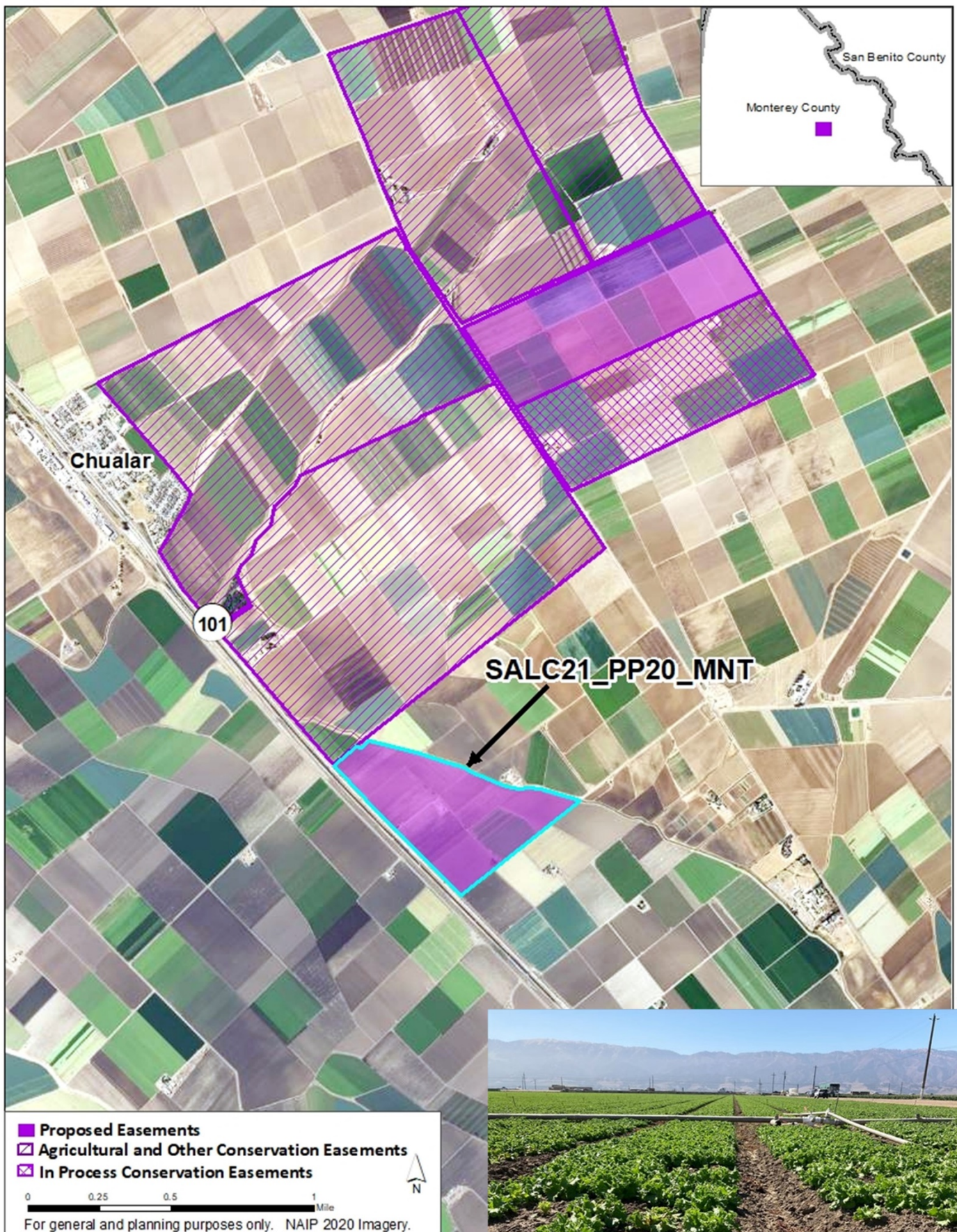
Environmental:

Proximity to Protected Land: Property will add to over 2,000 acres of protected lands between Chualar and Gonzales.

Notable Features

Not Applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP21_SIS

Applicant

Siskiyou Land Trust

Project Location

Siskiyou County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural At Risk zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

15 potential development
rights extinguished

16,761,772 VMT

7,594 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±1045

Funding Requested

\$1,828,400

Match Funding

Funding Secured - NRCS
RCPP

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The proposed agricultural conservation easement is for a ±1,045-acre ranch adjacent to Grenada in the Shasta Valley of Siskiyou County. The ranch is a cow/calf operation, with a farm to market pasture-raised beef business. Approximately 590 acres are flood irrigated for grass hay and pasture, and approximately 430 acres are non-irrigated grazing land. Water is supplied by a pre-1914 riparian surface diversions and a riparian pump. The Shasta River forms the southern boundary of the property and provides additional riparian and water quality benefits. The 20-acre riparian corridor is fully fenced and the landowner is one of the signatories to the Safe Harbor Agreement with state and federal fisheries agencies to establish voluntary management constraints supporting recovery of coho salmon.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: Protection of the property will concentrate development in the job centers of Yreka, Weed and Mt Shasta and prevent the potential for being broken into 26 separate parcels of approximately 40 acres each and will reduce the trend towards conversion from ag land to rural ranchette development.

Sustainable Agriculture Use:

Water Management Practices: The property has a ranch management plan that was completed in cooperation with UC Davis, NOAA fisheries and CDFW that provides guidance on sustainable land and water management practices.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property provides habitat for salmonid as well as migratory and resident bird populations. Additionally, the protection of the property would protect important wildlife corridors.

Environmental:

Proximity to Protected Land: The project is adjacent to the TNC conserved Nelson Ranch and would build on a green belt along the Shasta River.

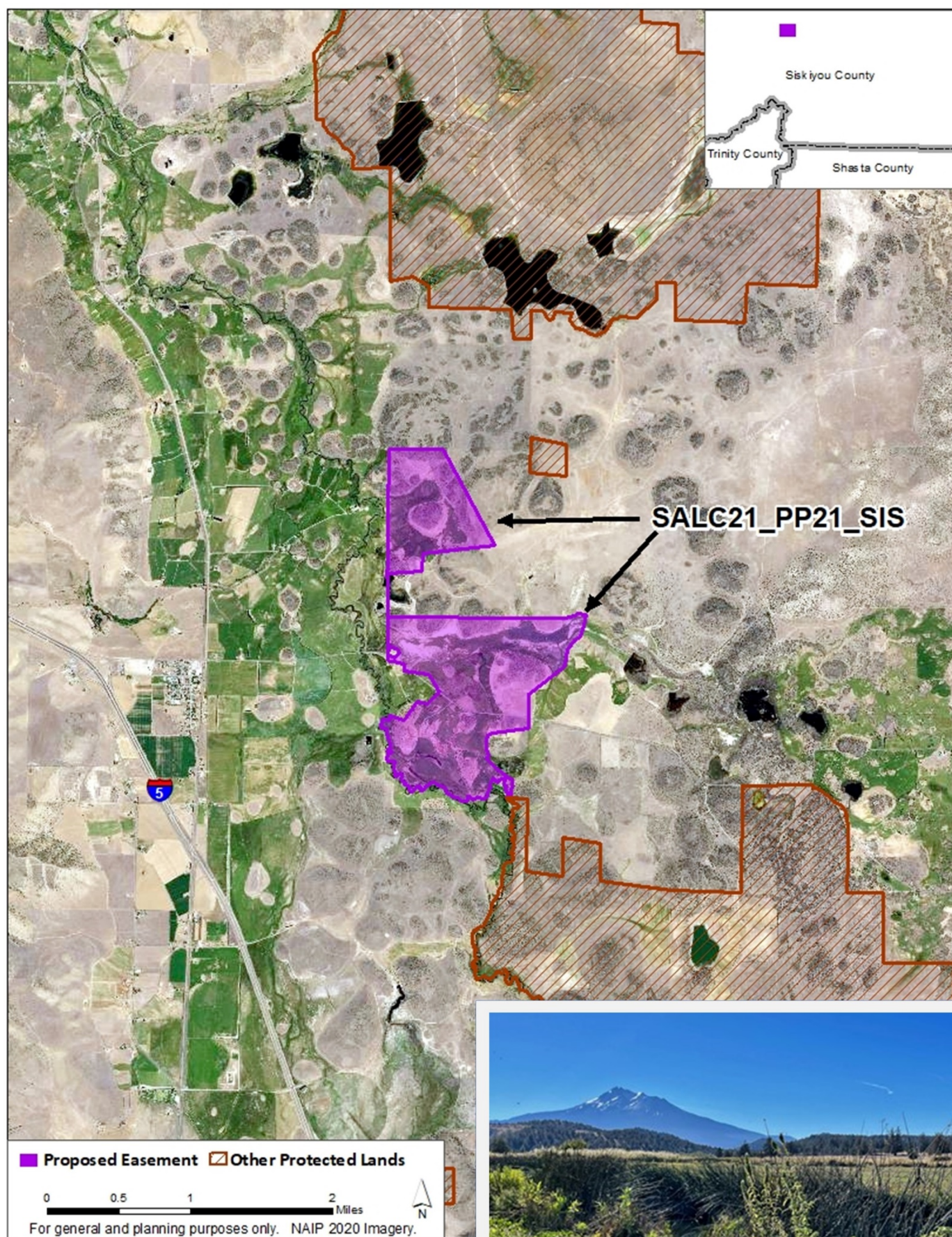
Source Water Protection: Sustainable water management of the riparian rights on the property ensures sufficient flows to downstream water users.

Viewshed: Protection of the property would protect viewshed along county road A21 and Interstate 5.

Notable Features

Staff recommends funding \$78,450 requested for associated costs. Program guidelines permit applicants to request more than \$60,000 if the costs are commensurate with the work needed to complete the project.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Not Recommended

SALC21_PP22_TUL

Applicant

Sequoia Riverlands Trust

Project Location

Tulare County

Recommended Ranking

D-Project not ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural At Risk zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

9 potential development
rights extinguished

7,513,928 VMT

3,379 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±1,876

Funding Requested

\$1,870,000

Match Funding

Match Funder Identified –
WCB

Priority Population Benefits

No

Project Description

The applicant is seeking grant funding for the fee title purchase of +1,876-acre ranch in the foothills of Tulare County. The ranch is located five miles north of Springville, CA in the Sierra Nevada foothills of Tulare County. The protection of this ranch would connect a wide corridor of existing protected areas. The 900-acre Blue Oak Ranch Preserve lies along the southern boundary and Giant Sequoia National Monument along the eastern boundary. Five natural springs and water from the Dennison Ditch supply water to the property.

Strategic Value

Climate Resilience

Coordinated Land Use Planning: The ranch has been identified as a high priority for protection by various conservation organizations.

Climate Resilience: The property includes over 4 miles of rivers and streams and blue oak woodland habitats. The property is a resilient and well-connected landscape with elevation range of 1,995 to 3,546 ft.

Co-Benefits

Wildlife Connectivity & Habitat: Protection of the ranch would connect a wide corridor of existing protected areas. The property includes over 4 miles of rivers and streams and blue oak woodland habitats.

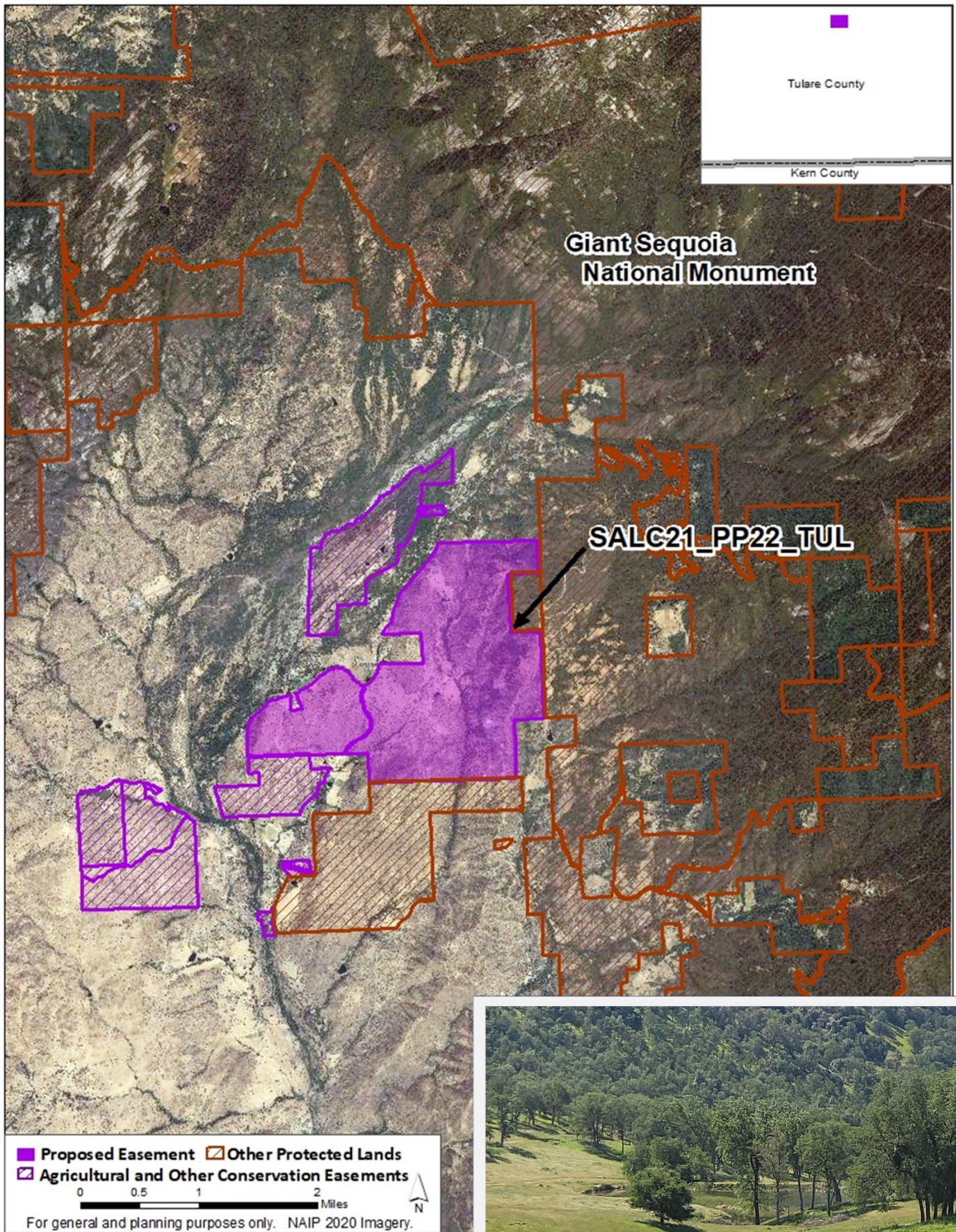
Environmental:

Proximity to Protected Land: Numerous other protected lands in the proximity.

Notable Features

Applicant may reserve the right to sell the existing 150-acre homesite with a conservation easement in place. The project includes development and implementation of a SALC funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP23_SHA

Applicant

Shasta Land Trust

Project Location

Shasta County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

23 potential development rights extinguished
23,184,984 VMT
9,741 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±137.58

Funding Requested

\$723,905

Match Funding

Match Funder Identified – Wildlife Conservation Board

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

The easement acquisition project is for a +137.58-acre property which produces mixed hay crop, grown using dryland farming techniques. The property also supports a beehive operation and maintains approximately 100 bee boxes on the ranch annually and produces honey and queen bees. Product for hay and honey are sold locally as well as regionally with hay being sold within 0.5 miles from the property. Current agricultural operations function without the use of water.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The property is located near the border Anderson and less than a mile from the city of Redding. Hundreds of acres have recently been rezoned and commissioned from new casinos, hotels, self-storage facilities, and a convention center.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The property contributes to carbon neutrality by utilizing a no-till method which keeps important top-soils intact, creating an environment that can successfully capture and store atmospheric carbon in the soil.

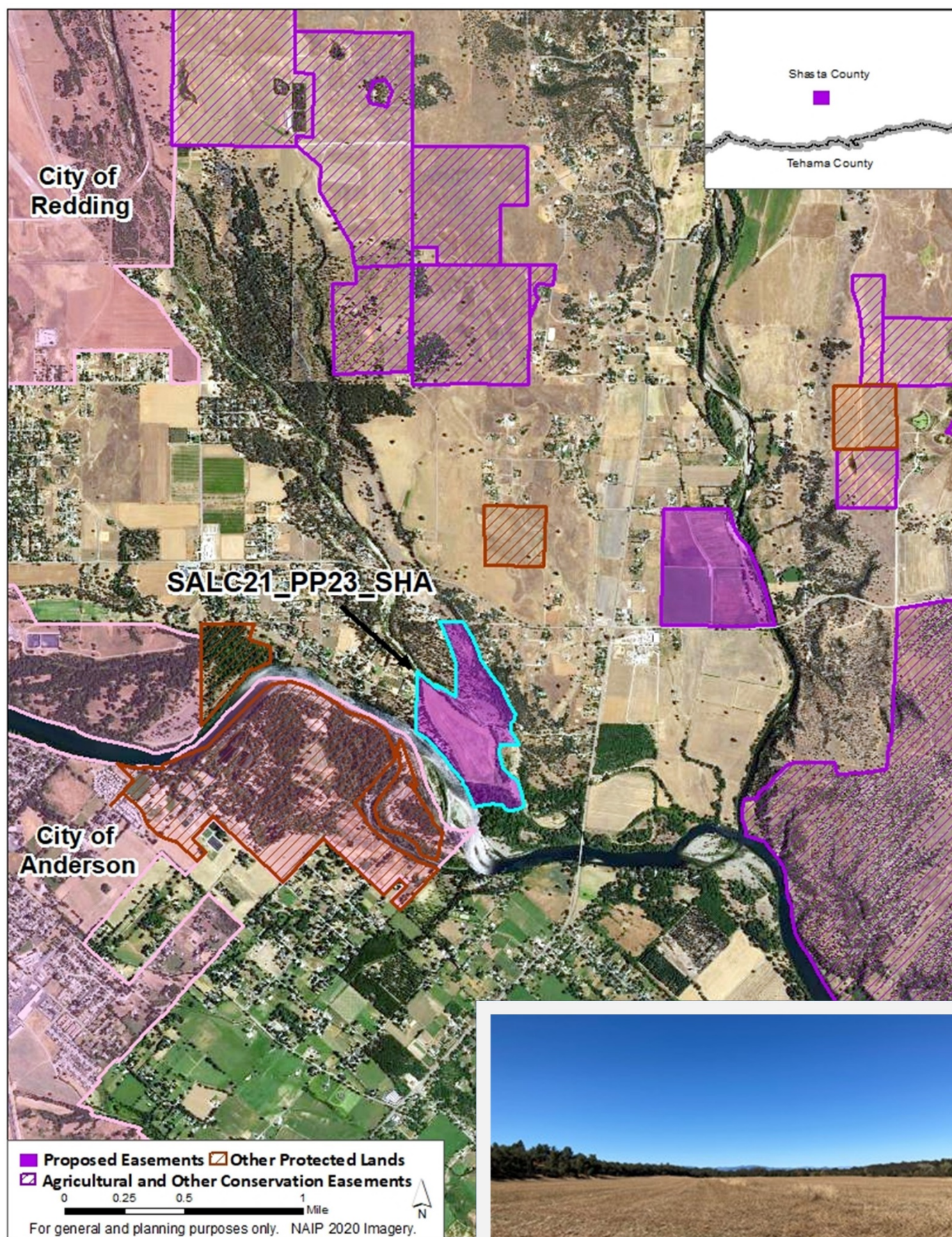
Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property protects 0.41 miles of Sacramento River frontage and 0.67 miles of Stillwater Creek, which provides valuable riparian forest habitat to a diverse number of species. The property consists of land designated as high ranking in biodiversity, native species richness, rare species richness, and significant aquatic habitat determined by CDFW Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE). The property also protects 81.83 acres of oak woodland habitat.

Notable Features

The project includes the development and implementation of a SALC funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP24_SHA

Applicant

Shasta Land Trust

Project Location

Shasta County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

97 potential development rights extinguished
97,780,149 VMT
43,075 MT CO₂e

Acreage

+2,402.9

Funding Requested

\$15,351,270

Match Funding

Qualifies for 100% SALC Funding

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Description

The easement acquisition is for a +2,402.9-acre ranch currently used for producing wine grapes and supports 60 cow-calf pairs. Future planned enhancements include expanding cattle operations through the enhancement of pasture forage, continue to make the irrigation system more efficient, and reducing acreage of viticulture to add more pasture. The property includes well maintained pasture fencing, 9 residential wells and 1 agricultural well, a flood irrigation system which is supplied by 7 registered diversions, and well-maintained dirt roads. The property also supports bee boxes and all products produced on the property are sold locally.

Strategic Value

Equity

Priority Populations Benefits: Seven Hills serves as training grounds for Cal Fire and Shasta County Search and Rescue. This directly benefits the surrounding community by providing job training and career opportunities that may not otherwise be possible if the property were not available for such trainings. Additional educational benefits on the property include a strong viticulture partnership/program with the local college and high school, Shasta College and Foothill Highschool. Students and FFA members obtain hands-on experiences and realistic training/ education with viticultural practices, irrigation, and farm and land management. These ongoing and regular educational and training programs provide young future farmers with the skills they need to succeed and allowing site access will foster collaboration with various organizations that are located in low-income communities.

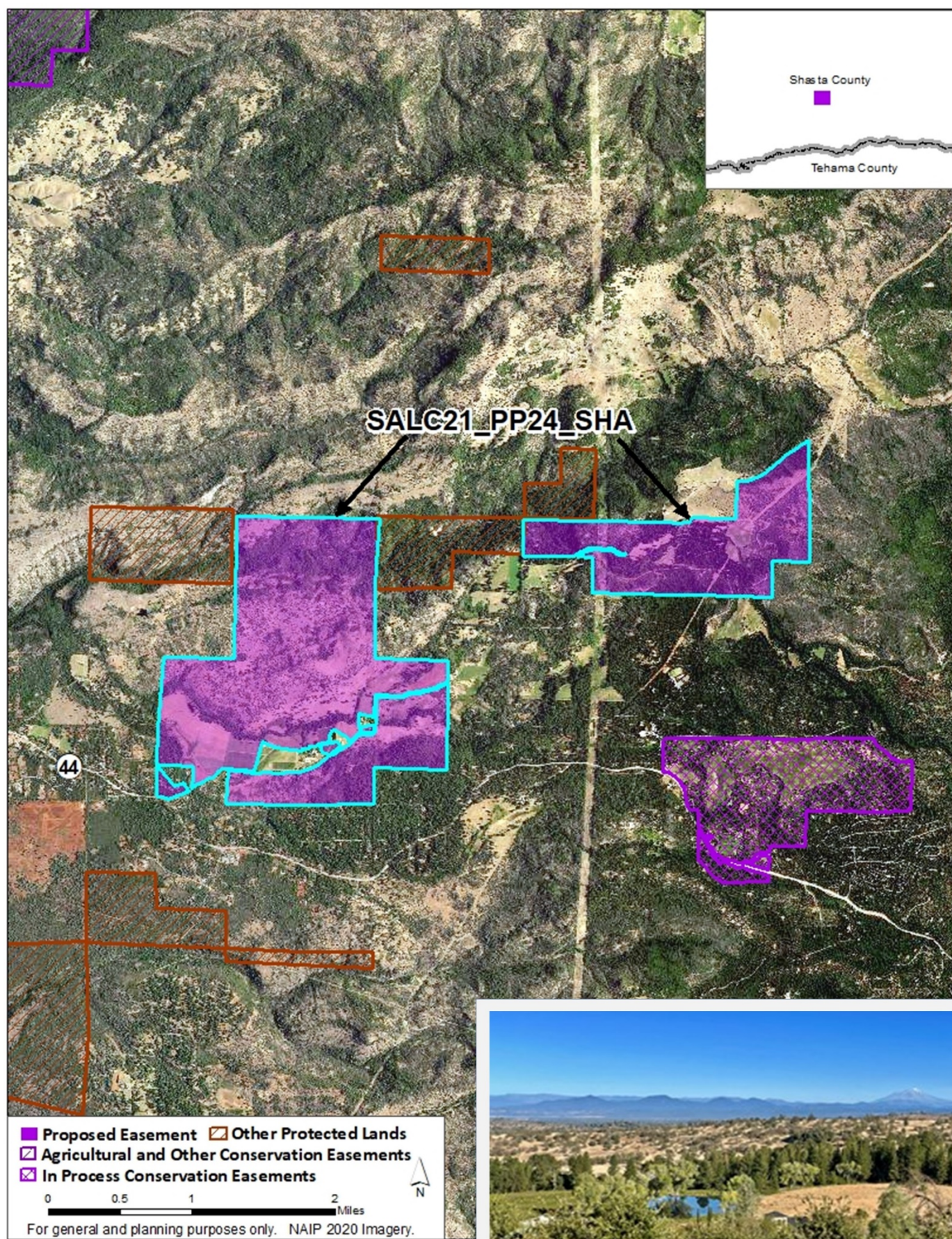
Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: Protection of land of special environmental significance as the property includes approximately 2.57 miles of Bear Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River providing essential habitat for the federally threatened California Central Valley population of steelhead trout, and approximately 1.72 miles of Sheridan Creek, as well as approximately 200 acres of annual grassland intermixed with 630 acres of oak woodland habitat and approximately 535 acres of coniferous forest habitat.

Notable Features

The project excludes roughly 56 acres. The project includes development and implementation of a SALC funded management plan. Staff recommends funding \$93,311 requested for associated costs. Program guidelines permit applicants to request more than \$60,000 if the costs "are commensurate with the work needed to complete the project."

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP25_SHA

Applicant

Shasta Land Trust

Project Location

Shasta County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

37 potential development rights extinguished

37,297,582 VMT

16,431MT CO₂e

Acreage

±121.53

Funding Requested

\$372,357

Match Funding

Funding Committed –
Landowner Donation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

This easement acquisition project is for a +121.53-acre property located 1 mile from the City of Anderson. It has access to the necessary markets to support long term, commercial agriculture. There is currently one well on the property and the landowner is reserving the right to drill one more. The property can support up to 100 head of cattle annually. The landowner utilizes the irrigated pasture to produce hay crops.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property is located 1 mile from the City of Anderson and 2 miles from the city limits of Redding. The property is located in close proximity to other protected lands adding to a greenbelt and act as a community separator.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: The property promotes healthy soils and reduces agricultural runoff. Water is reused through a tailwater pond system to water the cattle and prevent agricultural runoff from occurring into the creek. Cattle are kept away from the creek's edge to prevent excess erosion and sedimentation. Exclusionary fencing allows the cattle to be grazed in a rotational manner.

Co-Benefits

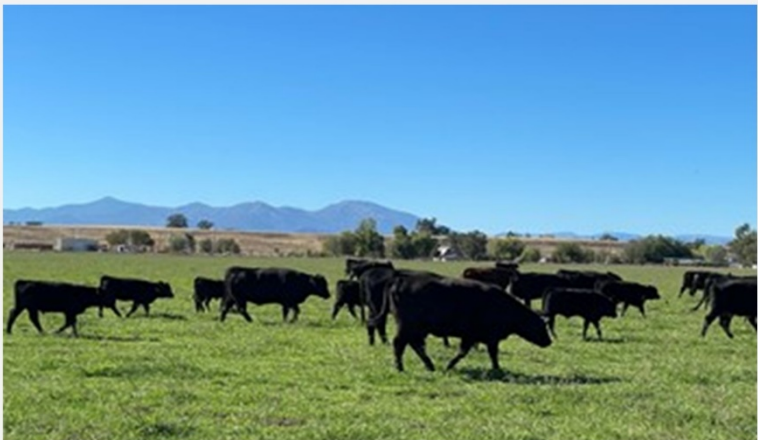
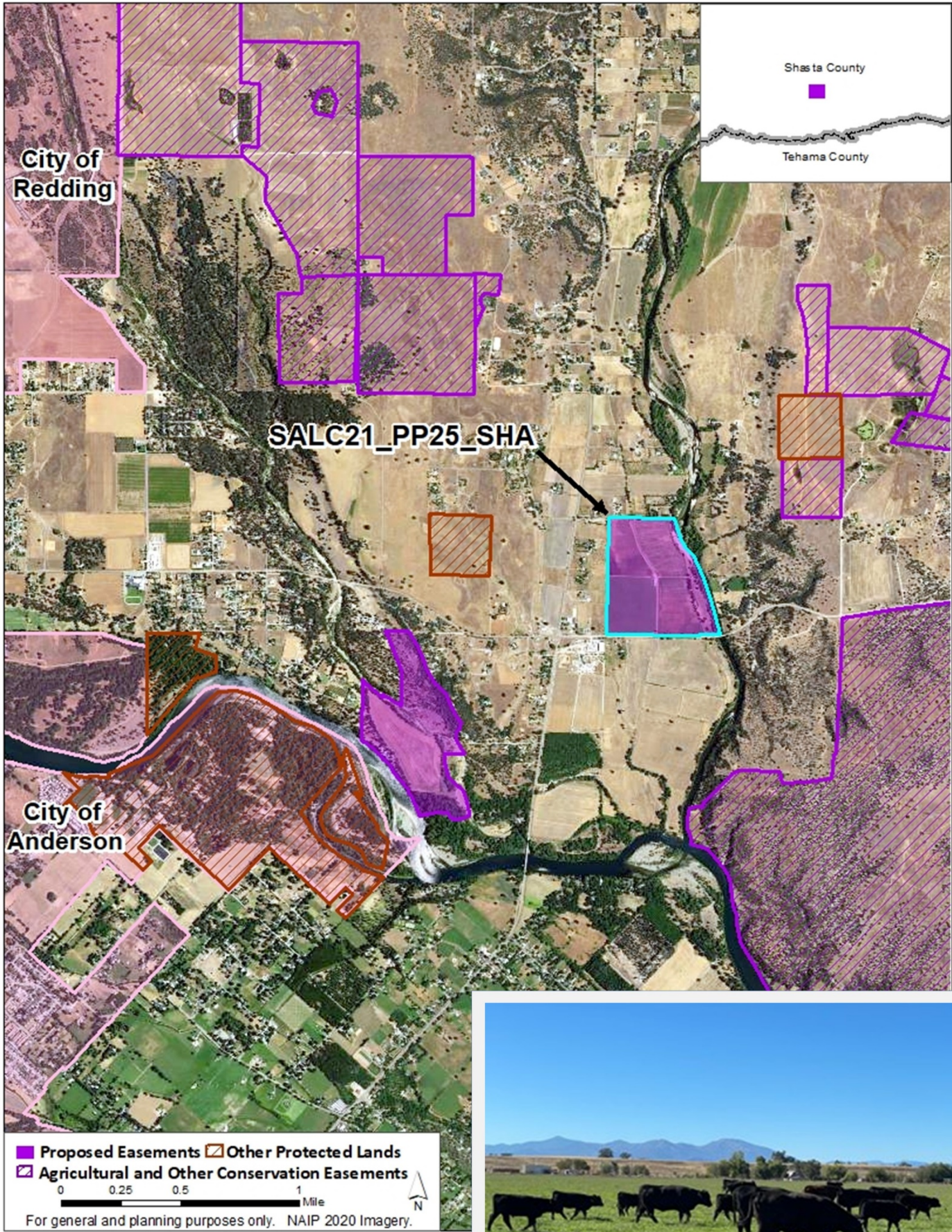
Biodiversity: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Area of Conservation Emphasis webtool ranks the property high for state biodiversity. The Cow Creek is within a high-priority watershed, providing critical aquatic habitat for anadromous fish populations including Chinook salmon and steelhead. There are approximately 8 acres of oak woodland habitat present on the property.

Public Health: The irrigated pastureland can act as a natural fuel break in a high-risk fire area, which will help maintain the community defensible space and reduce the likelihood of high-intensity wildfires that threaten developed areas.

Notable Features

The project includes development and implementation of a SALC funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP26_HUM

Applicant

Northcoast Regional Land Trust

Project Location

Humboldt County

Recommended Ranking

B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

28 potential development rights extinguished
22,395,394 VMT
10,324 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±3,079

Funding Requested

\$6,093,100

Match Funding

Qualifies for 100% SALC Funding

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Description

The easement acquisition project supports a +3,079-acre cattle and timber operation. There are currently 225 cow-calf pairs during a five-month grazing season. Forestlands are annually thinned, sometimes utilizing support from NRCS, to support long-term timber quality, grazeable acreage, and fire resiliency. Water is provided through riparian water rights to springs and streams located throughout at the property.

Strategic Value

Climate Resilience

Contributes to Carbon Neutrality: The property prevents forestland conversion, supports current land management practices such as thinning of dead and dying trees, retention of large, mature trees, restoring oak woodlands, and permitting cattle access to forestlands, all of which reduce the risk of carbon-releasing catastrophic wildfires.

Equity

Priority Populations Benefits: Protection of the property prevents the development and conversion of forests and rangelands surrounding 10 miles of Little Van Duzen River tributaries to help maintain water quality, protect watershed health, and reduce groundwater threats. The Eel River Valley Groundwater Basin supplies water to portions of this census tract, four other low-income communities, and the low-income/disadvantaged community of the Bear River Rancheria.

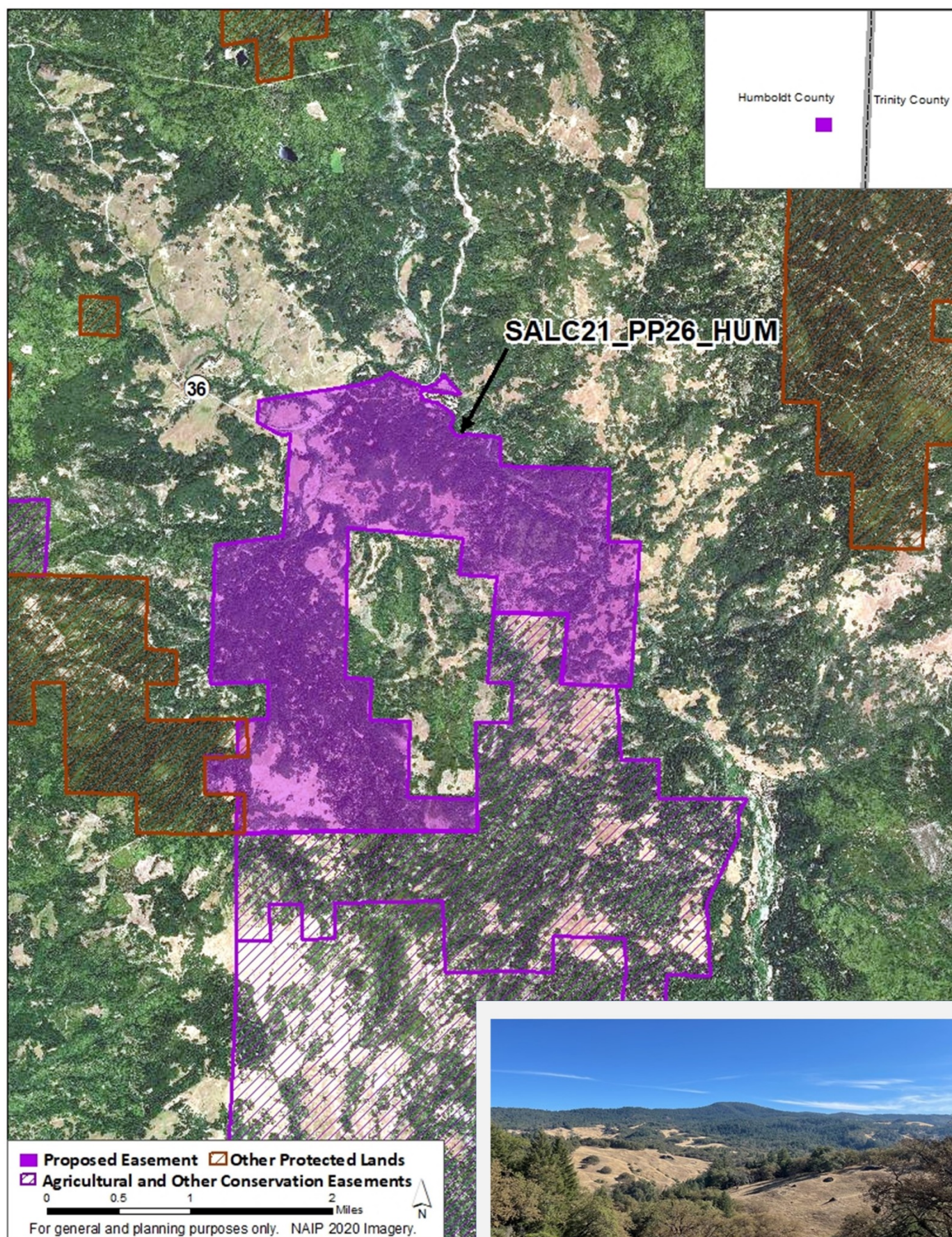
Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: Protection of the property will protect abundant salmonid habitat, wetlands and watercourses, oak woodlands, and a diversity of forest species and age composition. The property will add to a block of neighboring conservation easements and public lands that constitute a 25,000-acre wildlife corridor between Bridgeville and the Six Rivers National Forest.

Notable Features

Staff recommends funding \$93,100 requested for associated costs. Program guidelines permit applicants to request more than \$60,000 if the costs "are commensurate with the work needed to complete the project."

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP27_MER

Applicant

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Project Location

Merced and Mariposa
Counties

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural At Risk zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

60 potential development
rights extinguished

50,092,852 VMT

21,784 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±10,361

Funding Requested

\$8,680,193

Match Funding

Qualifies for 100% SALC
Funding

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Description

This easement acquisition project is for a ±10,361-acre cow-calf operation along the border of Merced County and Mariposa County. The ranch's grasslands, seasonal wetlands, and oak savannah provide adequate forage for sustainable agricultural production, while multiple wells, springs, and stock ponds provide water to livestock and wildlife.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The property will fill a gap in an existing greenbelt and act as a community separator for multiple growing Sierra Nevada foothill communities and the outskirts of the City of Merced. The property is located within the Merced and Mariposa County boundaries. The development potential of the project area and its proximity to burgeoning communities and previously planned developments make the risk of sale, fragmentation, and development very high.

Equity

Priority Populations Benefits: The Project site as-is without development contains more than 140 miles of mapped surface waters (creeks, streams, wetlands) and naturally recharges groundwater supplies. The current ranch operators and future landowners do not use pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, or other chemicals in their management of the property; this practice avoids contributing contaminants to surface water and groundwater supplies and will be maintained and carried on into the future.

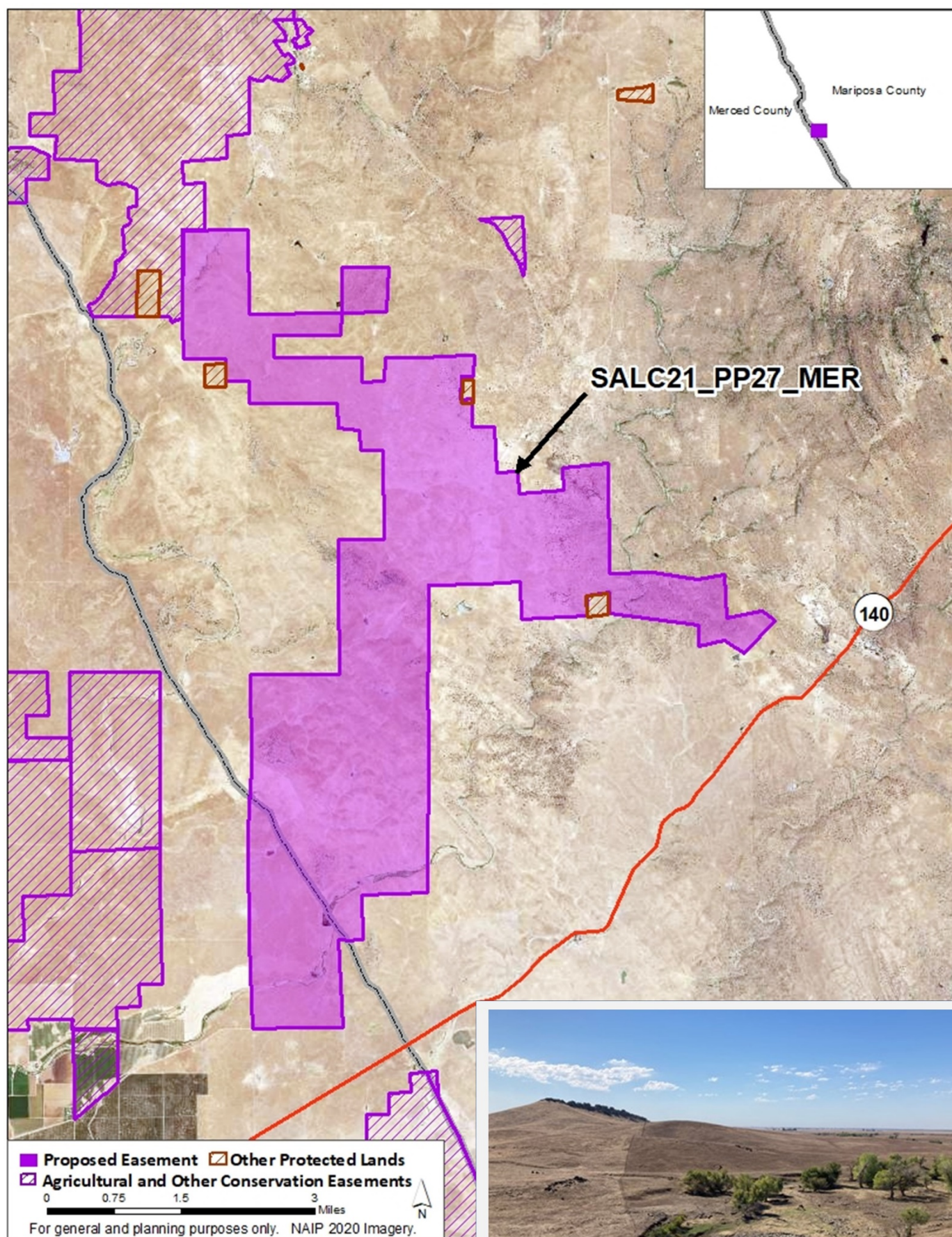
Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property would conserve thousands of contiguous acres of critical habitats for varied, diverse, rare native species across multiple ecotones. Thousands of acres within the project are listed among multiple state and federal agencies biodiversity tools including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Through its links to other conserved lands, this project also creates a connected conservation corridor that will now stretch from the San Joaquin Valley to the Sierra crest which provides ample space for the survival and adaptation of terrestrial, aquatic, migratory, and pollinator species over time.

Notable Features

The project includes development and implementation of a SALC funded management plan. Staff recommends funding \$222,193 requested for associated costs. Program guidelines permit applicants to request more than \$60,000 if the costs "are commensurate with the work needed to complete the project."

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Not Recommended

SALC21_PP30_SBD

Applicant

City of Yucaipa

Project Location

San Bernardino County

Recommended Ranking

C-Larger potential
issue/resolution concerns

Land Use Conversion Threat

Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

3 potential development
rights extinguished
37,297,582 VMT
373 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±16

Funding Requested

\$610,000

Match Funding

Funding Committed –
Landowner Donation

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

This project would conserve a ±16-acre vineyard within the city limits of Yucaipa in San Bernardino County. The property is located within the greater North Bench area, which is a defined planning area that includes smaller neighborhoods of Stanley Ranch, Rolling Hills just north of Oak Glen Road. The property is adjacent to the Crafton Hills and located on an alluvial plain and offers views of the valley floor, the San Bernardino National Forest, and the Angeles National Forest. The establishment of a conservation easement would expand and further crop cultivation on the property.

Strategic Value

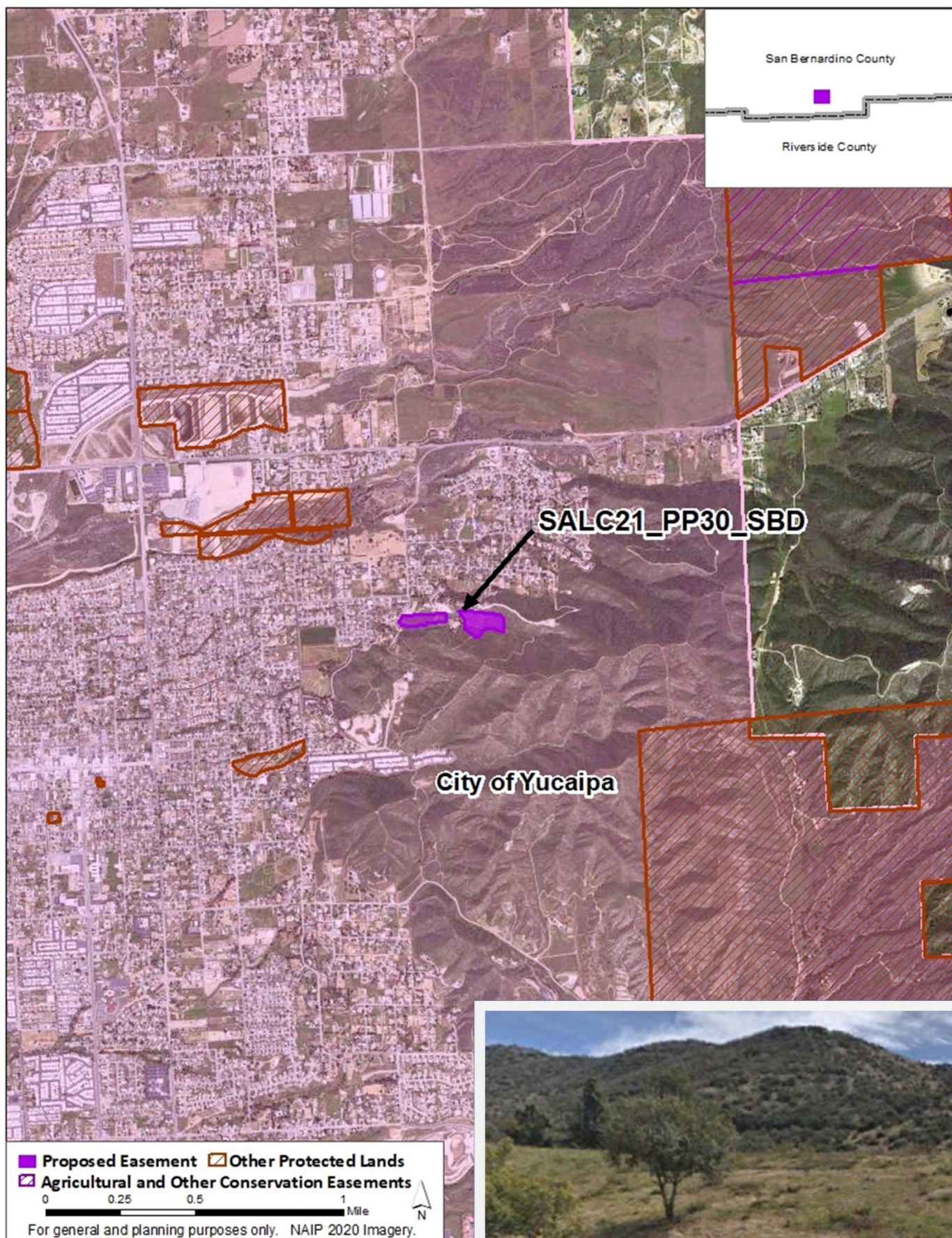
Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The property is located adjacent to an existing neighborhood in the City of Yucaipa and abuts the San Bernardino National Forest. Protection of this property will be the start of a greenbelt along the edge of Yucaipa.

Notable Features

The proposal builds off of a recently awarded Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Planning Grant that the City of Yucaipa is currently using to develop and implement the City's Wine Country Specific Plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Acquisition Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PP32_MNT

Applicant

California Rangeland Trust

Project Location

Monterey County and San Benito County

Recommended Ranking

A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat

Rural Residential zoning density

Estimated GHG's Avoided

3056 potential development rights extinguished

124,807,954 VMT

321,778 MT CO₂e

Acreage

±9,418

Funding Requested

\$3,322,500

Match Funding

Funding Approved – NRCS

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Description

This project would conserve a ±9,418-acre ranch adjacent to the eastern edge of the City of Salinas Sphere of Influence in Monterey County. The property has been owned by the same family for over 130 years and includes 318 acres of irrigated land on the valley floor and over 9,100 acres of grazing land in the Gabilan Mountain Range. Berry and lettuce growers lease the irrigated parcels year-round, while the landowners graze 450 cow/calf pairs on the rangeland from October to June. Temporary greenhouses, irrigation infrastructure and shade structures support the irrigated operation. Ranch infrastructure includes a shop, wash house, corral, chute, squeeze, barns, storage buildings, wells, and ponds.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The 9,418-acre property lies adjacent to the City of Salinas Sphere of Influence. Protection of the large property will promote infill development.

Equity

Priority Populations Benefits: Project provides numerous jobs for farmworkers on the cultivated ag portion of the property.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: Soils on the valley floor utilized irrigated agriculture are 100% prime farmland.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property is located in a climatic transition zone and provides habitat for at least seven special status animals and three special status plants.

Economic: The irrigated portion of the ranch supports numerous jobs and provides food security.

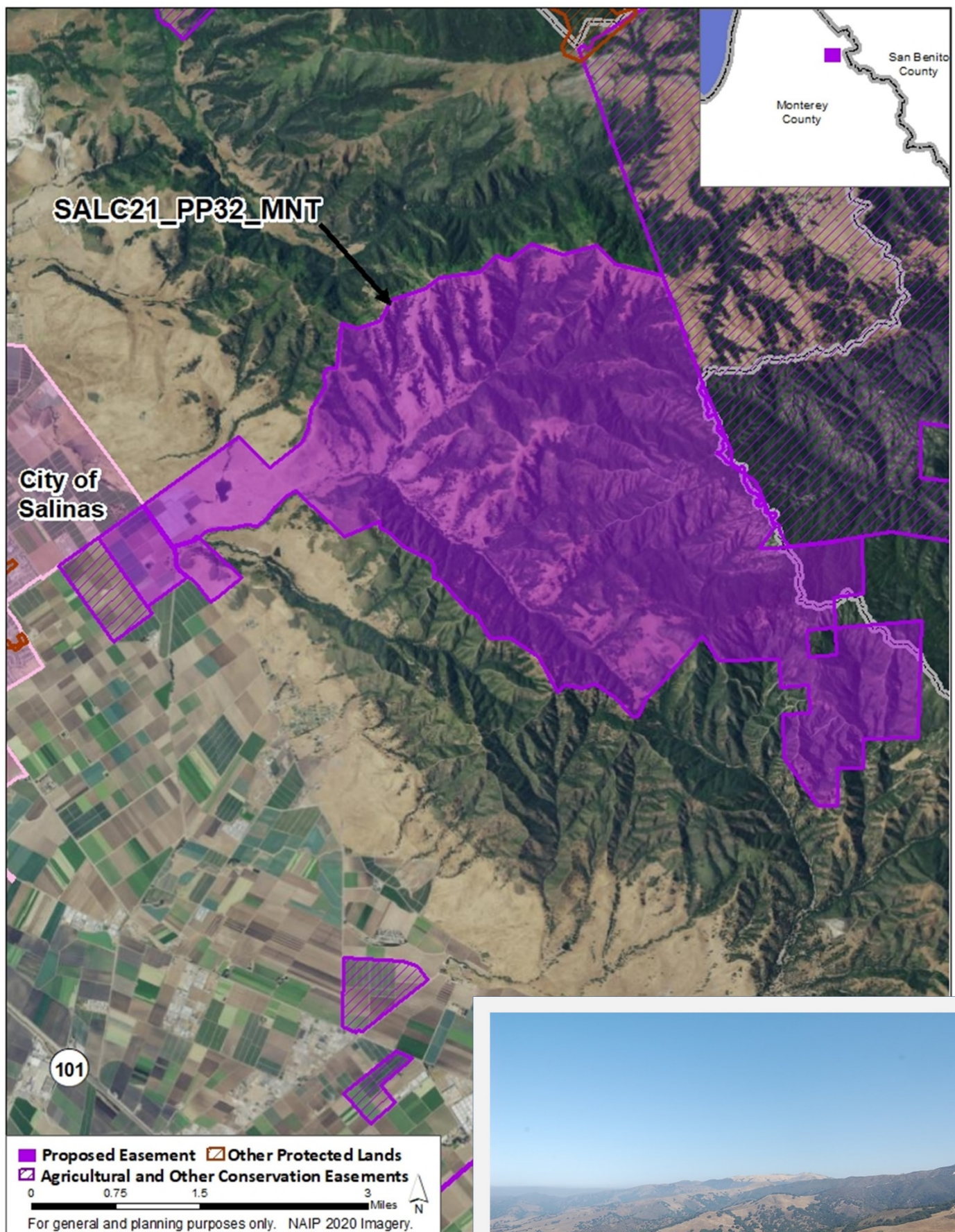
Environmental:

Source Water Protection: The property will protect the headwaters of the Alisal Creek watershed.

Notable Features

Not Applicable.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Project Recommended If Budget Modification Approved

Applicant

Northcoast Regional Land Trust

Project County

Humboldt, Trinity, Del Norte

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Title

Northcoast Regional Land Trust Conservation Easement
Onboarding and Outreach

Project Description

Applicant proposes to engage in outreach and education by hosting at least four public workshops per year. Following the initial point of contact, funding will also be utilized to consult with interested landowners and develop onboarding materials for projects that align with SALC program goals. Such project development activities include conducting meetings with landowners, visiting candidate properties to assess conservation values, GIS data collection and mapping, creating materials for board review, and other necessary steps for onboarding new acquisition projects.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Land Trust for Santa Barbara
County

Project County

Santa Barbara County

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Title

Organizational Capacity and Projects Outreach Program

Project Description

The proposed project is focused on increasing current capacity to facilitate additional outreach in order to increase the number of agricultural conservation acquisition projects, on both irrigated farmlands and rangelands.

The applicant is proposing to utilize funding to increase staff and staff capacity to accomplish four specific tasks. These tasks include: 1) landowner outreach, education, and relationship building with the goal of targeting and evaluating up to 10 potential projects; 2) deal scoping and negotiation of agricultural conservation acquisition transactions and submission of six projects for acquisition funding for SALC and other funding sources; and 3) completion of four projects (e.g., closing escrow and recorded easements) within the three-year grant term.

The balance of the requested funding would be used to pay for direct transactional costs, including grant application preparation, appraisals, environmental site assessments and, if necessary, mineral remoteness opinions.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Land Trust of Santa Cruz
County

Project County

Santa Cruz County and the
Pajaro River Watershed of
Monterey County

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Title

Growing Capacity to Protect Farmland in the Pajaro Valley

Project Description

Applicant proposes to create a new protection model that will prioritize the top agricultural conservation areas in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Valley. A quantitative scoring method built into the strategy will assess farmland conversion risk and co-benefits of conservation such as water quality and carbon sequestration potential. Applicant is also pursuing outreach and ongoing farmland protection opportunities such as the acquisition of over 300 acres of prime farmland in the Pajaro Estuary vicinity. Added capacity for LTSCC to pursue agricultural conservation will accelerate progress on existing opportunities while concurrently funding the framework to evaluate future projects.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Placer Land Trust

Project County

Placer County

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Increasing Agricultural Conservation Capacity in Western Placer County

Project Description

Applicant requests grant funding to increase outreach, communications, engagement and relationship-building within the agricultural community in general, and with agricultural landowners most specifically, and to increase the pace of project development in western Placer County. The capacity building grant would allow the applicant to dedicate much of its new staff capacity to agricultural land conservation. Funding will be used for staff training and staff time to develop projects, with additional funding for external costs such as contractors, consultants, training, workshops, etc. Grant funding will also help the applicant overcome one of their biggest impediments to getting agricultural conservation easement projects started: the high cost of land/ACE appraisals.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Mendocino Land Trust

Project County

Mendocino

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Mendocino Land Trust Capacity Building

Project Description

The project will identify and prioritize projects that provide resiliency co-benefits like improved water quality and retention, flood prevention, public health and safety benefits, and food and fiber projects. It will support protection of important farmlands, provide access to affordable, nutritious foods, and support training for workforce development as well as encourage collaboration and partnerships with multiple entities and local tribes. The project includes website updates to include multi-lingual content, prioritization maps, outreach activities to develop future projects, and associated costs to cover a potential easement acquisition.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

California Open Lands

Project County

Butte County

Funding Tier

Tier 1

Funding Requested

\$99,994

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Title

Strategic Acquisition and Partnerships for Tribal Agroecology and Cultural Reserves

Project Description

Applicant proposes to build capacity to complete a SALC Round 9 grant proposal to acquire a 323-acre property on North Table Mountain in Butte County. California Open Lands will collaborate with practitioners of Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge from seven federally and non-federally recognized Maidu Tribes to develop a strong SALC proposal to finalize acquisition of the property and create tribal co-stewardship agreements.

**Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Capacity Project Summary**

FY 2021-22 Project Recommended If Budget Modification Approved

Applicant

The Land Conservancy of San
Luis Obispo

Project County

San Luis Obispo

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$165,200

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Title

LCSLO Land Conservation Project Capacity and Development
Project

Project Description

The proposed project is focused on the development of agricultural land conservation projects through organizational capacity building, acquisition project development and acquisition project closing. Specifically, tasks include development of a strategic conservation plan for San Luis Obispo County; updating outreach materials; identifying new conservation opportunities and funding sources; landowner outreach, meetings, and prospective project review; due diligence; and development of projects for submission for acquisition funding.

Increased capacity will also allow for completion of due diligence items earlier in the easement project lifecycle and allow under-resourced landowners the opportunity to pursue conservation by reducing the cost burden of due diligence and associated costs. Funding will also be used to cover due diligence costs for eligible projects not funded by the SALC program.

Grant funding is also earmarked to build organizational capacity to prepare for the upcoming LTAC Accreditation Renewal process which begins in 2023.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

American Farmland Trust

Project County

Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Title

Building Capacity to Protect Critical Agricultural and Water Resources

Project Description

The proposed capacity project would utilize funds to increase outreach, research, and vetting for two to four agricultural conservation easements on prioritized lands throughout Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego Counties. The project will promote the increase of groundwater recharge, avoid greenhouse gas emissions, promote healthy soil practices, and economic sustainability.

American Farmland Trust will implement targeted outreach with new and beginning, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and/or veteran producers to identify potential easement sites with agricultural landowners. The proposed project addresses pesticides, groundwater threats, impaired water, and asthma because American Farmland Trust is beginning to require conservation planning within the terms of agricultural conservation easements it acquires in the future. Sustainable use of pesticides that reduce impacts on disadvantaged and low-income communities may be a result of that conservation planning and can be done with available technical and financial assistance, such as through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) cost share funds for CPS 595 Pest Management Conservation System and a host of soil health management practices that reduce the need to use pesticides.

Through this process the applicant will host two workshops via the Farm Legacy Program which will provide landowners information to seek conservation easement opportunities in the future.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Not Recommended

Applicant

Riverside Corona Resource
Conservation District

Project County

Riverside County

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Riverside County Agricultural Conservation Easement Initiative

Project Description

The proposed capacity project would fund one full time position to provide outreach and technical assistance to farmland owners in priority-designated locations for three years. The proposed position will promote conservation easement opportunities, provide technical assistance for conservation management and carbon farm plans, and help landowners through the conservation easement process. As a result of the fulltime position, agricultural conservation easements will be implemented in priority areas contributing to SALC's program goals of climate resiliency via strategically protecting lands that promote infill development/ smart growth, economic viability, protection of biodiversity, and promote sustainable farm management practices.

The applicant will prioritize direct technical assistance to disadvantaged and low-income communities with farmers who are interested in applying for grant funding for agricultural easements. The Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District will establish partnerships to assist priority populations in accessing funds for such easements.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

American River Conservancy

Project County

El Dorado

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

El Dorado County Agricultural Lands Conservation

Project Description

The proposed capacity project would focus on oak woodland habitat identified by El Dorado County's general plan as "Priority Conservation Areas". The project supports habitat, climate resilience, coordinated land use planning, and contributes to the State's effort to combat climate change. The project supports collaboration with local tribes and tribal groups to help advance ag land conservation efforts on lands that contain traditionally important cultural and ecological resources. American River Conservancy will collaborate with tribal partners to develop at least one project that supports the co-management of, and access to natural lands and cultural resources for sustenance gathering, hunting, and fishing.

**Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Capacity Project Summary**

FY 2021-22 Project Recommended If Budget Modification Approved

Applicant

Land Trust of Santa Clara
Valley

Project County

Santa Clara

Funding Tier

Tier 1

Funding Requested

\$100,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Organizational Growth for Land Conservation

Project Description

The proposed project is to create a project manager position and solicit projects near the City of Gilroy. The properties in this region support coordinated land use planning, and sustainable management practices. The new position will be maintained by the land trust and will reduce reliance on consultants to engage landowners and develop projects. The employee will engage and support all tasks necessary for easement work, including outreach to potential landowners, meeting with landowners and explaining how conservation easements work, drafting initial easement restrictions, procuring appraisals, creating and monitoring project timelines (incorporating funder's requirements and deadlines), overseeing baseline consultants, working with project attorneys to draft documents, close projects, and post-closing follow up tasks.

**Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Capacity Project Summary**

FY 2021-22 Project Recommended If Budget Modification Approved

Applicant

Solano Land Trust

Project County

Solano County

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Solano Land Trust ACE Capacity Building (Project Pipeline)

Project Description

Applicant proposes to use its existing 2022 ACE Plan to direct their efforts to build staff and consultant support for data research and gathering, prioritization of priority properties for outreach, landowner outreach, funding research and opportunities, collaborate and participate in knowledge sharing with partners to strengthen CE development, understand issues of concern related to CE development, research CE funding opportunities, support programs that further land conservation, create pre-development materials, project development materials and closing of CE projects. The Applicant will develop and seek opportunities to be inclusive with easement informative materials and media to better inform the agricultural community on conservation easements and build partnerships with consultants and contractors in support of project planning and development.

**Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Capacity Project Summary**

FY 2021-22 Project Recommended If Budget Modification Approved

Applicant

Sacramento Valley
Conservancy

Project County

Sacramento County

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Southeast Sacramento Agriculture Buffer and Capacity Project

Project Description

The Southeast Sacramento Agriculture Buffer and Capacity Project will promote Sacramento Valley Conservancy's (SVC) effort to pursue an agriculture and rangeland buffer along the southeastern edge of the Sacramento urban area, an area threatened by the fast-growing suburbs of Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County, and Folsom, as well as the Capital Southeast Connector Expressway project. The project will support sustainable agricultural uses, protect sensitive wetlands, provide habitat for species such as salmon and Swainson's hawk, and promote groundwater recharge and regional water quality goals. Establishing a contiguous agricultural buffer that further links existing conserved areas will provide continuity for wildlife and shield open lands from development pressures.

SVC will focus on developing projects in the area for Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Funding, while also accessing up to \$20 million in mitigation funds from the Southeast Connector, Agricultural Land Easement program funding from Natural Resource Conservation Service and habitat funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board to assemble the properties. SVC will work with landowners to protect agricultural operations and land in southeast Sacramento adjacent to existing preserves and hardline preserves identified in the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan.

**Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Capacity Project Summary**

FY 2021-22 Project Recommended If Budget Modification Approved

Applicant

California Farmland Trust

Project County

Contra Costa, Madera,
Merced, Sacramento, San
Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Fresno
counties

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

CFT Project Development

Project Description

The proposed project would build organizational and financial capacity to develop and submit applications for agricultural acquisition easement projects and cover associated costs for a project funded through other non-SALC sources.

Project development activities would include landowner outreach and education and would be conducted through direct landowner outreach and two workshops for landowners across seven counties. The workshops would have a particular focus on disadvantaged and low-income communities.

Additional development work includes due diligence activities and grant application preparation work for five SALC easement acquisitions. The projects prioritized for development meet the SALC requirements, are located within priority population census tracts and would potentially protect approximately 1,091 acres across two Central Valley counties.

The project would also provide funding of the associated costs for one easement acquisition funded through a source other than SALC.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Not Recommended

Applicant

Oswit Land Trust

Project County

Riverside

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$150,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Oswit Land Trust Capacity Grant

Project Description

The project will increase the capacity for the Oswit Land Trust by providing funding for two new employees, including an Agricultural Conservation Director. The new employees would be able to seek farmland for potential conservation easement projects, communicate with farmers, and manage future SALC grant funded projects.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Not Recommended

Applicant

Saving the Earth One Bite at a Time, Inc

Project County

Monterey County

Funding Tier

Tier 1

Funding Requested

\$100,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Saving the Earth One Bite at a Time

Project Description

Saving the Earth One Bite at a Time is requesting Sustainable Agricultural land Conservation Program Capacity funding to increase organizational capacity that will result in an acquisition for an easement over a 590-acre property located in rural Carmel Valley. The property has been previously mismanaged and allows for the opportunity for the organization to implement regenerative practices that will help restore the property for sustainable agriculture.

In addition to the acquisition, funding will be utilized for fully burdened staff time which consists of landowner outreach and engagement, title work, mapping, and project negotiations. The project will incorporate agritourism and educational opportunities on the property that will promote consumer awareness of sustainable agriculture and encourage landowners to protect their properties in the future.

**Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Capacity Project Summary**

FY 2021-22 Project Recommended If Budget Modification Approved

Applicant

San Joaquin River Parkway
and Conservation Trust, Inc.

Project County

Fresno, Merced, Madera
Counties

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$175,644

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

San Joaquin River Agricultural Lands Conservation Development
Project

Project Description

The River Parkway Trust proposes to complete additional strategic land conservation mapping and planning for the San Joaquin River environs. Funds will support the staff time necessary for landowner analysis and outreach through one-on-one landowner communication and will assist with due diligence and project development costs. The Project will enable the River Parkway Trust to increase land conservation prospects by continuing landowner outreach activities to the San Joaquin River Restoration Area. The River Parkway Trust will invest resources in relationship development activities to increase the level of landowner knowledge about available conservation tools and the Trust's role in the community. As a result, the River Parkway Trust anticipates meeting with twenty landowners and developing at least three agricultural land fee-title acquisition projects.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Project County

Mariposa, Madera, and Fresno
Counties

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Conservation Capacity Project

Project Description

The proposed capacity and project development project includes completion of the Tribal component of the applicant's *Strategic Land Conservation Plan*; staff time and legal support to develop projects and apply for funding; as well as staff time, associated costs and legal support to complete and close funded projects.

Funding for staff and consultant time would be used to create a component devoted solely to tribal acquisition efforts and to create a blueprint to scale up and develop current and future tribal efforts across the four-county region.

Additional staff and financial capacity will also provide resources for the timely completion of four identified projects. Applicant noted that they have secured \$2,159,798 in acquisition funding for two women ranchers across four properties and two counties. Funding would be used to complete and close these projects. Funding partners include CALFIRE, California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Shasta Land Trust

Project County

Shasta County

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Title

Shasta Land Trust Capacity and Project Development

Project Description

Shasta Land Trust is requesting Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Capacity grant funding to hire an additional full time staff member to prioritize projects for conservation easements based on conservation-minded land management practices such as carbon sequestration, maintaining clean air and water, safeguarding ecosystem services, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions due to conversion, as identified in the in-progress 10-year Climate Smart Conservation Plan.

The proposed funding will allow for the Land Trust to conserve more lands and allow increased stewardship dollar pledge agreements with each landowner, which secures a percentage of the conservation easement value at the close of each escrow as unencumbered funds. These funds will help sustain years of conservation work into the future making the Land Trust's annual budget more resilient, but also ensuring staff capacity is maintained to meet community needs.

Increased capacity will allow the Land Trust to provide technical assistance to the local tribes, like the Pit River, Wintu, and Yana Tribe, to develop conservation easement acquisition projects that provide benefits to address community needs.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Mother Lode Land Trust

Project County

El Dorado, Amador,
Calaveras, Tuolumne, and
Alpine counties.

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Title

Central Sierra Ag. Acquisition Planning

Project Description

The proposed project includes the analysis of a completed priority mapping project that will be used to identify key areas for conservation; outreach to landowners and agencies in the targeted areas; identification and prioritization of several willing landowners in each key area; and completion of due diligence on, and application for, an estimated four key projects during the grant cycle.

Outreach in the key target areas will not only be focused on landowners, but will also include local agency outreach, and consultation with five local Native American Tribes. Additionally, outreach would include identifying new or veteran farmers and ranchers and priority would be given to conservation easements on ranches or farmland that would lower the economic barrier for new and disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. For fee lands purchased with grant funding, new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers would be given priority when utilizing ranching for sustainable land management practices.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

San Benito Ag Land Trust

Project County

San Benito County

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$231,500

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Capacity Building for Agricultural Conservation in San Benito County

Project Description

This proposed capacity project would fund staff time spent on cultivating and pursuing agricultural conservation easement projects in San Benito County. Grant funding would help bridge the gap and ensure that San Benito Agricultural Land Trust has the capacity to respond and provide technical assistance to pursue high-priority projects, and fund staff time to write acquisition proposals to the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.

This project will build on a previous capacity grant funded by the Department of Conservation, which was to develop an Ag Conservation Plan. Funds will support the Plan to conduct outreach on properties that have the greatest conservation value and promote the potential for conservation opportunities in these prioritized areas. Areas identified in the Plan are at high risk of conversion and protection of properties in these areas will directly support SALC program goals of carbon neutrality, infill development, coordinated land use planning, and sustainable land management.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Siskiyou Land Trust

Project County

Siskiyou

Funding Tier

Tier 2

Funding Requested

\$250,000

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Siskiyou Land Trust Agricultural Conservation Capacity Project

Project Description

The proposed project will assist the Siskiyou Land Trust in assessing and updating land trust operations and systems to respond to organizational structure, staffing, and work-load changes with the goal of applying for Land Trust Alliance Accreditation. The project will also include outreach and project development support. The project will also build support for tribal relations and collaboration for how the Land Trust may support protection of cultural resources as part of the acquisition projects.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Capacity Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

Applicant

Tule Basin Land and Water
Conservation Trust

Project County

Tulare County

Funding Tier

Tier 1

Funding Requested

\$99,844

Priority Populations Benefits

No

Project Title

Tule Trust SALC Development Project

Project Description

Tule Basin Land and Water Conservation Trust is applying for capacity funding that will help the organization to develop land acquisition protocols (parcel analysis records - PAR), build a business plan that lays out long term operations and management models for SALC, and help prepare the trust for Land Trust Alliance Certification. The project will help support the Trust to increase Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation outreach efforts, identify a priority acquisition, and better coordinate with Groundwater Sustainability Agency planning efforts.

The project will result in greenhouse gas avoidance via protection of agricultural lands from being converted to other uses and promote agricultural economic viability.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Planning Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PG01_SDC

Applicant

San Diego LAFCO & County of San Diego

Project Location

San Diego County

Project Title

Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform & Support Economically Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County

Total Funding

\$500,000

Funding Request

\$450,000

Match Funding

\$50,000

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Description

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission and County of San Diego Planning and Development Services seek Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation Program funding to generate market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County. The proposed project will focus on small-scale farming operations that have limited resources and support.

The proposed planning project serves as a continuation of the current SALC project and will address existing conversion risks by providing timely market information to assist existing farmers in planning appropriate course corrections in remaining or becoming sustainable as well as assisting prospective farmers in proceeding with informed and sustainable start-up operations. Data generated through this project will aid local governments in revisiting tools, programs, and resources to support farmers in the shared interest of preserving agriculture in perpetuity.

Project deliverables include a market analysis that will highlight market information and best practice data specific to the region, a gap analysis that identifies the "gap" in costs and return of investment between marginal farms and economically sustainable farms, a strategic plan on prospective mechanisms such as incentives, technical support, programs and regulatory streamlining to help bridge the economic gap to increase economic sustainability, and an outreach and education plan that will inform and educate the agricultural community, including disadvantaged, low income, and underrepresented groups.

Land Use Conversion Threats

According to the County's 2020 Crop Statistical and Annual Report the overall acreage devoted to commercial ag decreased from 233,477 acres in 2019 to 224,549 acres in 2020, or 10,000 acres. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program data also suggest that San Diego County had the 5th highest net loss of irrigated farmland in the state.

Strategic Value or Special Features

The proposed planning project will serve as a continuation of the Round 6 SALC awarded project. San Diego County LAFCO and the County will collaborate with multiple relevant agencies involved with land use and agricultural and environmental planning. This project will also leverage the knowledge and expertise of an agricultural economist in generating the market and best practice information.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Planning Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PG02_HUM

Applicant

Hoopa Valley Tribe

Project Location

Hoopa, Humboldt County

Project Title

Hoopa Valley Tribe
Agricultural Conservation
and Resiliency Plan and
General Plan

Total Funding

\$551,016.36

Funding Request

\$500,000

Match Funding

\$51,016.36

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Description

The Hoopa Planning Department is applying on behalf of the Hoopa Valley Tribe (HVT) for the development of an Agricultural Conservation & Resiliency Plan and a General Plan for the HVT. The project will include the creation of a focus group with leadership, key tribal departmental staff, and other stakeholders to identify project goals, objectives and stakeholder issues and concerns. Included in the work plan is the development of a policy matrix to identify, document, evaluate, and analyze tribal plans, programs, and policies related to land, economy, environment, culture, and community. Working with a consultant, HVT Planning Department staff will review and record archival data, tribal policy, and organizational processes and procedures important to agricultural conservation, including plans, policy, and programs affecting forest lands, natural lands, wetlands, watersheds, wildlife habitat, and developed and undeveloped lands. The expected outcome and deliverables include an updated General Plan and an Agricultural Conservation & Resiliency Plan that will serve as a roadmap for current and future land use and community development for the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Participating stakeholders include the Hoopa Valley Tribal Government (Council) and its entities, Tribal and community members at large, agricultural producers, local schools, cultural groups, and local Resource Conservation District (RCD) groups. Stakeholders would provide data, input, and recommendations for policies and processes.

Land Use Conversion Threats

One of the biggest threats to land conversion from agriculture to other uses is the demand for land for housing. There are approximately 500 applicants on the waiting list for homesites and approximately 15 applicants on the list for agricultural leases. The goal of the proposed plan is to identify and address the needs of the community through a general plan that merges all of the tribal plans under one cohesive plan to better ensure that both housing and agricultural needs can be sustainably met.

Strategic Value or Special Features

The proposed project will also identify indigenous food sovereignty and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) practices within the plans, acknowledging that many of the traditional food sources are within the forested areas. The Hoopa Valley Tribe has the largest Reservation (96,000 acres) in the State of California and occupies less than a third of their Aboriginal territory. They are a federally recognized California Native American Tribe with land use and transportation authority. This application represents the first tribally-lead SALC project to date.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Planning Project Summary

FY 2021-22 Funding Recommended

SALC21_PG03_TUL

Applicant

County of Tulare County
Resources Management
Agency

Project Location

Tulare County

Project Title

Tulare SALC Planning

Total Funding

\$550,000

Funding Request

\$500,000

Match Funding

\$50,000

Priority Populations Benefits

Yes

Project Description

The proposed planning project focuses on protecting Tulare County's agricultural economy by prioritizing the conservation of the County's agricultural lands while optimizing limited water resources. It includes three primary tasks. The first will be to develop a regional SALC agricultural land conservation easement plan primarily focused on conserving agricultural lands within the geographic boundaries of the Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETGSA). Key agricultural areas will be cataloged as well as anticipated threats to regional agriculture. This information will be used to develop maps, SALC easement prioritization criteria, and an evaluation matrix.

Tasks 3 and 4 are focused on direct landowner outreach, technical assistance, development of SALC easement acquisition proposals and review of the project's effectiveness, and plans for broadening the geographic reach for future acquisition projects.

Land Use Conversion Threats

Farmland in the project area is at risk of conversion to other uses for several reasons. Urban development pressure, environmental and water resource threats such as ongoing drought, groundwater depletion and diminishing water allocations increase the threat of land conversion to non-agricultural uses. Research has suggested that the impacts of SGMA requirements in this region will lead to significant land fallowing and/or the retirement of ag lands.

Strategic Value or Special Features

This project will serve as a pilot project which will be developed in other regions in the future.

Collaboration on the project includes the Tule Basin Land and Water Conservation Trust (Tule Trust), Eastern Tule Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETGSA), the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), and Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT).

The project complements other efforts in the project geographic area including a recently awarded DOC MLRP block grant project. The MLRP project will support the strategic planning and implementation of land repurposing projects to reduce groundwater reliance and create local environmental and economic opportunities through land-use changes.