Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Supporting the need for agricultural conservation, economic growth, and sustainable development

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) utilizes Cap-and-Trade proceeds to protect agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion to other uses. Protecting farmland avoids increased emissions associated with development and provides an opportunity to capture carbon in the land base. SALC’s mission is to support California’s need for agricultural conservation, economic growth, and sustainable development.

“SALC fights climate change by protecting our productive farmlands and encouraging compact, transit-oriented communities.”
WHAT DOES SALC FUND?
SALC funds projects that protect at-risk agricultural lands from conversion to more pollution-heavy land uses such as urban or rural residential development. The program provides two types of awards: Planning grants and Agricultural Conservation Acquisition grants.

Planning grants provide funds to develop plans for the protection of agricultural land at risk of conversion to nonagricultural uses. These plans support agricultural land conservation by protecting the land base and developing regional food systems. Plans may also recognize and protect environmental co-benefits of conserving agricultural lands.

Agricultural Conservation Acquisition grants are used to permanently protect agricultural lands that support infill and compact development. Agricultural Conservation Acquisition grants will be provided to purchase conservation easements or fee title to agricultural land. Acquisition grants are deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to preserve the land’s agricultural uses.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?
- Planning Grants
  - Cities
  - Counties
  - California Native American Tribes
  - Councils of Government
  - Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
  - Local Area Formation Commissions
  - Special Districts

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants
  - Cities
  - Counties
  - California Native American Tribes
  - Nonprofit Organizations
  - Resource Conservation Districts
  - Regional Park or Open-Space Districts or Authorities

HOW ARE OUTCOMES TRACKED AND MONITORED?
Outcomes for each award are monitored through tracking greenhouse gas emissions avoided and identifying co-benefits of funded projects. The greenhouse gas quantification methodology is certified by the California Air Resources Board.

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

101 ACQUISITION PROJECTS TOTALING 117,000 ACRES TO BE CONSERVED
24 PLANNING GRANTS ACROSS 18 COUNTIES

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