



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Supporting the need for agricultural conservation, economic growth, and sustainable development



The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) utilizes funding through California's Cap-and-Trade system to protect critical agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion to more energy intensive uses. Protecting these lands promotes smart growth within existing jurisdictions, ensures open space remains available, supports agricultural and tribal food systems, promotes biodiversity and soil health, and helps sequester climate change-causing emissions.

SALC addresses climate change by protecting productive farmlands and encouraging compact, transit-oriented communities.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

PLANNING GRANTS

- » Cities
- » Counties
- » California Native American Tribes
- » Councils of Government
- » Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- » Local Area Formation Commissions
- » Regional Transportation Planning Agencies
- » Special Districts with land use or transportation authority

ACQUISITION GRANTS AND CAPACITY GRANTS

- » Cities
- » Counties
- » California Native American Tribes
- » 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organizations
- » Resource Conservation Districts
- » Regional Park or Open-Space Districts or Authorities

HOW ARE OUTCOMES TRACKED AND MONITORED?

Projects are monitored to ensure acres remain conserved and benefits including greenhouse gas avoidance are maintained.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

SALC simultaneously supports California's food security and protects farmlands and biodiversity while encouraging the development of compact, sustainable communities. The program addresses climate change by supporting more compact development patterns, allowing Californians to live in locations close to their daily destinations, while also helping to store carbon in the land base. By keeping land in farming, SALC also promotes the retention of local jobs and supports rural economies.

WHAT DOES SALC FUND?

SALC funds projects that protect at-risk agricultural lands from conversion to more pollution-heavy land uses such as residential development. The program provides three types of awards:

Planning grants support the development of local and regional land use policies, economic development strategies, and plans to protect critical agricultural land. In many instances, plans may also recognize and protect environmental co-benefits of conserving agricultural lands.

Agricultural Conservation Acquisition grants are used to permanently protect agricultural lands. Agricultural Conservation Acquisition grants are provided to purchase conservation easements on or fee title to agricultural land. Acquisition grants are deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to conserve the land's agricultural uses in perpetuity.

Capacity and Project Development grants expand organizational capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects.

116 ACQUISITION PROJECTS
TOTALING

142,000 ACRES TO BE CONSERVED

27 PLANNING GRANTS
ACROSS
18 COUNTIES

CONTACT

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LEARN MORE

sgc.ca.gov/programs/salc/
www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/SALCP