

**CALIFORNIA
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

GRANT GUIDELINES & APPLICATIONS

**PART OF
CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL**

**DRAFT
February 2021**



**CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL**



**California
Department of
Conservation**

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At-A-Glance

Program

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program is a component of the Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. The Department of Conservation, in conjunction with the Natural Resources Agency, administers SALC on behalf of the Strategic Growth Council.

Funding Source

This program is funded through the California Climate Investments Program.

Critical Dates for Round 7

Draft Guidelines released for comment: February 19, 2021

Public comment closed: March 23, 2021 12 p.m.

Guidelines adopted: April 29, 2021

Acquisition Pre-proposal due: June 1, 2021

Planning Pre-proposal due: July 1, 2021

Determination of available funding: September 2021

Full Applications due: September 10, 2021

Project Awards: December 2021

Contact for Questions

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Section 1: Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Introduction and Summary

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC), a component of the Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program, supports California's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals by making strategic investments to protect agricultural lands from conversion to more GHG-intensive uses. It also contributes to implementation of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-82-20, which calls for the accelerated use of nature-based solutions to address the climate and biodiversity crises. Protecting critical agricultural lands from conversion to urban or rural residential development promotes smart growth within existing jurisdictions, ensures open space remains available, and supports a healthy agricultural economy and resulting food security. A healthy and resilient agricultural sector is becoming increasingly important in meeting the challenges occurring and anticipated as a result of climate change.

SALC is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.

Program Components

These **Guidelines** cover the following investment types:

- **Agricultural Conservation Acquisitions**– Grants to protect important agricultural lands under threat of conversion to nonagricultural uses through the acquisition of voluntary, permanent agricultural conservation easements (easements) or fee title purchases.
- **Agricultural Conservation Planning**– Grants to develop and implement plans for the protection of agricultural lands at risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses.

SALC Goals and Objectives

The principal goals of SALC are to:

- Protect agricultural lands to support infill and compact development¹
- Contribute to carbon neutrality and build climate resilience through support for sustainable land management practices
- Support Executive Order N-82-20 by:
 - a. Safeguarding the State's economic sustainability and food security
 - b. Protecting biodiversity
 - c. Enabling enduring conservation measures on working lands, in partnership with land managers and natural resource user groups
 - d. Building climate resilience, reducing risk from extreme climate events, and contributing to the State's effort to combat climate change
 - e. Advancing equity and opportunity for all regions of California

These Guidelines prioritize projects that:

- Demonstrate the greatest potential to protect lands most at risk of conversion to residential or urban development,
- Avoid GHG emissions,
- Contribute to carbon neutrality and build climate resilience,
- Promote equity,
- Promote nature-based solutions and agricultural sustainability,
- Protect biodiversity,
- Support land use planning processes consistent with the goals of AHSC,
- Support or improve public health, and
- Provide multiple co-benefits.

Funding

SALC will award an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the auction proceeds available from the twenty percent (20%) continuously appropriated to the Strategic Growth Council for the AHSC from GGRF each fiscal year. SALC administration costs will be deducted from the available funding prior to project award. The actual funding amount available each fiscal year will not be determined until after the fourth auction for that fiscal year.

Funding should leverage private and other government investment to the maximum extent possible. To the maximum extent feasible, SALC will work with

¹ [Public Resources Code Section 75210](#)

other administering agencies to provide multiple benefits and to maximize the benefits from each program. This coordination may include sharing information about a project or applicant.

SALC will coordinate with local, state, and federal programs to avoid duplicative funding for projects.

SALC funds not awarded or identified for award to alternate projects under one solicitation may be made available in the subsequent solicitation. Additional funding for SALC projects may be available from previously funded projects that withdraw or come in under budget.

Up to three fee acquisitions and not more than twenty five percent (25%) of available funding is available for fee acquisition projects. Funds not awarded for fee title acquisition pilot projects may be awarded to fund easement acquisitions or planning grants. Up to five percent (5%) of the available funding may be reserved for Planning grants. Planning grants have a maximum grant award of \$250,000. There is no maximum award for Acquisition grants. Funds not awarded under the Planning component may be used to increase available funding for the Acquisition component.

GHG Quantification and Jobs Reporting

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopts [Funding Guidelines for Agencies that Administer California Climate Investments](#) (CARB's Funding Guidelines) to ensure that all programs that receive California Climate Investments dollars distribute those dollars in accordance with applicable law.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Per CARB's Funding Guidelines, all California Climate Investments programs must facilitate the achievement of greenhouse gas emission reductions. SALC estimates avoided greenhouse gas emissions based on the vehicle miles traveled avoided by protecting agricultural land at risk of conversion and limiting opportunities for expansive, vehicle-dependent forms of development. These avoided emissions are quantified and reported for funded easement projects in accordance with a [CARB-approved quantification methodology](#).

Jobs

To the extent feasible, all California Climate Investments programs must foster job creation by selecting and supporting projects carried out by California workers and businesses. For all projects, applicants will be required to report the potential employment benefits associated with their project should they be

awarded funding. These benefits must be estimated using the [jobs co-benefit assessment methodology](#) developed by CARB. For projects where the total project cost exceeds \$1 million, grantees will be required to report on the employment outcomes of their projects when the acquisition closes.

As needed and where appropriate, SALC program staff will work with CARB to develop or update project outcome reporting requirements.

Co-benefits

Pursuant to AB 1532, GGRF monies shall be used to facilitate reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and, where applicable and to the extent feasible, to:

- maximize environmental, economic, and public health benefits for California, and
- lessen the impacts and effects of climate change on the state's communities, economy, and environment.

CCI refers to such benefits as co-benefits. Co-benefits associated with SALC projects may include:

Environmental Co-Benefits

- Protection of land of special environmental significance
- Protection of watershed health
- Protection of native plants and animals
- Restoration of habitat and biodiversity, including pollinators
- Protection of habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors
- Protection of open space and viewsheds

Economic Co-Benefits

- Retention of local jobs and agricultural revenue
- Support for workforce development
- Retention of entrepreneurial opportunities
- Avoidance of spending on municipal services for dispersed development

Public Health Co-Benefits

- Contributions to the preservation of food security
- Access to affordable, nutritious foods
- Reductions in food waste
- Agricultural practices that reduce negative public health impacts
- Reduction in the risk of wildfire-related health impacts

Additional Co-Benefits

- Facilitation of collaboration between multiple entities
- Educational opportunities for students or new farmers
- Outdoor access
- Avoided increase in flood risk

Statutory Authority

Public Resources Code sections [75127](#) and [75128](#) direct the Strategic Growth Council to manage and award financial assistance to support the planning and development of communities that achieve sustainability objectives. Public Resources Code Section [75126\(b\)](#) states that these funded activities must be consistent with the California's planning priorities specified in [Government Code Section 65041.1](#) ("California's Planning Priorities"). Public Resources Code, Section [75125](#) states that the Strategic Growth Council shall develop guidelines for awarding financial assistance, including criteria for eligibility and additional considerations.

[AB 32](#) (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) and related amendments identify climate change as a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and environment of California and established the GGRF. Health and Safety Code Section [39719\(b\)\(1\)\(C\)](#) apportions the Strategic Growth Council twenty percent (20%) of GGRF auction proceeds on an annual basis. Health and Safety Code [Section 39712\(b\)](#) requires that GGRF monies be used to reduce GHG emissions consistent with the purposes of AB 32.

Public Resources Code Section [75212](#) lists the types of projects eligible for funding under the AHSC. Specifically:

- Section 75212(h) authorizes the Strategic Growth Council to invest in the "acquisition of easements and other approaches or tools that protect agricultural lands that are under pressure of being converted to nonagricultural uses, particularly those adjacent to areas most at risk of urban and suburban sprawl or those of special environmental significance."
- Section 75212(i) authorizes the Strategic Growth Council to invest in projects for "planning to support implementation of a sustainable communities strategy, including implementation of local plans supporting greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts and promoting infill and compact development."

SALC was developed as a component of AHSC to administer projects eligible for GGRF funds pursuant to these sections.

SALC was identified by the Strategic Growth Council as most appropriately administered by the California Department of Conservation (Department) in conjunction with the Natural Resources Agency (Agency). The Strategic Growth Council approved the roles of the Department and the Agency at its July 10, 2014 meeting. In addition, SALC has been developed in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

The Department's authority for agricultural land protection derives from various sections of statute:

- Public Resources Code Sections 10200-10277, the California Farmland Conservancy Program
- Public Resources Code Sections 10280-10283, Agricultural Protection Planning Grant Program
- Government Code Section 65570, the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
- Government Code Sections 51200-51294.7, the Williamson Act
- Public Resources Code Division 9, governing Resource Conservation Districts

Equity

Priority Populations

[Health and Safety Code section 39713](#) directs state and local agencies to make significant investments that improve California's most vulnerable communities. The statute requires that GGRF funding for California Climate Investments as a whole benefit residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households² (priority populations) as follows:

- A minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of available GGRF monies to projects that are located within and benefit individuals living in disadvantaged communities;
- A minimum five percent (5%) of available GGRF monies to projects that benefit low-income households or to projects that are located within and benefit individuals living in low-income communities located anywhere in the state; and,
- A minimum five percent (5%) of available GGRF monies to projects that benefit low-income households located within a ½ mile of a disadvantaged community or to projects that are located within and provide benefits to individuals living within low-income communities that are outside of, but within a ½ mile of, a disadvantaged community.

[Public Resources Code section 75214](#) establishes a target of expending fifty percent (50%) of overall AHSC funds on projects located in and benefit disadvantaged communities to meet these GGRF goals, and CARB works with

² Health and Safety Code Section 39711 defines "disadvantaged communities" and Health and Safety Code Section 39713 defines "low-income communities" and "low-income households."

AHSC each year to set annual investment targets. The established [FY2020-21 investment targets](#) for AHSC are:

- 60% of awarded funds to Disadvantaged Communities
- 10% of awarded funds to Low-Income Communities or Households
- 5% of awarded funds to communities within a ½-mile of disadvantaged communities and within a low-income community census tract

Funding allocated by SALC to priority populations is counted toward these AHSC targets.

To benefit priority populations a project must meet all the following requirements:

- Fifty percent (50%) or more of the project must be located within:
 - A disadvantaged community census tract, as designated by CalEPA;
 - A low-income community census tract, as defined in HSC 39713; or,
 - A half-mile of a disadvantaged community and within a low-income community census tract;
- The project must address an important community or household need; and,
- The project must provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to a priority population.

A mapping tool to determine whether a project location is within a priority population census tract is available on [CARB's Community Investments webpage](#).

Applicants interested in having their proposal considered for priority population benefits must complete the Priority Population Benefits Table and provide supporting documentation in their application. Please check <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources> for any updates to the priority population benefit criteria tables. These materials will be evaluated in detail to determine if the benefits provided rise to a level that can be claimed to meet the AB 1550 requirements. Information provided to support a priority population benefits claim will be reviewed by the SALC Interagency Committee, in consultation with CARB.

- Planning grant applications found to benefit priority populations will receive ten additional points.
- Acquisition applicants that benefit priority populations will receive an additional five points on their application and may receive one hundred percent funding for eligible costs.

California Native American Tribes

Executive Order N-15-19 acknowledges and apologizes on behalf of California for the historical “violence, exploitation, dispossession and the attempted destruction of tribal communities” from the early years of the State well into the 20th century. In the spirit of truth and healing and consistent with administration policy, SALC seeks to:

- support California Native American tribes’ co-management of and access to natural lands and Indigenous cultural resources within those lands
- Facilitate the access of California Native Americans to cultural resources
- Improve the ability of California Native Americans to engage in traditional and sustenance gathering, hunting and fishing
- Encourage partnerships with California tribes on land management and stewardship utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Acquisition projects that provide one or more of the above benefits will receive five points on their application.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers

[SGC’s Racial Equity Action Plan \(2019\)](#) requires that SGC’s grant programs “Demonstrate Commitment to Racial Equity” and “Develop Minimum Requirements for Racial Equity Priority Topics.” The Legislature “recognizes the importance of investing in the long-term prosperity of our food and farming system, starting with our farmers” and that:

(2) Farmers of color have historically not had equitable access to land and other resources necessary to conduct farming in California, and that legacy of prejudice persists.

(3) Female farmers represent less than a quarter of all farmers in the state. Only 2 percent of California farmers are women of color, according to the United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture.

(4) Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers tend to farm fewer acres but have a greater diversity of crops in California.

(5) According to the United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture, on average, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in California receive less in federal payments than their White counterparts and also earn less.

(6) Despite the barriers, an increasing number of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers are attempting to farm throughout California, across rural and urban settings.

(7) Existing federal agricultural policies have failed to provide sufficient and appropriate technical assistance and financial support, including farmer cooperative creation, for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

(Food and Agriculture Code Section 511.)

The Farmer Equity Report (California Department of Food and Agriculture, 2020, p.9) found that “[a] primary challenge facing socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in California is land tenure.” “Land tenure is an issue that can affect farmers and ranchers’ eligibility for CDFA resources such as grants as well as inform their decisions on adopting long-term conservation practices. This is a key issue that should be recognized when developing programs, policies and resources because it affects all aspects of farm business [.]” (*Id.* p. 10.)

To implement the Racial and Equity Action Plan (2019), to address the Legislature’s findings set forth in Section 511, and to address CDFA’s findings in the Farm Equity Report, SALC encourages projects that benefit socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and increase their participation in acquisition and planning projects. “Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers” has the meaning set forth in Food and Agriculture Code section 512.

Grant Application

The application processes for Acquisition and Planning grants are detailed in Sections 2 and 3 of these Guidelines, respectively. Pre-proposals and applications must be received electronically by 11:59 p.m. on the deadlines specified in the most current solicitation.

SALC forms and sample documents are available in the Addenda and individually on the [SALC website](#).

A summary of each project application, the California Climate Investments funding request, and priority population benefits status will be posted at least ten days before the Strategic Growth Council makes project awards. The Strategic Growth Council determines the final awards and will announce these awards at a public meeting. Applicants will be notified in writing of the Strategic Growth Council's decision following the meeting at which the awards are announced.

Publicity and Confidentiality

Acquisition applicants are encouraged to inform landowners and other partners that grant applications may result in publicity.

Because public funds are used to secure acquisitions and fund planning grants, details related to an application are public records that may be publicly released in accordance with the California Public Records Act.

Grantees are required to use SGC and CCI names and/or logos for all publications, websites, signage, invitations, and other media-related and public-outreach products related to the grant. Guidance on logo usage, signage, and logo files contained in the [Style Guide](#).

Long Form Materials

Long-form written materials, such as reports, must include the following standard language about the SALC Program and California Climate Investments:

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SALC is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment— particularly in disadvantaged communities. The Cap-and-Trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investments projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling, and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at: www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.

Press Releases, Flyers and Visual Materials

Any informational materials that do not qualify as long-form, but that include at least a paragraph of text, such as press releases, media advisories, short case studies, flyers, etc., should include the following:

Long version:

“[Project Name] is supported by California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation program with funds from California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities.”

Short version:

“[Project Name] is supported by California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation program with funds from California Climate Investments—Cap-and-Trade Dollars at Work.”

Grantees may at times produce promotional materials that are primarily visual in nature, such as banners, signage, certain flyers, and sharable images for social media. In such cases, when including the boilerplate language acknowledging CCI and SGC support is not practical, grantees should instead include the official logos of both SGC and CCI, preceded by the words “Funded by.” Any

informational materials that include at least a paragraph of text should include the CCI language below. Please contact the SALC staff with questions.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Grantees are required to identify a point of contact for all press inquiries and communications needs related to the project and provide the name, phone number and email address of this individual to SGC. Grantees must also distribute a press release after grant decisions are made at SGC's Public Council Meeting and are encouraged to do so for other major milestones throughout the lifecycle of the grant. All press releases must be approved by SGC Communications Office prior to distribution and SGC must be alerted and invited to participate in any and all press conferences related to the grant.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Consistent with Article I, Section 31 (a) of the California Constitution, the State of California and its programs shall not discriminate against, nor grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

Section 2: Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Grants

Under the [Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Third Investment Plan](#) Executive and Executive Order N-82-20, California aims to invest California Climate Investment dollars in the conservation of working lands in order to facilitate net climate benefits and long term carbon sequestration in the land base.

Preventing the conversion of agricultural land to residential or rural residential development avoids vehicle miles traveled and related greenhouse gas emissions.

A complete list of all the Eligibility Criteria for acquisition projects is listed within the “Eligibility and Selection Criteria for Agricultural Conservation Acquisitions” section.

Applications that do not meet all the Eligibility Criteria will not be considered for funding.

Eligible Applicants

Cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, resource conservation districts, regional park or open-space districts, regional park or open-space authorities, and California Native American tribes, as identified in Civil Code Section 815.3, are eligible to apply for funding.

An application can be submitted by either (1) a single applicant where the applicant is the intended easement holder or intended conservation buyer or (2) multiple entities that are collaborating on the acquisition, one of which must be identified as the intended easement holder or intended conservation buyer. The easement holder/conservation buyer must have the conservation of agriculture, rangeland, or farmland among their stated purposes, as is prescribed by statute, or as expressed in the entity's adopted policies. The applicant and co-applicant cannot already have an interest in the property.

Nonprofit applicants that intend to be the easement or fee title holder of the acquired property must be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission or have adopted equivalent or greater policies regarding conflict of interest, amendments, monitoring, stewardship endowments, and enforcement, as relevant, prior to submission of an application. Those that haven't must apply with either a co-applicant that has such policies in place or a government entity.

Nonprofit organizations must hold a tax exemption as defined under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code and further qualify under Internal Revenue Code Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or 170(h)(3).

Eligible applicants are not limited in the number of project applications they may submit.

Eligible Projects

Agricultural conservation acquisition grants will be provided to fund the purchase of conservation easements or fee title to agricultural land.

Agricultural intensification restrictions on non-cultivated land are permitted if each of the following conditions are met:

- The restriction is consistent with the property's continuing agricultural use, and
- Agricultural use of the property is not substantially impaired.

Example 1: Restriction permitted

A restriction on conversion of rangeland to vineyards would be permitted because the restriction 1) is consistent with the property's current and reasonably foreseeable future commercial agricultural use and 2) permits continued use as rangeland.

Example 2: Restriction permitted

A restriction that prohibits cattle from accessing sensitive riparian areas containing threatened species so long as alternative water sources are available onsite would be permitted. Such restriction does not 1) interfere with the continuing agricultural use as cattle can drink from the alternative water source and 2) the restriction does not substantially impair agricultural use on the property but only a small portion of the property.

Example 3: Restriction not permitted

A restriction on pasture land that would allow only one llama, a family pet, to be grazed with imported llama feed would not be permitted as such a restriction 1) is not consistent with the property's continuing agricultural use as pasture and 2) substantially limits the agricultural use.

Eligible Costs

Only direct costs incurred to acquire the easement or fee title to the property during the grant term specified in the Grant Agreement are eligible for payment under this program.

Easement Acquisition Cost

Competitive grants will be awarded to cover up to seventy-five percent (75%) of the value of the agricultural conservation easement.

Fee Acquisition Cost

Projects for fee title acquisitions may be awarded to assess the feasibility of these acquisitions. Up to three fee acquisitions and not more than twenty five percent (25%) of available funding is available for fee acquisition projects. Competitive grants may be awarded to cover up to seventy-five (75%) of the agricultural conservation easement value of the property's fair market value. For example, if the property's fair market value is \$1,000,000, and its easement value is 50% of the fair market value (\$500,000), SALC would contribute a maximum of \$375,000 (or 75% of \$500,000) toward the purchase of the property.

Associated Costs

All projects approved for funding are eligible to receive up to \$50,000—in addition to the funding toward the acquisition discussed above—to cover reasonable associated costs incurred to acquire the real property interest.

The Strategic Growth Council will allocate \$50,000 in associated costs funding for each awarded project, unless applicants specify a lower amount in their application. The Strategic Growth Council may increase a project's associated cost allocation if it determines such costs are commensurate with the work needed to complete the project. Applicants may be required to provide a detailed budget for the project, should the project be awarded funding.

All eligible costs must be supported by appropriate documentation during the invoicing process.

Eligible Associated Costs	Ineligible Associated Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fully-burdened applicant staff time for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● deed negotiations ● title work ● project mapping ● appraisal review and coordination ● SALC-required reporting ○ Technical and legal consulting ○ Appraisal ○ Preliminary title report ○ Baseline conditions report ○ Escrow fees ○ Title insurance fees ○ Property boundary survey(s) ○ Building Envelope survey(s) ○ Environmental site assessment(s) ○ Mineral remoteness evaluation(s) ○ Tribal consultation(s) ○ Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costs incurred outside the grant term ○ Indirect or overhead costs ○ Travel ○ Ceremonial expenses ○ Expenses for publicity ○ Bonus payments of any kind ○ Interest expenses ○ Damage judgments arising from the acquisition, construction, or equipping of a facility, whether determined by judicial process, arbitration, negotiation, or otherwise ○ Services, materials, or equipment obtained under any other State program ○ Real estate brokerage fees and/or expenses ○ Stewardship or legal defense funds ○ CEQA documentation ○ Food or beverages (whether or not incurred as part of meetings, workshops, training, ceremonies, or other events)

Management Plans

All projects awarded funding are eligible to receive up to \$10,000, in addition to the funding toward the acquisition and associated costs discussed above, to develop a management plan for the property, or up to \$20,000 to develop a carbon farm plan for the property.

The management plan or carbon farm plan must:

- Be incorporated by reference into the deed
- Describe management practices for the protection of air, water, and soil resources on the property, including practices to protect biodiversity and facilitate climate adaptation, GHG reductions, and carbon sequestration
- Be approved by the Department prior to close of escrow
- Be updated by landowner at least every ten (10) years

Minimum management plan contents are set forth in Appendix J.

Match

Applicants must identify all existing or potential match funders in their pre-proposals and applications. Applicants cannot utilize other Department-administered program funding as match toward the purchase price of the property interest.

CARB encourages all agencies that administer California Climate Investments programs to coordinate investments and leverage funds where possible to provide multiple benefits and to maximize benefits. To aid SALC's efforts to coordinate investments and leverage funds as recommended by CARB, applicants pursuing project funding through other California Climate Investments programs should indicate which programs they are applying to, and whether such applications are for funding in lieu of or as match to SALC funding, in their application.

Initial Screening–Pre-proposals

Because the acquisition grant application process entails a significant amount of work, applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal to the Department prior to applying.

A pre-proposal consists of a structured summary of the proposed acquisition project; preliminary title report(s) less than twelve months old; an initial assessment of title concerns; as well as maps of the project boundaries, location, and proposed or existing building envelopes. Applicants are highly encouraged to submit a plotted easements map with their title report to facilitate the Department's title review. The pre-proposal worksheet is available in Appendix B.

Department grant managers will utilize pre-proposal information to assist the applicant in determining whether the project meets the Eligibility Criteria; identifying what, if any additional information will be needed in the full application; and ascertaining whether the project has title complexities that may impact the project or other issues.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria for Agricultural Conservation Acquisitions

The Eligibility Criteria are informed by the GHG reduction requirement associated with use of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds, [Civil Code section 815 et seq.](#) (Conservation Easements), and the Department's California Farmland Conservancy Program. The information submitted in the application package

should demonstrate how effectively the proposal will meet the SALC goals and objectives, criteria, and readiness requirements.

Projects must meet all Eligibility Criteria to be considered for funding.

Eligibility Criteria
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The application is for an Eligible Project.2. The applicant(s) is/are an Eligible Applicant.3. The applicant(s) agree(s) to and the project can satisfy all Conditions of Funding.4. The proposed acquisition is not part of a local government's condition placed upon the issuance of an entitlement for use of a specific property.5. The property has no known agricultural constraints (e.g., due to soil or water contamination).6. Protection of the property will support infill and compact development.7. The proposal will support the implementation of an adopted or draft Sustainable Communities Strategy or, if a Sustainable Communities Strategy is not required for a region by law, a regional plan that includes policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.8. The project is consistent with California's Planning Priorities9. The property is in an area with the necessary market, infrastructure, and agricultural support services to support long-term commercial agricultural production.10. The property is expected to continue to be used for, and is large enough to sustain, commercial agricultural production.11. The project demonstrates that it will achieve a reduction in GHG emissions using CARB's Quantification Methodology for Agricultural Lands Conservation.12. The property is at risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses as determined using at least one of the risk options. <p><u>For local government applicants only:</u> The local government applicant has not acquired, nor proposes to acquire, the interest in real property through the use of eminent domain, unless requested by the owner of the land.</p>

Projects that meet all the Eligibility Criteria will then be evaluated based on readiness and the extent to which they address the program's Selection Criteria. Projects that receive an A or B Readiness Ranking will be ranked against one another based on their Selection Criteria score. Projects with Readiness Ranking C may be evaluated if funding allows. Projects with Readiness Ranking D will not be funded through SALC in the current round and will not be further evaluated.

Acquisition Readiness Ranking	
A	Project ready (match funding for easement acquisition secured, if applicable; no title concerns, or defined plan to address title concerns prior to close of escrow that is acceptable to Department; project structure clearly defined; and reserved rights clearly defined).
B	Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues (e.g., match funding identified or applied for but not secured; contingencies in project structure and/or reserved rights).
C	Larger potential issue/resolution concerns (no match identified; project structure unclear; or reserved rights unclear).
D	Project not ready (e.g., plan to address title concerns is insufficient, nonexistent, or unlikely to resolve concerns prior to close of escrow).

The following table outlines the Selection Criteria by which eligible projects ranked A, B, or C will be scored using the Selection Criteria and ranked based on their score. Applications will be awarded points for each Selection Criteria on a sliding scale from zero to the number listed in the Selection Criteria table. All information submitted in the application package will be used by reviewers to evaluate the proposal and should demonstrate how effectively the proposal meets SALC goals and objectives.

Selection Criteria	Maximum Points
<p>The acquisition supports infill and compact development. Projects will be evaluated based on the extent to which they support infill and compact development, the extent to which the property would act as or add to a community separator or greenbelt, and benefits provided along the wildland urban interface.</p> <p><u>Location relative to centers of population growth</u> Projects will receive points based on their distance from development within the nearest city or CDP and the population growth rate of that population center (as determined using the two most recent censuses). See Appendix K for point breakdown (10 points maximum).</p> <p><u>Greenbelt</u> 10 points – is adjacent or adds to existing greenbelt or community separator 5 points – builds on a nascent greenbelt or community separator</p>	/25

<p><u>Wildland Urban Interface</u> 5 points - The property's ability to provide wildfire resilience benefits to nearby communities.</p>	
<p>The acquisition builds climate resilience, reduces risk from extreme climate events, contributes to the State's effort to combat climate change, and/or advances the State's effort to achieve carbon neutrality. Projects will be evaluated based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of CDFA or similar climate smart management practices that actively invest in soil health above generally accepted management practices, promote carbon sequestration, and build climate resilience (1 point per practice, up to 7 points maximum) 2. GHGs avoided per acre relative to the other projects within the application pool (5 points maximum) 3. Inclusion of a SALC-funded sustainable management plan (3 points) or carbon farm plan (5 points) as part of the project scope 4. The presence of habitat transition zones (3 points) 	/20
<p>The acquisition will advance equity and opportunity. Projects will be evaluated based on the extent to which they include the following (5 points maximum each, up to 15 points):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority population benefits as described on pgs. 7-9 of these Guidelines. 2. The project will support California Native American tribes' co-management of and access to natural lands and Indigenous cultural resources on the property. 3. A landowner or conservation buyer who is a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, or who provides secure land tenure for farming or ranching on the property to socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers for at least 10 consecutive years. 4. Support for a farm incubator or other new farmer training program onsite 	/15
<p>The acquisition will support long term, sustainable agricultural use and safeguards food security. Projects will be evaluated based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil quality, as determined the most recent IFL data for irrigated lands and gSSURGO data for grazing lands (5 points maximum). 2. Implementation of CDFA or similar management practices to improve water efficiency and conservation and actively invest in water stewardship above generally accepted practices such as drip irrigation(4 points maximum). 	/15

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Consistency with the local groundwater sustainability plan (if relevant) (4 points maximum). 4. Promote regional food systems resilience, including through crop diversification, production of fresh produce for local markets, and distribution of fresh food via local market channels (2 points maximum). 	
<p>The acquisition provides environmental co-benefits. Projects will be evaluated based on how they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect biodiversity, including protecting populations of pollinator insects; protecting native plants and animals from invasive species and pests; and providing habitat. (6 points maximum). 2. Are consistent with an adopted habitat or wildlife conservation plan, regional habitat or wildlife conservation program, or habitat or wildlife mitigation plan (4 points maximum). 	/10
<p>The acquisition supports coordinated land use planning processes through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistency with an adopted agricultural conservation plan, regional agricultural conservation program, agricultural mitigation plan, SALC-funded plan, or sustainable communities strategy (6 points maximum). 2. The property's location in strategic proximity to other permanently protected lands (e.g., other agricultural conservation easements, habitat conservation easements, or other fee-title protection) (4 points maximum). 	/10
<p>The acquisition provides additional co-benefits. Projects will be evaluated based on the extent to which they provide the following (1 point maximum each):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic co-benefits 2. Public health co-benefits 3. Support educational opportunities 4. Provide outdoor access 5. Provide other co-benefits to the State 	/5
Total	/100

Selection for funding may not be determined by a project's selection criteria score alone. In determining which projects to award grant funding, the Strategic Growth Council may also consider factors including AHSC's goals and objectives, avoided vehicle miles traveled, geographic distribution of funds, the urgency of the project, the Strategic Growth Council's priorities, and the applicant's past performance in completing SALC grants or Department administered grants. Alternate projects may be identified for funding by the

Strategic Growth Council in the current round of funding if funding becomes available. The Strategic Growth Council may award grants that partially fulfill an applicant's request.

Application Review

Applications for acquisition grants will be reviewed at least once per year, with the opportunity for additional cycles as funding and staff capacity allow. Additional application cycles will be announced on the Department's and Strategic Growth Council's websites at least 60 days in advance of the pre-proposal deadline.

Department staff are available prior to the application deadline to provide technical assistance to eligible applicants interested in applying. Pre-proposal forms are available as Appendix B. Application forms are available as Appendix C.

All pre-proposals and applications received by the Department will be evaluated based on the materials provided as of the pre-proposal and application deadlines, respectively. Materials not requested as part of the application process will not be reviewed. Department staff may review publicly available information as reasonable to verify the provided information.

Applicants interested in receiving technical assistance prior to submission of a pre-proposal may contact the Department with questions. Pre-proposals will be reviewed to determine project eligibility, and technical assistance provided to facilitate the development of competitive grant applications. Applicants will be notified regarding their project's eligibility following the pre-proposal review. Projects deemed eligible, or eligible with conditions, may be submitted as applications for further evaluation and scoring. In cases where reviewers have questions regarding eligibility or title concerns, proposers will be given the opportunity to respond to those concerns prior to an eligibility determination. For projects deemed eligible with conditions, applicants must provide substantive responses to the conditions identified in the pre-proposal feedback in their application in order for their application to be considered for funding.

Applications will be reviewed for completeness, readiness, , and the extent to which they meet the Selection Criteria and address program priorities. Incomplete applications may not be evaluated or considered for funding at the sole discretion of the SGC.

Department staff will perform a site visit of each proposed project to verify the accuracy of and better understand the proposal, as well as to clarify any

outstanding questions identified through the pre-proposal or application review. Applicants will be asked to arrange a tour of the property, which must be attended by a representative of the applicant and by the property owner or property owner representative. Department staff may conduct virtual site visits in lieu of in-person visits consistent with State guidance.

Following the Department's initial review of the projects in relation to the Eligibility Criteria, Selection Criteria, and Readiness Rankings, an Interagency Committee that includes Strategic Growth Council staff will review and evaluate all applications. This committee will make the final determination on which projects are recommended to the Strategic Growth Council for funding or as alternates.

Pre-proposal and Application Requirements

This section provides additional information regarding the components of the pre-proposal and application.

Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Pre-proposals

(All components are required unless otherwise noted)

- Acquisition Summary Sheet
- Risk of Conversion Summary Sheet and Supporting Evidence
- Documentation of Organizational Eligibility* (documents differ for nonprofit and governmental applicants)
- Documentation of Organizational Capacity*
- Certification of Acceptance of Conditions of Funding
- Applicant-Landowner Letter of Intent
- Narrative Questions
- Preliminary Title Report, Underlying Documents, and Assessor's Parcel Maps
- Project Boundary Map
- Priority Population Benefits Table and supporting documentation *(only required if applying for priority population status)*

*Applicant may certify that the most current versions of the starred documents are on file with the Department in lieu of submitting the documents themselves.

Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Applications

(All components are required unless otherwise noted)

- Grant Application Cover Sheet
- Executive Summary (1-page maximum)
- Acquisition Summary Sheet
- Narrative Questions
- Applicant Resolution of Support
- Letter to Planning Director
- Updated Preliminary Title Report, Underlying Documents, and Assessor's Parcel Maps *(if requested)*
- Appraisal or Support for Estimated Easement Value
- Revised Project Boundary Area Map(s)
- Revised Building Envelope Map
- Revised Priority Population Benefits Table and supporting documentation *(only required if applying for priority population status)*

Applicants are required to notify the local government's planning director about the application. For all applications received, SALC will independently notify the local government's planning director. SALC will also notify the regional transportation planning agency responsible for the applicable sustainable communities strategy or regional transportation plan if a sustainable communities strategy is not required by law. These parties will have 30 days to provide comments regarding the application. SALC will make reasonable efforts to address concerns raised by these parties and may consider feedback in evaluating the application.

For applications where the intended holder of the real property interest is not the applicant, the applicant must provide the following from the intended holder of the real property interest in the pre-proposal:

- Certification of Acceptance of Conditions of Funding
- Documentation of Organizational Capacity
- Documentation of Organizational Eligibility

The intended holder of the real property interest may certify that the most current versions of the relevant documents are on file with the Department in lieu of submitting the documents themselves.

The applicant must provide a Resolution of Support from the intended holder of the real property interest in the application.

Application materials can be found in Appendix C.

General Information Regarding Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Requirements

Conditions of Funding

To receive funding from the SALC, the applicant must agree to the following conditions within their application and adhere to these conditions for the entirety of the grant term. Failure to accept these conditions will result in denial of funding. Failure to adhere to these conditions throughout the grant term will result in loss of funding.

SALC's conditions of funding for **easement** acquisitions are as follows:

- Clean title to the agricultural conservation easement can be conveyed at close of escrow.
- The applicant and seller of the agricultural conservation easement agree to restrict the use of the land in perpetuity.
- If the Department is funding preparation of a management plan or carbon farm plan, the Department has approved the plan.
- If agricultural intensification restrictions on non-cultivated land are proposed:
 - The restriction will be consistent with the property's continuing agricultural use, and
 - Agricultural use of the property will not be substantially impaired
- For projects where the property includes forest lands, the project will comply with [Civil Code Section 815.11](#).
- The total purchase price of the proposed easement shall not exceed the appraised fair market value of the easement.
- The easement appraisal must comply with the Department's published Overview and Preparation of Agricultural Conservation Easement Appraisals.
- The appraisal used to establish the easement value must be approved by DGS and the Department.
- The grantee will work with SALC staff to report on jobs-related co-benefits as required by CARB.
- The easement acquisition can be completed within 2 years of grant agreement effective date.

SALC's conditions of funding for **fee** acquisitions are as follows:

- Clean title to the property can be conveyed at close of escrow.
- The title to the property will be encumbered in perpetuity with the following covenants that run with the land:
 - The property must actively be used for agricultural uses,
 - Prohibits permanent severance of water rights from the fee,
 - Restricts development potential on the property consistent with an agricultural conservation easement,
 - All net proceeds from the lease revenue will be reinvested only in improvements on the purchased property or in pursuit of agricultural conservation easements in the region,
 - From the subsequent fair market sale of the burdened fee title, the state must be paid its proportionate share of the net proceeds within 30 days of close of escrow,
 - At least once every twelve months, the interest holder shall report to the Department certifying that the conditions of the deed are being upheld. The report must include an account of how each covenant is being upheld, including documentation of income generated from leasing the property and documentation of agricultural use on the property, and
 - At least once every twelve months, the interest holder shall allow the Department access to the property for the purposes of monitoring and verifying compliance with the terms of the deed.
- The buyer agrees to lease the property to one or more private operators for agricultural use or to sell the property to a private operator. The property must be leased within a commercially reasonable time after purchasing the property. If the applicant intends to sell the property as part of this conservation transaction, they must sell the property within 3 years of purchase. This requirement does not preclude the applicant from electing to sell the conserved property, with deed restrictions in place, at a later date.
- If the Department is funding preparation of a management plan or carbon farm plan, the Department approves the plan within one year of close of escrow on the purchase.
- If agricultural intensification restrictions on non-cultivated land are proposed:
 - The restriction will be consistent with the property's continuing agricultural use, and

- Agricultural use of the property will not be substantially impairedThe total purchase price of the proposed acquisition shall not exceed the appraised fair market value of the property.
- The appraisal used to establish the easement value (for the purposes of determining Department funding) and the fair market value of the property must comply with DGS standards and must be approved by DGS and the Department.
- The property deed, including any exhibits, must be approved by the Department.
- The grantee will work with SALC staff to report on jobs-related co-benefits as required by CARB.
- The acquisition can be completed within 2 years of grant agreement effective date.

Property Restrictions

Deed Language

SALC staff developed deed language to address important terms and conditions that should be contained within each SALC-funded acquisition deed. Applicants are encouraged to review this language and discuss it with landowners and appraisers early in the process. Grantees will be required to obtain Department approval of the deed prior to disbursement of the acquisition funding. This language may be updated periodically and is available on the [Department website](#) or upon request.

Property Valuation

Appraisals

A current appraisal will be required to determine the fair market value of the property interest to be acquired, which will be used to determine the state's contribution to the acquisition.

All appraisals are subject to review and approval by the Department and the California Department of General Services Real Estate Services Section (DGS). The grant will only fund the appraisal that establishes the acquisition value used to complete the transaction. This cost will only be covered if the project is approved for funding, the appraisal is approved by the state, and the grantee requests Department reimbursement of associated costs in the grant application. In no situation shall the purchase price be greater than the appraised fair market value of the interest to be acquired.

The appraisal should be submitted prior to close of escrow, and with sufficient time for Department and DGS review.

If the project is approved, funding is available, and the appraisal contains a value that is higher than the estimate provided in the application, then, upon request by the grantee, awards may be increased:

- Up to five percent (5%) of the total grant award without further action by the Strategic Growth Council; or
- Up to fifteen percent (15%) of the total grant award with formal action by and at the discretion of the Strategic Growth Council.

In no case shall the SALC contribution to the purchase price exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the appraised easement value, except if the project met the requirements for reduced match at the time of award. Funding for any such increases in award amounts will be allocated either from existing non-allocated funds or from future allocations. Projects that receive award augmentations from future allocations will not be required to participate in any additional competitive solicitation processes. Any additional increase in valuation above fifteen percent (15%) will need to be covered by a landowner bargain sale (donation) or by other match funders.

Savings that result from an appraised value that is lower than the applicant's estimated value may be apportioned to the participating funders to preserve the match.

The applicant must select and retain an independent, certified appraiser to appraise the subject property. For both easement and fee purchases, the appraiser must use the "before and after" method of valuation to calculate the difference between the fair market value and the restricted value. The "before and after" method evaluates the property's market value under two scenarios: first, the current market value without restriction; and second, the diminished value as though encumbered by an agricultural conservation easement. The Department has developed a resource for appraisers and applicants, entitled *Overview and Preparation of Agricultural Conservation Easement Appraisals*, which is available on the Department website.

Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly discuss the restrictions and permitted uses associated with the proposed acquisition with the landowner and appraiser early in the appraisal process. Applicants should advise appraisers and landowners that appraisals are public records under the California Public Records Act of 1968 (Chapter 3.5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code, commencing with §6250). Major considerations such as reserved home

sites or other areas that will not be utilized exclusively for agriculture must be confirmed prior to and be identified in the appraisal, as they will likely affect the easement valuation. Subsequent changes to proposed restrictions or permitted uses may necessitate an update to the appraisal.

If a significant amount of time (12 months or more) transpires between the effective date of the appraisal and the anticipated escrow closing date, applicants may be required to obtain a new appraisal.

Use-Based IRS Deductions

If a landowner seeks tax benefits from the Internal Revenue Service in return for the charitable donation of an easement or portion thereof, the timing and requirements of the easement appraisal are critical. See a tax attorney or accountant for more information – the Department is not able to provide the applicant or landowner with assistance relating to this or other tax-benefits. A “special use valuation” and qualified IRS deduction may affect the easement valuation.

Title Considerations

Due Diligence

Clean title is required to protect the state's investment. For the purposes of SALC, clean title refers to an absence of deeds, easements, leases, or other encumbrances that have the potential to undermine the state's investment. Such encumbrances must be resolved prior to close of escrow because they may grant another person or entity the ability to take action to prohibit the project or impact the easement terms in a manner that contradicts SALC's goals and objectives.

Applicants are expected to exercise due diligence to discover and disclose potential title issues in the pre-proposal and application. The Department will also work to identify such issues during its project review. The applicant will be asked to submit an initial plan to address title issues with their pre-proposal. If the Department determines that such a plan is inadequate, the applicant may be required to provide a more detailed plan in the application. The information within this plan will affect the project's Readiness Ranking. Disbursement of funds into escrow for the purchase of an easement or fee interest in the property is contingent upon the Department's determination that identified title concerns have been resolved.

For properties where the surface owner does not have control over at least 51% of the underlying minerals, the mineral rights may be addressed through:

1. A Mineral Remoteness Evaluation which finds that the likelihood of the separated mineral rights being exercised on the relevant parcel(s) is so remote as to be negligible. This finding may be confirmed by the Department's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources and/or the Division of Mine Reclamation.
2. Quiet title action(s) to restrict surface access to mineral rights within the proposed property boundary, to set aside drilling pads to direct the separated mineral rights holders' extraction to a specific area, or to remove the separated mineral interests from title.
3. Subordination, surface use agreements, or remerger of the separated mineral interests to title.
4. Deed language that restricts surface access to the mineral rights within the proposed property boundary, or to set aside drilling pads to direct the separated mineral rights holders' extraction to a specific area, to the extent allowable by law.

Advance coordination with the Department and the applicant's title company is highly recommended if any separated mineral interest exists.

Mortgage and Lien Subordination

As part of the acquisition process, any liens or other financial encumbrances on the property are required to be either subordinated to the terms of the deed or payed off in closing. Subordination documents are subject to review and approval by the Department.

It is possible that the lender may charge a fee to provide the subordination. Applicants are encouraged to consult lenders early regarding subordination practices.

Additional Requirements and Considerations

Single Family Residences, Secondary Dwelling Units, and Farm Worker Housing

Each single-family residence reserved in the deed is limited to a maximum living area that is consistent with grantee's policies, local building codes, and the surrounding neighborhood. The residence must not significantly impair the conservation purpose of the deed.

The California Legislature has enacted numerous policies to address the state's shortage of housing, particularly affordable housing. Easements funded through this program shall not prohibit either secondary dwelling units or farmworker housing. Any easement restrictions on these dwellings cannot be more restrictive than California Government Code section 65852.2 or California Health and Safety Code section 17021.6, respectively.

If there are any single-family residences, secondary dwelling units, or farm worker housing units existing at the time of pre-proposal submission, at least one building envelope must be identified in the pre-proposal to contain these structures. If no single-family residences, secondary dwelling units, or farm worker housing units exist at the time of the pre-proposal submission, the applicant shall:

- Identify the size, number, and location of one or more future building envelopes to contain these structures in the pre-proposal, or
- Identify the size and number of proposed future building envelopes to contain these structures in the pre-proposal and agree to deed language establishing a process for the identification of the location of the future building envelope(s), including approval of the selected location by the Council.

The size, number, and location of proposed building envelopes is subject to review and approval by the Department.

Other reserved rights

Other reserved rights listed here are subject to review and approval by the Department. All other reserved rights must be identified in the application.

Stewardship Fund

Costs related to the acquisition include funds dedicated solely for the long-term stewardship of the encumbered property. For agricultural conservation easements, stewardship typically includes annual monitoring, evaluation of easement threats, and legal defense. A portion of these funds is typically provided by the landowner. SALC funds cannot be used toward stewardship costs.

Within the Grant Agreement, grantees will certify their ability to effectively manage and account for stewardship funds, whether pooled for all acquisitions or held in separate accounts for individual acquisitions funded through the Grant Agreement.

Annual Reporting and Monitoring

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Final Program Guidelines February 2021

Regular monitoring of and reporting on interests acquired with SALC funds is required to ensure compliance with the terms of the deed. Beginning the year after the deed is recorded, the Department requires an annual report from the interest holder certifying that the conditions of the deed are being upheld. For fee acquisitions, the report must include an account of how each covenant is being upheld, including documentation of income generated from leasing the property and documentation of agricultural use on the property.

For fee acquisitions, SALC staff must be allowed access to the property for the purposes of monitoring and verifying compliance with the terms of the deed at least once every twelve months.

Section 3: Agricultural Conservation Planning Grants

Planning grants provide funds to develop and implement plans for the protection of agricultural land at risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses, maintaining the economic viability of the region's agricultural lands, and developing the economic viability of regional food systems and infrastructure to support the production, aggregation, processing and distribution of agricultural products. This component of SALC incentivizes local and regional governments to work closely with local stakeholders to develop local and regional land use policies and implementation activities that integrate agricultural land conservation in a way that reduces or avoids greenhouse gas emissions, supports job creation, and benefits priority populations.

Funding is limited to the eligible applicants and projects discussed below.

Projects, Eligible Applicants, and Allowable Costs

Projects

Planning grants assist the development of innovative, consensus-based plans that establish comprehensive goals, policies and objectives such as:

- Identifying priority land for conservation;
- Maintaining the economic viability of the region's agricultural industry;
- Developing the required elements set forth in Government Code;
- Developing the economic viability of regional food systems and infrastructure to support the production, aggregation, processing and distribution of agricultural products;
- Protecting the agricultural land base from conversion nonagricultural uses;
- Avoiding greenhouse gas emissions;
- Building climate resilience; and,
- Supporting implementation of sustainable communities strategy, including implementation of local plans supporting greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts and promoting infill and compact development.

Plans may address unique regional threats to agricultural land and regional food systems, such as groundwater availability, catastrophic wildfire, agricultural economic viability and infrastructure for production, processing and distribution of agricultural products, how rural and urban areas interface with each other, how land use policies impact each region, and how co-benefits (e.g., habitat, groundwater recharge) can be enhanced.

Work plans should include:

- Community consensus building activities to develop a mitigation strategy for agricultural land when converted to other land uses, including providing general education and outreach about agricultural land conservation; and,
- Stakeholder meetings to support proposed project.

SALC encourages grantees and stakeholders to include impacted Native American tribes in developing and implementing Planning projects.

Eligible Applicants

Counties, cities, local area formation commissions (LAFCOs), councils of government, municipal planning organizations, regional transportation planning agencies, groundwater management agencies, and special districts with land use or transportation planning authority are eligible to apply. SALC strongly encourages submission of applications that demonstrate a commitment to meaningful, actionable collaboration with stakeholders from multiple organizations (e.g., neighboring counties, cities, local area formation commissions, agricultural organizations, land trusts, open space districts, community-based organizations with a history and experience working with priority populations and historically underserved communities, community-based organizations that have trusted relationships with the agricultural community, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and others). While there is no minimum number of partners that can be included in a proposal, priority scoring will be given to those applicants that are able to demonstrate strong and diverse partnerships.

Allowable Costs and Match Funding

Planning grants will reimburse grantees and participating stakeholders for all direct costs, including fully-burdened staff costs, incurred during the grant performance period and related to the project. All eligible costs must be supported by appropriate documentation. Costs incurred outside of the performance period, indirect/overhead costs, travel, food or beverages, and costs for CEQA document preparation are not eligible for reimbursement.

The application must include a minimum ten percent (10%) match funding. Match funds may be provided directly by the applicant or from other funding sources (e.g., other grant funds, local government contributions, or donations).

Applicants cannot utilize another Department-administered program funding as match toward the grant.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The Eligibility and Selection Criteria focus on actionable policies and implementation mechanisms to conserve land locally-determined to be strategic and under threat of conversion to other land uses. Project readiness, stakeholder collaboration, and leverage of existing conservation efforts are all important considerations in the review process.

Applications must meet all the Eligibility Criteria to be considered for funding.

Below are the Eligibility and Selection Criteria upon which each proposal will be evaluated.

Eligibility Criteria
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The proposal is from an eligible applicant.2. The proposal is consistent with SALC's goals.3. The proposal contains clearly stated and reportable objectives, measures of progress, and deliverables.4. The proposal will avoid greenhouse gas emissions.5. The proposal supports the implementation of an adopted or draft Sustainable Communities Strategy or, if a Sustainable Communities Strategy is not required for a region by law, a regional plan that includes policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.6. The proposal demonstrates consistency with California's Planning Priorities.

Ineligible applications will not be scored and include applications that:

- Do not meet the goals of SALC or present an Eligible Project;
- Are not from an Eligible Applicant;
- Do not contain adequate documentation and required application materials, including a work plan, objectives, and deliverables;
- Are not received, in full, by the application deadline.

Applications that meet all the Eligibility Criteria will then be scored using the Selection Criteria and ranked based on their score. Applications will be awarded points for each Selection Criterion on a sliding scale from zero to the number listed in the Selection Criteria table. All information submitted in the

application package will be used by reviewers to evaluate the proposal and should demonstrate how effectively the proposal meets SALC goals and objectives.

Selection Criteria	Maximum Points
<p><u>Project Need</u> The proposal documents the threat of agricultural land conversion, the need to develop a plan to address the threat, how the proposed project will address the conversion risk, and any potential barriers to implementation. Points will be awarded based on the specificity with which the proposal identifies the types of data that will be used to evaluate agricultural resources, the local policies and ordinances it seeks to align, and the methods that will be used to resolve compatibility issues between these policies and ordinances, if any.</p>	35
<p><u>Co-Benefits</u> The proposal documents economic, environmental, public health, or other co-benefits.</p>	25
<p><u>Proposal Evidences Collaboration</u> The proposal provides evidence of durable collaboration among stakeholders.</p>	20
<p><u>Planning Integration</u> The project complements other efforts in the Project geographic area, including comprehensive planning efforts and agricultural land use policies. The proposal documents how the project will leverage other permanently protected lands to promote location and resource-efficient development.</p>	10
<p><u>Priority population benefits</u> The proposal benefits a priority population.</p>	10
Total possible points	100

Selection for funding may not be determined by a project's selection criteria score alone. In determining which projects to award grant funding, the Strategic Growth Council may also consider factors including AHSC's goals and objectives, geographic distribution of funds, the urgency of the project, and the Strategic Growth Council's priorities. Alternate projects may be identified and recommended for approval by the Strategic Growth Council in the current

round of funding if funding becomes available. The Strategic Growth Council may award grants that partially fulfill the applicants request.

Application Review and Award Process

Applications for planning grants will be reviewed at least once per year, with the opportunity for additional cycles as funding and staff capacity allows.

Additional application cycles will be announced on the Department and Strategic Growth Council's websites at least 60 days in advance of the pre-proposal deadline.

Applicants are encouraged to submit a pre-proposal to the Department for a preliminary review of the proposed project prior to submission of a full application. Pre-proposals are reviewed, and technical assistance is provided to facilitate the development of the application as needed. Pre-proposal forms are in Appendix D.

Application forms are available as Appendix F. Applications will be reviewed for completeness, whether they meet the Eligibility Criteria, and, if the Eligibility Criteria are met, the extent to which they meet the Selection Criteria. Incomplete applications may not be evaluated or considered for funding at the sole discretion of the State.

Following the Department's initial review of the projects in relation to the Eligibility Criteria, Selection Criteria, and Readiness Rankings, an Interagency Committee that includes Strategic Growth Council staff will review and evaluate all applications. This committee will make the final determination on which projects are recommended to the Strategic Growth Council for funding or as alternates.

A summary of each proposal, the California Climate Investments funding request, and priority population benefits status will be posted at least ten days before the Strategic Growth Council makes project awards. The Strategic Growth Council determines final project awards and will announce these awards at a public meeting. Applicants will be notified in writing of the Strategic Growth Council's decision by the Department upon award following the meeting at which the awards are announced.

Application Requirements

This section provides additional information regarding the components of the Application.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Planning Grants

(All components are required unless otherwise noted)

- Grant Application Cover Sheet
- Executive Summary
- Application Questions Responses
- Work Plan
- Budget
- Supporting Documents
- Priority Population Benefits Checklist and supporting documentation (only required if applying for priority population status)

Section 4: Post-Council Meeting and Grant Administration

This section of the Guidelines applies to all SALC projects.

Strategic Growth Council Approved Projects

All projects awarded by the Strategic Growth Council will only receive funding disbursements if the conditions of funding identified in these Guidelines and any additional conditions identified in the staff report, award letter, and grant agreement are satisfied. The State will not pay for projects that are not completed, although the state may reimburse costs incurred up to the point that the project withdraws, at the Strategic Growth Council's discretion. The Strategic Growth Council reserves the right to recover funds expended for projects that are not completed, at its sole discretion.

Overview of the Process After Grants Are Awarded

Steps in Executing the Grant Agreement

1. The Department notifies applicant of award, detailing additional conditions of funding, if any.
2. Department sends grant agreement and materials to grantee. Grant agreements are based on a standard template and have a duration of two years. The acquisition grant agreement is attached as Appendix F. The planning grant agreement is attached as Appendix G. With written justification from the applicant and at the discretion of the Strategic Growth Council, the duration of a grant agreement may be extended by up to an additional year.
3. Grantee must submit all supporting materials and a signed agreement within six (6) months of the Strategic Growth Council award or risk forfeiting the grant award.
4. Grantee signs and returns all required copies back to the State (a fully executed copy will be returned to the grantee).

Steps Upon Signature of the Grant Agreement

1. Grantee commences work.
2. Grantee may submit invoices no more than monthly, beginning sixty (60) days after execution of the grant agreement. 10% will be withheld per invoice, except for easement acquisition invoices, to be paid with the final associated cost invoice.
3. Grantee submits progress reports as required by the grant agreement. The Department submits project profiles³ to CARB for use in CARB's annual report to the Legislature.
4. Grantee submits a final report upon completion of the grant agreement in order to receive its final payment. The State may withhold ten percent (10%) of Planning grant project costs and one hundred percent (100%) of remaining acquisition associated costs to ensure that final reports and documentation are received.
5. Interest holder submits post-project annual monitoring reports to the Department certifying that the conditions of the deed are being upheld.

Funding and Accounting

Payment of Grant Funds

Funds cannot be disbursed until there is a fully executed Grant Agreement between the Department and the grantee. Only those eligible costs incurred during the grant term will be eligible for payment. All costs must be supported by invoices, purchase orders, canceled warrants/checks, or other approved documents. Additional justification of costs may be requested at the Department's discretion.

Organizational Considerations

Subcontractors and Purchasing

Grant recipients (grantees) may make use of their own staff and subcontractor(s). Grantees are expected to adhere to the jurisdiction's or organization's competitive bid, internal contracting and purchasing guidelines. Documentation of the grantee's contracting or purchasing guidelines,

³ Profile will include a unique identifier, project and description, project geographic area, budget information, project dates, estimated GHG benefits and any co-benefits, and if applicable, data on priority population benefits.

processes, and project-specific approvals may be requested in the event of an audit by the State of California.

Workplace Certifications and Insurance

Pursuant to the requirements of [Government Code §8355](#), grantees must sign a certification that a drug-free workplace will be provided.

Governmental grantees will be required to show evidence of self-insurance. All other grantees must obtain and keep Worker's Compensation, commercial general liability, and automobile liability insurance policies compliant with specifications provided by the Department for the term of the Grant Agreement. The insurance specifications are included within the standard grant agreement template. These policies shall cover any acts or omissions of the grantee or its employees engaged in the provision of service specified in the grant agreement.

Grantees shall name the State of California, its officers, agents, employees and servants as additional insured parties for all insurance required and are responsible for guaranteeing that a copy of each Certificate of Insurance is submitted to the Department within thirty (30) days of Grant Agreement signature.

Loss of Funding (Not a complete list)

The following are examples of actions that may result in a grantee's loss of funding:

- Grantee fails to execute a Grant Agreement within 6 months of project award.
- Grantee withdraws from the grant program.
- Grantee fails to adhere to the conditions of funding specified in these Guidelines.
- Grantee fails to complete the funded work within two years of project award.
- Grantee fails to complete work in a manner that meets the requirements agreed upon.
- Grantee fails to submit all documentation within the time periods specified in the Grant Agreement.
- Grantee changes scope of work without approval of the Department.
- Grantee changes the subcontractor or partner(s) identified in the work plan or application without approval from the Department.

APPENDIX A – Risk Options

SALC must facilitate the achievement of greenhouse gas emissions avoided as described in CARB's 2018 Funding Guidelines. SALC measures greenhouse gas emissions avoided based on the estimated avoided vehicle miles traveled, soil disturbance caused by construction, and building energy use resulting from protecting agricultural land at risk of conversion and limiting opportunities for expansive, vehicle-dependent forms of development. These avoided emissions are quantified at the project level for funded acquisition projects.

Each acquisition project is required to demonstrate that the agricultural lands within the project's boundary will result in avoided greenhouse gas emissions. The risk options listed in this Appendix are used to determine whether a property is at risk of conversion and for the purposes of quantifying a project's avoided greenhouse gas emissions.

The risk options categorize the types and land use densities anticipated, should the proposed site be converted to more intense uses based on local conditions. The density type and project size are used to quantify the number of development rights that would be extinguished by completing the project, which are then used to calculate the anticipated GHG emissions that would be avoided by completing the project.

The Department will quantify the number of development rights to be extinguished based on data provided by applicants. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Department should they require assistance in understanding or documenting their project's risk option.

The following list describes those agricultural lands considered at risk for purposes of CARB's most recent Quantification Methodology for Agricultural Lands Conservation. In order to ensure that projects will result in GHG benefits, applicants must demonstrate that agricultural lands within the project boundary are at risk of conversion using one of the risk options listed below.

Residential Risk: Options to demonstrate risk of conversion for which residential zoning can be used to calculate the number of extinguished development rights:

1. Agricultural land identified for development as evidenced by inclusion in a development proposal submitted to the local government, undergoing environmental review, or publicly available from controlling interests within the past 5 years;
2. Agricultural land identified for potential rezoning from agricultural to residential use by a jurisdiction as evidenced by a revised zoning proposal or land use plan, or undergoing environmental review, within the past 5 years;

3. Agricultural land within a city's Sphere of Influence or municipal service boundary and, if applicable, within the city's urban growth boundary according to the city's general plan;
4. Agricultural land within a proposed expanded city boundary (annexation), Sphere of Influence, municipal service boundary, or specific plan;
5. Agricultural land within two miles of a city's Sphere of Influence or municipal service boundary, or within two miles of an unincorporated area which is zoned for or contains residential development where the average lot size is two acres or less and the developed dwelling unit density is two acres or less per dwelling unit.

Rural Residential Risk: Options to demonstrate risk of conversion for which rural residential zoning can be used to calculate the number of extinguished development rights:

6. Agricultural land identified for potential rezoning from agricultural to rural residential use (one to ten acres) by a jurisdiction as evidenced by a revised zoning proposal or land use plan, or undergoing environmental review, within the past 5 years;
7. Agricultural land between two and five miles from land developed or zoned for residential use with an average lot size of one acre or less, or agricultural land up to five miles from land developed or zoned for rural residential use (one to ten acres) in the county General Plan.

APPENDIX B – Acquisition Grant Pre-Proposal

Submittal Requirements

Submittal of a pre-proposal worksheet for prospective grant applications is mandatory to be eligible for SALC acquisition funding. Grant applications are due September 10, 2021 and will not be accepted unless a pre-proposal worksheet was received for the project by the June 1, 2021 deadline.

Applicants interested in receiving technical assistance prior to submission of a pre-proposal may contact the Department with questions. Pre-proposals will be reviewed to determine project eligibility, and technical assistance provided to facilitate the development of competitive grant applications. Applicants will be notified regarding their project's eligibility following the pre-proposal review.

Projects deemed eligible, or eligible with conditions, may be submitted as applications for further evaluation and scoring. In cases where reviewers have questions regarding eligibility or title concerns, applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to those concerns prior to an eligibility determination. For projects deemed eligible with conditions, applicants must provide substantive responses to the conditions identified in the pre-proposal feedback in their application in order for their application to be considered for funding.

Please submit the below to the Department of Conservation via email to salcp@conservation.ca.gov.

Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Pre-proposal Checklist

(All components are required unless otherwise noted)

- Acquisition Summary Sheet
- Risk of Conversion Summary Sheet and Supporting Evidence
- Documentation of Organizational Eligibility
- Documentation of Organizational Capacity
- Certification of Acceptance of Conditions of Funding
- Applicant-Landowner Letter of Intent
- Narrative Questions
- Preliminary Title Report, Underlying Documents, Assessor's Parcel Maps
- Project Boundary Map
- Building Envelope(s) Map and Excluded Area(s) Map
- Priority Population Benefits Table and supporting documentation
(only required if applying for priority population status)

Acquisition Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Project Title	
Location (County and Nearest City)	
Distance to nearest city or census designated place	
Real property interest to be acquired	<input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> Fee
Located within a <u>priority population</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N [Census tract number]
Priority Population Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N [If yes, attach Priority Population Benefits Table]
Risk Option number	

Project Funding

A: SALC Acquisition Request Amount	\$
B: SALC Associated Costs Request:	[Up to \$50,000]
C: SALC Management Plan Request	[Up to \$10,000]
D: SALC Carbon Farm Plan Request	[Up to \$20,000]
E: SALC Total Grant Request (A+B+C+D)	\$
Match Amount (toward easement value only)	\$
Matching Funds Source	[i.e., NRCS-ACEP, WCB-CAPP, etc.]
Status of Match	[i.e., application submitted, in grant agreement, etc.]
Does all or a portion of the match come from another CCI program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N List:
Estimated Easement Fair Market Value	\$
Estimated Fee Title Fair Market Value (fee acquisitions only)	\$

Applicant Information

Applicant	
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Co-Applicant/Intended Interest Holder Information *(complete if applicable)*

Name	
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Nonprofit applicants that intend to be the holder of the real property interest to be acquired must be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission or have adopted equivalent or greater policies regarding conflict of interest, amendments, monitoring, stewardship endowments, and enforcement prior to submission of an application. Those that haven't must apply with either a co-applicant that has such policies in place or a government entity.

Parcel Information

Project APN(s)	
Current Zoning/ Minimum Parcel Size	
Number of existing legal parcels (Please confirm this information with the relevant County Planning Department.)	
Proposed number of easements	
Restrictions on Agricultural Use?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:

Project Acreage

Total Project Acreage (Assessor's Acreage)	
Prime Farmland Acres mapped by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	
Irrigated Acres	
Non-irrigated / Grazing Acres	
Nonagricultural Acres	

Sale and Subdivision

Would proposed acquisition prohibit further subdivision of existing legal parcels? (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:
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Would proposed acquisition prohibit sale of existing legal parcels separately from other parcels in project area? (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:
--	--

Water and Mineral Rights

Water Rights and Source(s)	
Third party mineral rights holder(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:
Severed mineral rights?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:
Evidence of past mining?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:

Existing and Reserved Single-family Residences

Number of single-family (SF) residences currently on the property	
Approximate size of each SF residence (square footage of living area)	
Number of additional SF residences to be reserved in easement (if any):	
Size restriction (sq. ft), if any, on reserved and/or existing SF residences	

Existing Farm Labor Residences

Number of farm labor residential structures/units currently on property	
Approximate size of each farm labor residence (square footage of living area)	

Building Envelopes

Existing Building Envelope(s) on the property?	Number: Approximate Acres (each):
Additional Building Envelope(s) to be reserved (e.g., residential, ag. employee, agricultural infrastructure)?	Number: Approximate Acres (each):

Additional Information

Other Reserved Rights (e.g., oil and gas site, solar, communication towers)	Please list:
Any critical deadlines?	Please describe:

Risk of Conversion Summary Sheet and Supporting Evidence

To be eligible for funds, the proposed property must be considered at risk of conversion to a non-agricultural land use. The applicant must demonstrate this risk of conversion by providing supporting evidence for the selected risk option below. Risk options set forth in Appendix A. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Department should they require assistance in understanding or documenting the risk of conversion facing the proposed property.

The Department will also utilize the selected risk option to determine the number of development rights to be extinguished for purposes of quantifying greenhouse gas benefits associated with the project.

Please check the option below that best describes the risk to the property and include relevant supporting evidence, such as a link to a relevant development proposal, map showing distance to nearest development, etc.

Check one	Risk
	1. Agricultural land identified for development as evidenced by inclusion in a development proposal submitted to the local government, undergoing environmental review, or publicly available from controlling interests within the past 5 years.
	2. Agricultural land identified for potential rezoning from agricultural to residential use by a jurisdiction as evidenced by a revised zoning proposal or land use plan, or undergoing environmental review, within the past 5 years.
	3. Agricultural land within a city's Sphere of Influence or municipal service boundary and, if applicable, within the city's urban growth boundary according to the city's general plan.
	4. Agricultural land within a proposed expanded city boundary (annexation), Sphere of Influence, municipal service boundary, or specific plan.
	5. Agricultural land within two miles of a city's Sphere of Influence or municipal service boundary, or within two miles of an unincorporated area which is zoned for or contains residential development where the average lot size is two acres or less and the developed dwelling unit density is two acres or less per dwelling unit.
	6. Agricultural land identified for potential rezoning from agricultural to rural residential use (one to ten acres) by a jurisdiction as evidenced by a revised zoning proposal or land use plan, or undergoing environmental review, within the past 5 years.

	7. Agricultural land within two to five miles of land developed or zoned for residential use where the average lot size is one acre or less, or agricultural land up to five miles from land developed or zoned for rural residential use (one to ten acres) in the county General Plan.
--	--

Supporting Evidence:

Eligibility and Organizational Capacity Documentation

Organizational Eligibility

Non-profit applicants and proposed interest holders must submit the following documentation:

- Internal Revenue Service 501 (c)3 status as a charitable non-profit;
- Articles of Incorporation and by-laws documenting the principal charitable or public purposes of the nonprofit organization; and,
- Adopted policy that details the organization's goals and purposes, including the organization's commitment to conservation of agriculture, rangeland, or farmland.

Governmental applicants and proposed interest holders should submit a copy of the relevant statute or other policy outlining their purpose and authority regarding the conservation of agricultural land.

Applicants and proposed interest holders that have submitted documentation of organizational eligibility through a previous application may certify that the most current versions of these documents are on file with the Department in lieu of submitting the documents themselves (see next page).

Organizational Capacity

Applicants and proposed interest holders must provide proof of organizational capacity to acquire and steward conservation acquisitions for their agricultural conservation values as part of their pre-proposal. Applicants may meet this requirement by:

- Providing proof of LTAC accreditation; or,
- Providing copies of the following documents, as relevant:
 - Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Easement Amendment Policy
 - Monitoring Policy
 - Stewardship Endowment Policy
 - Easement Enforcement Policy

Applicants and proposed interest holders that have submitted documentation of organizational capacity through a previous application may certify that the most current versions of these documents are on file with the Department in lieu of submitting the documents themselves (see next page).

Applicant Certifications

Please certify that the most current versions of the applicant's eligibility and organizational capacity documents are on file with the Department, or attach the most current versions here.

Documentation of Organizational Eligibility

I certify here that the most current versions of the documents below are on record at the Department or attached:

[Print Name, Title]

Date

- IRS 501 (c)3 status
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws
- Adopted Policy or Statement of Purpose for conservation of agriculture, rangeland, or farmland (*if different from above*)
- Copy of relevant statute (*governmental applicants only*)

Documentation of Organizational Capacity

I certify here that the most current versions of the documents below are on record at the Department or attached:

[Print Name, Title]

Date

- Proof of Land Trust Accreditation Commission Accreditation **OR**

Copies of all policies listed below:

- Easement Amendment Policy
- Monitoring Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Easement Enforcement Policy
- Stewardship Endowment Policy

Interest Holder Certifications

This section is only applicable when the applicant is not the intended holder of the real property interest.

Please certify that the most current versions of the interest holder's eligibility and organizational capacity documents are on file with the Department, or attach the most current versions here.

Documentation of Organizational Eligibility

I certify here that the most current versions of the documents below are on record at the Department or attached:

[Print Name, Title]

Date

- IRS 501 (c)3 status
- Articles of Incorporation
- Bylaws
- Adopted Policy or Statement of Purpose for conservation of agriculture, rangeland, or farmland *(if different from above)*
- Copy of relevant statute *(governmental applicants only)*

Documentation of Organizational Capacity

I certify here that the most current versions of the documents below are on record at the Department or attached:

[Print Name, Title]

Date

- Proof of Land Trust Accreditation Commission Accreditation **OR**

Copies of all policies listed below:

- Easement Amendment Policy
- Monitoring Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Easement Enforcement Policy
- Stewardship Endowment Policy

Certification of Acceptance of Conditions of Funding (Easements)

This Certification must be signed by the President of the applicant's Board of Directors, or similar governing body, or their authorized designee. An unsigned Certification Sheet may be cause for rejection of the application. By signing this Certification, the applicant [and co-applicant] is/are declaring that:

SALC's conditions of funding for easement acquisitions are as follows:

- Clean title to the agricultural conservation easement can be conveyed at close of escrow.
- The applicant and seller of the agricultural conservation easement agree to restrict the use of the land in perpetuity.
- If the Department is funding preparation of a management plan or carbon farm plan, the Department has approved the plan.
- If agricultural intensification restrictions on non-cultivated land are proposed:
 - The restriction will be consistent with the property's continuing agricultural use, and
 - Agricultural use of the property will not be substantially impaired.
- For projects where the property includes forest lands, the project will comply with Civil Code Section 815.11.
- The total purchase price of the proposed easement shall not exceed the appraised fair market value of the easement.
- The easement appraisal must comply with the Department's published Overview and Preparation of Agricultural Conservation Easement Appraisals.
- The appraisal used to establish the easement value must be approved by DGS and the Department.
- The grantee will work with SALC staff to report on jobs-related co-benefits as required by CARB.
- The easement acquisition can be completed within 2 years of grant agreement effective date.

Applicant

[Print Name, Title]

Date

Co-Applicant

[Print Name, Title]

Date

Certification of Acceptance of Conditions of Funding (Fee Acquisitions)

This Certification must be signed by the President of the applicant's Board of Directors, or similar governing body, or their authorized designee. An unsigned Certification Sheet may be cause for rejection of the application. By signing this Certification, the applicant [and co-applicant] is/are declaring that:

SALC's conditions of funding for fee acquisitions are as follows:

- Clean title to the property can be conveyed at close of escrow.
- The title to the property will be encumbered in perpetuity with the following covenants that run with the land:
 - The property must actively be used for agricultural uses,
 - Prohibits permanent severance of water rights from the fee,
 - Restricts development potential on the property consistent with an agricultural conservation easement,
 - All net proceeds from the lease revenue will be reinvested only in improvements on the purchased property or in pursuit of agricultural conservation easements in the region,
 - From the subsequent fair market sale of the burdened fee title, the state must be paid its proportionate share of the net proceeds within 30 days of close of escrow,
 - At least once every twelve months, the interest holder shall report to the Department certifying that the conditions of the deed are being upheld. The report must include an account of how each covenant is being upheld, including documentation of income generated from leasing the property and documentation of agricultural use on the property, and
 - At least once every twelve months, the interest holder shall allow the Department access to the property for the purposes of monitoring and verifying compliance with the terms of the deed.
- The buyer agrees to lease the property to one or more private operators for agricultural use or to sell the property to a private operator. The property must be leased within a commercially reasonable time after purchasing the property. If the applicant intends to sell the property as part of this conservation transaction, they must sell the property within 3 years of purchase. This requirement does not preclude the applicant from electing to sell the conserved property, with deed restrictions in place, at a later date.

- If the Department is funding preparation of an adaptive management plan or carbon farm plan, the Department approves the plan within one year of close of escrow on the purchase.
- If agricultural intensification restrictions on non-cultivated land are proposed:
 - The restriction will be consistent with the property's continuing agricultural use, and
 - Agricultural use of the property will not be substantially impaired.
- The total purchase price of the proposed acquisition shall not exceed the appraised fair market value of the property.
- The appraisal used to establish the easement value (for the purposes of determining Department funding) and the fair market value of the property must comply with DGS standards and must be approved by DGS and the Department.
- The property deed, including any exhibits, must be approved by the Department.
- The grantee will work with SALC staff to report on jobs-related co-benefits as required by CARB.
- The acquisition can be completed within 2 years of grant agreement effective date.

Applicant

[Print Name, Title]

Date

Co-Applicant

[Print Name, Title]

Date

Applicant-Landowner Letter of Intent

The applicant must provide a letter from the landowner(s) stating the landowner's intent to work with the applicant to conserve the property via sale of an easement. All landowners listed on title must sign the letter of intent. This letter must address the following items:

1. Landowner's pursuit of sale of the easement or fee, as applicable, is voluntary;
2. Use of the property will be restricted to agricultural and compatible conservation uses in perpetuity;
3. *(For easement acquisitions only)*: The landowner is aware of the estimated acquisition value provided to SALC as the basis for this funding request and understands that the final easement value used to establish SALC's contribution to the purchase price of the easement may change upon completion of a full appraisal of the property; and
4. No government agency has conditioned the issuance of an entitlement to use on the proposed acquisition.

For projects where the land proposed to be conserved under easement includes some forest lands, the letter must also indicate that the landowner agrees to the conditions outlined in Civil Code Section 815.11.

The applicant may provide an option agreement in lieu of a letter of intent if the option agreement includes the above information.

Sample documents are posted on the Department website.

Narrative Questions

Please answer the following questions. Please limit responses to **five pages or less**.

1. Provide a brief description of the project, including the current agricultural use of the property.
2. If the applicant intends to restrict agricultural intensification on the property, describe the restrictions and discuss
 - a. how those restrictions are consistent with the property's continuing agricultural use, and
 - b. whether the restrictions would substantially impair agricultural use on the property.
3. Is the proposed acquisition part of a local government's condition placed upon the issuance of an entitlement for use of a specific property? If yes, please describe.
4. Does the property have any known agricultural constraints (e.g., due to soil or water contamination)? If so, please describe.
5. Describe how the property will support infill and compact development.
 - a. Describe any trends in the conversion of farmland to other uses between the nearest city or census-designated place and the property over the past 10 years.
 - b. What is the population growth rate of the nearest city or census-designated place?
 - c. Describe any permanently protected lands located in strategic proximity to the nearest city or census-designated place and the property.
6. Describe how the proposal will support the implementation of an adopted or draft sustainable communities strategy or, if a sustainable communities strategy is not required for a region by law, a regional plan that includes policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
7. Describe how the project is consistent with California's [Planning Priorities](#).
8. Describe the market, infrastructure, and agricultural support services around the property.
9. Is the parcel proposed for conservation expected to continue to be used for, and is it large enough to sustain, commercial agricultural production?
10. Provide a brief discussion of the environmental, economic, public health, and other co-benefits that this project will provide.
11. If the proposal is for fee title acquisition, describe how the property be utilized for agricultural use. What is the plan to lease or sell the property? Will this occur as part of the project and if not, what is the anticipated time frame?

Provide any other comments, potential concerns, etc.

Title

Applicants are expected to exercise due diligence to discover and disclose potential title issues in the pre-proposal and application. A preliminary title report that is less than twelve (12) months old and a plan to address each title issue must be submitted with the pre-proposal.

The title report should be submitted as a separate file from the pre-proposal and should be accompanied by all relevant underlying documents, associated assessor's parcel maps, and a plotted easements map. Underlying documents should be submitted as hyperlinks in the preliminary title report unless extenuating circumstances exist.

In the space below, list any exceptions that may pose a cloud on title. For each exception noted, describe what steps will be taken to resolve the issue, including a timeline for resolution. If no potential clouds on title are identified in the Preliminary Title Report, write N/A.

Examples of exceptions that are not typically a concern are easements or encumbrances for utilities, roads, or neighbor rights-of-way. Examples of exceptions that require explanation are deeds of trust, third party mineral interests, existing conservation easements, or possible interests in the fee held by third parties.

Project Boundary Map

Applicants must submit a legible pdf map of the project boundary and APNs with their pre-proposal.

Applicants are encouraged to provide GIS shapefiles of any data included in their maps.

Map of Building Envelope and any Excluded Areas

If building envelope(s) is/are to be designated within the project area, applicants must submit a map depicting the location and size/dimensions of existing and/or proposed envelope(s). Building envelopes must be designated around existing residences.

Similarly, if certain areas of the property are to be excluded from the acquisition, applicants should identify the location and, if possible, approximate acreage of such proposed exclusions on the map.

APPENDIX C – Acquisition Grant Application

Applying

This is the application form for Agricultural Conservation Acquisition (Acquisition) Grants under the Round 7 Guidelines for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (Guidelines). The Guidelines detail the background and eligibility requirements for funding. Applicants should familiarize themselves with the Round 7 Guidelines prior to completing this grant application and refer to them for questions regarding this form. SALC staff are available prior to the application deadline to provide technical assistance to eligible applicants interested in applying.

Initial Screening – Pre-proposals

Applicants are required to submit a pre-proposal to the Department prior to applying. Please refer to the Pre-Proposals section of the Guidelines for additional information.

Grant Application Submission

Please use the Grant Application Checklist to ensure that all necessary materials are submitted. Incomplete or Not Ready applications may not be evaluated or considered for funding at the sole discretion of the State. Early consultation with SALC staff regarding proposed projects is strongly encouraged to achieve the most efficient review process possible.

The application process and requirements for Acquisition grants is detailed in Section 2 of the Guidelines. Pre-proposals and applications must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. on the deadlines specified in “At-a-Glance,” to be considered for funding.

Applicants must submit the entire application to the Department via email (salcp@conservation.ca.gov).

Receipt of the digital application by the Department determines the official submittal date and time. SALC will acknowledge receipt of the digital application by email to the Contact Person listed on the Grant Application Cover Sheet.

Acquisition Grant Application Checklist

REQUIRED COMPONENTS

All grant applications must include the following:

- Application Cover Sheet
- Executive Summary (1-page maximum)
- Acquisition Summary Sheet
- Narrative Questions
- Applicant Resolution of Support
- Letter to Planning Director
- Updated Preliminary Title Report, Underlying Documents, Assessor's Parcel Maps *(if requested)*
- Appraisal or Support for Estimated Easement Value
- Revised Project Boundary Map *(if requested)*
- Revised Building Envelope(s) Map and Excluded Area(s) Map *(if requested)*

Additional components

Applicants may submit the following as relevant to their application:

- Proposed Interest Holder Resolution of Support *(if relevant)*
- Priority Population Benefits Checklist *(required if providing a priority population benefit)*
- Maps that show property characteristics relevant to the project

Acquisition Grant Application Cover Sheet

Basic Information

Project Title	
Location (County and Nearest City)	
Distance to nearest city or census designated place	
Real property interest to be acquired	<input type="checkbox"/> Easement <input type="checkbox"/> Fee
Located within a priority population	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N [Census tract number]
Priority Population Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N [If yes, attach Priority Population Benefits Table]
Risk Option number	

Project Funding

A: SALC Acquisition Request Amount	\$
B: SALC Associated Costs Request:	[Up to \$50,000]
C: SALC Management Plan Request	[Up to \$10,000]
D: SALC Carbon Farm Plan Request	[Up to \$20,000]
E: SALC Total Grant Request (A+B+C+D)	\$
Match Amount (toward easement value only)	\$
Matching Funds Source	[i.e., NRCS-ACEP, WCB-CAPP, etc.]
Status of Match	[i.e., application submitted, in grant agreement, etc.]
Does all or a portion of the match come from another CCI program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N List:
Estimated Easement Fair Market Value	\$
Estimated Fee Title Fair Market Value (fee acquisitions only)	\$

Applicant Information

Applicant	
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Co-Applicant/Intended Interest Holder Information *(complete if applicable)*

Name	
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Executive Summary

This section (**one (1) page** maximum) should: :

- Provide a brief but thorough description of the proposed project and its scope (project type; agricultural use; farmland quality; location; size; whether landowner or lessee-operated; if lessee-operated, the length of the lease; etc),
- Clearly respond to all concerns identified by SALC staff during the pre-proposal review (if any),
- Provide a brief summary of how the project meets the programs goals and priorities, and
- Identify whether the landowner must meet any critical deadlines for concluding the transaction.

Acquisition Summary Sheet

All fields in this section must be filled out for the application to be considered complete.

General Information

Project Title	
Landowner Name(s)/ Ownership Structure	
Street Address of Property (or nearest cross streets)	
Project APN(s)	

Project Acreage

Total Project Acreage (Assessor's Acreage)	
Prime Farmland Acres mapped by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program	
Irrigated Acres	
Non-irrigated / Grazing Acres	
Nonagricultural Acres	

Landowner Demographics

(Check all that apply. For properties where more than one individual holds an interest, complete this section for the landowner with the largest interest. For properties with 50/50 interest, complete this section for both landowners.)

Gender:

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Do not wish to identify

Race/Ethnicity:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not wish to identify |

Sale and Subdivision

Would proposed acquisition prohibit further subdivision of existing legal parcels? (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:
Would proposed acquisition prohibit sale of existing legal parcels separately from other parcels in project area? (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:

Water and Mineral Rights

Water Rights and Source(s)	
Third party mineral rights holder(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:
Severed mineral rights?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:
Evidence of past mining?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Explanation:

Existing and Reserved Single-family Residences

Number of single-family (SF) residences currently on the property	
Approximate size of each SF residence (square footage of living area)	
Number of additional SF residences to be reserved in easement (if any):	
Size restriction (sq. ft), if any, on reserved and/or existing SF residences	

Existing Farm Labor Residences

Number of farm labor residential structures/units currently on property	
Approximate size of each farm labor residence (square footage of living area)	

Building Envelopes

Existing Building Envelope(s) on the property?	Number: Approximate Acres (each):
---	---

Additional Building Envelope(s) to be reserved (e.g., residential, ag. employee, agricultural infrastructure)?	Number: Approximate Acres (each):
---	---

Additional Information

Other Reserved Rights (e.g., oil and gas site, solar, communication towers)	Please list:
Any critical deadlines?	Please describe:

Narrative Questions

This section should be used to explain attributes of the proposed acquisition that are relevant to the goals of SALC. This section should not exceed **nine (9)** pages. Please answer the following questions, maintaining the format below.

1. Describe how the project will support infill and compact development.
 - a. What is the average population growth rate (2010-2020) for the nearest city or census designated place? Include your data source.
 - b. Will protection of the property add to an existing greenbelt or community separator, or will protection of the property build on a nascent greenbelt or community separator?
 - c. Describe the property's ability to provide wildfire resilience benefits to nearby communities.
2. Describe how the acquisition builds climate resilience, reduces risk from extreme climate events, contributes to the State's effort to combat climate change, and/or advances the State's effort to achieve carbon neutrality.
 - a. Describe any CDFA or similar climate smart management practices being implemented or proposed for implementation on the property to actively invest in soil health, promote carbon sequestration, and build climate resilience.
 - i. For practices currently being implemented, describe how the practices are implemented and over what portions of the property the practices are applied.
 - ii. For current and proposed practices, indicate whether these practices are being pursued independently by the landowner or as part of a local, regional, or state effort (e.g., with RCD, Healthy Soils Program, or NRCS assistance), and describe the timeframe for implementation.
 - b. Describe how protection of the property would build climate resilience via protection of habitat transition zones.
3. Describe how the acquisition will advance equity and opportunity.
 - a. Does the project provide priority population benefits? (Complete and attach CARB Priority Population Benefits Table.)
 - b. Describe how the project supports California Native American tribe's co-management of and access to natural lands and Indigenous cultural resources on the property.
 - c. Is the landowner a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, or does/will the landowner provide secure land tenure for farming or ranching on the property to a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher for at least 10 years? For properties with multiple owners, this

determination will be based on the landowner(s) who own a majority of the property.

4. Describe how the acquisition will support long term, sustainable agricultural use and safeguard food security.
 - a. Describe any CDFA or similar management practices being implemented or proposed for implementation on the property to improve water efficiency and conservation and actively invest in water stewardship above generally accepted practices.
 - i. For practices currently being implemented, describe how the practices are implemented and over what portions of the property the practices are applied.
 - ii. For current and proposed practices, indicate whether these practices are being pursued independently by the landowner or as part of a local, regional, or state effort (e.g., with RCD, Healthy Soils Program, or NRCS assistance), and describe the timeframe for implementation.
 - b. Describe how conservation of the proposed property is consistent with the local [groundwater sustainability plan](#) for the area (if one exists).
 - c. Describe how the agricultural operation on the property promotes regional food systems resilience, including through crop diversification, production of fresh produce for local markets, and distribution of fresh food via local market channels.
5. Describe how the acquisition provides environmental co-benefits.
 - a. Describe how the project protects biodiversity, including protecting populations of pollinator insects, protecting native plants and animals from invasive species and pests, and providing habitat.
 - b. Describe any other permanently protected lands (e.g., other agricultural conservation easements, habitat conservation easements, or other fee-title protection) within strategic proximity to the property proposed for conservation.
6. Describe how the acquisition supports coordinated land use planning processes via consistency with:
 - a. an adopted agricultural conservation plan, regional agricultural conservation program, agricultural mitigation plan, SALC-funded plan, or sustainable communities strategy.
 - b. An adopted habitat or wildlife conservation plan, regional habitat or wildlife conservation program, or habitat or wildlife mitigation plan.
7. Describe how the acquisition provides additional co-benefits, including:
 - a. Economic co-benefits
 - b. Public health co-benefits

- c. Educational opportunities
 - d. Outdoor access
 - e. Other co-benefits not identified above
8. If the proposal is for fee title acquisition, how will the property be utilized for agricultural use? Do you plan to lease or sell the property and in what time frame will that occur?

Applicant Resolution of Support

The applicant is required to submit a signed resolution of support from its board of directors or similar governing body authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the SALC. The resolution must:

- Authorize the submittal of an acquisition grant application to SALC;
- Authorize entrance into a grant agreement with the Department for the project and agree to accept the template terms and conditions, available in Appendix F of the Guidelines, if the project is awarded funding;
- Certify that no conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest exists for any member of the applicant's Board of Directors as relates to the project; and,
- Authorize a designated individual to execute tasks, such as signing documents, related to the application, grant agreement, and acquisition, if the project is awarded funding.

Notification Letter to the Planning Director

The applicant must provide written notification to the local government's Planning Director about the application. The letter should indicate the applicant's intent to apply for a grant to acquire an agricultural conservation easement, the Department's contact information in case the local government has comments, and the anticipated date of the Strategic Growth Council meeting at which the easement application is proposed to be considered for approval. The notification should include the applicant and not the landowner's name.

Preliminary Title Report and Assessor's Parcel Map(s)

If an updated preliminary title report or associated documents was requested as part of the pre-proposal feedback, provide an updated preliminary title report for review.

Appraisal/Support for Estimated Acquisition Value

A current appraisal is not a required component of the application. However, the applicant must provide support for the acquisition value identified in the application cover sheet. This support may be in the form of a preliminary or complete appraisal, or a detailed estimate for the anticipated cost of the acquisition, and material to support the valuation estimate. SALC reserves the right to require that a current appraisal accompany the grant application if, in its sole discretion, it determines that insufficient data is available to support an estimate.

SALC will only fund the appraisal that is approved by the state and used for the completed acquisition.

Project Boundary Map

If the applicant has revised the project boundary following receipt of pre-proposal feedback, provide an updated boundary map (pdf format) with the application.

Applicants may also submit maps depicting the proposed project boundary relative to Important Farmland data, nearest Sphere of Influence, priority planning areas, and other protected lands in the vicinity. If the applicant can document additional conserved lands or resource values that support the proposal, they are encouraged to provide supplemental maps to that effect.

Applicants are encouraged to provide GIS shapefiles of any data included in their maps.

Building Envelope(s) and any Excluded Area(s) Map

If the applicant has revised the building envelopes or excluded areas associated with the project following receipt of pre-proposal feedback, provide an updated building envelope and excluded areas map (pdf format) with the application.

Building envelopes must be designated around existing residences, as well as sites for proposed future residences.

Priority Population Benefits Checklist (AB 1550) – OPTIONAL

This checklist is to be used by applicants claiming to provide a benefit to a priority population. Benefits must address a common need to a disadvantaged community. The chosen approach must be identified on the checklist and

accompanied by supporting documentation that a disadvantaged community need is being met. This checklist will be available on the Department website.

Projects must satisfy at least one criterion in Step 1, one criterion in Step 2, and one criterion in Step 3, and the benefit claimed must meet the need identified to be considered to provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations, receive priority population status through SALC, and count toward statutory investment minimums. Documentation must be provided to support all claims and will be evaluated by SALC in consultation with CARB.

Please see www.arb.ca.gov/cci-resources for the most recent table.

APPENDIX D – Planning Grant Pre-Proposal

Submittal Requirements

All applicants are encouraged to provide the Department with a structured summary of their proposed project prior to the full application deadline.

By providing basic information about the potential project’s scope and goals, Department staff can provide preliminary technical assistance to the applicant in advance of completion of full project application.

Please submit the below form to the Department by email to salcp@conservation.ca.gov

Project Title	
Applicant Name	
Department/Office	
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Project Title:	
Location (County and/or City)	
Claiming Priority Population Benefits Status (circle one)	Y N If yes, you will need to submit a Priority Population Benefits Checklist with your application (<i>not</i> with this pre-proposal).
Grant Request Amount	\$
Matching Funds Pending	\$
Matching Funds Committed	\$
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$

Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Executive Summary and Proposed Planning Project

Please provide a brief overview of the project (**1-page** maximum). This overview should describe the following:

- Provide a brief description of the proposed planning project.
- Why the proposed project is appropriate for protecting agricultural lands in the jurisdiction.
- Participating stakeholders.
- Any critical deadlines.

Preproposal Questions

1. Describe the proposed planning project. Include details such as the anticipated outcome and deliverables are expected; agricultural land base, economy, and regional food systems and infrastructure within the project area; amount and quality of agricultural land that can be expected to receive protection through the proposed project. Include maps of important farmland, jurisdictional boundaries, and other pertinent data that would portray the project scope (as attachments to the application).
2. Why and to what extent agricultural land is being converted to other uses within project area? To what extent those conversion risks are expected to continue? How will the proposed project address those conversion risks?
3. How will the project avoid or reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
4. How will the proposed project implement an adopted or draft Sustainable Communities Strategy or, if a Sustainable Communities Strategy is not required for a region by law, a regional plan that includes policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Provide references to the specific goals, objectives, or policies that the project supports.
5. How is the proposed plan consistent with [California's Planning Priorities](#)?

6. What economic, environmental, public health or other co-benefits that would arise from the project? How will those co-benefits be measured?
7. How will the proposal complement other efforts in the region, including comprehensive planning efforts (e.g., Greenprints, general or special plan objectives or goals), and agricultural land use policies (e.g., Williamson Act)? How would the project leverage other permanently protected lands to promote location and resource-efficient development?
8. What is the applicant's experience in developing and implementing similar projects? What are the internal resources and capacity to complete the proposed work or will consultants or contractors be required? Are there professional staff qualified to develop and successfully implement the proposal? If not, please describe how will the applicant acquire this expertise.
9. Which stakeholders will participate in the proposed project? How will these stakeholders participate?

Map(s) of the Project area

Please provide a map or image depicting the area to be covered by the proposed project. The map should generally depict the area, including the extent of its agricultural resources, urban and/or rural land uses, and any ancillary map data to support the need for the proposal. Examples of maps include Important Farmland Maps, Spheres of Influence, priority planning areas, and other protected lands. Protected lands databases can be found at the following locations:

[National Conservation Easement Database](#)

[California Protected Area Database](#)

[California Conservation Easement Database](#)

Maps or images must print into an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of paper.

Geographic information system (GIS) data may be submitted along with digital map products.

APPENDIX E – Planning Grant Application

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Please use the Grant Application Checklist found below to ensure that all necessary materials are submitted to facilitate prompt application review. Incomplete applications may not be evaluated or considered for funding at the sole discretion of the State.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to submit the entire application to the Department via email (salcp@conservation.ca.gov).

Receipt of the digital application by the Department determines the official submittal date and time. SALC staff will acknowledge receipt of the digital application via email to the Contact Person listed on the Cover Sheet.

ALL GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Please indicate with a checkmark that these items are included in your application.

Checklist

	Completed Cover Sheet
	Executive Summary
	Application Questions
	Work Plan
	Budget
	Map(s) of the Project's Geographic Area
	Signed Authorizing Resolution from Governing Bodies
	Priority Population Benefits Checklist (Optional)
	Stakeholder Collaboration Letters (Optional)

Materials should be presented in the order indicated in the checklist. Clearly number and label each item, and number all pages in sequential order.

Please do not submit additional materials that have not been specifically requested (e.g., press clippings or brochures) as they will not be considered during the evaluation.

Planning Grant Cover Sheet

Project Title	
Applicant Name	
Department/Office	
Federal Employer ID Number	
Mailing Address	
Project Title:	
Location (County and/or City)	
Requesting Priority Population Benefits Status (circle one)	Y N If yes, you will need to submit a Priority Population Benefits Checklist with your application
Grant Request Amount	\$
Matching Funds Pending	\$
Matching Funds Committed	\$
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$
Contact Person	
Title	
Phone Number	
Email Address	

Executive Summary

This section (**1-page** maximum) will provide a brief overview of:

- Describe the planning project(s) being proposed.
- Why the proposed project is an appropriate planning project for protecting agricultural lands in your jurisdiction.

- Who are participating stakeholders and how will they be incorporated into the plan.
- Any critical deadlines.

Application Questions

The questions below are designed to solicit specific facts regarding how the proposal addresses the SALC goals and objectives. Please respond to all questions in the order listed and clearly label each question and answer. Points will be attributed to each section and not to individual questions. If a question does not apply to your proposed work, indicate that it is not applicable ("N/A"). Please limit your response to **ten (10)** pages.

1. Describe the proposed planning project. Include details such as the anticipated outcome and deliverables are expected; agricultural land base, economy, and regional food systems and infrastructure within the project area; amount and quality of agricultural land that can be expected to receive protection through the proposed project. Include maps of important farmland, jurisdictional boundaries, and other pertinent data that would portray the project scope (as attachments to the application).
2. Why and to what extent agricultural land is being converted to other uses within project area? To what extent those conversion risks are expected to continue? How will the proposed project address those conversion risks?
3. How will the project avoid or reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
4. How will the proposed project implement an adopted or draft Sustainable Communities Strategy or, if a Sustainable Communities Strategy is not required for a region by law, a regional plan that includes policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Provide references to the specific goals, objectives, or policies that the project supports.
5. How is the proposed plan consistent with California's [Planning Priorities](#)?
6. What economic, environmental, public health or other co-benefits that would arise from the project? How will those co-benefits be measured?
7. How will the proposal complement other efforts in the region, including comprehensive planning efforts (e.g., Greenprints, general or special plan objectives or goals), and agricultural land use policies (e.g., Williamson Act)? How would the project leverage other permanently protected lands to promote location and resource-efficient development?
8. What is the applicant's agency's experience in developing and implementing similar projects? Are there the internal resources and capacity to complete the proposed work or will consultants or contractors be required? Are there the professional staff qualified to develop and

successfully implement the proposal? If not, please describe how you will the applicant acquire this expertise.

9. Which stakeholders will participate in the proposed project? How will these stakeholders participate?

Work Plan

Applicants must provide a detailed work plan that specifies the tasks, sub-tasks and deliverables that will be performed including a schedule and cost estimates. The cost estimate and schedule should be of sufficient detail to allow assessment of the applicant's progress through the work plan at regular intervals. Cost estimates should be consistent with the budget. If awarded funding, this work plan will be incorporated into the Grant Agreement.

The work plan will include:

Summary

1. The tabular summary below must be filled out with the project details and included in the application. Add tasks or subtasks as appropriate for your proposal.

Work Plan

Task Number	Performance Measure	Timeline	Total Requested Grant Funds
Task 1 Identify any subtasks or steps to completing the Task	Identify appropriate deliverable, metrics, or milestones	Example: Months 1-4	
Task 2			
Task 3			
Task 4			
Task 5			

Narrative

2. A narrative of each tasks, sub-tasks and schedule for the proposed project. Please limit your response to three (3) pages.

Budget

This section will identify the total estimated project cost using the budget table below. The total estimated cost should be broken down to clearly delineate grant funds requested and match funding. Additional rows may be added to each section as appropriate. All costs must be eligible. If awarded funding, this Budget will be incorporated into the Grant Agreement. Please refer to the [Department's website](#) for an excel version of this spreadsheet.

Budget Item	Units (if applicable)	Rate (if applicable)	Program		
			Reimbursement Request	Grantee Match	Grand Total
Task 1	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>			
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -
Task 2	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>			
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -
Task 3	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>			
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -
Task 4	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>			
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -
Task 5	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>			
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -
Other Direct Costs	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>			
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
			\$ -		\$ -
Subtotal			\$ -		\$ -
Grand Total			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Map(s) of the Project Geographic area

Applicants must provide a map or image depicting the area to be covered by the proposed plan. The map should generally depict the area, including the extent of its agricultural resources, urban and/or rural land uses, and any ancillary map data to support the need for the proposal. Maps or images must print into an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper.

Geographic information system (GIS) data or Google Earth (.kmz) files may be submitted along with digital map products.

Signed Authorizing Resolution

Applicants must submit a signed Resolution of Support authorizing work to be completed under the proposal. The resolution must:

- Approve the filing of an application for the proposed project;
- Certify that the Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application;
- Certify that the Applicant will have sufficient funds to meet the match requirement;
- Certify that the Applicant will work towards the California's Planning Priorities;
- Authorize entrance into a grant agreement with the Department for the project and agree to accept the template included in the Guidelines; and,
- Authorize a designated individual, or designee, as agent to accept the award of grant funding and to, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for development of the plan.

The resolution must provide acknowledgement that the Applicant understands and accepts that they must cover the costs to complete work related to the development and execution of the planning project until reimbursement by the State.

Priority Population Benefits Checklist (Optional)

Applicants choosing to claim priority population benefits must submit a priority population benefits checklist. Please download and submit a copy of the checklist from the [CARB website](#).

A mapping tool to determine whether a project location is within a priority population census tract is [available](#). Also refer to the Guidelines for further information.

Stakeholder Collaboration Letters (Optional)

Applicants may provide copies of letters from collaborating stakeholders demonstrating the stakeholder's specific role in the development or implementation of the Agricultural Land Conservation Planning project.

Applicants may also provide copies of letters from entities within the project geographic area and from the local community which are not participating stakeholders, but which support the Agricultural Land Conservation Planning project.

APPENDIX F – Acquisition Grant Agreement

[Intentionally omitted. Draft Appendix F can be accessed via separate download from our website or by emailing salcp@conservation.ca.gov.]

APPENDIX G – Planning Grant Agreement

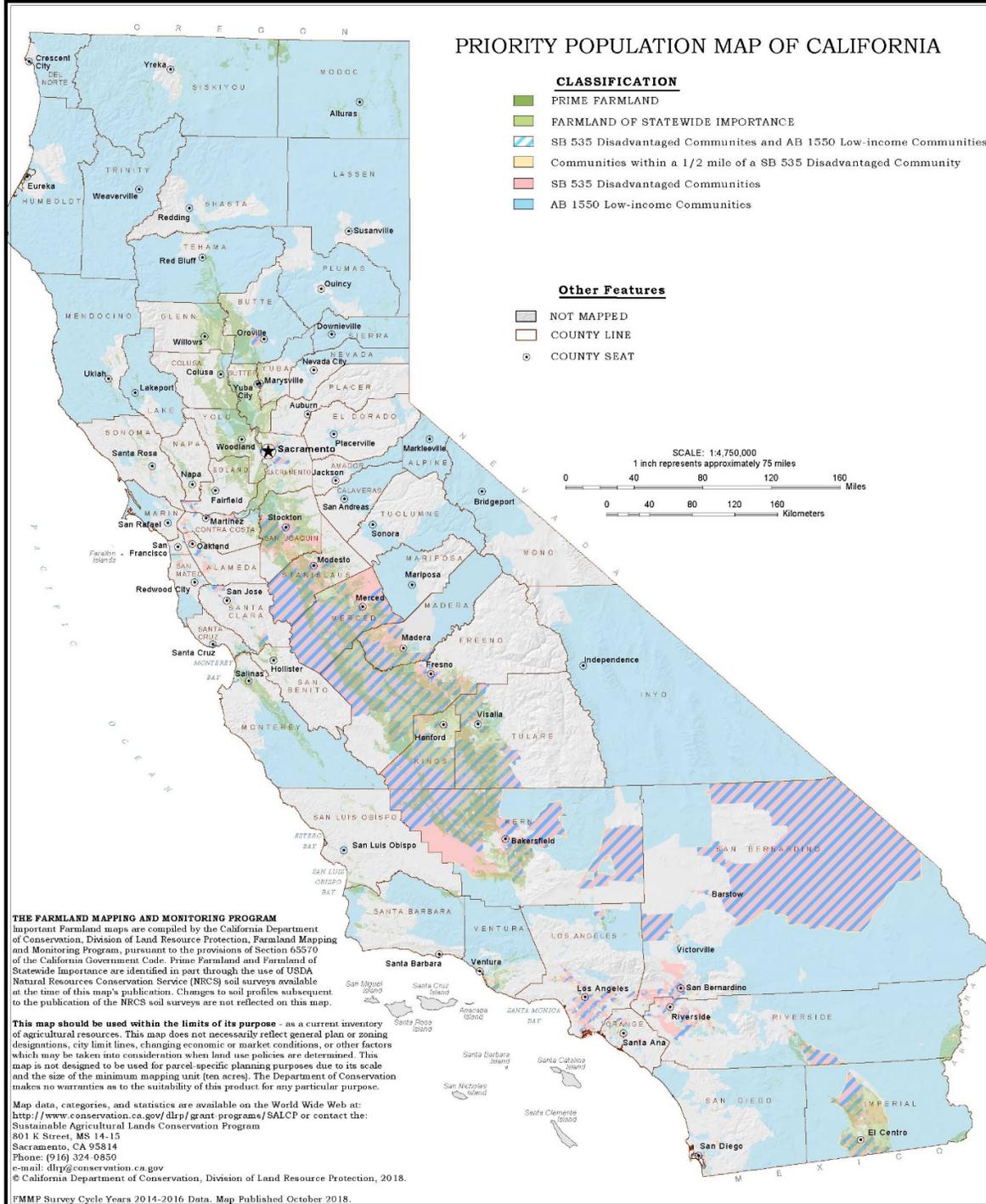
[Intentionally omitted. Draft Appendix G can be accessed via separate download from our website or by emailing salcp@conservation.ca.gov.]

APPENDIX H – Priority Populations-Important Farmland Map



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor*
 THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
 John Laird, *Secretary*
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 David Bunn, *Director*

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
 DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION
 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM



APPENDIX I – Glossary

The terms used in these grant Guidelines are defined as follows:

AB 32 (Chapter 488, 2006): Assembly Bill 32, or the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, establishes a comprehensive program of regulatory and market mechanisms to achieve real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases. It codifies in the Health and Safety Code declarations about the serious threats posed by global warming and the intent of the Legislature to ensure coordination among state agencies and all affected stakeholders in the development of regulations to implement this law.

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program: The AHSC Program furthers the regulatory purposes of AB 32 and SB 375 by investing in projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions by creating more compact, infill development patterns; encouraging active transportation and mass transit usage; and protecting agricultural land from sprawl development. These projects, described in the AB 32 Scoping Plan, support climate objectives and co-benefits by reducing vehicle miles traveled and associated greenhouse gas and other emissions, or by making strategic investments that protect agricultural lands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Agricultural Conservation Easement (easement): A voluntary, legally recorded deed restriction in perpetuity, as defined in Section 815.1 of the Civil Code. The easement removes development pressure, prohibits practices that would damage or interfere with the agricultural use of the property, and prevents the restriction of agricultural husbandry practices. The easement remains in effect even when land changes ownership and maintains the land in private ownership and on the tax rolls. The easement must be held by a qualified Section 501(c)(3) California nonprofit organization, or a local government, both of which must state that one of their primary purposes is the protection of agricultural use.

Agricultural Land: For the purposes of this program, agricultural land includes both cultivated and non-cultivated (e.g., rangeland and pasture) lands.

Agricultural use: For the purposes of SALC, agricultural activity, operation or facility or appurtenances thereof shall include the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural commodity including viticulture, apiculture, or horticulture, the raising of livestock, fish, or poultry, and any practices performed by a farmer or on a farm as incident to or in conjunction with those farming operations, including preparation for market, delivery to storage or to market, or delivery to carriers for transportation market. This definition shall also include gathering and activities that promote healthy trees, shrubs, and perennial forbs for the

cultivation of traditional foods, herbal medicine, fibers (such as basketry material), and dyes so long as the project is led by or is in partnership with a California Native American tribe and the deed provides tribal access to those resources.

Applicant: An organization requesting funding from this program to be administered by the State. Eligible applicants for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Planning Grants are cities and counties. Partners to the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Planning Grants may include nonprofit organizations, resource conservation districts, or a regional park or open-space district or regional park or open-space authority. Eligible applicants for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants include local governments, nonprofit organizations, resource conservation districts, or a regional park or open-space district, regional park or open-space authorities, and California Native American tribes as identified in Civil Code Section 815.3.

Applicant's stated purpose: As described in adopted by-laws, articles of incorporation, policy, or resolution of the applicant's governing body (does not include statements on website)

Baseline Conditions Report: A comprehensive document that describes the condition of a property placed under conservation easement. The Baseline Conditions Report (BCR) is compiled by the easement holder and is referred to during future monitoring of the easement to determine whether the terms and conditions of the easement are being upheld.

Co-Applicant: An organization or entity that is eligible to apply for funding under the SALC and applies for funding in partnership with a second organization.

Co-Benefits: The ancillary or additional benefits of policies that are implemented with a primary goal, such as climate change mitigation, acknowledging that most policies designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions also have other, often at least equally important, benefits (e.g., energy savings, economic benefits, air quality benefits, public health benefits). Also referred to as "multiple benefits." (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Conservation easement: An interest in land, less than fee simple, which represents the right to prevent the development or improvement of the land, as specified in Section 815.1 of the California Civil Code. For the purposes of the SALC, the easement is held to prevent any use that may diminish or impair purposes other than agricultural production.

Conservation management practices: Conservation management practices include agricultural management practices that sequester carbon, reduce atmospheric GHGs and improve soil health. These practices can include United

States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Practice Standards (CPS), California Department of Food and Agriculture Healthy Soils Program Practices, and Carbon Farm Plans.

Cost effectiveness: Defined as the greenhouse gas reduction identified by the Quantification Methodology per dollar of California Climate Investment Funding requested.

Employment Outcomes: Employment outcomes include the following categories—the job classification or trade supported, any job training credentials, the number of jobs provided per classification, the number of jobs provided to employees from priority populations, total hours worked on the project, total hours worked by employees from priority populations, average hourly wage, average hourly wage for employees from priority populations, total number of workers that completed job training (if relevant), and a description of job quality. Additional information is available on the jobs tab of the SALC CCIRTS reporting template available at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/cci-quantification-benefits-and-reporting-materials>.

Fully-Burdened rate: The actual cost of a company to have an employee, aside from the salary the employee earns. Labor burden costs include benefits that a company must, or chooses to, pay for employees included on their payroll. These costs include but are not limited to payroll taxes, pension costs, health insurance, dental insurance, and any other benefits that a company provides an employee.

Fund or Funds: Monies authorized by the California Budget Act from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) to the Strategic Growth Council to develop and administer the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program. Health and Safety Code Section 39719(b)(1)(C), apportions twenty percent (20%) of the GGRF's proceeds on an annual basis to AHSC beginning in FY 2015-16.

Grant Administrator: An employee of the State who manages grants, also called a Grant Manager.

Grant Agreement: A contractual arrangement between the Department and grantee specifying the payment of funds by the Department for the execution of the work program by the grantee.

Grant Performance Period: The beginning and ending dates of the Grant Agreement. Eligible costs incurred during this period may be funded from the grant. No work plan should exceed 24 months.

Grant term: The period beginning upon the Department Director's signature of the grant agreement, during which the grantee and the Department execute the work program outlined in said agreement.

Grantee: An applicant that has signed an agreement for grant funding with the State.

Greenhouse Gases: Include, but are not limited to, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro fluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

Including: Including means "including, but not limited to."

Infrastructure: Specific to SALC, infrastructure refers to the resources upon which an agricultural business relies. This includes, but is not limited to, seed and fertilizer suppliers, veterinary services, water and energy distribution, transportation, drying or processing facilities, and storage or marketing facilities.

Joint Proposal: An application submitted for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Strategy and Outcome Grants by one lead eligible applicant with one or more eligible applicant(s) (co-applicant). A single Budget and Work Plan must be submitted by the lead applicant. The Budget and Work Plan must describe the funds that will be distributed to lead and co-applicants and identify general activities for which they are used.

Land Trust: A private, nonprofit organization that holds a tax exemption as defined under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and further qualifies as an organization under Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. For purposes of the SALC, land trusts eligible to hold agricultural conservation easements must have among their purposes the conservation of agricultural lands.

Living Area: Specific to the SALC, living area is defined by the local jurisdiction that oversees permitting of the project area. Please refer to your local jurisdiction for additional information.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO): The Cortese-Knox Local Government Reorganization Act (Government Code Section 56000, et seq.) established Local Agency Formation Commissions in each county, empowering them to review, approve or deny proposals for boundary changes and incorporations for cities, counties, and special districts. Among the purposes of a LAFCO are discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open-space and prime agricultural lands, efficiently providing government services, and encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies based upon local conditions and circumstances (Government Code Section 56301). One of the

primary planning tasks is the establishment of “Spheres of Influence” for the various governmental bodies within their jurisdiction.

Natural Resources: The materials and functions that comprise the natural wealth of an area’s ecosystems, including the plants, animals, minerals, air, water, and soil. Among these functions are watershed catchment, wildlife migration and habitation, forestry, grazing, and crop production. Of particular importance for complex, large scale natural resources functions are lands that flood, lands that are farmed, lands dedicated to open space, lands designated for mineral extraction, greenbelts, parks and trails, and lands valued for their aesthetics.

Participating Stakeholder: Cities, counties, local agency formation commissions (LAFCOs), agricultural businesses, agricultural water providers/purveyors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community members, and Native American tribes.

Partner(s): Nonprofits, resource conservation districts, or other stakeholders with an interest in conserving agricultural land that are included or play a role in the Applicant’s proposed scope of work.

Project Geographic Area: For purposes of SALC, the physical geographic extent of a proposal assessed to estimate the GHG emission reductions at the application stage; only agricultural lands within the project geographic area that are determined to be at risk of conversion are considered when quantifying the GHG benefit.

Project structure: Attributes that define the agricultural conservation easement project including acreage, boundary, legal access, reserved rights, prohibited uses, fee ownership, mineral estate, and co-benefits.

Reasonable Associated Costs: A cost is reasonable if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the decision was made to incur the cost. In determining reasonableness of a given cost, consideration must be given to:

- Whether the cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the entity or the proper and efficient performance of the Grant Agreement.
- The restraints or requirements imposed by such factors as: sound business practices; arm's-length bargaining; federal, state, local, tribal, and other laws and regulations; and terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement.
- Market prices for comparable goods or services for the geographic area.
- Whether the individuals concerned acted with prudence in the circumstances considering their responsibilities to its employees, the public at large, and the State.

- o Whether the cost significantly deviates from the acquiring entity's established practices and policies regarding the incurrence of costs.

Regional Plan: Either of the following: 1) A long-range transportation plan developed pursuant to Section 134(g) of Title 23 of the United States Code and any applicable State requirements, OR 2) A regional blueprint plan, which is a regional plan that implements statutory requirements intended to foster comprehensive planning as defined in Section 65041.1 of Chapter 2.5 (commencing with Section 65080) of Division 1 of title 7, and Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code.

Reserved rights: Rights expressly retained or proposed to be retained by the landowner/grantor of an agricultural conservation easement.

Socially Disadvantaged Farmer and/or Rancher: Per California Food and Agriculture Code § 512, a farmer or rancher who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group.

Socially Disadvantaged Group: Per California Food and Agriculture Code § 512, a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups include all of the following:

- (1) African Americans.
- (2) Native Indians.
- (3) Alaskan Natives.
- (4) Hispanics.
- (5) Asian Americans.
- (6) Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Specific Plan: A tool for local government implementation of all or part of an area covered by a general plan. A specific plan can combine policy statements with development regulations. It is often used to address the development requirements for projects such as urban infill developments or planned communities. Its emphasis is on standards and development criteria for projects within the area of the specific plan. A specific plan may be adopted either by resolution or by ordinance. Specific plans must be consistent with all facets of the General Plan (§65450, et seq.).

Sphere of Influence (SOI): The SOI is a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local government agency (Government Code Section 56076). One of the primary planning tasks of each county's LAFCO is the establishment of SOIs for the governmental bodies within their jurisdictions.

State: For purposes of the SALC, State is a general term including the Strategic Growth Council, Department of Conservation, and the Natural Resources Agency or its representatives.

California's Planning Priorities: As defined under Government Code Section 65041.1: The state planning priorities, which are intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety in the state, including in urban, suburban, and rural communities, shall be as follows:

- A. To promote infill development and equity by rehabilitating, maintaining, and improving existing infrastructure that supports infill development and appropriate reuse and redevelopment of previously developed, underutilized land that is presently served by transit, streets, water, sewer, and other essential services, particularly in underserved areas, and to preserve cultural and historic resources.
- B. To protect environmental and agricultural resources by protecting, preserving, and enhancing the State's most valuable natural resources, including working landscapes such as farm, range, and forest lands, natural lands such as wetlands, watersheds, wildlife habitats, and other wildlands, recreation lands such as parks, trails, greenbelts, and other open space, and landscapes with locally unique features and areas identified by the State as deserving special protection.
- C. To encourage efficient development patterns by ensuring that any infrastructure associated with development, other than infill development, supports new development that does all of the following:
 - i. Uses land efficiently.
 - ii. Is built adjacent to existing developed areas to the extent consistent with the priorities specified pursuant to subdivision (b).
 - iii. Is located in an area appropriately planned for growth.
 - iv. Is served by adequate transportation and other essential utilities and services.
 - v. Minimizes ongoing costs to taxpayers. ([Government code 65041.1\(c\).](#))

Stewardship Fund: Funds dedicated solely for the long-term stewardship of conservation easements. These funds are set aside by the easement holder at the recordation of a conservation easement and dedicated to ensure funding for the cost of annual monitoring and evaluation of easement threats.

Subcontractor: An entity contracting with the applicant that will participate in the proposed work program submitted by the applicant. Subcontractors must

be included in the work plan and budget form. The lead applicant submits invoices on behalf of the subcontractor. The State pays the lead applicant, who then pays the subcontractor.

Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS): A plan that coordinates transportation and land use planning as described in the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 in order to meet a region's GHG reduction targets. Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) shall consider the best practically available scientific information regarding resource areas and farmland in the region when compiling their SCS. Each SCS must be reviewed and accepted by CARB.

APPENDIX J – Management Plan Contents

At a minimum, the management plan must:

- A. Describe the activities that promote the long-term viability of the land to meet the purposes for which the Acquisition was acquired. This may include a farm or ranch succession plan.
- B. Include a description of the farm or ranch management system, and, if applicable, irrigation water right volumes needed for the agricultural activity on the property. The management plan may incorporate or refer to information from baseline documentation reports, as appropriate.
- C. Identify required and recommended conservation or management practices that address the purposes and conservation values for which the property was selected, such as those identified in the selection criteria, the eligibility requirements, detailed characteristics of the project, the grant agreement or deed, or other project documents. The management plan may incorporate, or cross-reference practices identified in other plans, such as an organic system plan for organic operations, USDA NRCS Conservation Plans, CDFA's Office of Environmental Farming and Innovations Planning Grants Program, a comprehensive nutrient management plan for animal feeding operations, or care of historic sites for easements with historical or archeological resources.
- D. Identify additional or specific criteria associated with permissible and prohibited activities consistent with the terms of the deed. For example, if a deed specifies that the location of the building envelope may be adjusted if it does not adversely affect the agricultural resources, the management plan should describe the agricultural resources and how they may be impacted by construction of structures. Not every management plan will need to specify additional or specific criteria for deed terms; whether such criteria are required should be determined by the grantee based on the agricultural resources present on the property and the clarity of the deed restrictions.
- E. Define the process to be followed to evaluate specified management practices and their impacts on the conservation values, as well as to update those practices if they are having a negative effect on the conservation values.

The management plan must be approved by the Department and signed by the grantee and landowner prior to the execution of the deed and release of \$10,000 allocated for the management plan. The plan must be developed by a qualified planner or resource conservation district.

The management plan is a living document that may be updated at least every 10 years, or more frequently as ownership or landowner operations or objectives change. The management plan is intended to provide flexibility for management of the land within the purposes of the acquisition. The grantee must notify SALC of any changes to the management.

If there are changes to the agricultural operations on the parcel or ownership of the parcel, the management plan must be updated. The grantee and landowner must obtain an updated management plan from qualified planner in the event of such changes.

The grantee must report the landowner's implementation of the management plan and any changes in the agricultural operation or ownership from the previous year on its annual monitoring report. If the landowner is not complying with the management plan, the grantee must identify how compliance will be achieved. If a change in operations or ownership is reported, the grantee must instruct the landowner to update the management plan. If, at the time of the next annual monitoring report, the landowner has not obtained an updated management plan (and it is not due to inaction by SALC), then the landowner is in violation of the provisions of the deed and the grantee is responsible for bringing the landowner into compliance.

APPENDIX K – Infill Support Points Matrix

This matrix will be used by SALC staff to assign points to acquisition applications in part based on a property's ability to support infill and compact development. Specifically, SALC staff will use this matrix to assign up to ten points based on a property's location relative to the nearest city or census designated place (CDP) and that population center's population growth rate. Properties closest to population centers with the largest population growth rates will receive the most points. Properties furthest from population centers with the smallest population growth rates will receive fewest points.

The population growth rate of a given city or CDP will be determined using the two most recent decennial censuses.

	0 mi	0.25 mi	0.5 mi	0.75 mi	1 mi	1.25 mi	1.5 mi	1.75 mi	2 mi	2.5 mi	3 mi	3.5 mi	4 mi	4.5 mi	5 mi
0.01-0.24%	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.25-0.49%	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0.5-0.74%	5	5	5	4	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	0	0
0.75-0.99%	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	5	5	4	3	2	1	0	0
1-1.24%	8	8	8	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1.25-1.49%	9	9	9	8	8	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	4	3	2
1.5-1.74%	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	7	7	7	6	6	5	4	3
1.75-1.99%	10	10	10	9	9	9	8	8	8	7	7	7	6	6	5
2% or more	10	10	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	7	7	6