



Preparing Your Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Planning Grant Pre-proposal

April 4, 2019 | Sacramento, CA



California
Department of
Conservation



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL



Cap and Trade
Dollars at Work

Webinar Structure

- 1 hour webinar
- We will take questions at the end of the presentation
 - Use chat function to ask questions at any time
 - Send to “Everyone”
 - Include slide number your question refers to
- Please use chat function if you are having technical difficulties
- Have Guidelines and pre-proposal handy

Outline

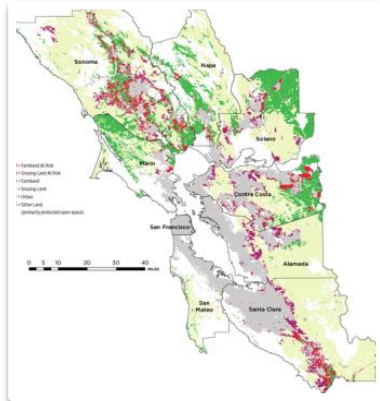
- SALC Overview
- Project Examples
- Project Successes (Santa Clara)
- Eligibility
- Budget/Work Plan
- Selection Criteria
- Priority Populations
- Next Steps and Questions

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

- Promote smart growth by protecting critical agricultural lands from conversion to urban or rural residential uses
- Support a healthy and resilient agricultural economy in order to provide food security
- Avoid future greenhouse gas emissions through protection of agricultural lands

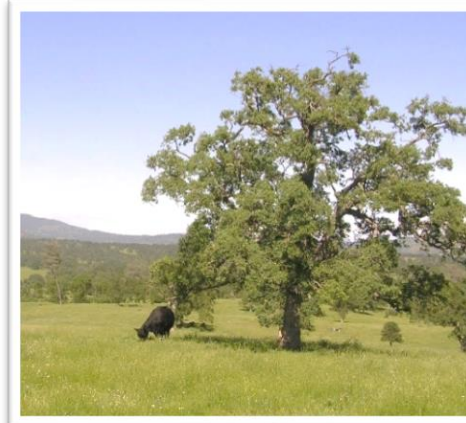


Eligible Project Types



Agricultural
Conservation
Planning Grants

Agricultural
Conservation
Easements



Project Examples



Project Examples

Applicants may propose innovative projects that

- Establish a comprehensive set of goals, policies, and objectives to support the long-term viability and protection of agricultural land
- Identify and designate priority land for conservation
- Identify and designate a set of feasible implementation measures designed to promote those goals, policies and objectives

Planning Project Successes



Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan

The Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan is an innovative approach to agricultural preservation that will reduce future conversion of local farmland and the associated increase in greenhouse gas emissions while growing a vibrant local food economy that contributes to our quality of life.

creating the **SANTA CLARA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PLAN**

Highlighting the critical role played by a SALC Planning Grant



Today's Presentation about the SCV Ag Plan

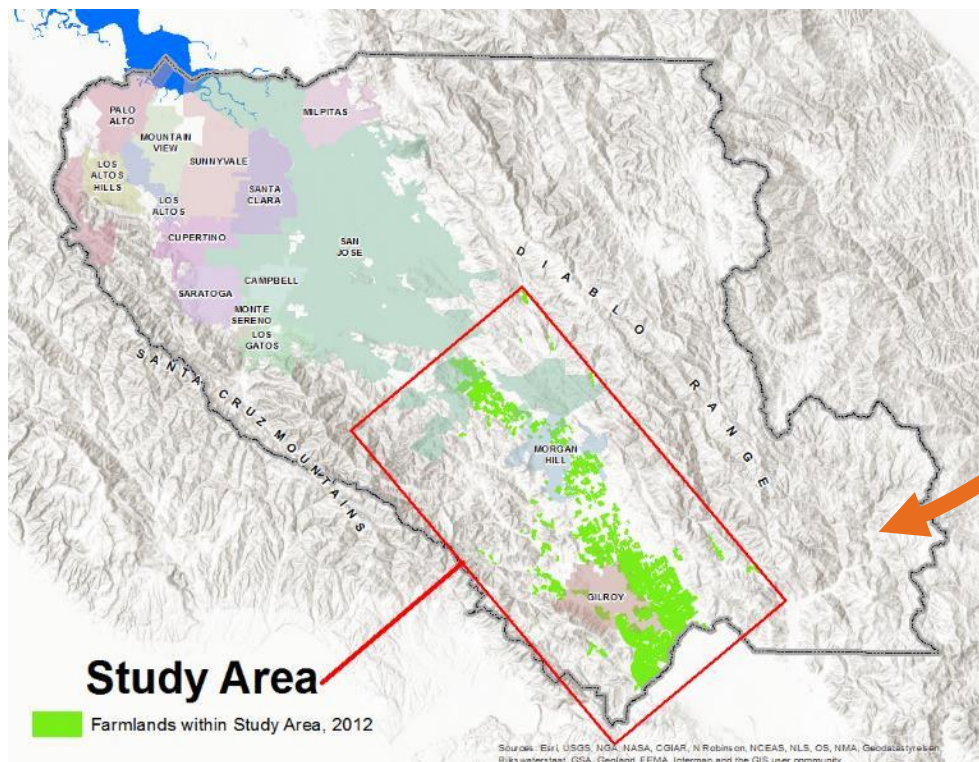
We hope to provide takeaways re:

- *Context for why we realized we needed an ag plan*
- *Application process*
- *Development of the ag plan*
- *Already putting it to use!*

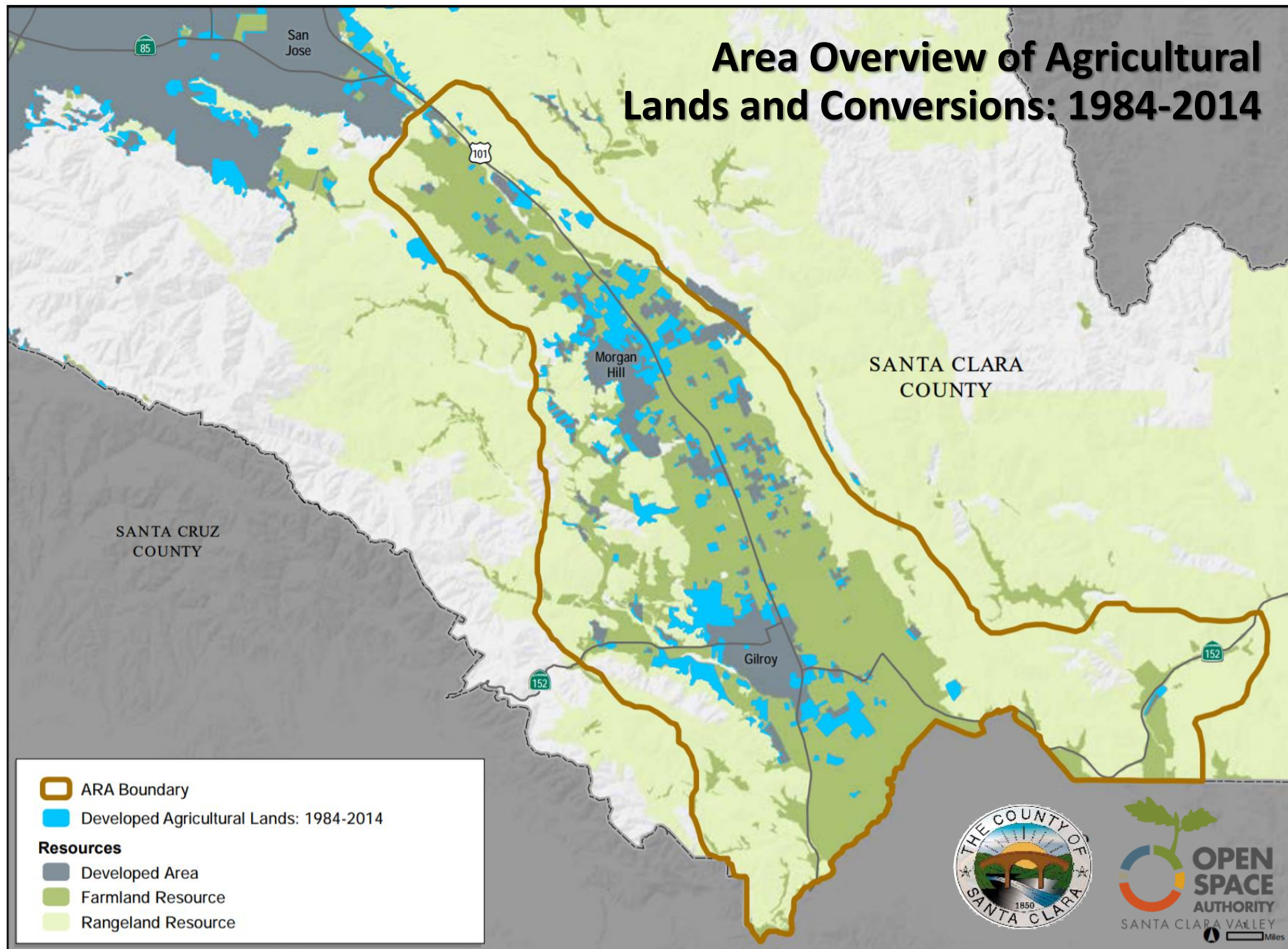


Context

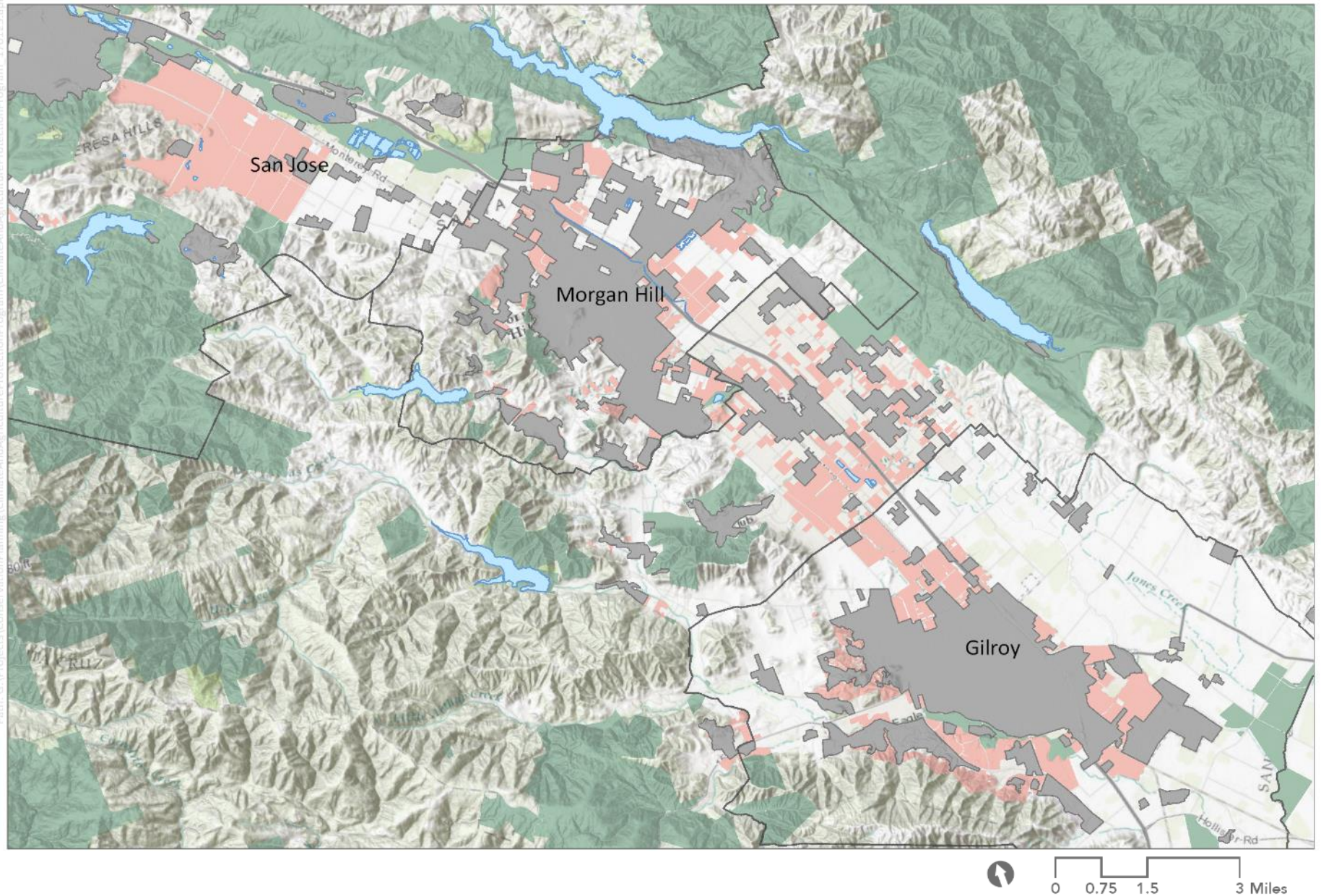
- Santa Clara Valley
 - Framed by Santa Cruz Mountains, Diablo Mountain Range
- 3 Cities on Valley Floor
 - San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy
- 24,000 acres in production agriculture, \$1.6B in annual ag output



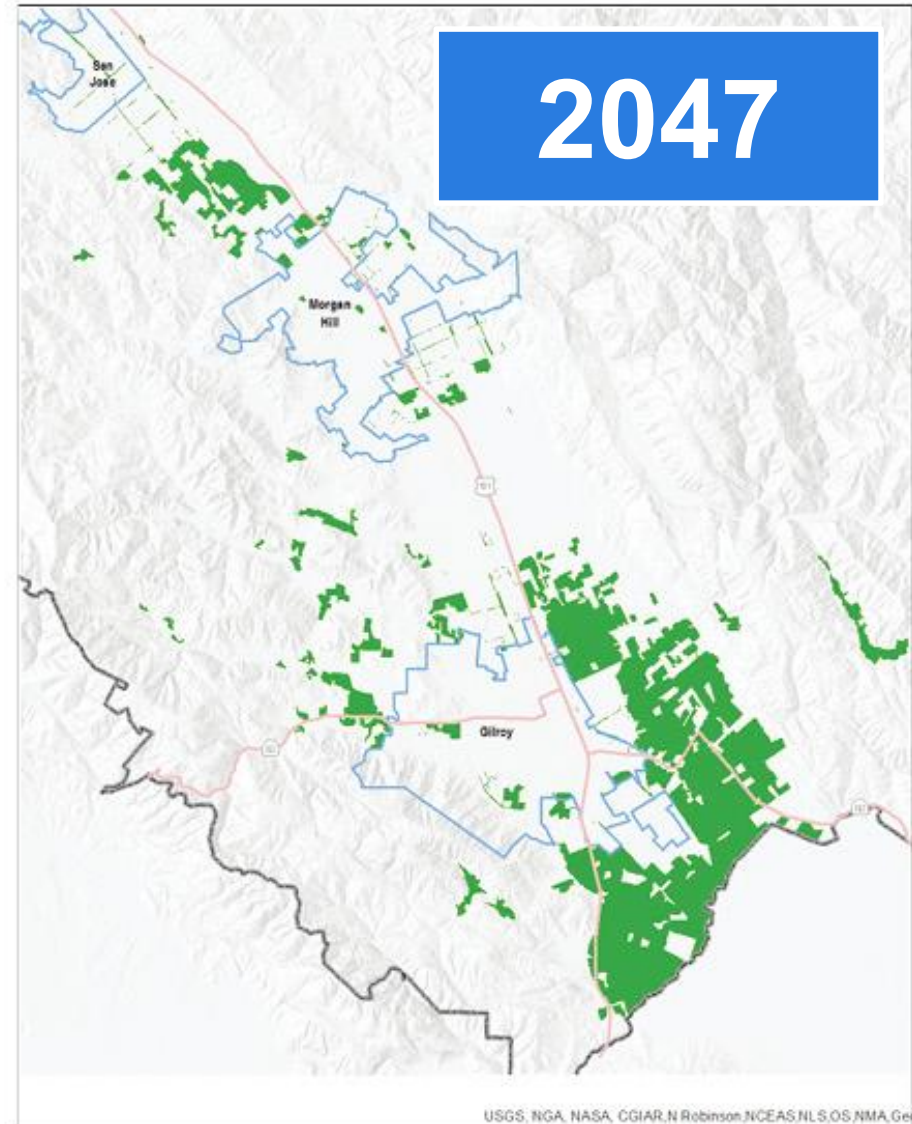
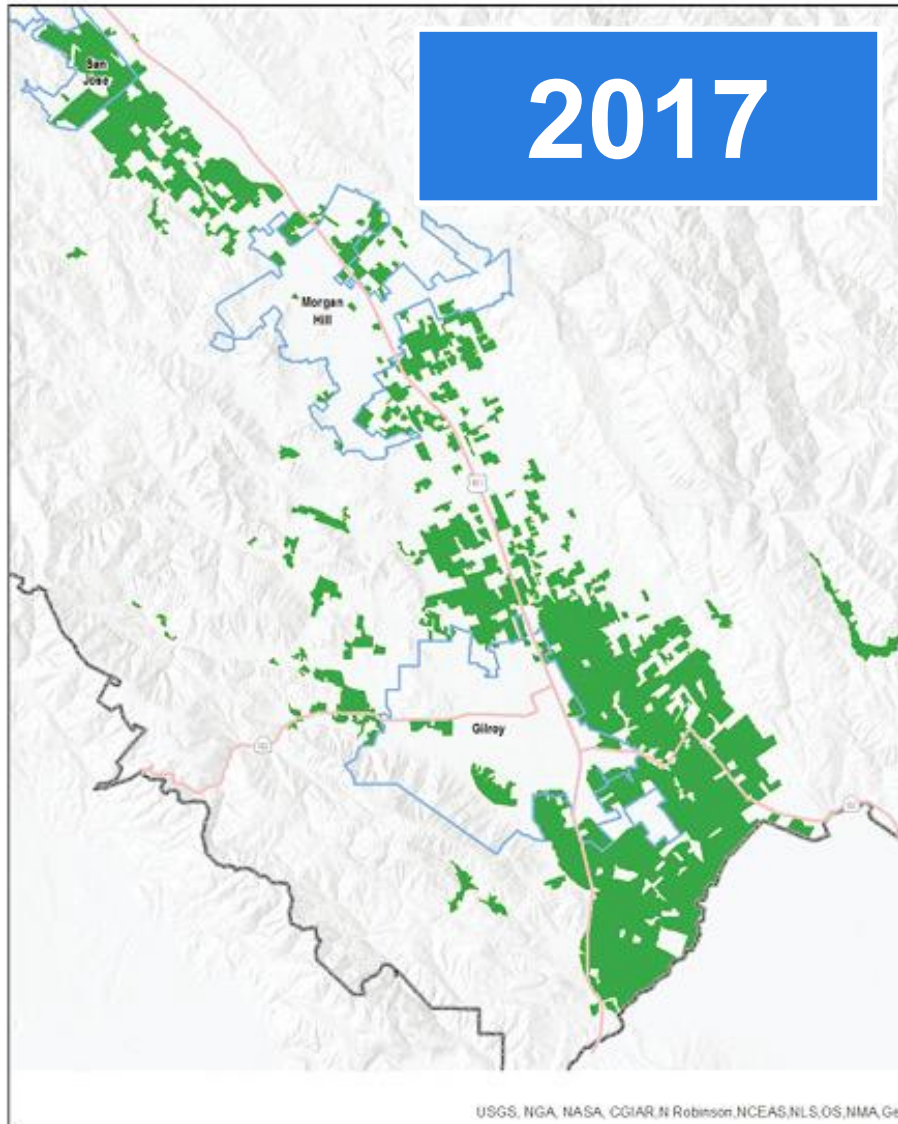
Area Overview of Agricultural Lands and Conversions: 1984-2014



Future Projected Buildout Per Adopted General Plans



Conversion Trend of Agricultural Lands



Context



- SALC grant would regionalize thinking, connect to CA goals
 - Relates ag planning to climate, brings into 21st century
 - Much more likely to be implemented
 - Increases prospect of future implementation funding
 - Elevates importance, builds political will
- Coordinated effort among local govt entities more likely to work



Application Process



- Partnership
 - Local partner with focus on agricultural preservation
 - Counties often have plethora of competing priorities
 - Agreed to share costs – current and future
- Timing
 - Slow to get started, but driven by annexation threats
- Bring in context
 - Connect the dots with other emerging plans, policies

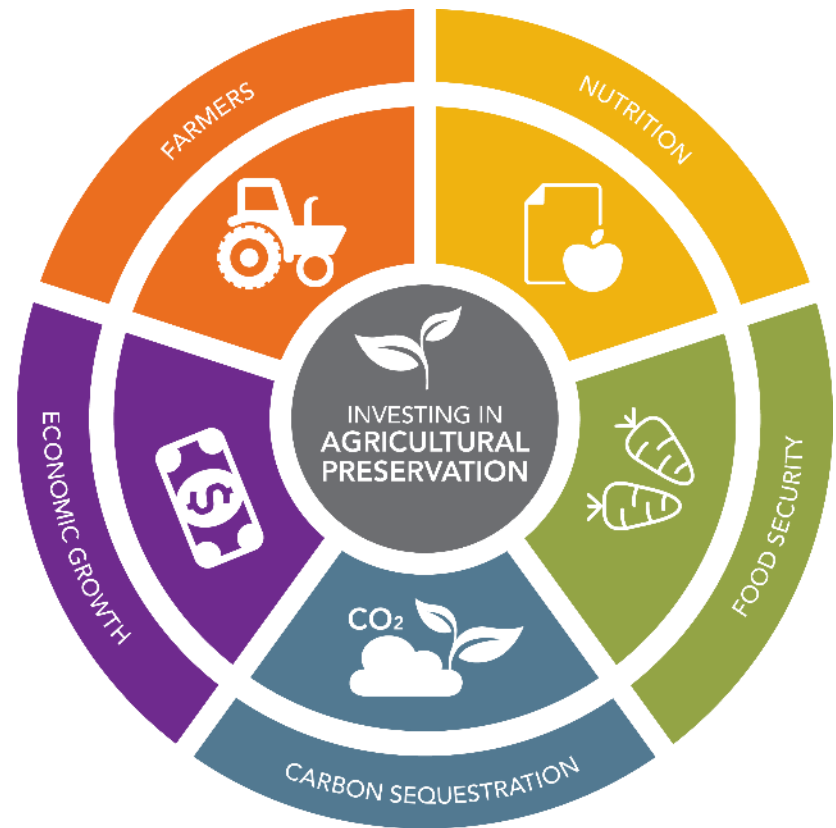
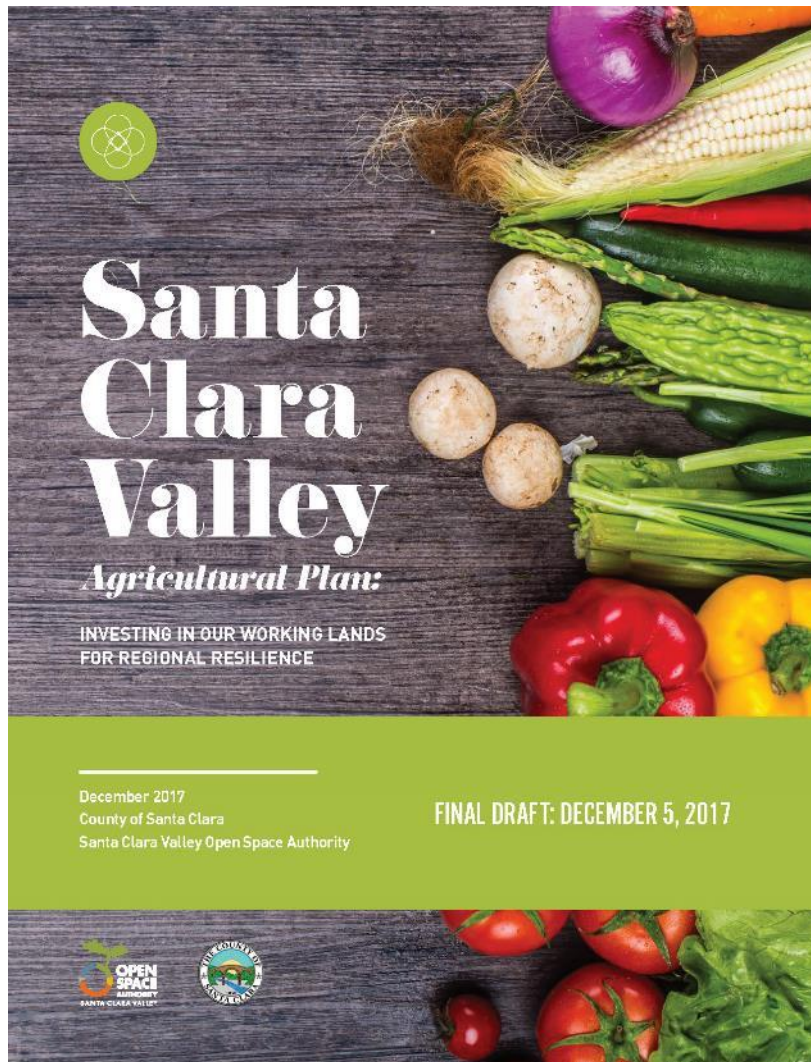


Development of the Ag Plan



- Partnerships
 - Local partner with focus on agricultural preservation
 - Technical Advisory Committee
 - Early ideas, early buy-in
 - Included experts from outside our region
 - Not your typical public input process
 - Focused on processes that got everyone thinking out of the box
 - Building allies was a priority outcome of the planning process
- Stumbling blocks overcome
 - Pivot from planning to doing
 - Cycle of prioritizing

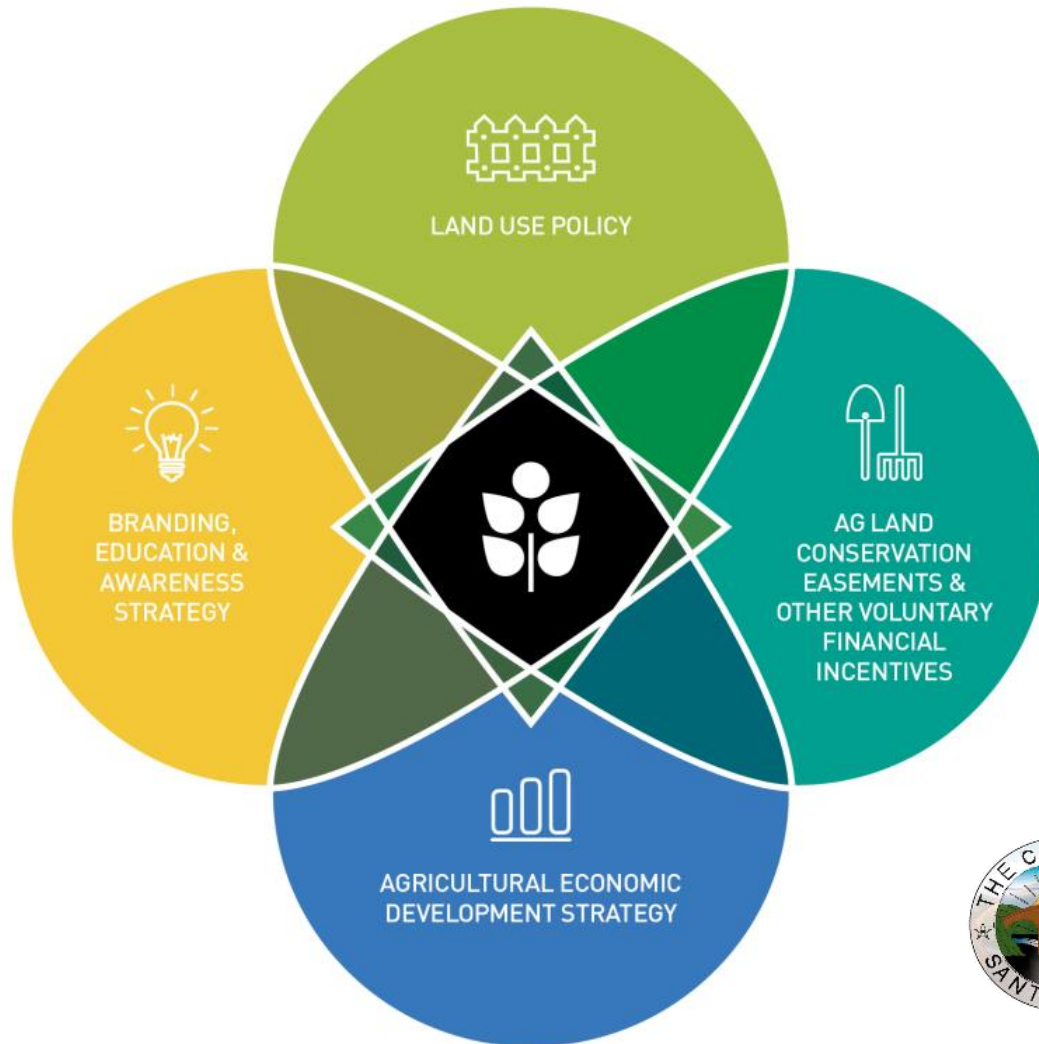




www.openspaceauthority.org/conservation/current-projects/santa-clara-valley-agricultural-plan.html

AGRICULTURAL PLAN FRAMEWORK

An Integrated Planning/Conservation/ Economic Development Strategy



Already Putting it to Use!



- Building local political support, local momentum
 - Implementation already happening – conservation easements
 - County Ag Task Force created
 - Local ag preservation funding measures being explored
 - Leveraging State funding a big motivator
- Invoking Ag Plan for land use decisions
 - Recent LAFCO denial of annexation on 1,300 ac of prime farmland
 - Invoked even before Plan was completed!



THANK YOU



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Pre-Proposals



Why Submit a Pre-Proposal?

- Pre-proposals are not required but they are highly encouraged
- Provides opportunity for Department staff to collaborate with applicants to provide technical assistance on application



Pre-Proposal Requirements

- Project Summary
- Answers to questions to determine eligibility
- Initial Budget Estimate
- Map of Project Area

Eligibility Criteria



Who can apply for a Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Planning grant?

- Counties
- Cities
- Local Area Formation Commissions
- Special Districts

Priority scoring will be given to those applicants that are able to demonstrate strong and diverse partnerships.

Eligible Planning Grant Projects

- The proposal is from an eligible applicant
- The proposal is consistent with the program's goals
- The proposal contains clearly stated and reportable objectives, measures of progress, and deliverables
- 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

Budget



Budget

Match Funding

- Minimum of 10% match funding required
- At Least 5% of the requested grant amount must be cash match
- Funds may be provided by applicant or other funding sources

Reimbursable Costs

- 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

Work Plan

Work plans should include:

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

Selection Criteria



Selection Criteria

80 Total Points

- Project Need – 25 points
- Co-Benefits – 15 points
- Proposal Evidences Collaboration – 15 points
- Planning Integration – 10 points
- Organizational Capacity – 10 points
- Priority Population Benefits – 5 points

❖ Selection for funding may not be determined by a project's selection criteria score alone.



Priority Population Status



Priority Populations

Planning grant applicants found to qualify for priority population status will receive five additional points on their application.

All projects claiming priority population benefits will be evaluated relative to the pool of applications during the round in which they were received.

Upcoming Dates & Next Steps



Important Dates

Pre-Proposal Due Date: **July 15, 2019**

- The Department will review all pre-proposals received up to July 15. This will provide staff time to review the proposal and provide feed back to the applicant prior to the application deadline in September.

Application Due Date: **September 13, 2019**

SGC Award Announcement: **December 2019**

Submit to: **SALCP@conservation.ca.gov**

Next Steps

Post Pre-Proposal Submittal

- Department staff to provide feedback regarding pre-proposal submittal

Post Application Submittal

- Determination of funding amount available from Cap and Trade Auction proceeds— September 2019
- Department review (September-December)
- Awards announced in December

Important Information for Future SALC Planning Grants

The Department has teamed with Cultivate, LLC to provide technical assistance to interested applicants. Throughout 2019 they are offering workshops and select technical assistance for round 6 applicants. We will provide updates on dates and locations of future open houses on our website and through our email list.

Other Funding Opportunities

- Funding opportunities for planning projects and TerraCount adoption
<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/terracount/>
- Prop 68 allocated \$20M to DOC to protect, restore, or enhance working lands and riparian corridors
- Solicitation Notice and Application will be published soon; We will provide updates on dates and locations of future open houses on our website and through our email list.

Questions?



Thank You!

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