

# Attachment 2

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# California's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

## What is the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program?

California's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) program is a component of the state Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainability Program.

*The main goal of the SALC program is to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the protection of agricultural land resources via the purchase of agricultural conservation easements and the development of agricultural land protection strategies.*

In 2016, cities, counties, and land trusts will have the opportunity to apply for funding to permanently protect agricultural land via the purchase of agricultural conservation easements or by enacting local strategies that result in permanent agricultural land protection. In future years, the SALC program will support farm-scale conservation management practices that further promote reductions in GHG emissions and increases in soil carbon sequestration. The program is funded by proceeds from the [Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#) (GGRF). The SALC program is administered by the Department of Conservation, which is working in cooperation with the Natural Resources Agency and the Strategic Growth Council.

### SALC Program 2016 Application Deadlines:

- Pre-proposal due **February 16, 2016**
- Complete Applications due **May 2, 2016**
- Anticipated approval of projects in July

## Funding opportunities:

In 2016, the SALC program will make **\$40 million** available for:

- 1) Grants to cities and counties for the development of agricultural land "conservation strategies and outcomes"
- 2) Grants to land trusts and their partners to permanently protect the lands of willing landowners.

### Available Funding:

- **\$2.5 million** for strategies and outcomes grants of up to \$250,000 each
- **\$37.5 million** for Conservation Easements

### Application forms and background documents can be downloaded here:

[http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/SALCP\\_forms.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/SALCP_forms.aspx).

## How can the SALC program help California communities?

Permanently preserving privately owned agricultural land ensures a stable land base for the future of the agricultural industry. By protecting agricultural land at the urban edge, communities will ensure a local food source, invest in our economy, prevent urban sprawl, and help mitigate the effects of climate change.

## How can the SALC program help address climate change?

GHG emission reductions are quantified from the estimated vehicle miles traveled avoided by protecting agricultural land and limiting opportunities for expansive, vehicle-dependent forms of development. All projects are required to show a net decrease in GHG emissions or an avoidance in the growth of GHG emissions as they are implemented.



Types of Eligible Projects*	
Strategies and Outcomes Grants	Conservation Easement Grants
Applicants: Cities and Counties	Applicants: Land Trusts
Establishment of an Agricultural Land Mitigation Program	Agricultural land that is included in plans for development
Establishment of an Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchasing Program	Agricultural land within 2 miles of a sphere of influence, municipal service boundary, etc.
Adoption of Urban Limit Line or Urban Growth Boundary	Agricultural land identified for potential rezoning to non-agricultural use
Increased Zoning Minimum for Designated Strategic Agricultural Areas	Agricultural land within the boundary of a proposed annexation
Adoption of an Agricultural Greenbelt and Implementation Agreement	Agricultural land within 2 miles of an unincorporated area near residential development

\*For an expanded list of specific eligibility rules, see pages 4 and 5 of the Program Guidelines.

### How to apply:

For each program, American Farmland Trust advises applicants to submit a pre-proposal before submitting a full application. Pre-proposals, full applications, and supporting materials can all be found at: [http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/SALCP\\_forms.aspx](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/SALCP_forms.aspx).

1. Download and fill out the pre-proposal worksheet and application.
2. Send the completed materials to [cfcf@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:cfcf@conservation.ca.gov), or mail a hard copy to:

California Farmland Conservancy Program  
 Attention: Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (for easements)  
**OR** Attention: Agricultural Land Conservation Strategy and Outcome Grants  
 California Department of Conservation  
 801 K Street, MS 14-15  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Conservation staff can answer questions via telephone: (916) 324-0850.

AFT has worked closely with officials in Sacramento to establish the SALC program, and is willing to help cities, counties, and land trusts navigate the application process to ensure the protection of agricultural land. Deputy state director Virginia Jameson can be reached at (916) 448-1064.

