



Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Board Order

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Salinas, CA 93901
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A motion was made by Supervisor John M. Phillips, seconded by Supervisor Mary L. Adams to:

Adopt Resolution No.: 21-333

- a. Support the Ag Land Trust's agricultural conservation easement proposal to the State of California Department of Conservation Farmland Conservancy Program (DoC) for 210 acres of the Hitchcock-Gill Farm; and
- b. Support the Ag Land Trust's application for grant funding from the DoC for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement over the Hitchcock-Gill Farm totaling 210 acres (APN 145-181-009) situated approximately 1.5 miles west of Chualar, on the eastern side of Old Stage Road, and to place said parcels into an agricultural conservation easement to conserve priority agricultural land resources; and
- c. Direct the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Director or Chief of Planning to collaborate with the Ag Land Trust in the grant application process.
- d. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15317 and/or CEQA Guidelines Section 15317(b).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Action: Categorically Exempt per CEQA Guidelines Section 15317 (Open Space Contracts or Easements) and/or CEQA Guidelines Section 15325 (Transfer of Ownership in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources, Section 15317(b) - Acquisition, sale, or other transfer of areas to allow continued agricultural use of the areas.)

Planning File No. REF210028


PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 5th day of October 2021, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Phillips, Lopez, Askew and Adams
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
(Government Code 54953)

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting October 5, 2021.

Dated: October 11, 2021
File ID: RES 21-174
Agenda Item No.: 22

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California


Julian Lorenzana, Deputy

*Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California*

Resolution No.: 21-333

- Resolution of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to:)
- a. Support the Ag Land Trust’s agricultural conservation easement proposal)
to the California Department of Conservation Farmland Conservancy)
Program (DoC) for 210 acres of the Hitchcock-Gill Farm; and)
 - b. Support the Ag Land Trust’s application for grant funding from the DoC)
for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement over the)
Hitchcock-Gill Farm totaling 210 acres (APN 145-181-009) situated)
approximately 1.5 miles west of Chualar, on the eastern side of Old Stage)
Road, and to place said parcels into an agricultural conservation easement)
to conserve priority agricultural land resources; and)
 - c. Direct the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Director or)
Chief of Planning to collaborate with the Ag Land Trust in the grant)
application process.)
 - d. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt per California)
Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15317 and/or)
CEQA Guidelines Section 15317(b).)

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Action: Categorically)
Exempt per CEQA Guidelines Section 15317 (Open Space Contracts or)
Easements) and/or CEQA Guidelines Section 15325 (Transfer of Ownership)
in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources,)
Section 15317(b) - Acquisition, sale, or other transfer of areas to allow)
continued agricultural use of the areas.))

Planning File No. REF210028

WHEREAS, the Legislature has established the California Farmland Conservancy Program (hereafter, “grant program”) within the State of California, Department of Conservation (hereafter, “DoC”); and

WHEREAS, through said grant program, the DoC is providing assistance to conserve important agricultural land resources that are subject to conversion pressures; and

WHEREAS, the Ag Land Trust intends to purchase an agricultural conservation easement through grant funding from said grant program for the "Hitchcock-Gill Farm" located approximately 1.5 miles west of Chualar, on the eastern side of Old Stage Road (sometimes referred to as, “Farm” or “property”) in order to preserve the property's agricultural land resource in perpetuity. The Farm consists of a parcel (APN 145-181-009) totaling approximately 210- acres of prime farmland soils under vegetable row-crop cultivation; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the 2010 Monterey County General Plan, Agricultural Element, Goal AG-1, the long-term protection, conservation, and enhancement of productive and potentially productive agricultural land is encouraged; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors supports the Ag Land Trust’s application for grant funding for the proposed purchase of an agricultural conservation easement over said Farm; and

WHEREAS, California Public Resources Code Section 10251 provides that applicants for an agricultural conservation easement shall meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

10251. Applicants for an agricultural conservation easement or fee acquisition grant shall meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

(a) The parcel proposed for conservation is expected to continue to be used for, and is large enough to sustain, commercial agricultural production. The land is also in an area that possesses the necessary market, infrastructure, and agricultural support services, and the surrounding parcel sizes and land uses will support long-term commercial agricultural production.

(b) The applicable city or county has a general plan that demonstrates a long-term commitment to agricultural land conservation. This commitment shall be reflected in the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures of the plan, as they relate to the area of the county or city where the easement acquisition is proposed.

(c) Without conservation, the land proposed for protection is likely to be converted to nonagricultural use in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the Farm proposed for an agricultural conservation easement is expected to continue to be used for, and is large enough to sustain, commercial agricultural production. The Farm is also in an area that possesses the necessary market, infrastructure, and agricultural support services, and the surrounding parcel sizes and land uses will support long-term commercial agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Monterey County General Plan demonstrates a long-term commitment to agricultural land conservation. This commitment is reflected in the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures of the General Plan as they relate to the area of Monterey County where the easement acquisition is proposed. The Ag Land Trust application for grant funding from the DoC for the purchase of the proposed agricultural conservation easement over the Hitchcock-Gill Farm is compatible with the 2010 Monterey County General Plan.

WHEREAS, without conservation, the Farm proposed for protection is likely to be converted to nonagricultural use in the foreseeable future.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors certifies that the proposed agricultural conservation easement over the Hitchcock-Gill Farm meets the eligibility criteria set forth in California Public Resources Code Section 10251; and

WHEREAS, the Ag Land Trust has applied to the DoC grant program for grant funding to acquire an agricultural conservation easement on prime farmlands or lands that may be subject to conversion pressures; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action, to support the Ag Land Trust's application for grant funding for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement is categorically exempt per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15317 (Open Space Contracts or Easements) and/or CEQA Guidelines Section 15325 (Transfer of Ownership in Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources, Section 15317(b) - Acquisition, sale, or other transfer of areas to allow continued agricultural use of the areas); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors supports the Ag Land Trust's application for grant funding for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement over the Hitchcock-Gill Farm.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey does hereby:

- a. Support the Ag Land Trust's agricultural conservation easement proposal to the State of California Department of Conservation Farmland Conservancy Program (DoC) for 210 acres of the Hitchcock-Gill Farm; and
- b. Support the Ag Land Trust's application for grant funding from the DoC for the purchase of an agricultural conservation easement over the Hitchcock-Gill Farm totaling 210 acres (APN 145-181-009) situated approximately 1.5 miles west of Chualar, on the eastern side of Old Stage Road, and to place said parcels into an agricultural conservation easement to conserve priority agricultural land resources; and
- c. Direct the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Director or Chief of Planning to collaborate with the Ag Land Trust in the grant application process.
- d. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15317 and/or CEQA Guidelines Section 15317(b).

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 5th day of October 2021, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Phillips, Lopez, Askew and Adams

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

(Government Code 54953)

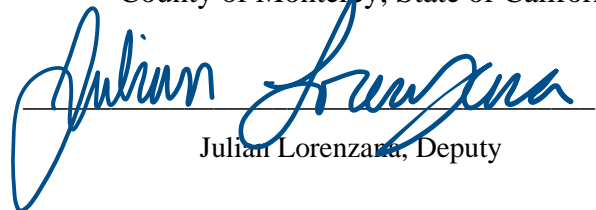
I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting October 5, 2021.

Dated: October 11, 2021

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Julian Lorenzana, Deputy