

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SALCP)

California loses an average of 50,000 acres a year of agricultural land, the equivalent of more than one and a half times the area of San Francisco. California's robust agricultural economy and our rural economies depend on this finite resource. The loss of farmland, especially to urban and suburban development, also contributes to rising greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A 2012 study by UC Davis researchers found that an acre of urban land emits 70 times more GHGs than an acre of irrigated cropland.

As part of the state's efforts to support in-fill development and reduce vehicle miles traveled, in 2015 the state launched the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALCP). SALCP is a competitive grants program that funds agricultural conservation easements and strategic planning grants for local governments to protect farm and ranch land at risk of development. This program is the first in the country to invest in farmland conservation as a strategy to avoid future GHG emissions associated with transportation and urban development.



IMPACT OF SALCP

- Acres preserved: almost **80,000**
- Total easements funded: **52**
- Total strategy grants awarded: **8**
- Number of counties awarded grants: **27**
- GHG reductions (over 30 years): Almost **42 million metric tons CO₂e** over 30 years, equivalent to removing almost **9 million cars** from the road for one year*



FINANCES

- Average cost for GHG emissions reductions: **\$55 per metric ton of CO₂e****
- Total budget to date: **\$79 million**
- Budget for FY 2017-18: **\$34 million**
- Proposed budget for FY 2018-2019: SALCP receives a continuous appropriation from the Strategic Growth Council as part of the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program.



ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO CALIFORNIANS

- Continued viability of California's productive agriculture sector and rural economies
- Carbon sequestration in agricultural soils and woody plants
- Open space for hiking, hunting and other forms of recreation
- Flood mitigation
- Absorption and filtration of water to recharge groundwater and improve water quality
- Wildlife habitat

TOP SEVEN COUNTIES AWARDED

COUNTY	TOTAL AWARDS
Monterey	12
Sierra	4
Sonoma	4
Butte	3
Mono	3
Napa	3
Santa Cruz	3

SALCP is administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) on behalf of the Strategic Growth Council.

More information is available on their website: www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/Index.aspx

* Calculated with DOC data and US EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator

** Air Resources Board, California Climate Investments 2017 Annual Report

SALCP PROFILES

Counties with SALCP Grants



CALIFORNIA RANGELAND TRUST
 Yolo, Calaveras, Humboldt and Monterey counties
Award Amount: \$16,113,975
17,973 Acres Protected

The California Rangeland Trust has received SALCP grants to protect four ranches in four counties from being sold and developed as rural ranchettes or converted to more intensive agriculture uses (e.g., almonds or wine grapes). In addition to avoiding increased greenhouse gas emissions, keeping these large acreages in ranching provides groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat connectivity with adjacent natural areas, such as the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area in Yolo County, the Gabilan Range near Salinas, and the salmon-bearing South Fork of the Eel River. In fact, some of the matching funds for the easements have come from wildlife agencies.

"The SALCP grants are a critical resource for enabling us to protect some of the 400,000 acres of ranches on our waiting list. We have leveraged more than \$15 million in matching funds needed to protect these valuable ranches."

- Nancy Schaefer, Bay Area Program Manager, California Rangeland Trust



SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION & OPEN SPACE DISTRICT (AG + OPEN SPACE)
 Sonoma County

Award Amount: \$1,750,000
1,100 Acres Protected

Two SALCP grants were awarded to Ag + Open Space to protect 1,100 acres on two organic dairy farms. The region's rolling grasslands, soil types and climate are ideal for grazing and have supported ranches and dairies for decades. The two dairies are located on roads identified as scenic corridors and their protection will help maintain the county's rural character. Further, both properties are owned by multi-generational farm families whose children intend to stay in agriculture. These families have a strong connection to the land and see the easements as a way to remain economically viable and leave a legacy.

"The combination of land prices and the pressure to develop in Sonoma County makes it difficult for farming families to stay in agriculture. SALCP is critical for leveraging funds to protect our working lands while also reducing carbon emissions."

- Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager, Ag + Open Space

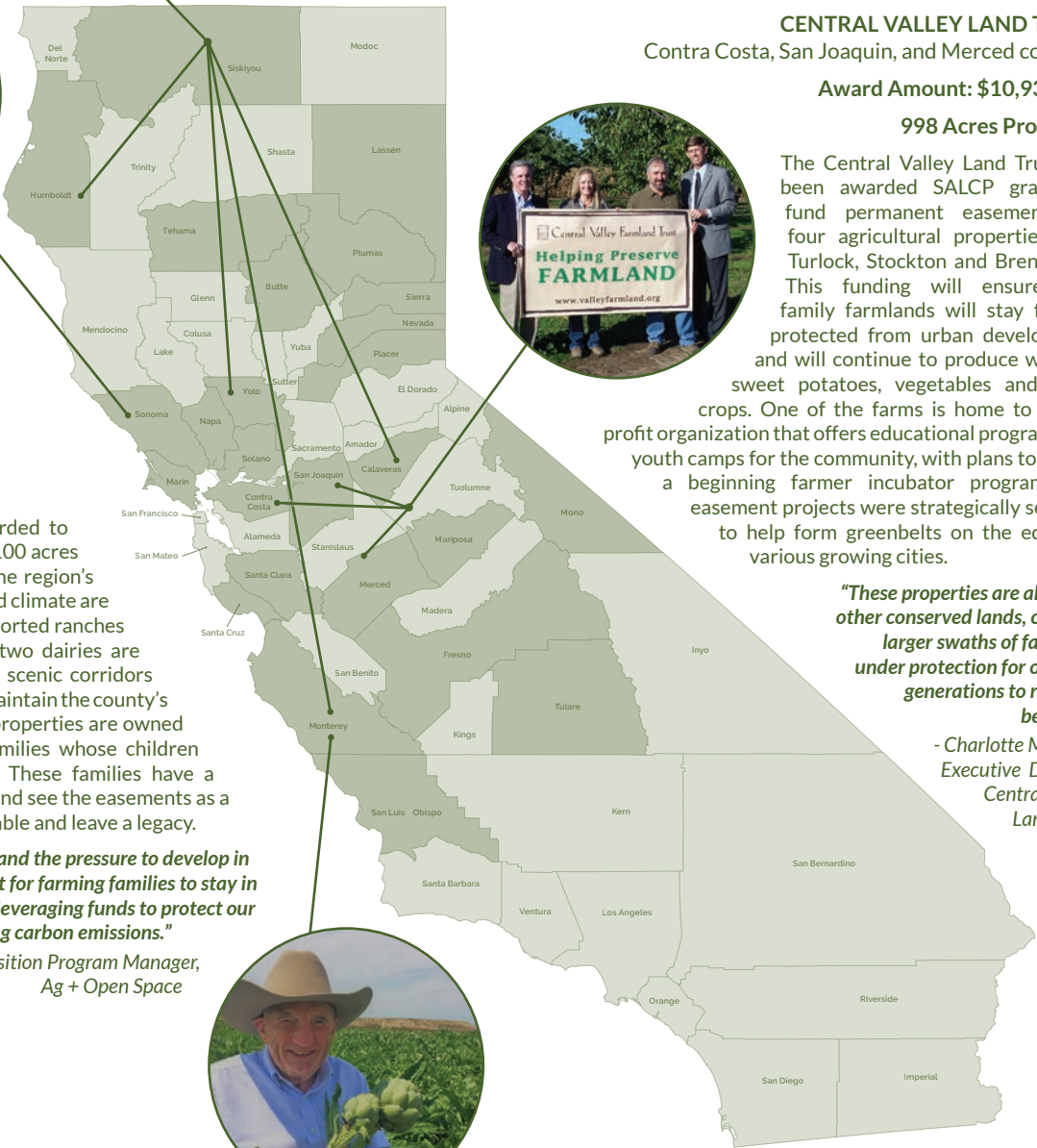
AG LAND TRUST
 Monterey County

Award Amount: \$10,915,700
2,034 Acres Protected

The Ag Land Trust in Monterey County was established in 1984 and in that time has put 85 agricultural easements in place on some of California's most valuable irrigated farmland that produces strawberries, lettuce, broccoli, and more. Their 10 SALCP grants are located adjacent or within a few miles of the city limits of Salinas, Gonzales, Soledad and others, in an effort to direct urban growth away from farmland with high productivity and land values. Most farmers in the area have been there for several generations and want to see the land stay in agriculture.

"The community values the open space and clean air in our region, and don't want the area to turn into another Silicon Valley. Once farmland is paved over, it's gone forever."

- Sherwood Darington, Managing Director, Ag Land Trust



CENTRAL VALLEY LAND TRUST
 Contra Costa, San Joaquin, and Merced counties

Award Amount: \$10,932,010
998 Acres Protected

The Central Valley Land Trust has been awarded SALCP grants to fund permanent easements on four agricultural properties near Turlock, Stockton and Brentwood. This funding will ensure that family farmlands will stay forever protected from urban development and will continue to produce walnuts, sweet potatoes, vegetables and other crops. One of the farms is home to a non-profit organization that offers educational programs and youth camps for the community, with plans to launch a beginning farmer incubator program. The easement projects were strategically selected to help form greenbelts on the edges of various growing cities.

"These properties are also near other conserved lands, creating larger swaths of farmland under protection for our next generations to reap the benefits."

- Charlotte Mitchell, Executive Director, Central Valley Land Trust