

Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Participants

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALCP), administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), funds agricultural conservation easements and strategic planning grants for local governments to protect farm and ranch land at risk of development as a strategy to avoid future greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation and urban development. More info is available on DOC's website: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/Index.aspx>

SANTA CLARA VALLEY OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY

Santa Clara Counties
Award Amount Applied:
\$4,042,613 in 4 grants

157 Acres Protected; 2 plans created



Coyote Valley, photo credit: Stephen Joseph

“SALC has been a game changer in Santa Clara County by enabling us and our partners to protect local farmland through easements and strengthened policies, in support of climate resilience, the regional agricultural economy, and a healthy, local food source.”

- Andrea Mackenzie
General Manager

For nearly 30 years, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority has worked to protect agricultural land and promote natural environments in what was once referred to as “The Valley of Heart’s Delight.” To preserve agriculture viability in the area, they have been involved in multiple SALCP grants. With the County of Santa Clara, the Open Space Authority utilized SALC planning grants in 2014 and 2016 to create a framework and priorities that identify the most valuable farmland to protect and to plan for a county-level agricultural conservation easement program. One of their SALCP implementation grants in 2019 protected

Frantoio Grove, a family-owned olive oil ranch that was slated for a subdivision development. In 2021, they received a fee acquisition grant to protect a 60-acre agricultural property strategically located in the middle of the Coyote Valley Conservation Area. With these projects, the Authority has not only preserved farmland that is at risk of development, but can also encourage regenerative practices and connect local food to urban consumers.

The California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN) is a statewide coalition that advances state and federal policy to realize the powerful climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture.

