

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) OVERVIEW

The SALC Program is dedicated to preserving California's vital agricultural lands by preventing their conversion to non-agricultural uses. SALC is funded by revenue from the California Climate Investments Fund, which is derived from cap-and-trade auction proceeds.

Funds for this brochure were made available through Strategic Growth Council's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) in collaboration with the Department of Conservation. SALC is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment - particularly in disadvantaged communities.



About Sequoia Riverlands Trust:

Sequoia Riverlands Trust protects more than 40,000 acres of land in the Southern Central Valley. Since our founding in 2000 we have created and continue to manage seven nature preserves, helped countless landowners protect the land they love in perpetuity, permanently protected vital working and agricultural lands in the Central Valley, and pioneered outdoor education programs for students across Tulare County.

SRT's mission to conserve the land and waters of California's heartland is achieved by working with diverse partners in these ways:



Protecting nature



Protecting farmland



Land management



Restoring habitat



Connecting stakeholders




Educating

Explore more of what we do, or plan a visit to a preserve at: sequoiariverlands.org

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Understanding the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program



SEQUOIA
Riverlands Trust
SERVING LAND and PEOPLE



Program Benefits:

- Defending and preserving the legacy of farming, supporting wildlife habitats, and minimizing land fragmentation.
- Fostering a thriving and varied economy while promoting local food production.
- Safeguarding rural ambiance, cultural legacies, and overall quality of life.
- Promoting groundwater recharge, mitigating runoff, and reducing risks of flooding.

The Primary Goals of SALC :

1 Preventing Conversion of Agricultural Land:

The primary goal is to prevent the conversion of farmland and rangeland to non-agricultural uses, thus preserving these valuable lands for agricultural production.

2 Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

By preventing the conversion of agricultural land, SALC aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that would result from urban and suburban development.

3 Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices:

The program supports sustainable agricultural practices that conserve natural resources, maintain biodiversity, advance carbon sequestration, and enhance environmental quality especially concerning water.

4 Supporting Local Economies and Communities:

SALC seeks to support local economies and communities by maintaining the viability of agricultural operations and preserving the cultural heritage and scenic beauty of rural areas through encouraging compact and walkable development.

SALC Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Grants:

Provide funding to permanently protect croplands, rangelands, and lands used for traditional resources from conversion to non-agricultural uses.

Grants awarded will be for 90% of the appraised conservation easement value. Grant funding does not provide the easement endowment, which may be contributed by the landowner from the proceeds obtained from the sale of the conservation easement.

Eligibility & Application Process:

- Applications can be submitted by cities, counties, regional park, open-space, or resource conservation districts, non-profit organizations, and tribes.
- Proposed projects must aim to permanently protect lands from conversion to non-agricultural uses. Eligible lands include viable agricultural land and cultivated or non-cultivated land used for gathering and traditional uses, so long as such activities are led or conducted in partnership with an eligible California Native American tribe.
- Projects must demonstrate benefits to the other program goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and supporting local economies and communities.
- The application process is statewide and annual. Pre-proposals are due in January.

