



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC  
GROWTH COUNCIL



California  
**Department of  
Conservation**

# Public Comment Meeting 2021-22 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Guidelines

## Conservation Acquisitions & Capacity Grants March 2022

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## SALC Round 8 Draft Guidelines

General Comments +

Good Morning!

+ 0

Capacity Grants +

Acquisition Grants +

Other Comments +



Good Morning!



+ 1



# Agenda

**1:30 PM -3 PM**

Introductions

Overview of SALC

Proposed changes in the  
2021-2022 Funding  
Guidelines

Public comment

Next steps and timeline

# Purpose

- Discuss changes to Acquisitions and Capacity components of the 2021-2022 SALC Funding Guidelines

# SALC Goals

- Part of the Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing & Sustainable Communities Program
- Protect agricultural lands to support infill and compact development
- Contribute to carbon neutrality
- Support coordinated land use planning
- Support Executive Order N-82-20



# Eligible Project Types

**Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Grants** to permanently protect croplands, rangelands, and lands utilized for the cultivation of traditional resources from conversion to non-agricultural uses.

**Planning Grants** to develop and implement plans for the protection of agricultural lands at risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses

**Agricultural Conservation Capacity and Project Development Grants** to increase development of agricultural conservation acquisition projects that protect important agricultural land under threat of conversion

# What's Included In Draft Guidelines

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## **Program Guidelines**

Main text of Guidelines package

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## **Acquisition Pre-proposal Template**

Appendix A

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## **Application Templates**

Appendix B and E

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## **Grant Agreement Templates**

Appendix F and H

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## **Management Plan Requirements**

Appendix K

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# SALC Round 8: Proposed Changes



# Capacity and Project Development Grants

# Capacity Grants - Overview

- Up to \$3 million dollars available
- Tier 1: Grants of up to \$100,000
- Tier 2: Grants of up to \$250,000
- Grant term: Three years



# Capacity Grants- Eligible Applicants

- Cities
- Counties
- Non-profit organizations
- Resource conservation districts (RCDs)
- Regional park or open-space districts
- Regional park or open-space authorities
- California Native American tribe (federally recognized )
- California Native American tribe (on NAHC list)



# Capacity Grants- Eligible Activities

- Build organizational and financial capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects
- Assist eligible applicants in developing agricultural conservation easement and fee acquisition projects
- Cover associated costs for acquisition projects funded by a non-DOC program



# Capacity Grants- Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant is an Eligible Applicant as defined in the guidelines
- The proposal is for an eligible activity
- The proposal demonstrates that the requested funding will increase the applicant's capacity to initiate and conduct agricultural land conservation activities



# Capacity Grants- Selection Criteria

Agricultural Conservation Acquisition Project Development Grants Selection Criteria	Points
<b>Program Goals</b>	
The extent to which the project(s) proposed for development meet the program's goals.	/35
<b>Equity</b>	
The extent to which the proposal will advance equity and opportunity by <a href="#">providing meaningful benefits to a priority population</a> or increasing new, Veteran, or Native American farmer or rancher access or tribal access to State funding for agricultural conservation acquisitions.	/30
<b>Sustainability</b>	
The extent to which the application demonstrates that increased organizational capacity to develop projects will be sustained after the life of the grant.	/20
<b>Budget</b>	
The costs described in the applicant's budget are reasonable costs likely to be incurred in the development of one or more agricultural conservation acquisition projects.	/15
<b>Total points received/Total points possible</b>	<b>/100</b>



# Acquisitions Grants

# Topics

Eligibility  
Criteria

Equity

Selection  
Criteria



# Eligibility Criteria

What's Stayed the Same	What's changed
Protect agricultural lands that support infill and compact development	Expanded opportunity for what is considered, including access to broadband, transportation corridor plans, changes in housing prices/new homes development
Avoid GHG emissions	Removed requirement that this be shown using CARB's quantification methodology
Protect lands at risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses	<p>Removed requirement that applicant use a risk option to demonstrate risk</p> <p>Addition of exemption to commercial agriculture requirement for projects where the purpose is to protect natural resources cultivated by tribes for the production of food, fibers, medicine, or dyes</p>

# Equity

Proposed ways to meet SALC's Equity goal:

1. Provide benefits to a Priority Population
2. Support California Native American's ownership of and access to Indigenous cultural resources
3. Provide secure land tenure for members of priority populations

# Investment Targets

Proposed ways to meet SALC's Equity goal:

1. Addition of a 20% investment target for projects that provide secure land tenure to beginning/Veteran farmers or residents of a priority population, or that provide other benefits to a priority population to facilitate equity goals
2. Addition of a 5% investment target for projects where a tribe or tribal non-profit is the applicant or co-applicant to facilitate equity goals

# Selection Criteria

## Key Revisions:

- Restructured to pursue portfolio approach to conservation
- Broadened ways to show projects support infill and compact development
- Added examples of what staff will consider

# Selection Criteria

	% of total Score	
	<u>Round 7</u>	<u>Round 8</u>
Agricultural Use	15	30
Infill	25	30
Other Program Goals	40	20
Equity	15	15
Additional Benefits	5	5

# Miscellaneous

- Removal of one year limit on grant extensions
- Minor revisions to goals to eliminate redundancy
- Minor administrative revisions

# How to Provide Comments on the Draft

## Now

- Ask questions
- Make comments

## Email

- Need to be received by 12 pm March 25<sup>rd</sup>
- [salcp@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:salcp@conservation.ca.gov)
- We will acknowledge receipt

## Mail

- Need to be received by 12 pm March 25<sup>rd</sup>
- 715 P Street, MS 1904, Sacramento, CA 95814

Time for Questions and Comments



# Next Steps

March 25<sup>th</sup> At 12 PM

- Public Comment period closes

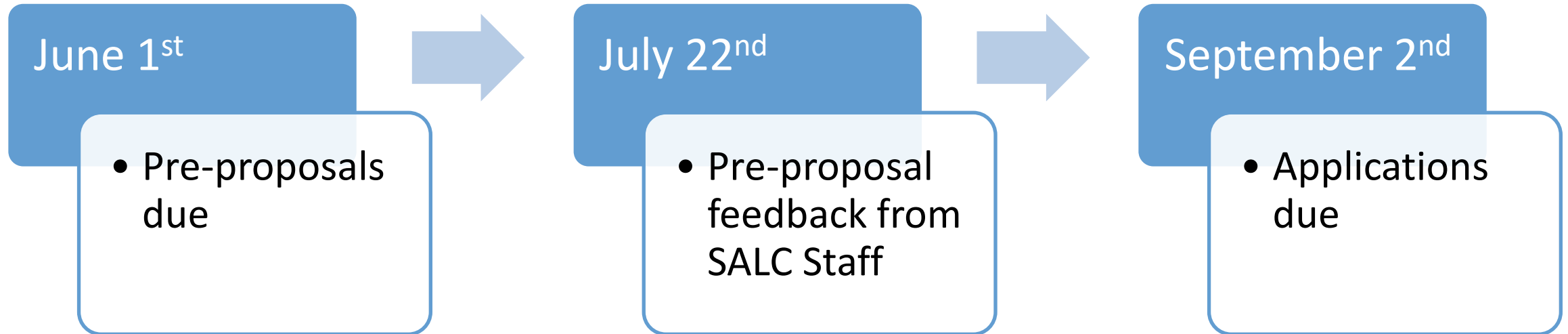
April 18<sup>th</sup>

- Program Staff and Management consider Public Comment and changes to Draft Guidelines
- Draft Final Guidelines and Staff Report posted

April 28<sup>th</sup>

- SGC consider adoption of Final Guidelines
- Location: Online

# Next Steps



Thank You!

[salcp@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:salcp@conservation.ca.gov)