



Preparing Your Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Acquisition Pre-proposal

May 09, 2023 | virtual



California
Department of
Conservation



CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC
GROWTH
COUNCIL



Cap and Trade
Dollars at Work

Webinar Structure

- **One-hour webinar**
- **Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation**
 - Use chat function to ask questions at any time
 - Include slide number your question refers to
- **Please use chat function if you are having technical difficulties**
- **Have guidelines and pre-proposal documents handy**



Outline

- SALC Overview
- Pre-Proposal and Application Process
- Completing your Pre-proposal
- Eligibility Criteria
- Priority Population Status
- Next Steps and Questions



SALC Basics



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



California
Department of
Conservation

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation

- **Protect** agricultural lands to support infill and compact development
- **Contribute** to carbon neutrality and build climate resilience
- **Safeguard** economic sustainability and food security
- **Protect** biodiversity
- **Enable** enduring conservation of working lands
- **Advance** equity and opportunity for all regions of California



Funding

- 10% of the AHSC Program's GGRF monies
- Round 8 cycle awarded \$74 million in funding to 24 acquisition projects, 20 capacity projects and 3 planning projects
- Round 9 funding to be determined after May auction. Final amount announced in September.



Investment Targets

- 20% of available funding for acquisition, capacity and planning grants
 - That provide secure land tenure to a beginning or veteran farmer or rancher, a CA or Federally recognized Native American tribe or non federally recognized California Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, or to a farmer or rancher that is a resident of a priority population
 - Provide meaningful benefits to a priority population
- 5% of available funding for grants where a CA or Federally recognized Native American tribe or non federally recognized California Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, or a tribal non-profit with 501(c)3 is either a applicant or co-applicant on the project.



Eligible Project Types

Agricultural Conservation
Acquisition Grants

Agricultural Conservation
Land Use Planning Grants

Agricultural Conservation
Capacity and Project
Development Grants



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



California
Department of
Conservation

Acquisition Grant Project Types

Agricultural conservation acquisition grants will be provided to fund the following:

- **Purchase of conservation easements**
 - Awards will cover up to 90% of the value of agricultural conservation easements
- **Purchase of fee title**
 - Awards will be given up to 25% of available funding
 - Awards will cover up to 90% of the agricultural conservation easement value of the property's fair market value.
 - Fee title projects will be held to the same eligibility criteria and scored by the same selection criteria as easement projects

Priority Populations

- SALC provides up to 100% funding for projects where 50% or more of the project is located within a priority population area and provides benefits to a priority population.
- To be eligible for priority population status a project must be located within:
 - A disadvantaged community census tract, as designated by CalEPA;
 - A low-income community census tract, as defined in HSC 39713; or,
 - One half mile or less of a disadvantaged community and within a low-income community census tract
 - Lands under control of federally recognized Tribes



Land Tenure

Projects that are not located within a priority population area but provide secure land tenure to a beginning or Veteran farmer or rancher, a California Native American tribe, a farmer or rancher who is a member of a Federally recognized or non-federally recognized California Native American tribe on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, or to a farmer or rancher that is a resident of a priority population will be prioritized for funding and may receive 100% funding.



Federally and Non-Federally Recognized California Native American Tribes

- SALC provides up to 100% funding for easement and fee acquisition projects where a tribe or tribal non-profit with 501(c)3 status is either the applicant or a co-applicant on the project.
- Tribal non-profit applicants must have a Native American-centered mission or have a majority Native American board.
- Non-profit applicants that do not meet the above criteria must provide a letter of support from an eligible tribe detailing:
 - Relationship between the non-profit and the tribe
 - How the tribe will benefit from the project
 - The tribe's support for the project

Who can apply for an Agricultural Conservation Easement grant?

- Cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, resource conservation districts, regional park or open-space districts or regional park or open-space authorities
 - Note: Non-Profit applicants must have the conservation of agriculture, rangeland, or farmland in their stated purpose or adopted policies
- California Native American tribes as identified in Civil Code 815.3(c)



Basics

- Fund conservation of:
 - cropland
 - rangeland
 - land used by tribes for gathering/activities that promote healthy trees, shrubs, and perennial forbs for the cultivation of traditional foods, herbal medicine, fibers, and dyes
- Restrictions are in perpetuity
- No minimum parcel size
- Projects cannot prohibit secondary dwellings or farmworker housing
- No permanent severance of water rights

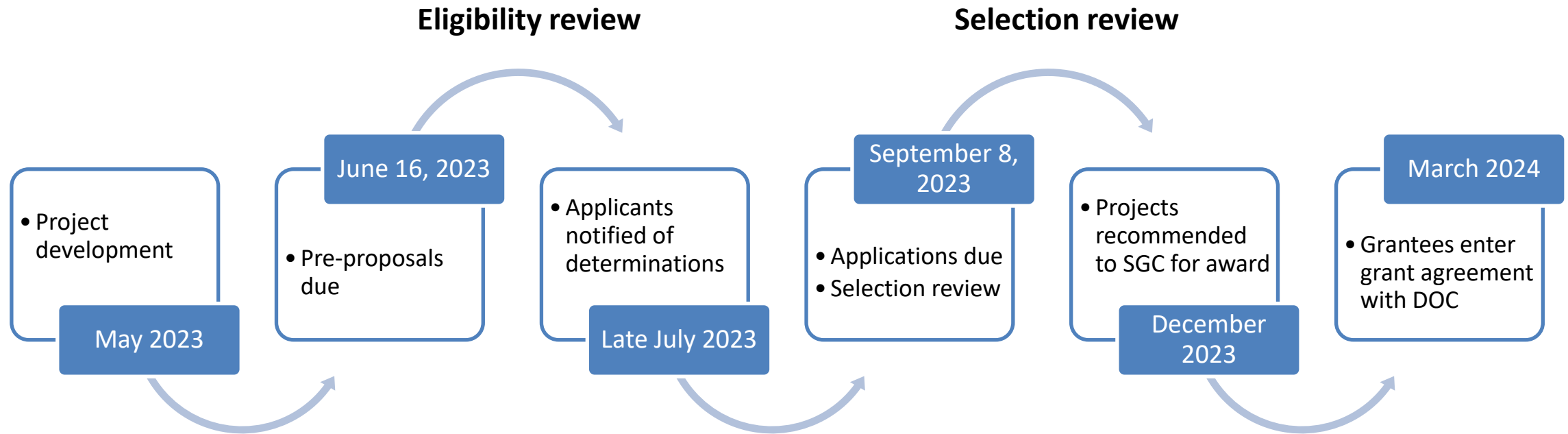


Conditions of Funding

To receive funding from SALC, the applicant must agree to **ALL** of the conditions of funding listed on pages 32-39 of the Guidelines for easement or fee projects for the entirety of the grant term.



Acquisition Timing



Process

Pre-proposals

- Review basic project features to identify questions/concerns
- Eligibility review and determination
- For projects claiming CARB's priority population benefit status, initial review
- Initial title review
- Initial readiness review

Applications

- Confirm basic project features/review any updates
- For projects claiming CARB's priority population benefit status, review and determination
- **Full** title review
- Final readiness review
- Selection evaluation



Basic Application Components



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



California
**Department of
Conservation**

Required Documents

- Proof of applicant eligibility and capacity
- Signed applicant landowner letter of intent



Property Information

Basic Information

Project Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Location (County and Nearest City): Click or tap here to enter text.

Distance to nearest city or census designated place: Click or tap here to enter text.

Real property interest to be acquired: Easement Fee

Located within a [priority population](#): **Y** **N** [Census tract number]

Priority Population Status: **Y** **N** [If yes, attach Priority Population Benefits Table]

Was this project developed by a capacity grant administered by the Department of [Conservation](#)? **Y** **N**

If yes, which program: Prop 68 SALC

If yes, [when?](#): Click or tap here to enter text.

Was this project developed with assistance from a SALC Technical Assistance Provider? **Y** **N**

If yes, provide details: Click or tap here to enter text.



Project Funding

Project Funding

A: SALC Acquisition Request Amount: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

B: SALC Associated Costs Request: [Click or tap here to enter text. \[Up to \\$60,000\]](#)

C: SALC Management Plan or Carbon Farm Plan Request: [Click or tap here to enter text. \[Up to \\$10,000\]](#)

D: SALC Total Grant Request (A+B+C): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Match Amount (*toward easement value only*): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Matching Funds Source: [Click or tap here to enter text. \[i.e., NRCS-ACEP, WCB-CAPP, etc.\]](#)

Status of Match: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Does all or a portion of the match come from another CCI [program?](#): Y N

If yes, List: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Estimated Easement Fair Market Value: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Estimated Fee Title Fair Market Value (*Fee acquisitions only*): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)



Parcel Information

- APNs
- Zoning/Minimum Parcel Size
- Number of Legal Parcels
- Number of Easements
- Restrictions on Agricultural Use



Project Acreage

- Total Project Acres (Assessor's Acreage, not GIS acres)
- Irrigated Acres
- Non-irrigated/Grazing Acres
- Non-agricultural Acres
- Prime Farmland Acres (application stage only)
- Farmland of Statewide Importance (application stage only)



Other Information

- Sale and Subdivision
- Water Sources and Mineral Rights
- Single Family Residences
- Farm Labor Residences
- Building Envelopes
- Other Reserved Rights



Eligibility Criteria



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



California
**Department of
Conservation**

Agricultural Use

- Parcel(s) are in an area that possesses the necessary market, infrastructure, and support services to support long-term commercial agricultural production
- Parcel(s) proposed for conservation are expected to be used for and are large enough to sustain commercial agricultural production
- Acquisitions to promote healthy trees, shrubs, and perennial forbs for the cultivation of traditional foods, herbal medicine, fibers, and dyes where the applicant or co-applicant is a California Native American Tribe are exempt from the requirements related to commercial agricultural production.
- For a full list of agricultural activities that meet SALC eligibility requirements refer to “Agricultural Use” in Appendix L (Glossary) in the Round 9 Guidelines



Supports infill development and risk of conversion

- Protection of the property will support infill and compact development
- The property is under pressure of being converted to non-agricultural uses

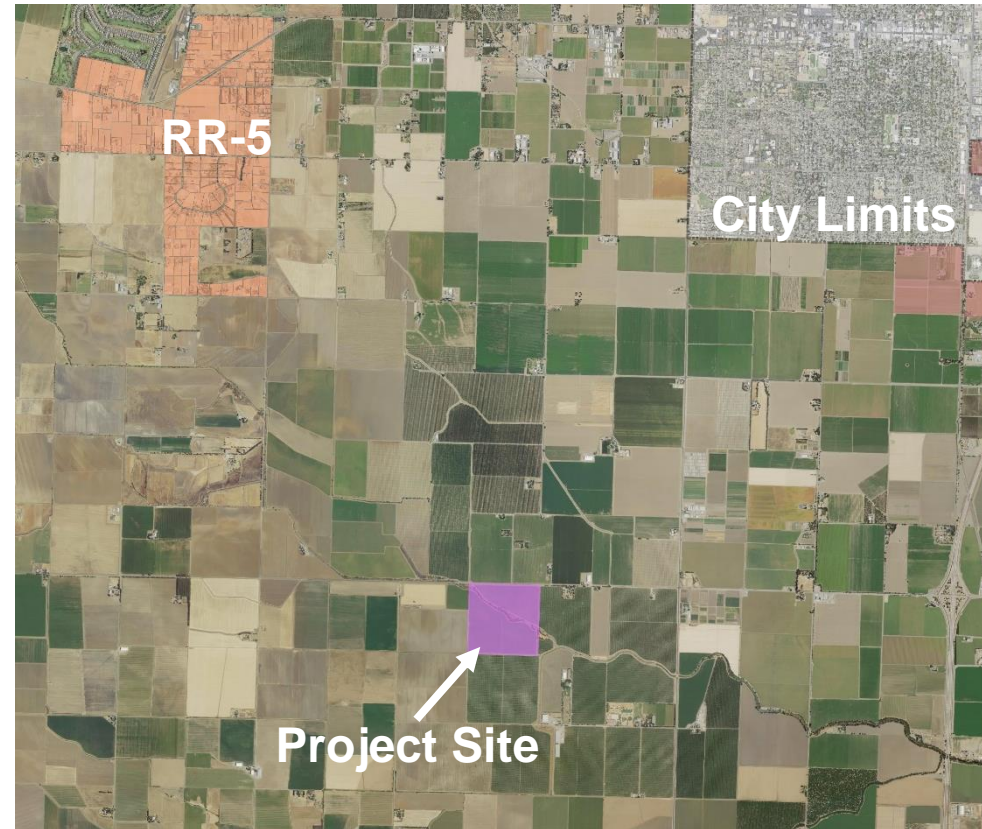


Supports infill development and risk of conversion

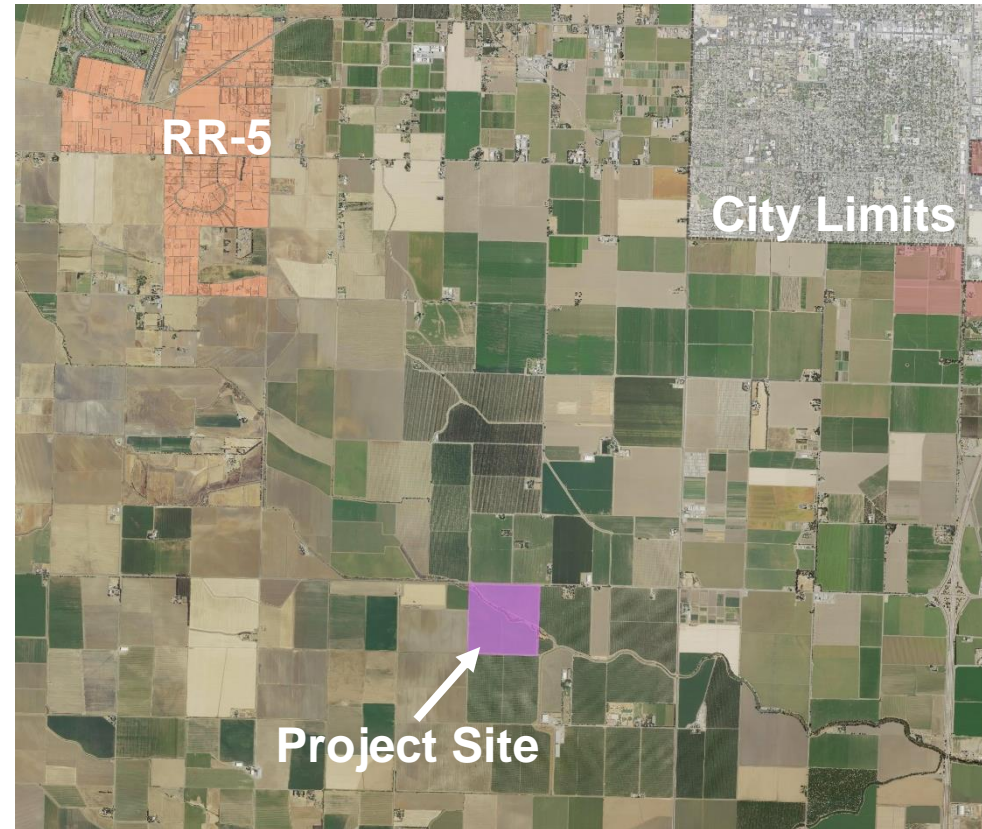
- Likelihood of conversion to non-agricultural uses
- Relevant land conversion and development trends in the region
- Changes in land use, housing development patterns, and increasing housing costs
- Property acts as a community separator or greenbelt
- Commute times to job centers
- Development rights associated with and developability of the property
- Existing and/or planned transportation infrastructure
- Access to broadband



Supports Infill and compact development



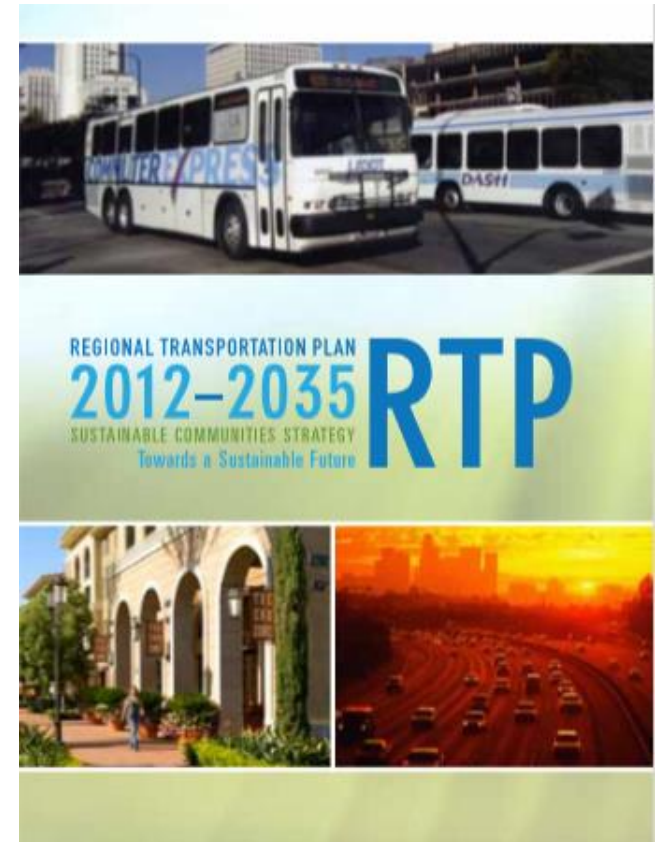
Risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction

Demonstrate a reduction in GHGs

Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS): Must support the implementation of an SCS or, if an SCS is unavailable, a regional plan that includes policies to reduce GHGs



Sustainable Communities Strategy

- Projects must support the implementation of an adopted or draft Sustainable Communities Strategy or, if an SCS is unavailable, a regional plan that includes policies to reduce GHGs
- An SCS is available for every region covered by a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
 - Additional information available at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/sustainable-communities-program/regional-plans-evaluations>
- Areas without an SCS can refer to an available regional plan
 - Acceptable regional plans are those included under CA Government Code sections commencing 65080 (transportation plans) and 65580 (housing elements)
- Tribes
 - A tribal plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Signatory to an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - Signatory to an agreement with other tribal authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions



Miscellaneous



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



California
**Department of
Conservation**

Pre-Proposal Requirements

- Include a preliminary title report that is less than 12 months old
 - Include all parcels proposed for conservation under the easement
 - Do not include parcels not proposed for conservation
 - Include underlying documents
 - Provide a description of title concerns and proposed resolution
- Map your project's structure (i.e., boundaries, acreage, exclusions, building envelopes)



Management Plans and Carbon Farm Plans

All projects awarded funding are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 for the creation of a Management Plan or Carbon Farm Plan, in addition to the funding toward the acquisition and associated costs

The plan must:

- Be incorporated by reference into the deed
- Be approved by the Department prior to close of escrow
- Be updated when changes occur that have the potential to significantly impact the conservation values
- Be reviewed by the landowner and easement holder at least every ten years



Management Plans and Carbon Farm Plans – cont.

- Must meet the minimum requirements in Appendix E of the SALC Round 9 Guidelines
- The Plan must be developed by a qualified planner or resource conservation district
- The grantee must report the management plan's implementation and any changes in the agricultural operation or ownership from the previous year on its monitoring report



Management Plans and Carbon Farm Plans – cont.

SALC highly encourages the development and implementation of a management plan that, to the extent feasible, reduces potential burdens to nearby disadvantaged and low-income communities such as:

- Air pollution caused by agricultural operations
- Agricultural runoff
- Degradation to surrounding ecosystems



NEXT STEPS

2023 Key Dates and Deadlines

- **June 16:** Acquisition Preproposals Due (mandatory for acquisition projects)
- **Late July:** Applicants informed of eligibility determinations
- **Lat July – mid-October:** Site visits
- **September 8:** Acquisition Applications Due
- **Mid December 2023*:** Awards recommended for approval by SGC
- **March 2024*:** Grantees enter into grant agreements with DOC

*Subject to change



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



California
Department of
Conservation

Contact Information

Email pre-proposals by June 16 to:
SALCP@conservation.ca.gov

Program information found at:
www.conservation.ca.gov
www.sgc.ca.gov

Staff can be reached at:
salcp@conservation.ca.gov



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



California
Department of
Conservation



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL



California
**Department of
Conservation**

Questions

Thank You!