



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC  
GROWTH COUNCIL



California  
**Department of  
Conservation**

# Public Comment Meeting 2022-23 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Guidelines

March 2023

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## SALC Round 9 Draft Guidelines

General Comments/Questions +

Planning Grants +




Acquisition Grants +

Good Morning!

+ 0

Capacity Grants +

Anything else? +

✕  
 Good Morning!  
 +1 

# Agenda

## Workshop Schedule

Introductions

Overview of SALC Program

Proposed changes in the 2022-  
2023 Funding Guidelines

Public Comment & Questions

Next steps and timeline

# What's Included In Draft Guidelines

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## **Program Guidelines**

Main text of Guidelines package

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## **Capacity, Acquisition, And Planning Preproposals/Applications**

Appendix A, B, C, D, E

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## **Grant Agreement Templates**

Appendix F, G, H, and I

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## **Glossary**

Appendix K

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## **Management Plan Requirements**

Appendix L

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# SALC Goals

- **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



# SALC Project Types

**Land Use Planning Grants** - that support the development of local and regional land use policies and economic development strategies to protect critical agricultural land.

**Acquisition Grants** - To permanently protect important agricultural land under threat of conversion.

**Capacity Grants** - to expand organizational capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects.



# SALC Round 9: Proposed Changes

# Program General Updates

- Disadvantaged Communities definition now includes lands under control of federally recognized tribes, as defined by CalEPA
- Administrative – Reporting of Investment Targets for all three components of the SALC Program



# Planning Grants Overview

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Opportunity to achieve  
climate adaption and  
resiliency, preserve ag,  
and other  
co-benefits

# Lead Applicants

- Counties
- Cities
- Local Area Formation Commissions
- Councils Of Government
- Municipal Planning Organizations
- Regional Transportation Planning Agencies
- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- Special Districts With Land Use Or Transportation Planning Authority
- Federally Recognized California Native American Tribe or
- California Native American Tribes

# Partner Applicants

- Resource Conservation Districts
- Academic Institutions
- Land Trusts
- Other Agricultural Non-profit Organizations
- MOU With Partner Organization Which Has A Significant Role In Developing And Implementing The Plan

# Project Eligibility

- The proposal is for a land use plan that is consistent with SALC's goals.
- The proposal will avoid greenhouse gas emissions.
- Supports implementation of a Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Demonstrates consistency with California's Planning Priorities

# Funding

\$500,000  
From SALC

10% Match



# Acquisitions Grants

# Eligible Projects

- **Purchase of conservation easements or fee title to agricultural land**, including where an easement or fee purchase is part of a buy/protect/sell strategy to conserve the land
- **Agricultural land includes** both cultivated and non-cultivated lands that support an agricultural use, including gathering and activities that promote healthy trees, shrubs, and perennial forbs for the cultivation of traditional foods, herbal medicine, fibers (such as basketry material), and dyes so long as such activities are led by or conducted in partnership with an eligible California Native American tribe or members thereof.



# Eligible Applicants

- Cities, counties, non-profit organizations, resource conservation districts, regional park or open-space districts, regional park or open-space authorities; and,
- Federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission

# Eligible Costs

- Purchase of Acquisition
- Associated Costs
- Conservation Management Plans and Carbon Farm Plans



# Topics

Funding

Equity

Eligibility  
Criteria

# SALC Acquisition Funding

## Previous Rounds

Competitive grants will be awarded to cover up to seventy-five percent (75%) of the value of the agricultural conservation easement.

Fee Title: All competitive grants may be awarded to cover up to seventy-five (75%) of the agricultural conservation easement value of the property's fair market value .

## What's changed

SALC will pay up to 90% of the acquisition. Grantee will now only need to provide 10% match

Where a tribe or tribal non-profit is the applicant or co-applicant on a fee acquisition project, or where a tribe or tribal non-profit will become the owner of the conserved land, SALC may pay for up to 100% of the fair market value of the property.

# Equity

Proposed way to avoid potential burdens of acquisition projects:

For projects located within or adjacent to a disadvantaged community or low-income community, SALC highly encourages the development and implementation of a management plan that, to the extent feasible, reduces potential burdens to disadvantaged and low-income communities, including reductions in air pollution caused by agricultural operations, reductions in agricultural runoff, and/or reduction of degradation to surrounding ecosystems

# Eligibility Criteria

## Previous Rounds

The property is expected to continue to be used for, and is large enough to sustain, commercial agricultural production

## What's changed

The property is expected to be used for, and is large enough to sustain, commercial agricultural production

# Capacity and Project Development Grants

# 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)

\*Note: Applicants with active SALC Capacity grants are not eligible for funding unless the current grant is closed out before the application due date.





# Eligible Applicants - Update

## Previous Round

Non-profit applicants must have the conservation of agriculture, rangeland, or farmland, among their stated purposes, as is prescribed by statute, or as expressed in the entity's adopted policies.

## What's changed

Non-profit applicants for Tier 2 funding must have the conservation of agriculture, rangeland, farmland, or tribal cultural resources among their stated purposes, as is prescribed by statute, or as expressed in the entity's adopted policies.

Non-profit applicants that do not have the conservation of agriculture, rangeland, farmland, or tribal cultural resources among their stated purposes, as is prescribed by statute, or as expressed in the entity's adopted policies are eligible for Tier 1 funding on the condition that they use a portion of their funding, if awarded, to incorporate the conservation of agriculture, rangeland, farmland, or tribal cultural resources into their stated purposes or adopted policies

# 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

## NEW THIS ROUND

- SALC Capacity grants may be provided to a Federally recognized or non-federally recognized California Native American tribe to develop a new 501(c)3 organization, like a Tribal Land trust, that will partner with them to meet the goals of SALC



# Capacity Grants - Overview

- Aim to award 5% of available funds
- Tier 1: Grants of up to \$100,000
- Tier 2: Grants of up to \$250,000
- Grant term: Three years
- No match funding requirement



# Guidelines Updates

## Previous Round

Up to \$3 million dollars is available for agricultural conservation acquisition capacity and project development grants (“capacity grants”) through this solicitation, with an additional \$3 million to be made available for the same purpose in each of the two subsequent solicitations.

## What’s changed

The Strategic Growth Council will aim to award approximately 5% of available funds for agricultural conservation acquisition capacity and project development grants (“capacity grants”) through this solicitation, with additional monies to be made available for the same purpose in the next solicitation.

# Guidelines Updates

## Previous Round

Tier 1: Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to applicants to build organizational and financial capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects. These grants are available to applicants for which this would be their first capacity grant with the Department or who have 0-2 paid staff.

## What's changed

Tier 1: Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to applicants to build organizational and financial capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects.

# Guidelines Updates

## Previous Round

Tier 2: Grants of up to \$250,000 are available to applicants to expand existing organizational capacity to develop agricultural conservation projects to increase the pace and scale of their agricultural land conservation efforts. These grants are available to applicants who have 3 or more paid staff or have received a capacity grant from the Department previously, and who can demonstrate the organizational and fiscal capacity to complete the work outlined in their plan

## What's changed

Grants of up to \$250,000 are available to applicants to expand existing organizational capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects, and develop agricultural acquisition projects. These grants are available to applicants who can demonstrate the organizational and fiscal capacity to complete the work outlined in their plan

# How to Provide Comments on the Draft

## Now

- Ask questions
- Make comments

## Email

- Need to be received by 12 pm March 17<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 17<sup>rd</sup>
- 715 P Street, MS 1904, Sacramento, CA 95814

# Next Steps

March 17th At 12 PM

- Public Comment period closes

April 14<sup>th</sup>

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

April 26<sup>th</sup>

- SGC consider adoption of Final Guidelines
- Location: Online and in person at CNRA building



# Preproposal and Application Timelines

- Acquisition pre-proposals due: June 16, 2023
- Planning pre-proposals due: June 30, 2023
- Capacity applications due: July 21, 2023
- Pre-proposal feedback due to applicants (Acquisition and Planning grants)
- Acquisition and Planning applications due: September 8, 2023

Time for Questions and Comments

# Thank You!

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