

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Agricultural Land Conservation Planning Grant Application

Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program

Strategic Growth Council

California Natural Resources Agency

California Department of Conservation

FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE STATE'S CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSION GOALS BY MAKING STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS TO PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LANDS, UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM (SALC PROGRAM). FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

California Department of Conservation

Division of Land Resource Protection

RE: Agricultural Land Conservation Planning Grants

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SALC Program forms and sample documents are available at:

http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/SALCP_forms.aspx

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SALC Program At-A-Glance

Program

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program is a component of the Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program. The Department of Conservation, in conjunction with the Natural Resources Agency, administers the SALC Program on behalf of the Council.

Funding Source

This program is funded through the California Climate Investments Program.

Critical Dates for Round 5

Pre-proposal summaries due—July 15, 2019

Full Applications due—September 13, 2019

Anticipated approval of projects by the Strategic Growth Council—December 2019 (proposed, subject to change)

Contact for Questions

Department of Conservation

Division of Land Resource Protection

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1. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

The grant application is composed of a Checklist, Cover Sheet, Executive Summary, Application Questions Responses, Work Plan, Budget, Priority Population Benefits Checklist (if applicable), and Supporting Documents. Materials should be presented in the order indicated in the checklist. Clearly number and label each item, and number all pages in sequential order.

Please do not submit additional materials that have not been specifically requested (e.g., press clippings or brochures) as they will not be considered during the evaluation.

ALL GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Please indicate with a checkmark that these items are included in your application.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Completed Checklist for Agricultural Land Conservation Planning Grant Application (<i>this document</i>)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Completed Cover Sheet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Executive Summary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Application Questions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Work Plan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. Budget
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8. Map(s) of the Project's Geographic Area
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9. Signed Authorizing Resolution from Governing Bodies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	10. Priority Population Benefits Checklist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. Stakeholder Collaboration Letters

2. COVER SHEET

Project Title	Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program	
Applicant Name	County of Mendocino	
Department/Office	Department of Agriculture	
Federal Employer ID Number	94-6000520	
Mailing Address	890 N. Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482	
Project Title:	Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program	
Location (County and/or City)	Mendocino County, California	
Claiming Priority Population Benefits Status ¹ (circle one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	If yes, you will need to submit a Priority Population Benefits Checklist ² with your application
Grant Request Amount	\$ 208,600	
Matching Funds Pending	\$ 0	
Matching Funds Committed	\$ 43,130	
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ 251,730	
Contact Person	Jim Donnelly	
Title	Agricultural Commissioner (Acting)	
Phone Number	707-234-6830	
Email Address	donnellyj@mendocinocounty.org	

¹ A mapping tool to determine whether a project location is within a priority population census tract is available here: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/communityinvestments.htm>. Also refer to the Guidelines for further information.

² www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/Apply-for-Funding.aspx.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The proposed project, entitled “*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program*” will build upon the [*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Strategy 2017*](#)³ (Ag Lands Strategy) developed under a 2016 planning grant funded by the California Department of Conservation. The goal of that Ag Lands Strategy was to gather data and conduct a planning assessment to document the agricultural status of Mendocino County and to protect agricultural lands from conversion to non-agricultural uses. The goals of this project are to protect valuable agricultural lands while also supporting sustainable housing development and build a sustainable and resilient agricultural community through promotion of climate beneficial farming practices that sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The proposed project will assist the County of Mendocino and project partners in achieving these goals by moving forward with key action items recommended in the Ag Lands Strategy and by building community support for a growth management program that acknowledges the value of both housing and important ag land and includes reasonable urban growth boundaries. Recommended action items that will be implemented through the proposed project include the development of an agricultural component for a future countywide Climate Action Plan, the scaling up of a Carbon Farm Plan and Soil Health program, and increasing landowner participation in the Williamson Act and conservation easement programs. In addition, the project will collaborate with the housing development community, conduct an education and outreach campaign aimed at raising community awareness about ag land values, and embrace residential development strategies that include consideration for impacts on agricultural lands.

The project is being proposed at a pivotal time in Mendocino County. Like much of California, Mendocino County faces a significant housing shortage which has increased conversion pressure on agricultural lands. This issue has been further compounded by the loss of over 8,000 homes in the Northern California region due to wildfires over the last three years. Several proposals for re-zoning of agricultural land are currently under review in the Ukiah Valley, the County’s largest municipality. The Ag Lands Strategy determined that many farmers were unfamiliar with the specifics of conservation programs and recommended an outreach campaign to raise awareness about the benefits of agricultural land preservation programs. The sense of urgency for new housing developments has overshadowed public discussion of the economic and environmental benefits that ag land provides. This project would stimulate a more thorough investigation of alternatives such as in-fill. The completion of the Ag Lands Strategy and the initiation of a Climate Action Plan presents a new opportunity to engage Mendocino County residents, farmers and public officials in a growth management effort that balances housing needs with agricultural protection. The proposed project will be accomplished through a collaboration between the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture (applicant) and the Mendocino County Sustainable Ag Lands Committee. Mendocino County does not have an Open Space District which makes this Committee an important conduit in developing ag land preservation strategies. Committee members include the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture (Ag Dept), Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (BOS rep), Mendocino Land Trust (MLT), Inland Mendocino County Land Trust (IMCLT), Anderson Valley Land Trust (AVLT), Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Mendocino County Farm Bureau, and local farmers and residents.

Project objectives include:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.**
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.**
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.**
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.**

³ http://mcrcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SALC-Final-Report_all-10.19.2017.pdf

4. QUESTIONS

The questions below are designed to solicit specific facts regarding how the proposal addresses the SALC Program goals and objectives. Please respond to all questions in the order listed and clearly label each question and answer. Points will be attributed to each section and not to individual questions. If a question does not apply to your proposed work, indicate that it is not applicable (“N/A”). Please limit your response to seven (7) pages

1. Describe the proposed planning project. Describe the agricultural land base and economy within the project geographic area the amount and quality of land that can be expected to receive protection through the proposed project. Identify the types of data that will be used to evaluate the agricultural resources. Include maps of important farmland, jurisdictional boundaries, and other pertinent data that would portray the project scope (as attachments to the application). Explain why and to what extent agricultural land is being converted to other uses within project geographic area and to what extent those conversion risks are expected to continue. How will the proposed project address those conversion risks?

Q1. Response:

Project Description

The proposed project will move forward the implementation of the Ag Lands Strategy to facilitate a sustainable and resilient agricultural community in collaboration with housing demands and to promote climate beneficial farming practices. The project will consist of bolstering communication between diverse stakeholders and decision makers regarding the 2017 Ag Lands Strategy objectives and recommendations and housing demands, increasing awareness among the agricultural community and general public about the benefits of agricultural land conservation, increasing landowner participation in the Williamson Act and conservation easement programs and assisting the County of Mendocino with promoting sustainable development, and developing an agricultural component for a future Climate Action Plan. The project will expand upon a locally-facilitated Carbon Farm Plan Program and Soil Health Initiative to increase the adoption of climate beneficial farming practices and further demonstrate the value of conserving ag land to help meet greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) goals.

Mendocino County Agricultural Land Base and Economy

Mendocino County is over 2.4 million square acres, but due to steep and heavily forested terrain (see map 1-3) contains less than 50,000 acres (2%) of productive farmland, 27,044 acres of which is identified as Prime, Unique, or of Statewide Importance (2016 FMMP data). The handful of small valleys with sections of flat land suitable for farming are under demand for housing development. A risk assessment, conducted using applicable SALCP Agricultural Conservation Easement Grant Program 2015/16 risk categories, found that 90 percent of Prime agricultural land, 85 percent of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 83 percent of Unique farmland was at-risk of conversion to residential development. The county’s economy continues to be resource-based, including vineyards, orchards, forest products, ranching and legal and illegal cannabis cultivation. The majority of the county’s productive farmland is located in the valley bottomlands along the Russian and Navarro rivers. Agricultural production is dominated

by vineyards (40%) and pasture (47.5%) but deciduous fruit and nut crops such as pears, apples, olives and walnuts remain an important component of the county's diversified agricultural base. Mendocino County agriculture generates over 7.5 percent of all County earnings (as compared to 2.6 percent in California as a whole), emphasizing the significance of the sector in the County's overall economic health. The 2017 Annual Crop Report for Mendocino County indicated the gross agricultural value for all agricultural commodities was over \$268 million.

Agricultural Land Conversion and Outcomes for Protection in the Project Area

A risk assessment conducted in association with the Ag Lands Strategy indicated that 90 percent of Prime agricultural land, 85 percent of Farmland of Statewide Importance and 83 percent of Unique farmland was at risk of conversion to residential development. The highest risk areas occur within municipal services boundaries and the Sphere of Influence or within two miles of these areas in the Ukiah Valley. The Ukiah Valley has some of the most productive ag land in the county, including a quarter of all Prime farmland. Several proposals for re-zoning of important agricultural land, including Prime farmland, are currently under review in the Ukiah Valley. Like much of California, Mendocino County faces a significant housing shortage which has increased conversion pressure on agricultural lands. This issue has been further compounded by the loss of over 8,000 homes due to wildfires in the North Bay and North Coast regions over the last two years. In addition, demographic changes in the San Francisco Bay Area are expected to significantly impact development density along the Highway 101 corridor in southern Mendocino County, indicating that population in this area could increase substantially over the next 20 years.

The Mendocino County General Plan (2009) does not have a dedicated Agricultural Element but contains general policies in support of "protection of agriculture as a basic industry important to the economy and quality of life and food security of the county by maintaining extensive agricultural land areas and limiting incompatible uses" (Mendocino County General Plan, 2009, p.4-32). Agricultural protection strategies such as zoning and the Williamson Act have been the primary means to encourage and protect agricultural operations in the County; however, these programs are underutilized in agricultural areas most at risk of conversion.

The Ag Lands Strategy was developed to identify barriers to participation in these programs and to move the County and its municipalities towards a growth management program that includes reasonable urban growth boundaries and greater consideration of in-fill opportunities. Now that the Ag Lands Strategy is complete, the next step in advancing these objectives is to engage Mendocino County communities, farmers, and public officials in an inclusive dialogue about the Ag Lands Strategy to increase understanding of ag land values and build support for a growth management strategy that balances the need for housing and economic development with ag land protection. Facilitated discussions with stakeholders such as local housing advocates and conservation groups will broaden the existing coalition of project partners, increasing effectiveness and overall impact in influencing land use policy. To build community support for ag land preservation, project partners will develop fact sheets and news briefs related to ag land values and conservation tools and will post that information on various on-line platforms such as partner websites and Facebook pages. Information will also be distributed through eNewsletters and local newspaper and radio broadcasts. Public workshop events will highlight the importance of ag land to the local economy, way of life, and ecosystem services and will educate farmers about the Williamson Act and conservation easement programs.

The proposed project includes the development of a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and the identification of GHG reduction measures for the agriculture sector in unincorporated Mendocino County. This is a key recommendation identified in the Ag Lands Strategy and is a means to build climate resiliency, assist the State with meeting GHG reduction goals, and demonstrate the potential for agricultural lands to reduce emissions and facilitate the sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂). The County has already begun a formal climate action planning process by conducting a baseline inventory of GHG emissions in several key sectors. The County completed its baseline inventory of Local Government Operations in 2010. A Community-wide GHG emissions inventory was also completed in 2010 and provides estimates of GHG emissions for the residential, commercial, transportation, water supply, and solid waste sectors. A baseline inventory of emissions from the agricultural sector of the economy has not been initiated to date. Development of the agricultural element for a future countywide Climate Action Plan is a unique opportunity for project partners to demonstrate the value of agricultural lands in reducing emissions and facilitating carbon sequestration. The Plan will identify ag land protection as an important mechanism in reducing urban sprawl which creates significantly higher levels of GHG emissions. Climate beneficial farming programs will be integrated into the Plan as a recommended tool to increase the capacity of a farm or ranch to reduce emissions and capture carbon and store it as soil organic matter and/or standing carbon stocks in permanent vegetation.

The development of a Carbon Farm Plan template was a central feature of the Ag Lands Strategy and this project is proposing to expand the program through education and outreach and by developing four Carbon Farm Plans. These plans focus on farming activities and investments that result in a net increase in farm-system carbon which, if done at scale, has the potential to offset GHG emissions from other sectors of the economy. This planning process uses USDA's COMET-Planner (<http://comet-planner.com/model>) to estimate on-farm increase in soil and biomass carbon from a list of 30 USDA NRCS conservation practices. The Ag Lands Strategy used the COMET-Planner model and the Compost Planner (designed for the CDFA Healthy Soils Incentive Program) to estimate the potential on-farm carbon capture and storage opportunities over a 10-year period for Mendocino County ag land. "What-if" scenarios were assessed with assumptions based upon local knowledge of likely adopted conservation practices and treatable acres. In this scenario, modeled estimates indicate that climate investments in the agricultural sector could offset annually all of the baseline emissions from the Local Government Operations sector within six years of program initiation. By year ten, climate investments could offset annual emissions from all other sectors with the exception of Transportation and Mobile Sources. While the ag sector does not bear the sole responsibility to offset carbon emissions from other sectors, this example demonstrates the significant benefits of incorporating climate beneficial agricultural management programs into climate action planning efforts.

The Carbon Farm Plan program is closely associated with a local Soil Health program (North Coast Soil Health Hub; www.soilhub.org) in which project partners are collaborating to promote soil health practices such as reduced till and no till farming, cover crops, and composting. These practices sequester carbon and prevent its release into the atmosphere. Healthy soils increase resilience to drought, floods, and temperature fluctuations expected as a result of climate change. Increasing adoption of soil health practices will move forward the objective of creating a resilient and sustainable farming community, an objective of the Ag Lands Strategy. The project will include 2 workshops/field days to demonstrate soil health practices and will conduct comprehensive soil health assessments on 10 different farms to evaluate current soil health

conditions and recommend management changes. Farmers will be directed to the State's Soil Health Initiative and the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program for financial assistance in implementing soil health practices.

The project is intended to build community awareness and support for agricultural land values and protection strategies. The project will demonstrate the value of agricultural land in meeting climate change objectives which is expected to elevate the importance of ag land preservation at a critical time. The completion of the Ag Land Strategy and initiation of a Climate Action Plan offer a foundation to broaden these discussions through coalition building, education and outreach, and climate action planning. These actions are expected to result in stronger agricultural land preservation efforts on high production ag lands throughout the County.

Evaluation Data

The project will utilize data collected and analyzed to develop the Ag Lands Strategy. This includes the following sources: 1) A farmland at-risk of conversion assessment using SALCP Agricultural Conservation Easement Grant Program 2015/16 risk categories; 2) cropland mapping data from the California Department of Water Resources; 3) Farmland of importance by the Department of Conservation's Farmland mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP, 2010); 3.) local zoning designations; and 4) landowner surveys.

2. Describe any economic, environmental, public health or other co-benefits that would arise from the project? How will those co-benefits be measured? Provide a qualitative description of anticipated co-benefits as well as any quantitative information (e.g., acres of habitat types, miles of riparian corridors, local jobs related to agricultural sales). Please include the potential employment benefits estimated using the jobs co-benefit assessment methodology developed by California Air Resources Board.⁴

Q2. Response: Project co-benefits are described below:

Economic

Agriculture is a significant portion of the Mendocino County economy. The 2016 Mendocino County Economic and Demographic Profile indicates that 3.6 percent of jobs in Mendocino County are considered farm employment. This is significantly higher than the 1.0 percent estimate for California as a whole. As of 2016, the agricultural sector in Mendocino County generated upwards of 7 percent of all County earnings as compared to the 2.6 percent for California as a whole. Preserving ag land, and by extension, agricultural jobs and earnings, will support the County's economic growth while supporting a diverse economy that is more resistant to broader economic downturns.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Carbon Sequestration

The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by working to reduce the rate of urban sprawl and by setting emissions reduction goals and identifying measures to achieve those goals for the agricultural sector within a future Climate Action Plan. Ag land at highest risk of conversion

⁴ The jobs co-benefit assessment methodology can be found under the Jobs heading at: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/ccl-methodologies>.

according to the Ag Lands Strategy totals 3,393 acres with parcels owned by only 24 individuals or entities. Targeted outreach to these landowners regarding ag land conservation programs and the forward movement of a growth management program that prioritizes infill and compact development is likely to result in increased ag land acres under protection from conversion.

The carbon sequestration potential of County ag lands will be stabilized and enhanced by ag land protection measures and the scaling up of the Carbon Farming Program lead by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), along with the encouragement of other sustainable practices such as those recommended by CA Sustainable and Fish Friendly Farming techniques. The project will incorporate carbon farming and other recommended sustainable farming practices into the Climate Action Plan for the agricultural sector as a mitigation measure.

The Ag Lands Strategy provided an estimate for 10-year and 20-year GHG reduction impacts of selected conservation farming practices that are likely to be applied on Mendocino County ag land. The estimate indicated that climate investments in the agricultural sector could offset annually all of the baseline emissions from the Local Government Operations sector (22,823.00Mt CO₂e) within six years of program initiation. By year ten, climate investments could offset annual emissions from all other sectors of the economy with the exception of Transportation and Mobile Sources. Models, such as USDA's COMET-Farm and COMET-Planner and empirical data sources will be used to estimate tons of CO₂e that would be avoided or sequestered from the atmosphere on farms by implementing climate beneficial practices.

Soil Health

The scaling up of climate beneficial farming practices through the Carbon Farm Program will result in improvements to soil health on Mendocino County ag lands. Practices such as no-till, reduced-till, compost and cover cropping result in an increase in soil organic matter which improves numerous soil functions including carbon storage, water infiltration, water retention capacity, nutrient cycling and reduced erosion risk. Healthy soils provide resiliency to drought and climate change impacts and may result in decreased farming inputs. Engaging farmers in soil health practices is an important part of building an ag community that is resilient and sustainable. Project partners will provide comprehensive soil health assessments to participating farmers to evaluate organic matter content, total carbon, aggregate stability, and other soil health indicators, as well as information on best management practices.

Wildlife Habitat

Mendocino County contains a wide range of sensitive habitats, including close to 700,000 acres of oak woodlands and nearly 1,000 miles of streams with threatened Chinook and Coho Salmon and steelhead trout. Ag land in the highest risk category is primarily located in the Ukiah Valley along the Russian River. There are seven tributaries that flow through Ukiah Valley ag lands that contain approximately 12 miles of high value habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. The health of the fish populations is largely dependent on the continued ability of these riparian corridors to provide clean water, shade, habitat structure, and a food source. Conversion of ag land to residential use is likely to have significant adverse effects on these stream ecosystems through delivery of contaminants, habitat destruction, and streamflow flashiness. Protecting these ag lands will promote water infiltration and ground water recharge which, in the Ukiah Valley, is often connected to stream-flows which are critical to maintain for the survival of these threatened species. In addition, these riparian corridors are likely to be enhanced through

participation in the Carbon Farming Program which identifies woody plantings in riparian zones as a high value practice for carbon sequestration.

Mendocino County and its ag lands also provide habitat for Tule elk, which require at least some contiguous habitat to allow for herd movements; in many places in Mendocino County, adjacent ag parcels provide this habitat and the buildout of one parcel which breaks habitat continuity could result in herd splitting that is detrimental to population health overall.

3. Describe how the proposal will complement other efforts in the Projects Geographic Area, including comprehensive planning efforts (e.g., Sustainable Communities Plans, Greenprints), and agricultural land use policies (e.g., Williamson Act). How would the project leverage other permanently protected lands to promote location and resource-efficient development?

Q3 Response:

The *Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Strategy, 2017* represents the County's most recent effort to inventory agricultural lands for land use planning purposes. The Ag Lands Strategy focused on agricultural lands most at risk of conversion and identified actions that could be taken to preserve these lands and move forward with building a sustainable and resilient farming community. The development of the Ag Lands Strategy brought together a diverse group of stakeholders who continue to participate in the Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Committee. These committee members are now partnering to carry out the proposed project which is to implement high priority actions identified in the Ag Lands Strategy. The Mendocino County General Plan (2009) does not have a dedicated Agricultural Element and is slated to be updated in the next few years according to County supervisors participating in this project. Due to more intense population and conversion pressure, the County adopted more explicit agricultural land conversion criteria in the Ukiah Valley area. In 2011, the County adopted the Ukiah Valley Area Plan (UVAP), an element of the General Plan, which supports the preservation of agricultural lands within the Ukiah Valley through its stated goals and land use policies. The proposed project will bring attention to the provisions in the UVAP which need to be emphasized again in a public forum to ensure adherence to its basic principles of ag land protection. This project's proposed coalition- building and outreach efforts will be an essential component in ensuring that the objectives of the Ag Lands Strategy are incorporated into the General Plan updates, including the UVAO and Housing Element, and other planning documents including the proposed Climate Action Plan.

Aside from zoning, the Williamson Act and agricultural conservation easements are the primary mechanisms used in Mendocino County to preserve productive agricultural lands. Relatively low rates of landowner participation in these voluntary programs, compared to neighboring counties, suggest there are opportunities to increase participation within Mendocino County. Landowners may participate in the Williamson Act through the Mendocino County Code, Resource Preserves (Ordinance 3428). As of 2014, 18,674 acres of "important farmland" were enrolled in Williamson Act contracts, representing approximately 62 percent of all "important farmland" in the County. The Ukiah Valley had the lowest rates of enrollment, at 43 percent. Compliance monitoring has not been done by the County since 2014 and is a proposed task of this project. The objective is to increase enrollment by eligible producers through outreach and

education while dropping from enrollment those landowners who do not meet the minimum agricultural utilization standards or purchase ag land for non-agricultural uses.

The Mendocino Land Trust currently holds conservation easements on five agricultural properties in the greater Ukiah Valley including prime ag land within the Sphere of Influence of Ukiah. A primary goal of the project is to increase participation in conservation easement programs in the Ukiah Valley to increase the amount of permanently protected acreage on properties at high risk of conversion. Existing easements can be used as demonstrations for other farmers and have the potential to be the focus of greenbelt and urban growth boundary planning, and the outreach and education efforts proposed for this project may yield additional landowners interested in establishing an agricultural conservation easement on their property.

4. Describe your experience in developing and implementing similar projects. Do you have the internal resources and capacity to complete the proposed work or will consultants or contractors be required? Do you have the professional staff qualified to develop and successfully implement the proposal? If not, please describe how you will acquire this expertise.

Q4. Response

This project will be carried out by local, state and federal agencies working in conjunction with local land trusts and project partners who have a variety of professional staff with a long history of success in carrying out similar projects. Committee members include the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture (Ag Dept), Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (BOS rep), Mendocino Land Trust (MLT), Inland Mendocino County Land Trust (IMCLT), Anderson Valley Land Trust (AVLT), Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Mendocino County Farm Bureau, and local farmers and residents. Project partners include the same team that completed the Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Strategy 2017 (referenced in the Executive Summary) developed under a planning grant funded by the California Department of Conservation. In addition, the team will utilize subject matter experts to develop the emissions inventory and greenhouse gas reduction metrics for Mendocino County's agricultural sector, as well as a web-based data inventory and tracking system.

Similar to the previous SGC grant, the MCRCD carries a large portion of project responsibilities. The MCRCD mission is to conserve, protect, and restore wild and working landscapes to enhance the health of water, soil, and forests in our County. The MCRCD provides technical assistance, educational programs, monitoring and assessment services, and grant funding to help land managers meet their conservation goals. In operation since 1945, approximately 90% of the MCRCD budget is funded through local, state, and federal grants. MCRCD has multiple professionals with the technical expertise qualified to successfully implement this proposal.⁵

⁵ www.mcrcd.org

5. Identify which stakeholders will participate in the proposed project? How will these stakeholders participate?

Q5. Response

Project partners include multiple stakeholders. Partner contributions are reflected in the table below and identified Tasks are described in the Work Plan, Section 5 below.

Project Partner	Actions and Tasks
Mendocino County Department of Agriculture: Ag Commissioner's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve on Technical Advisory Committee for CAP. (Tasks 1,4,5) • Review Williamson Act contracts for compliance and assist with planning workshops/deliver presentations. (Task 9) • Attend monthly MCSALC meetings and distribute educational materials and general information (Task 12, 16)
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead on Project Objectives 1 and 2. • Provide oversight to contractors in the development of the CAP for the Ag. Sector. (Tasks 3, 5) • Assist with planning workshops. Deliver presentations (Tasks 6, 7, 8) • Develop at least 4 Carbon Farm Plans and 10 soil assessments (Task 7, 8) • Facilitate monthly MCSALC meetings (Task 12) • Update Ag Lands Strategy GIS shapefiles and data layers. Connect to RCD web-portal. (Task 14) • Project related educational material to RCD website and media (Task 14, 15)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve on Technical Advisory Committee for CAP development. (Tasks 1, 4, 5) • Assist with planning workshops. Deliver presentations (Tasks 6, 7, 8) • Assist with 10 soil health assessments in associated planning documents. (Task 8) • Attend monthly MCSALC meetings (Task 12)
Mendocino County Farm Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead on Project Objective 3. Williamson Act and Cons. Easements • Serve on Technical Advisory Committee for CAP (Task 1, 4, 5) • Assist with planning workshops. Deliver presentations. (Tasks 9, 10, 11) • Attend monthly MCSALC meetings (Task 12)
LAFCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead for Objective 4. Increase communications with Housing • Attend monthly MCSALC meetings (Task 12) • Organize and convene stakeholder meetings and distribute material (Tasks 13, 16)
Mendocino Land Trust (MLT) Inland Mendocino County Land Trust (IMCLT) Anderson Valley Land Trust (AVLT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with Williamson Act and Conservation Easement promotion (Tasks 9, 10, 11) • Attend monthly MCSALC meetings (Task 12) • Assist with planning workshops. Deliver presentations re: conservation easements (Task 13) • Develop targeted information to farmers who own parcels identified as high risk of conversion. (Task 11, 16) • Participate in media outreach and education (Task 15) • Hold conservation easements

5. WORK PLAN

Applicants must provide a detailed work plan that specifies the tasks, sub-tasks and deliverables that will be performed including a schedule and cost estimates. The cost estimate and schedule should be of sufficient detail to allow assessment of the applicant's progress through the work plan at regular intervals. The work plan will be a component of the Grant Agreement if the project is awarded funding. The work plan will include:

1. Summary – The tabular summary below must be filled out with the project details and included in the application. Add tasks or subtasks as appropriate for your proposal.

Work Plan Summary			
High Level Task/Detailed Sub-Task (with Deliverables)	Responsible Party/Parties (City, County, Consultant, etc.)	Timetable (Length of time to complete, targeted date of completion, and identify dependent tasks)	Estimated Cost (Specify if from SALC or from Match)
Objective 1: Develop an agricultural component for a Mendocino County Climate Action Plan. (Lead: MCRCD)			
Task 1: Organize and convene a Technical Advisory Committee to oversee development of the agricultural component of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). <i>Deliverables:</i> 6 meetings; sign-in sheets, meeting minutes	MCRCD MC Ag. Dept. NRCS MC Farm Bureau	Months 1-22 Target date first meeting: June, 2020	\$4,800 SALC \$3,900 match
Task 2: Organize and convene stakeholder meetings to solicit input and engage community members in CAP development. <i>Deliverables:</i> 4 meetings; sign-in sheets, meeting minutes	MCRCD	Months 3 – 18 Target date first meeting: September, 2020	\$9,200 SALC
Task 4: Meet with County officials to develop emission reduction targets and identify primary and supporting measures most feasible for meeting reduction goals for the ag. sector. <i>Deliverables:</i> 4 meetings with minutes, summary report with reduction targets and measures.	MCRCD MC Ag. Dept. NRCS MC Farm Bureau	Months 13 – 18 Target date for completion: September, 2021	\$4,800 SALC \$3,350 match

Work Plan Summary			
High Level Task/Detailed Sub-Task (with Deliverables)	Responsible Party/Parties (City, County, Consultant, etc.)	Timetable (Length of time to complete, targeted date of completion, and identify dependent tasks)	Estimated Cost (Specify if from SALC or from Match)
Task 5: Review draft agricultural component of CAP with county officials and other stakeholders. <i>Deliverables:</i> 2 meetings, meeting minutes, final draft CAP ag. chapter report.	MCRCD MC Ag. Dept. NRCS MC Farm Bureau	Months 18-21 Target date for completion: December, 2021	\$3,200 SALC \$1,750 match
Objective 2: Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative. (Lead: MCRCD)			
Task 6: Conduct 2 workshops/field days for farmers focused on climate beneficial farming practices and soil health. <i>Deliverables:</i> sign-in sheets, agenda, announcements	MCRCD NRCS	Months 8 – 19 Target date 1 st workshop: November, 2021	\$2,000 SALC \$5,000 match
Task 7: Develop 4 carbon farm plans. <i>Deliverables:</i> 4 carbon farm plans that include GIS mapping, natural resource inventory, Conservation Plan for improving carbon sequestration practices.	MCRCD	Months 1-21 Target date for completion: December 2021	\$30,000 SALC \$1,000 match
Task 8: Conduct 10 soil health assessments to raise awareness and advise management decisions for grape growers. <i>Deliverables:</i> 10 soil health assessment reports including comprehensive lab analysis of biological, physical and chemical soil properties and management recommendations.	MCRCD NRCS	Months 1-15 Targeted date for completion: June, 2021	\$2,000 match
Objective 3: Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs. (Lead: Farm Bureau)			
Task 9: Coordinate with the County Ag Commissioner, Assessors Office, and other departments to improve monitoring of Williamson Act program and promote the Williamson Act to increase enrollment by eligible producers.	MC Ag Dept. MC Farm Bureau MLT IMCLT AVL	Months 3 – 21 Targeted date for completion: December, 2021	\$8,000 SALC \$6,820 match

Work Plan Summary			
High Level Task/Detailed Sub-Task (with Deliverables)	Responsible Party/Parties (City, County, Consultant, etc.)	Timetable (Length of time to complete, targeted date of completion, and identify dependent tasks)	Estimated Cost (Specify if from SALC or from Match)
Task 9 (con't) <i>Deliverables:</i> Copy of report to County Board of Supervisors summarizing compliance monitoring activity by Ag. Dept; notification template sent to producers; Farm Bureau/Land Trust correspondence to producers.			
Task 10: Conduct a targeted outreach effort to owners of agricultural parcels identified as high conversion risk to raise awareness about the Williamson Act and conservation easement programs. <i>Deliverables:</i> number of landowners contacted with parcel number, post-cards and direct mailings, summary report entailing personal conversations and meetings with landowners.	MC Farm Bureau MLT IMCLT AVLT	Months 3-6 Targeted date for completion: September, 2020	\$5,100 SALC \$400 match
Task 11: Conduct 2 farmland conservation workshops that include presentations and discussion on the benefits of farmland preservation, the Williamson Act, and conservation easement programs. <i>Deliverables:</i> sign-in sheets, agenda, announcements	MC Farm Bureau MLT IMCLT AVLT	Months 3-20 Targeted completion date: November, 2021	\$14,710 SALC \$400 match
Objective 4: Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development. (Lead: LAFCO)			
Task 12: Convene and facilitate monthly meetings of the Mendocino County Sustainable Ag lands Committee to maintain communication among project partners, refine planning strategies and expand dialogue between Committee members, public officials, housing development advocates, and other stakeholders. <i>Deliverables:</i> sign-in sheets, meeting minutes, agenda	MCRCD LAFCO MC Ag. Dept. MC Farm Bureau NRCS Land Trusts MLT IMCLT AVLT	Months 1 – 23 Targeted completion date: February, 2022	\$9,200 SALC \$18,510 match

Work Plan Summary			
High Level Task/Detailed Sub-Task (with Deliverables)	Responsible Party/Parties (City, County, Consultant, etc.)	Timetable (Length of time to complete, targeted date of completion, and identify dependent tasks)	Estimated Cost (Specify if from SALC or from Match)
<p>Task 13: Organize and convene 6 meetings with specific stakeholder groups including realtors, City and County planning officials, housing advocacy groups and conservation organizations to explain Ag Lands Strategy objectives and solicit input. Participate in meetings and workshops that discuss zoning and the Housing Element of the Mendocino County General Plan.</p> <p><i>Deliverables:</i> sign-in sheets, meeting minutes, agendas</p>	<p>LAFCO MCRCD MLT IMCLT AVLT</p>	<p>Months 3-18 Targeted completion date: September, 2021</p>	<p>\$21,720 SALC</p>
<p>Task 14: Update GIS shapefiles and data layers associated with the development of the Ag Lands Strategy and make that data available on a Web Portal hosted by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District for use by multiple stakeholders, including County Ag and Planning departments.</p> <p><i>Deliverables:</i> shapefiles with link to interactive MCRCD website</p>	<p>MCRCD Data Consultant</p>	<p>Months 3-18 Targeted completion date: September 2021</p>	<p>\$19,600 SALC</p>
<p>Task 15: Conduct a media campaign including press releases to local newspapers and radio broadcast appearances such as the KZYX Farm and Garden Show and the Ecology Hour to explain Ag Land Strategy objectives.</p> <p><i>Deliverables:</i> 4 press releases, link to 2 radio broadcast or copy of radio schedule</p>	<p>MCRCD MLT IMCLT AVLT</p>	<p>Months 3-20 Targeted completion date: December, 2021</p>	<p>\$9,320 SALC</p>
<p>Task 16: Distribute educational materials such as fact sheets, e-newsletters, and postings on existing on-line communication platforms.</p> <p><i>Deliverables:</i> 4 fact sheets, link to partner websites, 8 e-newsletters</p>	<p>MCRCD MC Ag. Dept MC Farm Bureau NRCS MLT IMCLT AVLT</p>	<p>Months 3-20 Targeted completion date: December, 2021</p>	<p>\$7,550 SALC</p>

2. A narrative of each tasks, sub-tasks and schedule for the proposed project. Please limit your response to three (3) pages.

Objective 1. Develop an agricultural component for a Mendocino County Climate Action Plan. (Lead MCRCD)

- Task 1.) *Organize and convene a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to oversee development of the agricultural component of the Climate Action Plan (CAP).* The County CAP will need to have a wide breadth of partners to ensure the plan is comprehensive and represents all stakeholder perspectives. The County Ag Dept, NRCS, the Farm Bureau, and MCRCD will champion a diverse TAC to ensure a strategic development of the Ag chapter of the CAP. The development, convening and drafting of the Chapter is expected to take close to two years and the target date of the first meeting is within the first month of contract award, around June 2020.
- Task 2.) *Organize and convene 4 stakeholder meetings to solicit input and engage community members in the CAP development.* Mendocino County is fortunate to have numerous active citizens groups, so beyond the TAC, MCRCD will conduct workshops engaging the general public to allow for community input in the development of the agricultural chapter of the plan. These will occur over months 3 – 18, with a target date first meeting around September 2020.
- Task 3.) *Conduct an initial, baseline emissions inventory and compile a suite of recommended measures to reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration on Mendocino County ag land.* MCRCD will subcontract with an experienced environmental consultant to collect data and determine a baseline inventory and then present GHG reduction strategies with the TAC. This work in months 3 – 14 with a target date for completion of around May 2021.
- Task 4.) *Meet with County officials to develop draft emission reduction targets for the agricultural sector.* Using data from the initial emissions inventory and proposed reduction strategies (Task 3), MCRCD will work with the TAC to determine appropriate measurable targets for the County and the CAP. This will occur over months 13 – 18, with a target date for completion of September 2021.
- Task 5.) *Review draft agricultural component with county officials and other stakeholders.* Completion of Task 4 will allow a complete Ag chapter of the CAP, which MCRCD will distribute to a wider audience for review. This is over months 18-21 with a target date for completion December 2021.

Objective 2. Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative. (Lead: MCRCD)

- Task 6.) *Conduct 2 workshops/field days for farmers focused on climate beneficial farming practices and soil health.* The MCRCD and the NRCS will collaborate to host at least 2 workshops to educate and promote climate beneficial farming. The target date for the first workshop is November 2021 with a second workshop will likely be in the winter of 2022.

- Task 7.) *Develop at least 4 carbon farm plans.* MCRCDC will develop at least 4 carbon farm plans (CFPs). The CFPs will propose an array of strategies designed to promote long-term carbon sequestration, which hold the potential to significantly reduce atmospheric GHGs by capturing carbon in the soil and plant material, while enhancing soil health and productivity.
- Task 8.) *Conduct 10 soil health assessments to raise awareness and advise management decisions for grape growers.* Mendocino County is one of California's largest and most climatically diverse wine growing regions and one of the leading regions for organically produced wine grapes. Ten American Viticultural Areas have been designated within Mendocino County. MCRCDC will conduct 10 soil health assessments to increase understanding about the relationship between farming practices and soil health. These will occur over the next two years.

Objective 3. Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs. (Lead: Farm Bureau)

- Task 9.) *Coordinate with the County Ag Commissioner, Assessors Office, and other departments to improve monitoring of Williamson Act program and promote the Williamson Act to increase enrollment by eligible producers.* The County offices, Farm Bureau and Land Trusts will work together to help review participation in the programs, evaluate compliance, and encourage enrollment of eligible landowners. This is scheduled for months 3 – 21 with a report to the Board of Supervisors targeted for December 2021.
- Task 10.) *Conduct a targeted outreach effort to owners of agricultural parcels identified as high conversion risk to raise awareness about the Williamson Act and conservation easement programs.* The Farm Bureau and land trusts will assist the county offices in reaching specific landowners and providing educational material about the benefits of ag land conservation. This will occur in months 3-6 of the program with a target to complete first round of outreach in September 2020.
- Task 11.) *Conduct 2 farmland conservation workshops that include presentations and discussion on the benefits of farmland preservation, the Williamson Act, and conservation easement programs.* The Farm Bureau and land trusts will organize and present at local educational workshops for the larger farming community. This will occur at the earlier and latter periods of the grant period with a completion goal of November 2021.

Objective 4. Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development. (Lead: LAFCO)

- Task 12.) *Convene and facilitate monthly meetings of the Mendocino County Sustainable Ag Lands Committee to maintain communication among project partners, refine planning strategies and expand dialogue between Committee members, public officials, housing development advocates, and other stakeholders.* MCRCDC will continue to facilitate monthly meetings of the Sustainable Ag Lands Committee (SALC) throughout the grant period and beyond.

- Task 13.) *Organize and convene 6 meetings with specific stakeholder groups including realtors, City and County planning officials, housing advocacy groups and conservation organizations to explain Ag Lands Strategy objectives and solicit input. Participate in meetings and workshops that discuss zoning and the Housing Element of the Mendocino County General Plan.* LAFCO, which supports a diverse group of stakeholders, will organize and lead these workshops to ensure the housing needs of the County are addressed while also considering the value of agricultural lands. These will occur during months 3 – 18 with a goal to complete all meetings by September 2021.
- Task 14.) *Update GIS shapefiles and data layers associated with the development of the Ag Lands Strategy and make that data available on a Web Portal hosted by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District for use by multiple stakeholders, including County Ag and Planning departments.* MCRCDD will work with a Data Consultant to ensure a database of relevant agricultural lands information is readily available to County offices and the public in a user-friendly, web-based system. This will occur during months 3- 18 and goal for completion is September 2021.
- Task 15.) *Conduct a media campaign including press releases to local newspapers and radio broadcast appearances such as the KZYX Farm and Garden Show and the Ecology Hour to explain Ag Land Strategy objectives.* MCRCDD and the land trusts will help utilize all forms of media to communicate to the general public about the work of this grant, the committee, available workshops and resources that the grant will provide. This work will happen throughout the grant period, months 3 – 20 with all deliverables provided by December 2021.
- Task 16.) *Distribute educational materials such as fact sheets, e-newsletters, and postings on existing on-line communication platforms.* All participants in the grant will assist in distribution of educational materials throughout the entire grant period. Distribution will include a wide spectrum of stakeholders including County decision makers and the general public. Specific number of deliverables will be provided by December 2021, but also a description of communities reached and lessons learned will be provided in the grant final report.

6. BUDGET

This section will identify the total estimated project cost using the budget table below. The total estimated cost should be broken down to clearly delineate grant funds requested and match funding. Additional rows may be added to each section as appropriate. The budget will be a component of the Grant Agreement if the project is awarded funding. All costs must comply with the Guidelines.

Project Title	SALC Program REQUEST	MATCH FUNDING	TOTAL FUNDING
Personnel including Applicant's staff, stakeholders, contractors and consultants			
County of Mendocino (Ag Dept)	10,000	12,500	22,500
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD)	94,800	4430	99,230
Mendocino Land Trust (MLT)	10,200	3,400	13,600
Inland Mendocino Land Trust	10,200	3,400	13,600
Anderson Valley Land Trust	10,200	3,400	13,600
Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)	10,200	4,000	14,200
Environmental Consultant (Task 3)	30,000	0	30,000
Website Database Consultant (Task 14)	12,000	0	12,000
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)	0	8,000	8,000
Mendocino County Farm Bureau	0	4,000	4,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>187,600</i>	<i>43,100</i>	<i>230,730</i>
Note: Information regarding Personnel and subcontractors is entered on page 2 of the Budget			
Operating Expenses			
Database hosting, maintenance fees (Task 14)	2,000		2,000
Workshop Rental Space (4)	4,000		4,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>6,000</i>		<i>6,000</i>
Miscellaneous (itemize/explain—examples provided)			
Postage, Advertising, Printing	10,000		10,000
Travel Reimbursement	5,000		5,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>15,000</i>		<i>15,000</i>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	208,600	43,130	251,730

PERSONNEL AND SUBCONTRACTORS

Personnel including Applicant's staff, stakeholders, contractors and consultants required to accomplish the project should be listed in this table. The below table includes both funded and match labor hours for total partner commitment.

TITLE	RATE (\$/hr)	HOURS	TOTAL Value (\$)
Agricultural Commissioner (County of Mendocino)	125	100	12,500
Executive Director (MCRCD)	100	160	16,000
Program Manager (MCRCD)	90	800	72,000
GIS Mapping and Database Expertise (MCRCD)	90	120	10,800
Project Manager (MLT)	85	160	13,600
Project Manager (IMCLT)	85	160	13,600
Project Manager (AVLT)	85	160	13,600
Project Manager (LAFCO)	100	142	14,200
Environmental Consultant	150	200	30,000
Website Database Consultant	120	100	12,000
District Conservationists	100	80	8,000
Executive Director (Farm Bureau)	100	40	4,000

7. MAP(S) OF THE PROJECT GEOGRAPHIC AREA

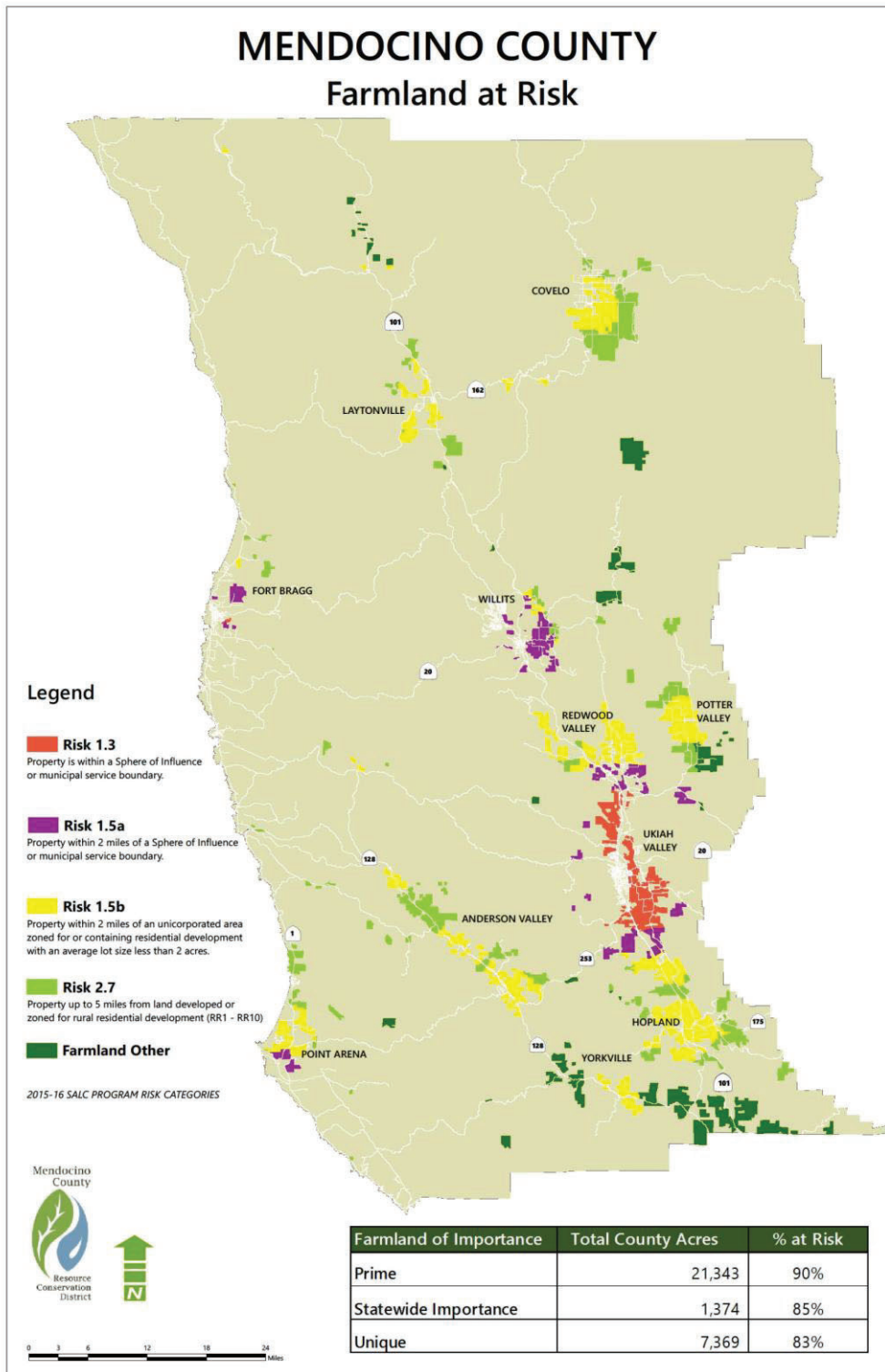
Applicants must provide a map or image depicting the area to be covered by the proposed plan. The map should generally depict the area, including the extent of its agricultural resources, urban and/or rural land uses, and any ancillary map data to support the need for the proposal. Maps or images must print into an 8 ½" x 11" piece of paper.

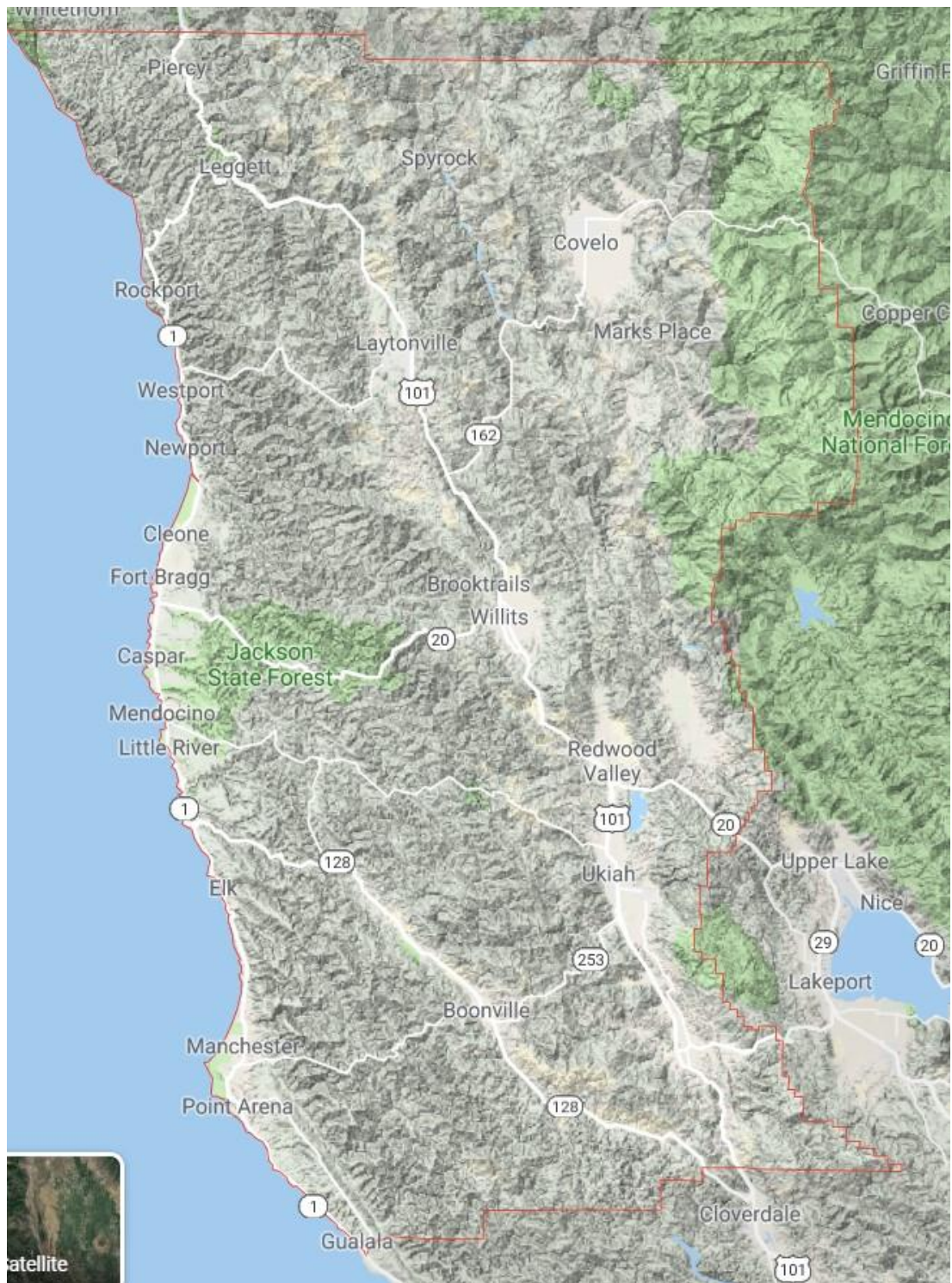
Geographic information system (GIS) data or Google Earth (.kmz) files may be submitted along with digital map products. Contact SALC Program staff if you are interested in submitting data in this manner.

Map 1-1. Mendocino County Location Map



Map 1-2. Mendocino County Farmland at Risk of Conversion





8. Signed Authorizing Resolution

Applicants must submit a signed Resolution of Support authorizing work to be completed under the proposal. The resolution must:

- 1) Approve the filing of an application for the proposed project;
- 2) Certify that the Applicant understands the assurances and certification in the application,
- 3) Certify that the Applicant will have sufficient funds to meet the match requirement,
- 4) Certify that the Applicant will work towards the Governor's State Planning Priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety as included in Government Code Section 65041.1; and
- 5) Authorize entrance into a grant agreement with the Department for the project and agree to accept the template terms and conditions available at the Department's website if the project is awarded funding;
- 6) Authorize a designated individual, or designee, as agent to accept the award of grant funding and to, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for development of the aforementioned plan.

The resolution must provide acknowledgement that the Applicant understands and accepts that they must cover the costs to complete work related to the development and execution of the planning project until reimbursement by the State.

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
890 N. Bush Street Ukiah, CA 95482
PHONE (707) 234-6830
FAX (707) 463-0240
agcomm@mendocinocounty.org
www.mendocinocounty.org/ag



Jim Donnelly
Interim Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

September 11, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Authorizing Resolution from the County of Mendocino Board of Supervisors for the California Department of Conservation SALC Program application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, I am writing to inform you that on June 5th, 2019, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, in item 5(a), approved to support the subject SALC grant, including the cash match requirement of \$10,000. The funds are allocated in the Agricultural Commissioners Budget under "special departmental expenditures". The attached Resolution will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for signature on October 1st, 2019.

Sincerely,

Jim Donnelly, Interim Agricultural Commissioner

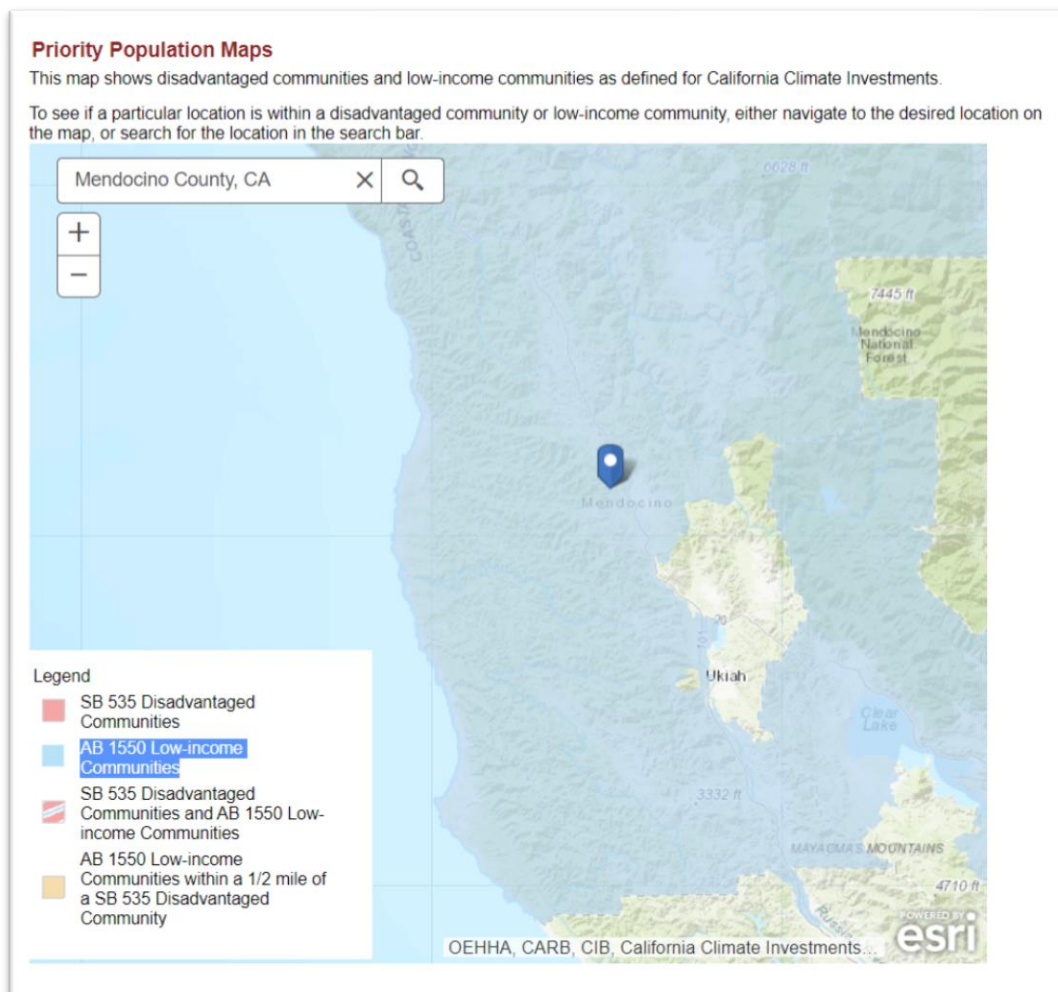
9. Priority Population Benefits Checklist

This checklist is to be used by applicants claiming Priority Population status.

Please complete to the Priority Population Checklist available on the DOC website and include the completed document in your application.

Projects that qualify for Priority Population status will receive 5 points on their application. Priority Population status does not affect project eligibility.

The majority of Mendocino County is in a designated “AB1550 Low-income Community”



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Priority Population Benefits Checklist

SALC Program projects must satisfy at least one criterion in Step 1, one criterion in Step 2, and one criterion in Step 3 to be considered to provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations, receive priority population status through the SALC Program, and count toward statutory investment minimums. Please complete and submit this checklist if you are interested in qualifying for priority population status through the SALC Program. Supporting documentation must be provided for all claims.

Priority population status does not affect project eligibility.

STEP 1 – Identify Priority Population(s)		
<i>Evaluate the project against each of the following criteria. Check all boxes that apply. Supporting documentation required. If a project does not meet at least one of the qualifying criteria in Step 1, the project does not count toward statutory investment minimums and no further evaluation is needed.</i>		
Criteria	Yes	No
A. Is a majority of the project land located within the boundaries of a disadvantaged community census tract?		
B. Is a majority of project land located within the boundaries of a low-income community census tract?		
C. Is a majority of the project land located outside of a disadvantaged community, but within ½-mile of a disadvantaged community <u>and</u> within a low-income community census tract?		
STEP 2 – Address a Need		
<i>Identify an important community or household need and evaluate whether the project provides a benefit that meaningfully addresses that need. Supporting documentation required. If the project does not address a community or household need, it does not count toward statutory investment minimums and no further evaluation is needed.</i>		
Important Community or Household Need		
Describe the important community or household need your project meets and how your project addresses said need in the space provided:		

STEP 2 – Address a Need (continued)		
Method Used to Identify Need	Yes	No
<p>Indicate the method used to identify the important community need described above and provide supporting documentation:</p> <p>A. Host community meetings, workshops, outreach efforts, or public meetings as part of the planning process to engage local residents and community groups for input on community or household needs, and document how the received input was considered in the design and/or selection of projects to address those needs.</p> <p>B. Look at the individual factors in the latest version of CalEnviroScreen that are most impacting an identified disadvantaged or low-income community (i.e., factors that score above the 75th percentile), and confirm that the project will reduce the impacts of at least one of those factors.</p> <p>C. Receive documentation of support from local community-based organizations and/or residents (e.g., letters, emails) identifying a need that the project addresses and demonstrating that the project has broad community support.</p> <p>D. Refer to the list of common needs for priority populations in CARB's Funding Guidelines Table 5 and confirm that the project addresses at least one listed need (should match the need identified above).</p>		
STEP 3 – Provide a Benefit		
<p><i>Evaluate the project against each of the following criteria to determine if it provides direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations. Project must meet at least one of the following benefit criteria. Supporting documentation required. Check all boxes that apply.</i></p>		
Criteria	Yes	No
<p>A. Project preserves a site that allows public access.</p> <p>B. Project significantly reduces flood risk to households within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities.</p> <p>C. Project maintains water quality and health of watersheds serving priority populations through avoiding the conversion of forest lands or wetlands that would have resulted in impacts to nearby water bodies located in the same or a directly adjacent disadvantaged or low-income community as the project.</p> <p>D. Project increases food access to priority populations through regular farmers' markets, donations to food banks or distribution centers serving residents of disadvantaged or low-income communities, or low-income households.</p> <p>E. Project provides regular and ongoing educational opportunities through partnerships with schools or non-profit organizations located in disadvantaged or low-income communities and site access to residents of these communities.</p>		

10. Stakeholder Collaboration Letters

Provide copies of letters from collaborating stakeholders demonstrating the stakeholder's specific role in the development or implementation of the Agricultural Land Conservation Planning project.

Applicants may also provide copies of letters from entities within the project geographic area and from the local community which are not participating stakeholders but which support the Agricultural Land Conservation Planning project.

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
890 N. Bush Street Ukiah, CA 95482
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Jim Donnelly
Interim Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures

September 03, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Commitment for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, I am writing to confirm our commitment to the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Over the course of the grant period, our organization agrees to commit 100 labor hours which includes 20 hours of in-kind match contribution. In addition the County Board of Supervisors agreed to provide \$10,000. Our participation will include assisting with the Technical Advisory Committee to oversee the development of the agricultural component of the Climate Action Plan, develop a draft emissions reduction targets for the agricultural sector, review draft agricultural component of CAP with county officials and other stakeholders, coordinate with the Assessor's Office, and other departments to improve monitoring of Williamson Act program, and promote the Williamson Act to increase enrollment by eligible producers. Additionally, we will assist in monthly meetings of the Mendocino Sustainable AG Lands Committee to maintain communication among project partners, refine planning strategies and expand dialogue between committee members, public officials, housing development advocates with media campaigns to explain Ag Land Strategy objectives, distribute educational materials such as fact sheets, e-newsletters, and postings on existing on-line communication platforms as described in the Work Plan, and other activities that support the intent of this grant and that benefit the greater community in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,
Jim Donnelly, Interim Agricultural Commissioner

06 September 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Commitment for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

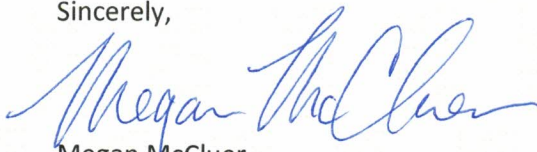
Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD), I am writing to confirm our commitment to the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

The mission of the MCRCD is to conserve, protect and restore wild and working landscapes to enhance the health of water, soil, and forests in Mendocino County. Over the course of the grant period, our organization agrees to commit 1080 labor hours to this project which includes 40 hours of in-kind match contribution. Our participation will include contributing to *all* tasks as described in the Work Plan due to our leadership role in the execution of the entire project. We are the lead contributor specifically for Objectives 1 "Develop an agricultural component for a Mendocino County Climate Action Plan" and Objective 2 "Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative" but we will support all other activities as needed to ensure success of the grant objectives and benefit the greater community in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,



Megan McCluer
Executive Director

MENDOCINO

Local Agency Formation Commission

Ukiah Valley Conference Center | 200 South School Street | Ukiah, California 95482
Telephone: (707) 463-4470 | E-mail: eo@mendolafco.org | Web: www.mendolafco.org

September 3, 2019

COMMISSIONERS

Carre Brown, Chair
County Board of Supervisors

Tony Orth, Vice Chair
Brooktrails Township CSD

Gerald Ward, Treasurer
Public Member

Gerardo Gonzalez
Willits City Council

John Huff
Mendocino Coast Recreation
and Park District

Scott Ignacio
Point Arena City Council

John McCowen
County Board of Supervisors

Jenifer Bazzani, Alternate
Ukiah Valley Fire District

Will Lee, Alternate
Fort Bragg City Council

Carol Rosenberg, Alternate
Public Member

Ted Williams, Alternate
County Board of Supervisors

STAFF

Executive Officer
Uma Hinman

Analyst
Larkyn Feiler

Commission Clerk
Vacant

Counsel
Scott Browne

REGULAR MEETINGS

First Monday of each month
at 9:00 AM in the
Mendocino County
Board of Supervisors
Chambers
501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Commitment for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

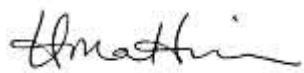
On behalf of the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission, I am writing to confirm our commitment to the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands.

This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

At the August 5, 2019 meeting of the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission, the Commission confirmed its commitment to participating in the proposal. Over the course of the grant period, our organization agrees to commit 142 labor hours which includes 40 hours of in-kind match contribution. Our participation will include contributing to Objective 4 as described in the Work Plan and other activities that support the intent of this grant and that benefit the greater community in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,



Uma Hinman
Executive Officer



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

303-C Talmage Road • Ukiah, CA. 95482 • (707) 462-6664 • Fax (707) 462-6681 • Email: admin@mendocfb.org
Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

September 3, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Commitment for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB is writing to confirm our commitment to the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture's proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*."

The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Over the course of the grant period, our organization agrees to commit 40 hours of in-kind match contribution. Our participation will include contributing to various Tasks listed in objectives 1, 3 and 4 as described in the Work Plan and other activities that support the intent of this grant and that benefit the greater community in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

George Hollister
President



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Ukiah Service Center
1252 Airport Park Blvd., Suite B-1
Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: 707-485-3236
Fax : 844-206-7018

September 5, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Commitment for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Ukiah Field Office, I am writing to confirm our commitment to the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Over the course of the grant period, our organization agrees to commit 80 labor hours which is an in-kind match contribution of \$8,000. Our participation will include contributing to Tasks 1,4,5,6,7,8,12 and 16 as described in the Work Plan and other activities that support the intent of this grant and that benefit the greater community in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Mandel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Mandel" clearly distinguishable.

Carol Mandel
District Conservationist



September 5, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Commitment for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of Mendocino Land Trust, I am writing to confirm our commitment to the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Over the course of the grant period, our organization agrees to commit 160 labor hours which includes 40 hours of in-kind match contribution. Our participation will include contributing to Tasks 5, 9-13, 15 and 16 as described in the Work Plan and other activities that support the intent of this grant and that benefit the greater community in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

Ann Cole
Executive Director

MENDOCINO LAND TRUST, PO BOX 1094, MENDOCINO CA 95460, PHONE: 707-962-0470

Inland Mendocino County Land Trust

P.O. Box 205 Ukiah, CA 95482

Inland Mendocino County Land Trust
P.O. Box 205
Ukiah, Ca. 95482
707. 972. 8879

September 6. 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Commitment for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the Inland Mendocino County Land Trust, I am writing to confirm our support for the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Over the course of the grant period, our organization agrees to commit 160 labor hours which includes 120 grant hours and 40 hours of in-kind match contribution. Our participation will include contributing to Tasks 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 as described in the Work Plan and other activities that support the intent of this grant and that benefit the greater community in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,



Alan Nicholson
President, Board of Directors
Inland Mendocino County Land Trust

**ANDERSON
VALLEY
LAND
TRUST**
INCORPORATED



P.O. BOX 141
BOONVILLE, CA
95415

707-895-3150

avlt@mcn.org

www.andersonvalleylandtrust.org

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PATRICK MILLER
JESSE RATHBUN
RACHEL TURNER WILLIAMS
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JED POGRAN
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LAURIE WAYBURN
CLARE WHEELER
PETER WILEY

Sept 5, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Commitment for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the Anderson Valley Land Trust, I am writing to confirm our commitment to the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Over the course of the grant period, our organization agrees to commit 120 labor hours, which includes 40 hours of in-kind match contribution. Our participation will include contributing to Tasks 5, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 as described in the Work Plan and other activities that support the intent of this grant and that benefit the greater community in Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Miller'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Patrick' and last name 'Miller' clearly distinguishable.

Patrick Miller
President, Board of Directors
Anderson Valley Land Trust

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: HEALTH
BUDGET
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES

Assembly California Legislature



JIM WOOD

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002
(916) 319-2002
FAX (916) 319-2102

DISTRICT OFFICES
200 S SCHOOL STREET, SUITE D
UKIAH, CA 95482
(707) 463-5770
FAX (707) 463-5773

50 D STREET, SUITE 450
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
(707) 576-2526
FAX (707) 576-2297

1036 5TH STREET, SUITE D
EUREKA, CA 95501
(707) 445-7014
FAX (707) 455-6607

September 9, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for SALC application “Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program”

Dear California Department of Conservation:

I am writing in support of the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture’s proposal entitled “Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.”

Mendocino County is fortunate to have significant agricultural land and a strong farming community that values sustainability and smart land use. As the County has grown, there has been an increased demand for affordable housing while maintaining the rural character of the county. I believe this proposal achieves that objective through supporting housing development and protecting important agricultural land.

This proposal is in line with the State’s greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by not only preserving specified agricultural lands from conversion, but also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. The Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

I believe this collaboration is critical to ensuring Mendocino County maintains its agricultural assets while supporting sustainable growth and economic resiliency. Thank you for your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Wood".

JIM WOOD

Assemblymember 2nd District



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mendocino County

890 N. Bush Street
Ukiah, California 95482
707-463-4495 office
gtmcgourty@ucanr.edu



September 5, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for SALC application “*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*”

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the UCCE Mendocino County Office, I am writing to confirm our support for the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled “*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*.” The proposal supports the State’s greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Our organization believes this collaboration is critical to ensuring Mendocino County preserves its agricultural assets while supporting sustainable growth and economic resiliency. We look forward to participating in related workshops and other activities that benefit the greater community of Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

Glenn McGourty,
County Director, Winegrowing and Plant Science Advisor



RCH

Rural Communities Housing DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

499 Leslie St. Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 463-1975

www.rchdc.org

Rural Communities Housing
Development Corporation
499 Leslie Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Sept 9, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation, I am writing to confirm our support for the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

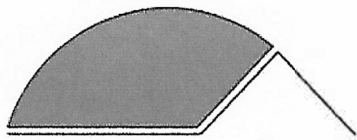
- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Our organization believes this collaboration is critical to ensuring Mendocino County preserves its agricultural assets while supporting sustainable growth and economic resiliency. We look forward to participating in related workshops and other activities that benefit the greater community of Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

Ryan LaRue
Director of Development

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**Anderson Valley
Housing Association**

Making Affordable Housing a Reality

Sept 4th, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the Anderson Valley Housing Association, I am writing to confirm our support for the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Our organization believes this collaboration is critical to ensuring Mendocino County preserves its agricultural assets while supporting sustainable growth and economic resiliency. We look forward to participating in related workshops and other activities that benefit the greater community of Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gold
President of the Board



Scott Cratty
General Manager
725 Vichy Hills Drive
Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: (707) 462-7377
cratty@comcast.net

Sept 10, 2019

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support for SALC application "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*"

Dear California Department of Conservation,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Farmers' Market Association (MCFARM), I am writing to confirm our support for the County of Mendocino Department of Agriculture proposal entitled "*Mendocino County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*." The proposal supports the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by protection of agricultural lands from conversion while also encouraging smart growth to address residential housing demands. This Program consists of four key objectives:

- 1.) Develop an agricultural component for the Mendocino County Climate Action Plan.
- 2.) Expand the Carbon Farm Planning Program and local Soil Health Initiative.
- 3.) Increase participation in Williamson Act and Conservation Easement programs.
- 4.) Increase communication with diverse stakeholders regarding the coalescence of agricultural land conservation and sustainable housing development.

Due substantially to the lack of available agricultural lands MCFARM has experienced the loss of numerous promising young agriculturalists, aspiring young persons who were eager to bring economic development, greater food security and modern, sustainable growing practices to our hungry local economy. Our organization believes this collaboration is critical to ensuring Mendocino County preserves its agricultural assets while supporting sustainable growth and economic resiliency. We look forward to participating in related workshops and other activities that benefit the greater community of Mendocino County.

Sincerely,

Scott Cratty
General Manager (MCFARM)