Programs and Funding Opportunities

Working Lands Protection and Capacity Building

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The Department of Conservation  
Division of Land Resource Protection

Agenda:

• Overview of our services and programs

• Provide information on our grant programs

• Answer your questions
Programs the Division administers:

- Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
- Agricultural Land Mitigation Program
- California Farmland Conservancy Program
- Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program
- Resource Conservation District Assistance Program
- Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
- Transformative Climate Communities Program
- Watershed Coordinators Program
- Williamson Act
What does the Division of Land Resource Protection do?

**Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program (FMMP)**
- Surveys almost all of public and private land in California, using aerial photography
- Identifies how land is used (urban, rural, grazing, irrigated farmland, etc.)
- Provides maps, statistics, and GIS data to the public and planners

**How?**

1. WE MAP HOW FARMLAND CHANGES OVER TIME
   - FMMP

2. WE PROTECT FARMS FROM DEVELOPMENT
   - (A) CFCP* and SALCP pay farmers to keep their land in ag, permanently.
   - (B) ALMP offsets farmland developed for the California High-Speed Rail Authority by conserving farmland elsewhere.
   - (C) Williamson Act reduces the amount of property taxes that farmers pay if they agree not to develop. These are ten- or twenty-year contracts.

3. WE SUPPORT LOCAL PLANNING AND PROTECTION
   - RCDs and Watershed Coordinators provide services for local conservation projects.

*Program acronyms defined on back
The Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection

FARMERS NEED LAND TO GROW FOOD

43% OF OUR LAND IS USED FOR AGRICULTURE

CALIFORNIA HAS SOME OF THE BEST FARMLAND IN THE WORLD

OUR HIGH QUALITY LANDS ARE ALSO THE MOST THREATENED BY DEVELOPMENT

CALIFORNIA'S BEST FARMLAND IS RIGHT ON THE URBAN EDGE.

WHEN DEVELOPMENT LOOMS, LAND PRICES SKYROCKET.

RURAL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT INHIBITS FARMING.
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

- Continuously funded by California’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
- 90,000 acres protected
- $124 million to since FY14/15

Agricultural conservation easements

Eligible entities: land trusts, cities, counties, RCDs, open space districts, tribes
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Sustainable Ag Lands Conservation Planning

Eligible entities:
Cities, counties, LAFCOs, special districts
California Farmland Conservancy Program

- 59,000 acres protected since 1996
- $86 million to date, mostly bond funded
- Department of Conservation has requested $5m for easements for FY 19/20
$17,000,000 is available for agricultural conservation easements

• Funds projects in Fresno, Madera, Merced, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties
• Funds 100% of project costs
• Funds stewardship endowments
• Guidelines now posted for public comment
Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program (Prop 68)

Guidelines

- Land Trust Capacity Solicitation
- Local and Regional Planning Solicitation
- Future Solicitations
$950,000 is available for two types of land trust capacity projects:

- **Project Development** – up to $75,000
  - Solicitation scheduled to be released May 31
  - Applications due July 31
  - Awards announced Sept 5

- **Priority/Strategic Planning** – up to $10,000
Land Trust Capacity Grant Objectives

Land trust capacity grants are intended to achieve the following objectives:

- Increase agricultural land conservation throughout the state
- Support climate adaptation and resilience via agricultural lands conservation
Eligibility

- Land trusts
- Other agricultural nonprofit organizations
Project Development

Scope

Activities that result in specific, funding-ready agricultural land conservation projects

Maximum Award

$75,000
Priority/Strategic Planning

Scope

Integrate agricultural land conservation and climate adaptation into a conservation strategy or plan

Maximum Award

$10,000

Introduction  |  General Information  |  Grant Programs  |  Questions
Eligible Costs

Staff Time
- Hourly Rates
- Benefits
- Taxes
- Leave

Outreach & Collaboration
- Collaboration
- Outreach and engagement
- Youth engagement

Education/Training
- Up to 2% of the grant award
- Direct costs to attend trainings and meetings to improve expertise in agricultural land conservation
Eligible Costs

**Travel**

- In-State
- Must be necessary to complete the project
- Subject to the grant solicitation and grant agreement

**Indirect Costs**

- No more than 10% of grant award
- Office space
- Supplies and equipment
- Legal or management oversight
- Insurance

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Local and Regional Planning Projects

$950,000 is available for 5 types of local and regional agricultural land conservation planning

- Climate Action Plans
- Sustainable Communities Strategies
- General Plans
- Specific Plans
- TerraCount Adoption
Local and Regional Planning Grant Objectives

Planning projects should achieve the following program objectives:

• Protect agricultural and working lands from conversion to more intensified uses

• Protect natural resources

• Support local government efforts to achieve statewide objectives
Questions?
THANK YOU

Questions and Comments

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