

LAFCO MEMORANDUM

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

105 East Anapamu Street • Santa Barbara CA 93101 • (805) 568-3391 + Fax (805) 568-2249

October 10, 2024 (Agenda)

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Mike Prater
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: REPORT ON SALC GRANT PROGRAM

This is an Informational Report. No Action is Necessary

SUMMARY

This status report is to bring the Commission and public up-to-date with regard to the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Grant Partnership Program (SALC) being studied between interested partnerships.

The Commission adopted its Work Plan in January to seek broad partnership of local groups to participate in the next round of grant funding. Since the Commission's last update on May 2, 2024, a handful of meetings have continued to pursue various interested parties to determine if an application for a planning grant can be achieved within the timeline of Round 10 funding. The update is for information and provides an opportunity for the Commission to ask questions or provide related feedback as grant work would extend over 2 years.

BACKGROUND

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) program was created in 2014 as a component of the California Strategic Growth Council and administered by the Department of Conservation. The program is primarily funded through the California Climate Investments, a statewide program that provides cap-and-trade funds through agricultural conservation, acquisition, and planning grants for programs intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. SALC seeks to protect at-risk agricultural lands from sprawl development to promote growth within existing jurisdictions, ensure open space remains available, and support a healthy

agricultural economy.

A core team of approximately 12 public agencies, local organization, and non-profits, along with technical assistance (TA) group to support the mission of SALC Grant application have come together. The SALC Grant Application likely would entail four primary goals 1) Climate Resiliency, 2) Expanding mapping tools (updating SB County Conservation Blueprint), 3) Prioritization of at-risk areas, 4) Policy determinations, as deemed appropriate. Additional co-benefits include broad stakeholder participation, outreach and engagement, priority population, and tribal involvement opportunities and others as each identified goal is further defined which may assist in the pursue of projects underway by other groups. This planning grant would bring together a non-regulatory regional plan for developing strategies of future investments to meet these goals. Specific actions and deliverable will still need to be worked out as the grant team prepares a pre-proposal application.

DISCUSSION

Santa Barbara LAFCO will collaborate with the core team in narrowing a summary project description, draft work plan, draft budget, outreach, and specific focus areas for each partnership.

Partnerships

- *Santa Barbara LAFCO (SBLAFCO)*
- *Santa Barbara County AG Commissioner Office*
- *Santa Barbara County Planning & Development Department*
- *Santa Barbara County Sustainability Division*
- *Cachuma Resource Conservation District*
- *Land Trust for Santa Barbara County*
- *Santa Barbara Community Environmental Council*
- *Conservation Biology Institute*
- *Legacy Works Group*
- *Other Stakeholders and supporters*

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.