

LAFCO MEMORANDUM

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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May 2, 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

DISCUSSION

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. The goal is to pursue along with others a SALC planning grant to further LAFCOs goals of protecting at risk agricultural and working lands from development. LAFCO envisions expanding the land inventory of viable AG/Farmland within and around the corridor of urban City limits, that can be identified as prime protection sites, thereby, also recognizing potential available areas for reasonable urban development.

BACKGROUND

A Kick-Off meeting was held with interested parties on February 27, 2024 to discuss the SALC Program and seek partnerships on preparing an application. From this initial meeting, a number of interest groups were excited about the approach and opportunity to get involved. A smaller sub-group gathered to reach a broader audience using the Climate-Smart Ag and Land Stewardship Subcommittee that has potential interested members for preparing a strong SALC Grant application. This Smart Ag and Land Stewardship

Subcommittee will meet on May 9, 2024 to explore solidifying a core team, scope of grant application, outreach for technical assistance, and identifying specific roles of team members. LAFCO Executive Officer also met with technical assistance (TA) team to better understand best practices when applying for a SALC Grant. The TA will most likely provide guidance to the core team as we move forward with the program.

The State SALC team has set the timeline for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program's Round 10 Guidelines. Dates are noted below:

- *Draft Guidelines released for comment: **July 24, 2024***
- *Public comment closed: **August 24, 2024***
- *Guidelines adoption: **October 31, 2024***
- *Acquisition and Planning Pre-proposals due: **January 31, 2025***
- *Applications due (all grant types): **July 3, 2025***
- *Project Awards: **October 2025***

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.