Advancing Opportunity & Equity through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program

SALC aims to fight climate change – by protecting our critical agricultural lands from development or conversion to non-agricultural uses. It is a crucial investment in California’s future to protect agricultural communities, while also supporting infill and compact development.

SALC PROJECT TYPES

Planning Grants – develop and implement plans for the protection of agricultural lands at risk of conversion.

Acquisition Grants – permanently protect important agricultural land under threat of conversion.

Capacity and Project Development Grants – expand organizational capacity to develop acquisition projects.

UC ANR GOALS AND SUCCESSES

Identify regional barriers to land use planning and make recommendations to address needs

Connect clientele to services and resources to support climate-smart opportunities

Increase the number of project applications from San Joaquin Valley and Southern California

Developed a planning capacity survey and regional needs assessments

Improved familiarity with SALC for multiple new & engaged organizations

Assisted 3 planning grants awarded in 2022 through education and outreach efforts

Recommended strategic updates to 2023 SALC Guidelines to advance equity

Developed relationships with California Native American Tribes and priority populations

Supported 11 regional acquisition and capacity grants in 2022

ELEVATING PRIORITY POPULATIONS IN PLANNING

California Native American Tribes:
• Strengthen engagement and outreach and develop meaningful relationships with Federally and non-Federally recognized Tribes
• Support traditional ecological knowledge practices

Regionally under-represented groups:
• Boost regionally-specific resources, visuals, examples, and communication to bolster applications
• Present and network at regional and statewide conferences

Socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers:
• Connect priority groups with land trusts, conservancies, and acquisition clientele
• Expand technical assistance within UC ANR to boost capacity, incentives, and SALC applications regionally

PROGRAM IMPACTS

$6.7 million awarded for 30 Planning Grants

$356 million awarded for 166 Acquisition Grants

$4.3 million awarded for 20 Capacity and Project Development Grants

Over 195,000 acres of ag lands protected or to be protected

For more information and resources, please see the DOC SALC Program page:

2023 (ROUND 9) SALC TIMELINE

February
Draft Guidelines Available for Comment

March
Public Comment Closes

April
Guidelines Adopted at SGC Meeting

June
Acquisition, Planning Pre-Proposals Due

July-Sept
Full Applications Due

December
Awards Announced at SGC Meeting