



San Diego County
Local Agency Formation Commission
 Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

5f

AGENDA REPORT
 Consent | Information

March 6, 2023

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Priscilla Mumpower, Analyst II

SUBJECT: Notice of State Planning Grant Award |
 Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform and Support Economically Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will receive notice of a new planning grant award from the State Department of Conservation and its Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program. The award follows the Commission’s authorization in August 2022 to proceed with submitting an application to expand on current grant activities by LAFCO in assessing local agricultural trends and proceed with performing market analysis to help inform small farming operations. The State has provided notice to LAFCO and co-applicant County of San Diego’s Planning and Development Services to award a two-year grant in the full amount of \$500,000. Work on the new grant is anticipated to commence in June 2023. This item is being presented for information only.

BACKGROUND

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) was created in 2014 and presently completing its seventh round of grant funding. It is a component of the California Strategic Growth Council’s Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and administered by the Department of Conservation. SALC is primarily funded through

Administration: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103 T 619.321.3380 E lafco@sdcounty.ca.gov www.sdlafco.org	Chair Jim Desmond County of San Diego	Kristi Becker City of Solana Beach	Vice Chair Stephen Whitburn City of San Diego	Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation	Andy Vanderlaan General Public
	Joel Anderson County of San Diego	Dane White City of Escondido	Marni von Wilpert, Alt. City of San Diego	Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection	Harry Mathis, Alt. General Public
	Nora Vargas, Alt. County of San Diego	John McCann, Alt. City of Chula Vista		David A. Drake, Alt. Rincon del Diablo	

California Climate Investments, which is a statewide program that provides cap-and-trade monies through agricultural conservation and related planning grants to eligible applicants for the underlying purpose of reducing – directly or indirectly – greenhouse gas emissions.

The principal goals of SALC are stated as:

- Protect agricultural lands to support infill and compact development.
- Further the purposes of Assembly Bill 32 by avoiding increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

Existing SALC Grant Award

In August 2020, San Diego LAFCO and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County collaborated in submitting a planning grant application under SALC to identify and track agricultural trends in San Diego County. The Commission – notably – authorized the grant proposal as lead applicant. LAFCO was subsequently awarded a two-year grant in the full amount of \$250,000 with work commencing in June 2021. Work on “SALC 1.0” is now nearing its completion with a report currently under preparation on key findings and recommendations. Staff anticipates presenting the final report as early as May 2023.

DISCUSSION

This item is for San Diego LAFCO to receive notice of a new planning grant award from the State to expand on its current SALC 1.0 activities in the full requested amount of \$500,000. The award provides funding for LAFCO and co-applicant County Planning and Development Services to expand on SALC 1.0 and perform market analysis for existing and emerging crops – with focus on small-farms – while also identifying government opportunities to help bridge economic gaps. A copy of the award letter and submitted grant proposal are provided as Attachments One and Two, respectively.

Proceeding immediately forward, staff separately anticipates drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Planning and Development Services to guide implementation of “SALC 2.0”. This includes assigning key roles and related deliverables while also addressing each agency’s 10% matching contribution requirement through dedicated staff time. Staff anticipates bringing forward a draft MOU for Commission approval as early as April 2023.

ANALYSIS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for information only.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The item is presented for information only.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

This item has been placed on the San Diego LAFCO's agenda as part of the consent calendar. A successful motion to approve the consent calendar will include taking affirmative action on the recommendation unless otherwise specified by the Commission.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower
Analyst II

Attachments:

- 1) Planning Grant Award Letter
- 2) Planning Grant Proposal

Blank for Photocopying



December 16, 2022

Priscilla Mumpower
San Diego LAFCO & County of San Diego

Via Email to: Priscilla.mumpower@sdcounty.ca.gov

Re: Planning Grant Application for Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Funding

Dear Priscilla,

Thank you for your planning grant application to Round 8 of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Program solicitation. The Department of Conservation received over \$1.4 million in planning grant applications. We are pleased to have received quality proposals demonstrating a strong commitment to local and regional planning efforts that protect and restore agricultural lands at risk of conversion to other uses.

It is my pleasure to inform you that your proposal "Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County" has been awarded \$450,000 in project funding.

Department of Conservation staff will work with you to complete the draft grant agreement. Staff will also work with you to update the budget, work plan, or other elements of your grant proposal as appropriate. The grant agreement must be fully executed before expenses can be incurred.

We look forward to working with you and wish you success in implementing your work plan. Should you have any questions, please contact Cassidy McSurdy, grant manager, at Cassidy.McSurdy@conservation.ca.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our program!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keali'i Bright".

Keali'i Bright
Director, Division of Land Resource Protection

Blank for Photocopying

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Greening Agriculture:
Market Analysis to Inform +
Support Economically
Sustainable Small Farming in
San Diego County

Agricultural Lands Conservation Planning Grant Application

CHECKLIST	
✓	Completed Cover Sheet
✓	Executive Summary
✓	Application Questions
✓	Work Plan
✓	Budget
✓	Map(s) of the Project's Geographic Area
✓	Signed Authorizing Resolution from Governing Bodies
✓	Priority Population Benefits Checklist (Optional)
✓	Stakeholder Collaboration Letters (Optional)

PLANNING GRANT COVER SHEET

Project Title	Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Economically Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County
Applicant Name	San Diego LAFCO & County of San Diego (PDS)
Department/Office	n/a
Federal Employer ID Number	95-6000934 (LAFCO)
Mailing Address	2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725, San Diego CA 92023
Location (County and/or City)	San Diego County
Requesting Priority Population Benefits Status (circle one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N If yes, you will need to submit a Priority Population Benefits Checklist with your application
Grant Request Amount	\$450,000.00
Matching Funds Pending	\$0.00
Matching Funds Committed	\$50,000.00 (staff time)
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$500,000.00
Contact Person	Priscilla Mumpower
Title	Analyst II
Phone Number	619-321-3380
Email Address	Priscilla.mumpower@sdcounty.ca.gov

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Planning Grant Proposal

Executive Summary

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) plans to collaborate with the County of San Diego's (County) Planning and Development Services to implement the proposed project under the SALC program. The proposed project seeks to generate comprehensive and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with a focus on aiding small-scale farming operations that otherwise have limited resources and support.

According to the USDA Agriculture Census, San Diego County is home to more than 5,000 farms on approximately 222,100 acres.¹ On a national scale, the San Diego region is the 19th largest farm economy in the United States, is the second-leading producer of avocado and nursery crops, accommodates more small farms (less than 10 acres in size), and employs the most part-time farmers.² Current grant work is illuminating current pressures affecting farmers such as water availability/costs, workforce challenges, and competing priorities between housing needs and preservation of agricultural lands that are increasingly threatening the viability of farms across the region.

The proposed planning project serves as a major extension of current grant work and aims to support existing and emerging farmers and, in doing so, curb the premature conversion of agricultural lands. The project will also serve to inform local agencies' decision-making to further aid, preserve, and maximize the vital contributions – economic, environmental, and public health benefits – that small-scale farms offer the county. This will involve the following primary deliverables:

- **A market analysis** highlighting market information and best practice data specific to the San Diego County region, including measurements such as average return on investment (ROI) for key crops, average ROI needed to sustain a small farm, and identification of key cost centers for the average small farm in the region
- **A gap analysis** that identifies the “gap” in costs and ROI between marginal farms and economically sustainable farms
- **A strategic plan** on prospective mechanisms such as incentives, technical support, programs, and regulatory streamlining to help bridge the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of small farms while maximizing their contribution to environmental, economic, and public health benefits
- **An outreach and education plan** that aims to inform and educate the agricultural community – including disadvantaged, low-income, and underrepresented groups – on the project, gather input to assist in the overall implementation of the project, and in doing so, advance equity and opportunity in the region

San Diego County LAFCO and the County, as co-applicants and project managers, will collaborate with multiple relevant agencies involved with land use and agricultural and environmental planning. This project will also leverage the knowledge and expertise of an agricultural economist in generating the market and best practice information.

¹ USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. (2017). Census of Agriculture – County Data. [st06_2_0001_0001.pdf \(usda.gov\)](#)

² San Diego County Farm Bureau. [San Diego Agriculture – The San Diego County Farm Bureau \(sdfarmbureau.org\)](#)

Application Questions

1. **Are you a county, city, local area formation commission, council of government, municipal planning organization, regional transportation planning agency, groundwater sustainability agency, or special district with land use or transportation planning authority, or a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission?**

Yes. The proposed planning project involves a joint partnership between two eligible applicants: The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and the County of San Diego via its Planning & Development Services Department. San Diego County LAFCO will serve as the lead applicant.

2. **Are you a Resource Conservation District, special districts with a mission related to agricultural preservation, academic institutions, land trusts and other agricultural non-profit organizations? Have you partnered with one or more of the organizations listed above? Will you be able to provide evidence by the time of the application that one or more of the organizations listed above will enter into a memorandum of understanding for the project demonstrating support for the project and SALC's purposes, detailing the partners roles in the project and that the partners will consider adopting the plan resulting from the project.**

No, N/A.

3. **Describe the proposed planning project. Include details such as the anticipated outcome and deliverables are expected; agricultural land base, economy, and regional food systems and infrastructure within the project area; amount and quality of agricultural land that can be expected to receive protection through the proposed project. Include maps of important farmland, jurisdictional boundaries, and other pertinent data that would portray the project scope (as attachments to the application).**

Agricultural Land Base

Declining agricultural trends in San Diego County, if not carefully addressed, will continue to negatively impact our local farming communities, our rural economies, and the larger San Diego region. The proposed planning project area includes both unincorporated and incorporated areas within the San Diego region, totaling approximately 4,206 square miles and including 3.22 million residents.³ According to the County's 2020 Crop Statistics and Annual Report, the overall acreage devoted to commercial agriculture decreased from 234,477 acres in 2019 to 224,549 acres in 2020 by about 10,000 acres or 4.2% overall.⁴ According to the California Farmland Conversion Report 2014-2016, San Diego County had the 5th highest net loss of irrigated farmland among all counties in California during the study period.⁵ Approximately 91% of farms in the county are

³ SANDAG. (2016). Demographics in the San Diego Region. [publicationid_2001_20213.pdf \(sandag.org\)](#)

⁴ County of San Diego Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures. (2020). 2020 Crop Statistics and Annual Report.

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/awm/docs/2020CropReportSanDiego.pdf>

⁵ California Department of Conservation. (2016). California Farmland Conversion Report.

https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/2014-2016_Farmland_Conversion_Report.aspx

under 50 acres, and about 70% of the total farms are less than 10 acres, well below state averages, highlighting the prevalence of small farms in San Diego County.⁶

Economy

The agricultural economy in the greater San Diego region remains within the top 20 counties in the United States but has lost significant ground in growing citrus and avocados due to natural and urbanization pressures. In 2020, the direct economic output from agricultural production totaled \$1,810,326,411. This equates to an increase of about \$15 million, or 0.8% from 2019's total value of \$1,795,528,573. While ornamental and nursery crops continue to yield the greatest percentage of the region's agricultural production, the value of the Field Crops group decreased 34% and the value of the Field, Other (such as alfalfa, clover, sugarcane) commodities decreased 63% from 2019 to 2020.⁴ Despite facing disrupted supply chains, challenges due to labor shortages, the need to protect workers against COVID-19, and inevitably the need to retool business models, San Diego's agriculture industry has prevailed through the continued innovation and resilience of local farmers.

Regional Food Systems

Although 95% of agricultural land in the County is dedicated to food production, only 30% of the total economic value of agriculture derives from food production, with the remaining 70% deriving from nursery and cut flower products.⁴ Food produced in San Diego County is distributed through three pathways: 1) directly to the consumer through farmers' and fishermen's markets and shares in community supported agriculture (CSA), 2) directly to organizations and businesses, and 3) through traditional distributors to organizations and businesses. There is high demand for locally sourced food; however, distributors lack a coordinated system or platform for viewing the crop supply by farm in order to meet demand of locally sourced food. On the other hand, small producers do not benefit from economies of scale, and it is difficult for them to meet the volume demanded from larger organizations and businesses. The challenges of distributors and producers are passed to the consumer in the form of higher prices. A concerted effort needs to occur to build up community awareness around the value of local food in order for businesses, organizations, and communities to place a higher value on local food.

Infrastructure

Conducting business and profitability, along with water, soil, and pest management were identified as key challenges for commercial agriculture.⁶ Furthermore, climate change may have an increased impact on production challenges, such as increased heat and a diminishing water supply. Urban agriculture is emerging in densely populated areas of San Diego County to provide food access and promote community development. Some challenges with urban agriculture in San Diego County are the high cost of real estate, high cost of water at residential rates, and the diversity of policies and regulations related to urban agriculture throughout San Diego County's 19 jurisdictions.

⁶ County of San Diego. (2019). The State of the Food System in the San Diego Region. <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/lueg/docs/State-of-the-Food-System-for-the-San-Diego-Region-November-2019.pdf>

Anticipated Outcome

In order to deliver meaningful and impactful solutions for our struggling farming communities, particularly small farms, it is critical to identify the true underlying causes specific to the San Diego region. Sustainable agriculture promotes the economic viability of agriculture while preserving natural resources and the environment, relying on detailed planning based on timely information to effectively account for present and emerging market conditions. The proposed planning project intends to generate comprehensive and timely market information and best practice data to support and preserve agriculture in San Diego County, with focus on aiding small-scale farming operations that otherwise have limited resources to perform this type of analysis and/or lack access to resources. The project will directly draw on current Round 6 SALC Planning Grant work, which is exploring local agricultural trends and challenges (#3020-907) while further transitioning from qualitative to quantitative data through the market data collection, aggregation, and gap analysis.

The proposed planning project aims to support existing and emerging farmers and in doing so curb the premature conversion of agricultural lands in the region. Through the current grant work, a needs assessment was distributed to agricultural producers across the San Diego region to identify their concerns regarding long-term viability of farming operations. This has informed ongoing policy sessions and collaboration to address land access, workforce development, and water availability related to agriculture. Representatives from local jurisdictions, supporting organizations, and local producers are developing recommendations to achieve strategic initiatives to resolve these key issues.

A Technical Team has also been working to identify and prioritize agricultural lands based on current conditions, land use, natural resource criteria, environmental concerns, and development threat. A map displaying important farmland, jurisdictional boundaries, and approximate locations of agricultural lands has been compiled (see Map of the Project Geographic Area) using data from the County's Department of Agricultural Weights & Measures, San Diego Association of Governments, US Forest Service, SanGIS, and the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.

Deliverables

The project will also serve to inform local agencies' decision-making to further aid, preserve, and maximize the vital contributions – economic, environmental, and public health benefits – that small-scale farms offer the County. This will involve the following primary deliverables:

- **A market analysis** highlighting market information and best practice data specific to the San Diego County region and involving market data collection and aggregation to identify:
 - Average return on investments (ROIs) for key crops
 - Average ROI needed to sustain small farms over time (potentially beyond the region)
 - Key cost centers for the average small farm in the region (i.e., costs of water, labor, equipment, and entry into farming)

Some of the market information generated from the proposed planning project is not readily available at this time and will close a “gap” in available market information. The closest known comparable information involves the Ag Commission and their annual tracking/reporting of crop values on a per-acre basis. The Ag Commission – however – does not account for associated costs, whereas the proposed planning project will and in doing so will address net values.

- **A gap analysis** that identifies the “gap” in ROI between marginal farms and economically sustainable farms and identify the key cost centers contributing to the “gap”.
- **A strategic plan** on prospective mechanisms such as incentives, technical support, programs, and regulatory streamlining to help bridge the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of small farms while maximizing environmental, economic, and public health benefits.

Mechanisms to be considered will be driven by best practice research and stakeholder input. These will include – but are not limited to – carbon farming programs, technical or other support in identifying viable crop types for the future, and incentives or other opportunities to increase the environmental sustainability of agriculture with a net financial benefit. This proposed project intends to explore potential opportunities to maximize environmental, economic, and public health benefits:

- **A carbon farming implementation program** to reduce GHG emissions through a sequestration program or other incentivizes for sustainable farming practices
- **A crop-swap/conversion program** to encourage and incentivize water conservation efforts while providing water cost reduction benefits to producers
- **Identify potential improvements to:**
 - The County’s Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program to continue efforts focused on promoting the long-term preservation of agricultural lands⁷
 - The County’s Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program to incentivize upgrades to irrigation systems for both water and cost savings⁸
- Identify a potential program or criteria for **facilitating farm-worker housing and/or streamlining regulations**
- **An outreach and education plan** that aims to inform and educate the agricultural community – including disadvantaged, low-income, and under-represented groups – on the project as well as gather input to assist in the overall implementation of the project, and in doing so advance equity and opportunity in the region.

⁷ County of San Diego. (2021). County of San Diego Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program. <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/advance/PACE/PACE-Guidelines-2021.pdf>

⁸ County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program. <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/RebatesIncentives/AIEP.html>

The stakeholder outreach plan will involve circulating the market information, gathering input regarding key cost centers [identified in part in current grant effort (#3020-907)], and identifying best practices for government and other partners to assist in bridging the economic gap and, in doing so, increase the economic sustainability of farming in the region. Data collections with the local farming community has proven difficult in the past, however the strong relationships being created through the administration of the Round 6 SALC Planning Grant will continue to be utilized. The outreach plan will include publication efforts to educate current and prospective farmers on available and related resources. The outreach plan will also involve concerted focus on connecting with disadvantaged and under-represented groups in San Diego county's agricultural community to better reflect overall demographics. To date, outreach efforts have resulted in six letters of support, as included within this application packet.

4. Why and to what extent agricultural land is being converted to other uses within project area? To what extent those conversion risks are expected to continue? How will the proposed project address those conversion risks?

The County's Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures prepared the 2020 Crop Statistics and Annual Report, which estimates that the overall acreage devoted to commercial agriculture in San Diego County decreased from 234,477 acres in 2019 to 224,549 acres in 2020 reflecting an approximate decline of 10,000 acres or 4.2%.⁹ Relatedly, and to the merits of focusing the planning project's benefits to smaller operations, the County separately developed the State of the Food System Report in collaboration with San Diego Food System Alliance in 2019; this report estimates 70% of all remaining farms in San Diego County are small and operate on less than 10 acres.¹⁰

The risk of continued conversions due to challenges in meeting rising water, land, and infrastructure costs are expected to continue and would directly impact a farmer's ability to sustain their operation. Housing needs are an increasingly competitive priority at the State and local level and contribute to the pressure experienced by farmers to conclude their operations are structurally unbalanced – with costs exceeding revenues – and monetary relief is otherwise limited to selling their lands to developers or for other non-agricultural uses.

The proposed planning project aims to address these existing conversion risks by providing timely market information to assist existing farmers in planning appropriate course corrections in remaining or becoming sustainable as well as assisting prospective farmers in proceeding with informed and sustainable start-up operations. Moreover, data generated through this project will aid local governments in revisiting tools, programs, and resources to support farmers in the shared interest of preserving agriculture in perpetuity.

LAFCO can draw on the market information to make wise decisions to implement its planning and regulatory powers with respect to balancing smart growth and

⁹ County of San Diego. (2020). Crop Statistics and Annual Report. <https://ucanr.edu/sites/sdsmallfarms/files/357833.pdf>

¹⁰ County of San Diego. (2019). The State of the Food System in the San Diego Region. <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/lueg/docs/State-of-the-Food-System-for-the-San-Diego-Region-November-2019.pdf>

agriculture preservation. Currently, LAFCO's decision-making on jurisdictional changes – and specifically whether an area is suitable for future agricultural production – is limited to otherwise sterile maps to show “agricultural” lands paired with judging the word of proponent/opponents. Having a market tool to independently assess the viability of agriculture production and its thresholds would be a useful and welcomed addition to LAFCO's toolbox. LAFCO may also partner on prospective tools, incentives, and best practices to support agriculture based on information obtained.

The County can similarly draw on the market information and best practices data to identify opportunities to create or employ incentives or other tools, programs, or resources to help increase the economic, and potentially environmental, sustainability of farming in the region, particularly for small farms and historically underserved farmers.

5. How will the project avoid or reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Reducing GHG emissions is increasingly part of the regulatory scheme underlying agriculture in California, often headlined by stricter equipment and vehicle emissions standards that affect farming production and related delivery systems. The proposed planning project aims to produce comprehensive and timely market information by identifying baseline thresholds for current and prospective farmers to achieve economic sustainability. In addition, as part of the exploration of governmental mechanisms and incentives to increase the financial viability of farming, programs such as carbon farming programs, facilitation of farm-worker housing, and improvements to current programs will be explored. Additional details follow.

- A carbon farming program to incentivize sustainable farming practices; which in turn reduces GHG emissions and has positive public health benefits due to reduced pollution burdens. This will complement direction received on August 31, 2022 (6) from the County's Board of Supervisors to develop a Pilot Carbon Farming Program with options for program implementation, including a list of identified pilot projects.
- Avoidance of premature conversion of agricultural lands can be achieved by empowering farmers and local governments to maintain working lands through preservation of land that can otherwise be developed. GHG emissions reductions are realized from a reduction in transportation, energy use, waste, and water consumptions via reduced development potential.
- Streamlining regulations and/or exploring potential policies and/or programs to facilitate farm-worker housing may directly impact and reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Reducing VMTs by providing on-site housing for farmworkers would lead to an overall avoidance of GHG emissions. This compliments SANDAG's and local jurisdictions' current efforts in meeting State directives to reduce GHG emissions and achieve “carbon neutrality” by 2045.

Supporting new farmers and their agricultural activities through timely market information, coupled with opportunities for local government to enact supportive policies, further aids in the overall goal of reducing GHG emissions via the protection against increasing VMT demands associated with fringe urban development and unsustainable farming practices. This work is consistent with the

goals of the California Climate Investment program and will specifically utilize a diverse mix of landscape-scale management actions that follow industry standards and will make an ecologically meaningful difference by providing enduring and sustainable co-benefits and accelerating carbon sequestration towards GHG reductions.

6. How will the proposed project implement an adopted or draft Sustainable Communities Strategy or, if a Sustainable Communities Strategy is not required for a region by law, a regional plan that includes policies and programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Provide references to the specific goals, objectives, or policies that the project supports.

The proposed planning project aligns directly with the current Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) included within the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan adopted by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) in October 2011. Furthermore, SANDAG most recently adopted the 2021 Regional Plan in December 2021, which further details an updated SCS.¹¹ The SCS seeks to guide the region toward a more sustainable future by integrating land use, housing, and transportation planning to create communities that are more sustainable, walkable, transit-oriented, and compact. The proposed planning project and its focus on informing and supporting smart and sustainable agriculture is integral to the SCS vision and ties to maintaining commercially viable greenbelts. These greenbelts help to curb sprawl and redirect growth towards infill, provide local food supplies, and give urban dwellers important visual connectivity to agriculture and its role in their region's smart(er) growth. The proposed planning project compliments SANDAG's efforts in meeting goals outlined within the SCS by informing the financial feasibility of farmers to upgrade equipment and in doing so reduce GHG emissions on the ground. Exploring topics such as carbon farming programs, streamlining farm-worker housing, and protecting agricultural lands from premature conversion may have an overall reduction in GHG emissions. The proposed grant work would also aid and inform SANDAG of relevant market information and best practice data in their consideration and planning of financial incentives for farmlands throughout the region.

The proposed planning project similarly supports the SCS by providing a channel for SANDAG to further inform its separate – but related – implementation of Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Program grant monies. This could and/or ideally includes SANDAG using the market information generated by the proposed planning project in strategically investing AHSC monies into farm-worker housing.

The proposed planning project also aligns directly with the County's 2018 Climate Action Plan (CAP), which is currently being revised in partnership with residents, business, and environmental groups. The Board directed staff to take bold climate action that mitigates beyond state targets to net zero and below by 2035-2045. Proposed strategies within the Agriculture & Conservation sector of the updated CAP include measures to increase carbon sequestration, further preserve agricultural lands, and support climate friendly farming practices. The proposed

¹¹ SANDAG. (2021). SANDAG's San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan: Appendix D: Sustainable Communities Strategy Documentation and Related Information. [appendix-d---scs-documentation-and-related-information---updated.pdf \(sdforward.com\)](https://www.sandag.org/files/2021/12/Appendix-D---SCS-Documentation-and-Related-Information---Updated.pdf)

planning project will provide insight into the economic feasibility of implementing programs or activities that will support the goals of the County's CAP.

7. How is the proposed plan consistent with [California's Planning Priorities](#)?

The proposed planning project readily aligns with and mirrors California's Planning Priorities, specifically to protect environmental and agricultural resources by making them more resilient to economic and environmental stressors. California consistently faces multiple severe and frequent climatic events and safeguarding agricultural lands in San Diego County directly aligns with California's Planning Priorities to combat these issues by developing a more resilient and sustainable agricultural industry in coming decades. Generating good and timely market information and identifying best practices serves to enhance and protect the greenbelts that zoning currently provides around our urban centers. In doing so, development is directed towards existing urban area footprints with appropriate access to transportation and other essential utilities and services. This information will also serve as a self-fulfilling exercise in protecting, expanding, and enhancing agricultural resources.

8. What economic, environmental, public health, cultural or other co-benefits that would arise from the project? How will those co-benefits be measured?

The proposed planning project represents a complementary extension of the current Round 6 SALC Planning Grant work being performed in partnership by LAFCO and RCD of Greater San Diego. Markedly, the current two-year grant focuses on agricultural trends paired with qualitative analysis. The proposed planning project takes the next linear step with respect to quantifying the challenges experienced by farmers in our region relative to market conditions in establishing viable ROI levels. Furthermore, it creates a scalable tool that sizes up core costs for dominant and emerging crops in San Diego County and leads to pragmatic thresholds on what it means to be "sustainable." The information on best practices will serve as a platform for developing potential incentive, streamlining, or other programs to support sustainable agriculture in the region.

The proposed planning project's associated outreach activities will aid current and prospective farmers in making decisions based on economic viability going forward. This includes planning needed course corrections to remain and/or become economically sustainable. This will further benefit sustainability and agricultural preservation goals in the County and under current market conditions.

The proposed project will also explore opportunities for increased public health benefits by reducing pollution burdens. Programs and/or projects that reduce GHG emissions, encourage and incentivize water conservation efforts, promote long-term preservation of agricultural lands, and contribute to housing needs will be instrumental. Planning and implementing a carbon farming or crop-swap/conversion program, employing improvements to the County's Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program or the PACE Program, facilitating farm-worker housing and/or streamlining regulations will be considered as prospective mechanisms to support these goals. These benefits will continue to be measured through ongoing engagement with the farming community and the general public associated with this and other related projects.

9. How will the project benefit priority populations; beginning or Veteran farmers and ranchers; residents of disadvantaged or low-income communities; or federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission and/or a priority population?

Comprising 70% of all farms within San Diego County, small farms may lack necessary resources to aid in the assessment of their current farming practices. The cost-benefit analysis would provide an accessible resource that is otherwise unavailable, highlighting best practices as a means to educate farmers as they seek to sustain their farms. The proposed planning project will circulate the market information and publicize related resources to assist current and prospective farmers, with the latter focusing on under-represented groups. The County currently coordinates with local tribal liaisons on many planning projects and will engage with multiple local Tribes to ensure their needs and concerns are considered to inform the anticipated work products.

10. How will the proposal complement other efforts in the region, including comprehensive planning efforts (e.g., Greenprints, general or special plan objectives or goals), 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?

The development of market data and best practices information will complement current efforts in San Diego County through the Round 6 SALC Planning Grant work and provide a better understanding of agricultural trends in the region. This includes providing new tools for LAFCO, County, and potentially SANDAG in discharging our separate regulatory duties tied to orderly growth and clear and healthy urban-ag interfaces. The proposed project's goal of generating market information and best practice data as well as completing the associated tasks of: (a) conducting a gap analysis, (b) developing a strategic plan, and (c) developing an outreach and engagement plan, will promote – directly or indirectly – the County's General Plan and associated goals and policies, as detailed in Attachment A.¹²

There is a potential to utilize agricultural lands protected under the PACE Program to perform pilot studies on “how-to” remain and/or achieve economic sustainability. The proposed project will involve several factors that may be monitored and measured such as average ROIs for key crops, average ROI needed to sustain small farms over time (potentially beyond the region), identification and averages of key costs centers, average water use per acre, and potential acres of crops to be converted to lower water use, and the potential reduction in pollution burdens.

11. What is the applicant's agency's experience in developing and implementing similar projects? Are there the internal resources and capacity to complete the proposed work or will consultants or contractors be required? Are there the professional staff qualified to develop and successfully implement the proposal? If not, please describe how you will the applicant acquire this expertise.

¹² County of San Diego. (2011). County of San Diego General Plan. <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/generalplan.html>

As an extension of the current Round 6 Planning Grant efforts, LAFCO and the County have the staff, experience, and/or consultant resources to expertly carry out the grant. An agricultural economist with the required expertise will be contracted through a consultant to carry out activities of the grant including the various economic analyses.

As a project partner, the County's Planning and Development Services includes staff of 200+ individuals and is comprised of program and project managers, professional planners, technicians, code compliance officers, and administrative staff with the expertise and experience of working collaboratively with the agricultural community. This includes administration of the County's PACE Program which preserves agricultural lands, Code Compliance staffing which seeks to promote and maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment, and Long-Range and Sustainability Planning staff which is actively working on the Climate Action Plan Update, Sustainable Land Use Framework, and other policy-related long-range land use planning projects that aim to enhance agriculture in the region.

The County's Planning and Development Services has extensive experience in grant administration for implementation of a variety of projects and initiatives including, but not limited to, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) grants to create an interconnected preserve for the protection and recovery of endangered and threatened species, grant funding from California Climate Investments' Clean Mobility Options Voucher Pilot Program to conduct the Clean Mobility Options Voucher Pilot Program, and Local Early Action Planning Grants and SB2 Planning Grants to complete updates to the General Plan Housing and Safety Elements, and the development of an Environmental Justice Element.

12. Which stakeholders will participate in the proposed project? How will these stakeholders participate?

San Diego County LAFCO and the County of San Diego, as co-applicants and project managers, will collaborate with multiple relevant agencies involved with land use, agricultural, and environmental planning. The County and LAFCO are partners on this grant and have been working collaboratively to identify the needs of farmers and develop a strategic plan to address key concerns related to agriculture in the region as part of the Round 6 Planning Grant efforts. If awarded the grant, there will be an extensive stakeholder outreach component expanding on the current efforts in order to receive input from various stakeholder groups and producers. This will include outreach specific to priority populations, including tribal nations. The County coordinates with local tribal liaisons on many planning projects and will engage each tribe during this effort to ensure their needs and concerns are considered to inform each of the anticipated work products. The proposed project will also leverage the knowledge and expertise of an ag economist in generating market and best practice information.

Attachment A: General Plan Goals

The proposed project's goal of generating market information and best practice data as well as completing the associated proposed tasks of: (a) conducting a gap analysis, (b) developing a strategic plan, and (c) developing an outreach and engagement plan will promote – directly or indirectly – the County of San Diego's General Plan and associated goals and policies, as cited below.¹³

The Environmental Justice Element includes the following goals that complement the proposed planning project:

- **EJ-1: EJ Community Programs and Services.** Support and expand programs and services in the Implementation Plan to prioritize those that identify EJ Communities, address EJ issues, and foster partnerships with countywide partnerships and programs.
- **EJ-3: Equitable and Healthy Air Quality.** Improve air quality conditions for communities so that all residents can live, work, and play in their community without disproportionate risk of air pollution and related negative health impacts.
- **EJ-5: Distribution and Quality of Public Facilities, Infrastructure, and Services.** Ensure public facilities are equitably located and services are distributed throughout EJ Communities at an operational level comparable to the rest of the unincorporated County.
- **EJ-8: Countywide Food System Improvements.** Improve the food system throughout the county, from supply and production to processing, distribution, access, and waste management through comprehensive and holistic approaches to advance an equitable and healthy food system for all residents.
- **EJ-9: Access to Healthy, Nutritional, and Affordable Food.** Expand access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food from grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets, and community gardens to reduce food insecurity in EJ Communities.
- **EJ-14: Accessible and Culturally Appropriate Civic Engagement.** Provide equitable and inclusive opportunities for all County residents, regardless of racial/ethnic background, national origin, age, education, income, or disability to meaningfully engage in the decision-making process, specifically focused on promoting positive health outcomes and wellbeing of residents within EJ Communities, including education and workforce opportunities.
- **EJ-15: Capacity Building and Leadership Development.** Support equitable and inclusive opportunities to build capacity and leadership skills for residents and organizations in EJ Communities through continued civic engagement.
- **EJ-16: Transparent Governance.** Maintain transparent, fair, consistent, and sustained civic engagement to continue identifying and addressing needs and priorities by building trust, establishing relationships, and ensuring community outreach standards.

¹³ County of San Diego. (2011). County of San Diego General Plan. <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/generalplan.html>

The Land Use Element sets the following goals that complement the proposed planning project:

- **LU-2: Maintenance of the County's Rural Character.** Conservation and enhancement of the unincorporated County's varied communities, rural setting, and character.
- **LU-4: Inter-jurisdictional Coordination.** Coordination with the plans and activities of other agencies and tribal governments that relate to issues such as land use, community character, transportation, energy, other infrastructure, public safety, and resource conservation and management in the unincorporated County and the region.
- **LU-5: Climate Change and Land Use.** A land use plan and associated development techniques and patterns that reduce emissions of local greenhouse gases in accordance with state initiatives, while promoting public health.
- **LU-6: Development—Environmental Balance.** A built environment in balance with the natural environment, scarce resources, natural hazards, and the unique local character of individual communities.
- **LU-7: Agricultural Conservation.** A land use plan that retains and protects farming and agriculture as beneficial resources that contribute to the County's rural character.
- **LU-10: Function of Semi-Rural and Rural Lands.** Semi-Rural and Rural Lands that buffer communities, protect natural resources, foster agriculture, and accommodate unique rural communities.
- **LU-12: Infrastructure and Services Supporting Development.** Adequate and sustainable infrastructure, public facilities, and essential services that meet community needs and are provided concurrent with growth and development.
- **LU-13: Adequate Water Quality, Supply, and Protection.** A balanced and regionally integrated water management approach to ensure the long-term viability of San Diego County's water quality and supply.

The Housing Element sets the following goal that complement the proposed planning project:

H-3: Housing Affordability for All Economic Segments. Affordable and suitable housing for all economic segments, with emphasis on the housing needs of lower-income households and households with special needs.

The Conservation and Open Space Element sets the following goal that complement the proposed planning project:

- **COS-4: Water Management.** A balanced and regionally integrated water management approach to achieve the long-term viability of the County's water quality and supply.
- **COS-5: Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources.** Protection and maintenance of local reservoirs, watersheds, aquifer-recharge areas, and natural drainage systems to maintain high-quality water resources.
- **COS-6: Sustainable Agricultural Industry.** A viable and long-term agricultural industry and sustainable agricultural land uses in the County of San Diego that serve as a beneficial resource and contributor to the County's rural character and open space network.
- **COS-7: Protection and Preservation of Archaeological Resources.** Protection and preservation of the County's important archeological

resources for their cultural importance to local communities, as well as their research and educational potential.

- **COS-14: Sustainable Land Development.** Land use development techniques and patterns that reduce emissions of criteria pollutants and GHGs through minimized transportation and energy demands, while protecting public health and contributing to a more sustainable environment.
- **COS-17: Sustainable Solid Waste Management.** Perform solid waste management in a manner that protects natural resources from pollutants while providing sufficient, long-term capacity through vigorous reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting programs.
- **COS-18: Sustainable Energy.** Energy systems that reduce consumption of non-renewable resources and reduce GHG and other air pollutant emissions while minimizing impacts to natural resources and communities.
- **COS-19: Sustainable Water Supply.** Conservation of limited water supply supporting all uses including urban, rural, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses.
- **COS-20: Governance and Administration.** Reduction of local GHG emissions contributing to climate change that meet or exceed requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.

Work Plan

Work Plan			
Task Number	Performance Measure (Deliverables)	Timeline	Total Requested Grant Funds
Task 1 Grant Management	Main Deliverables: Subcontractor grant agreements, progress reports, submission of deliverables, and final report to DOC	06/2023-06/2025	\$50,000.00
Task 2 Market Analysis Subtask 2A: Identify and Retain an Ag-Economist Consultant Subtask 2B: Market Data Collection and Aggregation Subtask 2C: Preparation of Report	Main Deliverables: Prepare Market Analysis Report with Market Information and Best Practice Data	07/2023-12/2023	\$80,000.00
Task 3 Perform GAP Analysis Subtask 3A: Identify and Retain an Ag-Economist Consultant Subtask 3B: Conduct Gap Analysis	Main Deliverables: Gap Analysis on Marginal vs. Sustainable Farm Operations using data generated in Task 2. Defining "sustainable" farming practices. Prepare Report on the Gap Analysis of Market Information and Best Practice Data	01/2024-04/2024	\$80,000.00

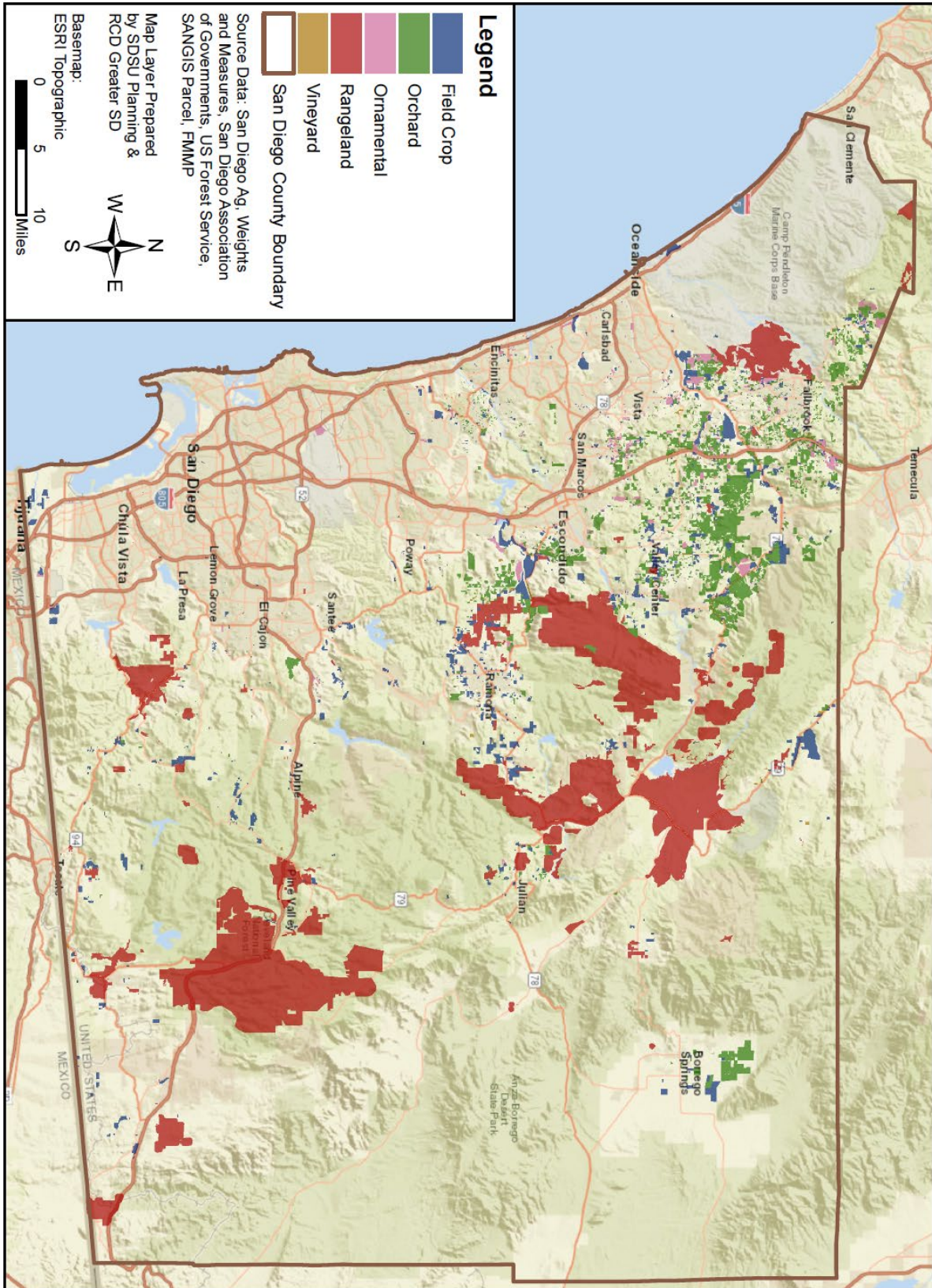
<p>Subtask 3C: Prepare Gap Analysis Report</p>			
<p>Task 4</p> <p>Outreach & Education Plan</p> <p>Subtask 4A: Identify and Retain Planning Consultant & Create Outreach Team</p> <p>Subtask 4B: Hold Series of Producer and Stakeholder Meetings</p> <p>Subtask 4C: Compile Community Input</p>	<p>Main Deliverables:</p> <p>Meetings with Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform/Educate • Discuss • Receive input <p>Agricultural Community Feedback Report</p>	<p>07/2023-06/2025</p>	<p>\$75,000.00</p>
<p>Task 5</p> <p>Strategic Plan</p> <p>Subtask 5A: Identify and Retain Planning Consultant to research and identify key policies, programs, and/or projects</p> <p>Subtask 5C: Strategize implementation</p> <p>Subtask 5D: Prepare Report</p>	<p>Main Deliverables:</p> <p>Develop Strategic Plan Report outlining key policies, program, and/or projects to aid farmers in closing the economic “gap”</p>	<p>05/2024-12/2024</p>	<p>\$90,000.00</p>

<p>Task 6</p> <p>Greening Agriculture Final Report</p> <p>Subtask 5A: Draft Strategic Plan</p> <p>Subtask 5B: Circulate Draft for Review and Comment</p> <p>Subtask 5C: Finalize Strategic Plan</p> <p>Subtask 5D: Present Draft and Final Report to Board of Supervisors for adoption</p>	<p>Main Deliverables:</p> <p>Final Greening Agriculture in the San Diego Region Report</p> <p>Presentations to LAFCO Commission and County of San Diego Board of Supervisors with program, policy and/or regulation streamlining recommendations</p>	<p>01/2025-06/2025</p>	<p>\$75,000.00</p>
--	---	------------------------	---------------------------

Budget

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program					
Planning Grant Budget					
Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Economically Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County					
Fully Burdened					
Budget Item	Units	Rate	Grant Request	Grantee Match	Total
Task 1: Grant Management	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>	-	-	<i>50,000.00</i>
County Staff					\$ 25,000.00
LAFCO Staff					\$ 25,000.00
Task 2: Market Analysis	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>	-	-	<i>80,000.00</i>
Planning Consultant/Ag-Economist Subcontractor					\$ 60,000.00
County Staff					\$ 10,000.00
LAFCO Staff					\$ 10,000.00
Task 3: GAP Analysis	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>	-	-	<i>80,000.00</i>
Planning Consultant/Ag-Economist Subcontractor					\$ 60,000.00
County Staff					\$ 10,000.00
LAFCO Staff					\$ 10,000.00
Task 4: Outreach & Education Plan	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>	-	-	<i>75,000.00</i>
Planning Consultant					\$ 25,000.00
County Staff					\$ 10,000.00
LAFCO Staff					\$ 10,000.00
Stakeholder Meetings & Materials					\$ 20,000.00
Translator					\$ 10,000.00
Task 5: Strategic Plan	<i>(# miles or units)</i>	<i>cost per unit (\$)</i>	-	-	<i>90,000.00</i>
Planning Consultant					\$ 30,000.00
County Staff					\$ 20,000.00
LAFCO Staff					\$ 20,000.00
Stakeholder Meetings & Materials					\$ 20,000.00
Task 6: Final Report	<i>(# hours)</i>	<i>(\$/hour)</i>	-	-	<i>75,000.00</i>
County Staff					\$ 15,000.00
LAFCO Staff					\$ 15,000.00
Planning Consultant					\$ 25,000.00
Graphic Designer					\$ 12,000.00
Translator					\$ 8,000.00
Total			-	-	450,000.00

Map of the Project Geographic Area



Signed Authorizing Resolution: County of San Diego

Resolution No.: 22-124

Meeting Date: August 17, 2022 (06)

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, TO APPLY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION LANDS PROGRAM PLANNING GRANT

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego is eligible to receive grant funding for programs and projects from federal, State, and local agencies and other nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Environmental Goals and Policy Report was approved by the Governor on September 28, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Environmental Goals and Policy Report includes California's Planning Priorities which are broken into three categories: 1) Promote infill development and equity, 2) Protect environmental and agricultural resources, and 3) Encourage efficient development patterns; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego desires to account for present and emerging market conditions in the local agriculture industry in support of the County's Vision and Strategic initiatives and California's Planning Priorities to protect agricultural resources by generating good and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, focusing on aiding small-scale farming operations.

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Department of Conservation require the Grantee to certify by resolution the filing of an application for the proposed project, understands the assurances and certification in the application, has sufficient funds to meet the match requirement, and will work towards the California's Planning Priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego:

1. Authorizes the Land Use and Environment Group (LUEG) Deputy Chief Administrative Officer or designee, and all LUEG Department Directors for Agriculture, Weights and Measures; the Department of Environmental Health and Quality; the Department of Parks and Recreation; the Department of Public Works; Planning & Development Services; and San Diego County Library, or their designees, to enter into a grant agreement with the Department for the project and agree to accept the template included in the Guidelines, 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 plan, and to enter into a memorandum of understanding with San Diego County LAFCO.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Randall Sjoblom, Senior Deputy

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Fletcher, the above Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors, County of San Diego, State of California, on this 17th day of August 2022, by the following vote:

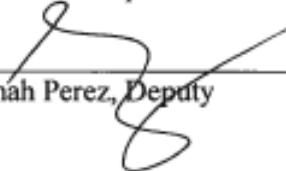
AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

- - -

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of San Diego) ^{SS}

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original Resolution entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 
Savannah Perez, Deputy



Resolution No. 22-124
Meeting Date: 08/17/2022 (06)



San Diego County
Local Agency Formation Commission
Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California

7b
AGENDA REPORT
Business | Action

August 1, 2022

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer
Priscilla Mumpower, Analyst II

SUBJECT: Authorization to Serve as Co-Applicant for a Proposed Planning Grant with the California Department of Conservation and Related Actions

SUMMARY

The San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) will consider authorization to serve as co-applicant with the County of San Diego on a proposed planning grant with the Department of Conservation and its Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program. The proposed planning grant is for \$500,000 with Planning & Development Services as the co-applicant. The proposed grant would expand on LAFCO's existing grant activities in assessing local agricultural trends and proceed to collect and analyze market data to establish baseline costs/revenues for existing and emerging crops while also identifying government opportunities to help bridge economic gaps. Staff recommends the Commission authorize the proposed planning grant and related commitment of up to 10% in matching funds in the form of staff time. It is also recommended the Commission authorize the Executive Officer to enter an agreement with the County to define implementing duties and responsibilities should the grant proposal receive approval.

Administration Keene Simonds, Executive Officer 2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725 San Diego, California 92103-6624 T 619.321.3380 F 619.404.6508 www.sdlafco.org lafco@sdcounty.ca.gov	Chair Jim Desmond County of San Diego	Vice Chair Paul McNamara City of Escondido	Chris Cate City of San Diego	Jo MacKenzie Vista Irrigation	Andy Vanderlaan General Public
	Joel Anderson County of San Diego	Mary Casillas Salas City of Chula Vista	Marni von Wilpert, Alt. City of San Diego	Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection	Harry Mathis, Alt. General Public
	Nora Vargas, Alt. County of San Diego	Kristi Becker, Alt. City of Solana Beach		David A. Drake, Alt. Rincon del Diablo	

BACKGROUND

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) was created in 2014 and presently completing its seventh round of grant funding. It is a component of the California Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program and administered by the Department of Conservation. SALC is primarily funded through California Climate Investments, which is a statewide program that provides cap-and-trade monies through agricultural conservation and related planning grants to eligible applicants for the underlying purpose of reducing – directly or indirectly – greenhouse gas emissions.

The principal goals of SALC are stated as:

- Protect agricultural lands to support infill and compact development.
- Further the purposes of Assembly Bill 32 by avoiding increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.

Eligible grant applicants include counties, cities, LAFCOs, councils of government, municipal planning organizations, regional transportation planning agencies, groundwater sustainability agencies, special districts with land use or transportation planning authority, federally recognized tribes, and certain non-federally recognized tribes.

SALC grants are awarded annually in December and provide funding over a two-year period. The next round of SALC grants will be awarded in December 2022.

Existing Grant Award to LAFCO

In August 2020, San Diego LAFCO and Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County collaborated in submitting a planning grant application under SALC to identify and track agricultural trends in San Diego County. The Commission – notably – authorized the grant proposal as lead applicant. LAFCO was subsequently awarded a two-year grant in the full amount of \$250,000 with work commencing in June 2021.

DISCUSSION

This item is for San Diego LAFCO to consider authorizing the Commission to serve as co-applicant for a new SALC planning grant in the amount of \$500,000 in partnership with the County of San Diego's Planning & Development Services (PDS). The proposed planning grant is for the specific purpose of generating good and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with focus on aiding small-scale farming operations. Market information will directly draw on current grant work exploring local agricultural trends and identify incentives, technical support, regulatory streamlining and other mechanisms that may be employed by local government or other partners to assist

in bridging the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of farming. San Diego LAFCO and PDS would serve as joint project managers and coordinate implementation.

A pre-proposal outlining the proposed planning grant is attached and was submitted to the Department of Conservation by its July 1, 2022 deadline. Staff anticipates receiving comments on the pre-proposal filing by early August 2022 and will incorporate as appropriate into a formal submittal should the Commission authorize proceeding with an application. Supervisor Desmond is sponsoring the Board of Supervisors own consideration of the item and role as co-applicant later at its August 2022 meeting. The deadline to submit a complete proposal to the Department of Conservation is September 9th.

ANALYSIS

The proposed planning grant before San Diego LAFCO has been jointly developed with the County of San Diego and PDS with assistance from Supervisor Desmond's Office and the shared interest in supporting agriculture. The grant is premised on generating good and timely market information to help smaller farmers (current and prospective) and local government better understand current and developing trends and make timely course corrections. Specifically, and as detailed in the pre-proposal, LAFCO can draw on the market information to make wise decisions to implement its planning and regulatory powers with respect to balancing smart growth and agriculture preservation. The matching contribution requirement for LAFCO as co-applicant would involve allocating approximately 200 staff hours over the course of the two-year grant period and can be accommodated.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended San Diego LAFCO authorize the Commission to serve as co-applicant with the County of San Diego in submitting a new planning grant with the Department of Conservation consistent with the attached pre-proposal along with related actions. This recommendation is consistent with Alternative One outlined in the proceeding section.

ALTERNATIVES FOR ACTION

The following alternative actions are available to San Diego LAFCO and can be accomplished with a single-motion:

Alternative One (recommended):

- (a) Authorize the Commission to serve as co-applicant with the County of San Diego on a new planning grant with the Department of Conservation and its SALC program in the amount of \$500,000 as provided in the pre-proposal as Attachment One.
- (b) Authorize the related allocation of up to \$25,000 in matching funds through staff time in implementing the planning grant.

- (c) Authorize the Executive Officer to sign the grant award should it be approved and in conjunction with executing a memorandum of understanding with the County of San Diego's PDS Department subject to the review and approval of Commission Counsel.

Alternative Two:

Continue consideration to a special meeting ahead of the September 9, 2022 deadline to file a planning grant application with the Department of Conservation.

Alternative Three:

Deny the requested authorization.

PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION

This item has been placed on San Diego LAFCO's agenda for action as part of the business calendar. The following procedures are recommended in the consideration of this item:

- 1) Receive verbal presentation from staff unless waived.
- 2) Commission discussion.
- 3) Consideration of the staff recommendation.

On behalf of the Executive Officer,



Priscilla Mumpower
Analyst II

Attachment:

- 1) Planning Grant Pre-Proposal

**APPROVED
SAN DIEGO LAFCO
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2022**

Item 7b

Authorization to Serve as Co-Applicant for a Proposed Planning Grant with the California Department of Conservation and Related Actions

Item presented to consider authorization to serve as co-applicant with the County of San Diego on a proposed planning grant with the Department of Conservation and its Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program. The proposed planning grant is for \$500,000 with Planning & Development Services as the co-applicant. The proposed grant would expand on LAFCO's existing grant activities in assessing local agricultural trends and proceed to collect and analyze market data to establish baseline costs/revenues for existing and emerging crops while also identifying opportunities to help bridge economic gaps. Grant requires a 10% matching requirement and can be satisfied through staff time. Recommendation to approve.

Chair Desmond asked for the staff presentation. Executive Officer Keene Simonds summarized the recommendations and related merits therein.

Chair Desmond invited anyone from the public to address the Commission. The Commission Secretary confirmed there were no registered speakers and confirmed there were no live e-mail comments received.

Chair Desmond invited Commissioner comments or questions.

Commission discussion followed.

Commissioner Willis motioned to approve the staff recommendation Alternative One as listed in the agenda report with a second from Commissioner Desmond. Roll call requested:

Alternative One (recommended):

- (a) Authorize the Commission to serve as co-applicant with the County of San Diego on a new planning grant with the Department of Conservation and its SALC program in the amount of \$500,000 as provided in the pre-proposal as Attachment One.
- (b) Authorize the related allocation of up to \$25,000 in matching funds through staff time in implementing the planning grant.
- (c) Authorize the Executive Officer to sign the grant award should it be approved and in conjunction with executing a memorandum of understanding with the County of San Diego's PDS Department subject to the review and approval of Commission Counsel.

AYES: Anderson, Desmond, MacKenzie, McNamara, Salas, Vanderlaan, and Willis
NOES: None
ABSENT: Cate, Vargas and Von Wilpert
ABSTAINING: None

The Commission Secretary confirms the motion was approved 7-0.

Priority Population Benefits Checklist

Evaluation Criteria for Providing Benefits To Priority Populations LAND CONSERVATION

DRAFT
California Climate Investments
2018 Funding Guidelines
Benefit Criteria Table



Project Type:
LAND CONSERVATION

California Climate Investments are required to meet minimum levels of investments to projects that benefit residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households, collectively referred to as “priority populations.”

All projects counting toward the statutory investment minimums must be located within an identified community and benefit individuals living within that community, or directly benefit residents of low-income households anywhere in the State. Administering agencies must determine if a project meets the criteria for providing direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations using the following evaluation approach:

Step 1: Identify the Priority Population(s). Be located within a census tract identified as a disadvantaged community or low-income community, or directly benefit residents of a low-income household;

Step 2: Address a Need. Meaningfully address an important community or household need for the disadvantaged community, low-income community, or low-income household; and

Step 3: Provide a Benefit. Using the evaluation criteria, identify at least one direct, meaningful, and assured benefit that the project provides to priority populations. The benefit provided must directly address the identified need.

Only investments that meet these criteria will be counted toward achieving the statutory investment minimums identified for priority populations. Administering agencies can fund projects that otherwise provide meaningful benefits, but do not meet these criteria; however, those projects will not be counted toward investment minimums.

The following table includes criteria for administering agencies to use to determine whether projects satisfy each of the three steps. The criteria are designed to enable administering agencies to readily make an objective “yes” or “no” decision about whether a particular project provides a benefit to a priority population.

Administering agencies must use the criteria table that is applicable to the specific project type(s) funded. For complex projects, there may be more than one applicable criteria table. A complete list of available criteria tables is available at:

www.arb.ca.gov/cci-fundingguidelines.

Administering agencies must refer to CARB’s Funding Guidelines for direction on how to use the criteria table in program design and implementation, project evaluation, project selection, and reporting (www.arb.ca.gov/cci-fundingguidelines).

[This page deliberately left blank.]

DRAFT

**Evaluation Criteria for Providing Benefits To Priority Populations
LAND CONSERVATION**

DRAFT

Project Type: Projects will protect natural and working lands from GHG-intensive development or conversion through acquisition of an agricultural land conservation easement, forest conservation easement or other protective measures such as a change to zoning ordinances, adoption of an urban limit line or agricultural greenbelt.

Projects must satisfy the applicable criteria through Step 3 to be considered to provide direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations and count toward statutory investment minimums.

Step 1 – Identify the Priority Population(s).¹ Evaluate the project against each of the following criteria. Check all boxes that apply.

Note: For this project type, the majority of the project must be located within a disadvantaged or low-income community census tract.

- A. Is the project located within the boundaries of a **disadvantaged community census tract**?
- B. Is the project located within the boundaries of a **low-income community census tract**?
- C. Is the project located outside of a disadvantaged community, but **within ½-mile of a disadvantaged community and within a low-income community census tract**?
- D. Is the project located within the boundaries of a **low-income household**?

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. If the project meets at least one Step 1 criterion, continue the evaluation in Step 2.

¹ An online mapping tool of identified disadvantaged communities and low-income communities, and a "look-up" tool list of "low-income" thresholds by county and household size are available at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/oci-communityinvestments>.

**Evaluation Criteria for Providing Benefits To Priority Populations
LAND CONSERVATION**

DRAFT

Step 2 – Address a Need. Identify an important community or household need and evaluate whether the project provides a benefit that meaningfully addresses that need.

To identify a need that the project will address, agencies and/or applicants can use a variety of approaches:

- A. **Recommended Approach:** 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;
- B. **Recommended Approach:** 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;
- C. **Alternative Approach:** Where direct engagement is infeasible, look at the individual factors in 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; or
- D. **Alternative Approach:** Where direct engagement is infeasible, 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.

Describe identified community or household need(s):

If the project addresses a community or household need as described in Step 2, proceed to Step 3. If the project does not address a community or household need, it will not count toward statutory investment minimums and no further evaluation is needed.

The proposed planning project aims to support existing and emerging farmers and in doing so curb the premature conversion of agricultural lands in the region. The project intends to generate good and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with focus on aiding small-scale farming operations that otherwise have limited resources to perform this type of analysis and/or lack access to resources. The project will also serve to inform local agencies decision-making to further aid, preserve, and maximize the vital contributions – economic, environmental, and public health benefits – that small-scale farms offer the County. Some of the market information generated from the proposed planning project is not readily available at this time and will close a “gap” in available market information. The closest known comparable involves the Ag Commission and their annual tracking/reporting of crop values on an acre basis. The Ag Commission – however – does not account for associated costs whereas the proposed planning project will and in doing so will address net values.

Evaluation Criteria for Providing Benefits To Priority Populations
LAND CONSERVATION

DRAFT

Step 3 – Provide a Benefit. Evaluate the project against each of the following criteria to determine if it provides direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations. The benefit provided must directly address the identified need.

Project must meet at least one of the following benefit criteria:

- A. Project preserves a site that allows public access;
- B. Project significantly reduces flood risk to households within one or more disadvantaged or low-income communities;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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.
- F. Project provides land tenure for no less than 10 years to residents of disadvantaged or low-income communities, or residents of low-income households.

If the project meets the criteria in Steps 1, 2, and 3, it will be considered as providing direct, meaningful, and assured benefits to priority populations and will be counted toward statutory investment minimums.

Stakeholder Collaboration Letters



Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
11769 Waterhill Rd., Lakeside, CA 92040
Phone: (619) 562-0096 📠 Fax: (619) 562-4799
Website: www.rcdsandiego.org

August 17, 2022

Delivered Electronically:

San Diego County LAFCO
Priscilla Mumpower, Analyst II
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725
San Diego, California 92103
priscilla.mumpower@sdcounty.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support | Joint SALC Grant Application, County of San Diego PDS & San Diego LAFCO - Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County

Dear Mrs. Mumpower:

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCDGSDC) is pleased to submit this letter to the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (SD LAFCO) in support of their joint application to the Department of Conservation for Round 8 of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Grant with the County of San Diego Planning and Development Services (PDS).

These funds can facilitate SD LAFCO and County PDS to generate good and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with focus on aiding small-scale farming operations. The market analysis generated through the proposed project is valuable in identifying incentives, technical support, regulatory streamlining, and other mechanisms that may be employed by RCDGSDC or other partners to assist in bridging the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of farming.

RCDGSDC is confident that the project will yield valuable results. Pertinently, market and best practices information will aid both farmers – current and prospective – and local government to make wise decisions in the shared interest in sustainable and prosperous agriculture.

The RCDGSDC appreciates your most positive consideration of the proposed grant application, “Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County.” For any questions, you may contact me at the telephone number above, or at ann.baldridge@rcdsandiego.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Baldridge".

Ann Baldridge
Executive Director

cc: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, SD LAFCO
Dahvia Lynch, Director, County of San Diego PDS
Stephanie Neal, Land Use/Environmental Planner, County of San Diego PDS
Tyler Farmer, Group Program Manager, County of San Diego PDS

Conserving Our Natural Resources



August 17, 2022

Delivered Electronically:

San Diego County LAFCO
Priscilla Mumpower, Analyst II
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725
San Diego, California 92103
priscilla.mumpower@sdcounty.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support | Joint SALC Grant Application, County of San Diego PDS & San Diego LAFCO - Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County

Dear Mrs. Mumpower:

Mission Resource Conservation District (Mission RCD) is pleased to submit this letter to the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (SD LAFCO) in support of their joint application to the Department of Conservation for Round 8 of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Grant with the County of San Diego Planning and Development Services (PDS).

These funds can facilitate SD LAFCO and PDS to generate good and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with a focus on aiding small-scale farming operations. The market analysis generated through the proposed project is valuable in identifying incentives, technical support, regulatory streamlining, and other mechanisms that may be employed by Mission RCD or other partners to assist in bridging the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of farming.

Mission RCD believes the project will yield valuable results, including market and best practices information that will assist current and prospective farmers and local government in making informed decisions in the shared interest in sustainable and prosperous agriculture.

Mission RCD appreciates positive consideration of their grant application, "Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County." For any questions, you may contact Darcy Cook at missionrcd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darcy Cook".

Darcy Cook
District Manager

cc: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, SD LAFCO
Dahvia Lynch, Director, County of San Diego PDS
Stephanie Neal, Land Use/Environmental Planner, County of San Diego PDS
Tyler Farmer, Group Program Manager, County of San Diego PDS



Board of Directors

Dave Baxter
Division 1

Ken Endter
Division 2

Jennifer DeMeo
Division 3

Don McDougal
Division 4

Charley Wolk
Division 5

Staff

Jack Bebee
General Manager

David Shank
*Assistant General Manager/
Chief Financial Officer*

Lauren Eckert
*Executive Assistant/
Board Secretary*

General Counsel

Paula de Sousa
Best Best & Krieger

August 17, 2022

Delivered Electronically:

San Diego County LAFCO
Priscilla Mumpower, Analyst II
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725
San Diego, California 92103
priscilla.mumpower@sdcounty.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support | Joint SALC Grant Application, County of San Diego PDS & San Diego LAFCO - Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County

Dear Mrs. Mumpower:

The Fallbrook Public Utility District is pleased to submit this letter to the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (SD LAFCO) in support of their joint application to the Department of Conservation for Round 8 of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Grant with the County of San Diego Planning and Development Services (PDS).

These funds can facilitate SD LAFCO and County PDS to generate good and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with focus on aiding small-scale farming operations. The market analysis generated through the proposed project is valuable in identifying incentives, technical support, regulatory streamlining, and other mechanisms that may be employed by Fallbrook Public Utility District or other partners to assist in bridging the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of farming.

Fallbrook Public Utility District is confident that the project will yield valuable results. Pertinently, market and best practices information will aid both farmers – current and prospective – and local government make wise decisions in the shared interest in sustainable and prosperous agriculture.

The Fallbrook Public Utility District appreciates your most positive consideration of their grant application, “Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County.” For any questions, you may contact me at jackb@fpud.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jack Bebee'.

Jack Bebee
General Manager

cc: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, SD LAFCO
Dahvia Lynch, Director, County of San Diego PDS
Stephanie Neal, Land Use/Environmental Planner, County of San Diego PDS
Tyler Farmer, Group Program Manager, County of San Diego PDS



RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

105 Earlham Street
Ramona, CA 92065-1599

Phone: (760) 789 -1330
Fax: (760) 788 - 2202

August 18, 2022

Delivered Electronically:

San Diego County LAFCO
Priscilla Mumpower, Analyst II
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725
San Diego, California 92103
priscilla.mumpower@sdcounty.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support | Joint SALC Grant Application, County of San Diego PDS & San Diego LAFCO - Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County

Dear Mrs. Mumpower:

Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) is pleased to submit this letter to the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (SD LAFCO) in support of their joint application to the Department of Conservation for Round 8 of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Grant with the County of San Diego Planning and Development Services (PDS). RMWD serves a portion of unincorporated central San Diego County. RMWD serves both treated and untreated water from the San Diego County Water Authority and locally produced recycled water to agricultural users in its service area. Per SD LAFCO's *2021 Municipal Service Review on the Ramona Region (2021 MSR)*, in RMWD's boundary, "The predominant land uses are low density residential and – albeit at a decreasing level – commercial agriculture." The 2021 MSR also states "Ramona, however, remains active in agriculture and most notably in wine production and recognized for over 30 first generation wineries in the region."

These grant funds can facilitate SD LAFCO and County PDS to generate good and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with focus on aiding small-scale farming operations. The market analysis generated through the proposed project is valuable in identifying incentives, technical support, regulatory streamlining, and other mechanisms that may be employed by RMWD, RMWD's agricultural customers, or other partners to assist in bridging the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of farming. RMWD is confident that the project will yield valuable results. Pertinently, market and best practices information will aid both farmers – current and prospective – and local government make wise decisions in the shared interest in sustainable and prosperous agriculture.

RMWD recommends that the California Strategic Growth Council and California Department of Conservation select and fully fund SD LAFCO and County PDS' grant application, "Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County." For any questions, I can be reached at ewolski@rmwd.org or 760-788-2214.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Wolski".

Erica Wolski
General Manager
Ramona Municipal Water District

cc: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, SD LAFCO
Dahvia Lynch, Director, County of San Diego PDS
Stephanie Neal, Land Use/Environmental Planner, County of San Diego PDS
Tyler Farmer, Group Program Manager, County of San Diego PDS



VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

A Public Agency Organized July 12, 1954

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert A. Polito
President
Enrico P. Ferro
Vice President
Daniel E. Holtz
Director
Oliver J. Smith
Director
Cooper T. Ness
Director

August 22, 2022

San Diego County LAFCO
Priscilla Mumpower, Analyst II
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725
San Diego, California 92103

Delivered Electronically: priscilla.mumpower@sdcounty.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support | Joint SALC Grant Application, County of San Diego PDS & San Diego LAFCO – “Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County”

Dear Mrs. Mumpower:

The Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD) is pleased to submit this letter in support of the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission’s (SD LAFCO) joint application to the Department of Conservation for Round 8 of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Grant with the County of San Diego Planning and Development Services (PDS) to complete the proposed research project:

“Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County”

These funds can facilitate SD LAFCO and County PDS to generate good and timely market information and best practices data to help support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with a focus on aiding small-scale farming operations. The market analysis generated through the proposed project is valuable in identifying incentives, technical support, regulatory streamlining, and other mechanisms which may be employed locally to assist in bridging the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of farming.

VCMWD is confident that the project will yield valuable results. Critically, market and best practices information will aid both farmers – current and future – and local government in make wise decisions in the shared interest in viable agriculture for the San Diego Region.

For any questions, you may contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature of Gary Arant.

Gary Arant
General Manager

cc: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, SD LAFCO (Keene.Simonds@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Dahvia Lynch, Director, County of San Diego PDS (Dahvia.Lynch@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Stephanie Neal, Land Use/Env. Planner, County of San Diego PDS (Stephanie.Neal@sdcounty.ca.gov)
Tyler Farmer, Group Program Manager, County of Diego (Tyler.Farmer@sdcounty.ca.gov)

29300 Valley Center Road • P.O. Box 67 • Valley Center, CA 92082
(760) 735-4500 • FAX (760) 749-6478 • www.VCMWD.org • e-mail: vcwater@valleycenterwater.org



FARM BUREAU San Diego County

The Voice of Local Farmers
Serving San Diego agriculture since 1914

September 1, 2022

Delivered Electronically:

San Diego County LAFCO
Priscilla Mumpower, Analyst II
2550 Fifth Avenue, Suite 725
San Diego, California 92103
priscilla.mumpower@sdcounty.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support | Joint SALC Grant Application, County of San Diego PDS & San Diego LAFCO - Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County

Dear Mrs. Mumpower:


The San Diego County Farm Bureau is pleased to submit this letter to the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (SD LAFCO) in support of their joint application to the Department of Conservation for Round 8 of the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Grant with the County of San Diego Planning and Development Services (PDS).

These funds can facilitate SD LAFCO and County PDS to generate good and timely market information and best practice data to support and sustain agriculture in San Diego County, with focus on aiding small-scale farming operations. The market analysis generated through the proposed project is valuable in identifying incentives, technical support, regulatory streamlining, and other mechanisms that may be employed by San Diego County Farm Bureau or other partners to assist in bridging the economic gap and increase the economic sustainability of farming.

San Diego County Farm Bureau is confident that the project will yield valuable results. Pertinently, market and best practices information will aid both farmers – current and prospective – and local government make wise decisions in the shared interest in sustainable and prosperous agriculture.

The San Diego County Farm Bureau appreciates your most positive consideration of the grant application, “Greening Agriculture: Market Analysis to Inform + Support Sustainable Small Farming in San Diego County.” For any questions, you may contact Mary Matava at (760) 518-3498.

Sincerely,


Mary Matava
President

cc: Keene Simonds, Executive Officer, SD LAFCO
Dahvia Lynch, Director, County of San Diego PDS
Stephanie Neal, Land Use/Environmental Planner, County of San Diego PDS
Tyler Farmer, Group Program Manager, County of San Diego PDS

📍 420 S. Broadway - Ste 200, Escondido, CA 92025 📞 760.745.3023 🌐 www.sdfarmbureau.org ✉ sdcfb@sdfarmbureau.org