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News Release

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**BUTTE COUNTY SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION (SALC)
STRATEGY WINS**

APA CALIFORNIA PLANNING AWARD

County works to conserve agricultural lands while mitigating climate change

The American Planning Association California Chapter's *Innovation in Green Community Planning - Award of Excellence* goes to the *Butte County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy*.

Oroville, CA – On August 8, 2018 the American Planning Association (APA) California Chapter and Awards Jury announced the *Butte County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy* as the winner of APA California's *2018 Innovation in Green Community Planning Award of Excellence*. The APA California Awards Program encourages quality in planning by recognizing outstanding achievement. The SALC Strategy is designed to promote sustainability by supporting the conservation and management of agricultural lands in ways that can help mitigate climate change.

The SALC Strategy is a 100% voluntary, opportunity-based tool that offers “wins” for agriculture, the local community, and the environment. It represents a new approach to conserving agricultural lands and promoting sustainable farming and ranching, while also reaching climate action planning goals through agriculture. Using a set of online tools, the Strategy connects farmers and ranchers with information about financial incentives to produce carbon offsets, reduce greenhouse gases, and conserve water.

Preparation of the Strategy was funded by the California Climate Investments SALC Program, which uses Cap-and-Trade proceeds to protect agricultural lands. To develop the Strategy, the County researched and identified approved carbon offsets and other incentive programs, and produced a library of online information to connect farmers and ranchers to these programs. It also created an interactive online mapping tool -- the SALC Mapper -- that allows farmers and ranchers to find out whether they are eligible to enhance their bottom line by producing carbon offsets or earning other incentives while continuing their ongoing agricultural operations. All work on the Strategy, from concept to publication, was completed in-house by Butte County staff. Visit the project website at: <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/SALC.aspx>

More about the SALC Strategy

In preparing the Strategy, Butte County's SALC Team found that grassland conservation and composting alone could allow the County to meet and surpass its Climate Action Plan goals. Grassland composting, particularly on poor soils, could also substantially improve the productivity of these lands while helping agricultural operations to earn additional monetary incentives. Additional practices identified by SALC could help other farmers enhance their bottom line while improving the environment. Contact SALC Strategy Team Leader Claudia Stuart, AICP at 530.552.3681 or cstuart@buttecounty.net for further information.