Sustainable Ag Lands Conservation (SALC)
Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting Agenda (Meeting #1)
Thursday, April 28, 2016
10:00 am to Noon
Development Services Training Room
7 County Center Drive, Oroville

AGENDA

1) Welcome and Introductions (10 min)

2) SALC grant application – overview (15 min)
   a) Background & Scope
   b) Task 1 – Criteria Identification
   c) Task 2 – Stakeholder Group Meetings
   d) Task 3 – Draft Sustainable Ag Land Strategy
   e) Task 4 – Administration & Contract for Services

3) Role of the Stakeholders Group (10 min)

4) Draft Product of Task 1 (15 min)
   a) Sub-Task A Ag Lands Base Mapping
   b) Sub-Task B Protected Lands Inventory
   c) Sub-Task C Williamson Act Contract Inventory
   d) Sub-Task D Priority Base Map

5) Online Mapping Product – Demonstration (20 min)

6) Issues, Concerns, Suggestions (20 min)

7) Next Steps 5 min
The SALC is grant funded through the California Strategic Growth Council and the Department of Conservation. The funding source is from the California Climate Investments program under the California Air Resources Board.

**California Strategic Growth Council (SGC)** brings together agencies and departments within Business, Consumer Services and Housing, Transportation, Natural Resources, Health and Human Services, Food and Agriculture, and Environmental Protection, with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to coordinate activities that support sustainable communities emphasizing strong economies, social equity and environmental stewardship. [http://sgc.ca.gov/](http://sgc.ca.gov/)

**California State Department of Conservation (DOC)** The Department of Conservation provides services and information that promote environmental health, economic vitality, informed land-use decisions and sound management of our state's natural resources. [http://www.conservation.ca.gov/](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/)

**Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation (SALC) Grant** - What practices are present at the "Model California Farm"? This project will help to specifically define these 'best practices'. - This task will involve the development of the best management practices in sustainability for major farming types, including cropland, range, and grazing land. Experts will be questioned from various fields and agencies, including UC Davis Farm Extension, UC Davis Rice Experimentation Station, Chico State University, Butte College, Butte County Agriculture Commissioner’s Office, California Air Resources Board, Natural Resource Conservation Service and other regional County Jurisdictions. Strategies may include but not be limited to crop rotation, cover crops, soil enrichment, pest management, energy use and water use. On-going monitoring of the Butte County Climate Action Plan currently underway will also assist in data collection to document on-farm agricultural management practices targeted to reduce GHG emissions and enhance biological carbon sequestration. The Model Sustainable Farm Practices will be reviewed by the Stakeholder Committee, Planning Commission and ultimately, hopefully, approved by the Butte County Board of Supervisors. [http://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/AGLandsConservation.aspx](http://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/AGLandsConservation.aspx)

**TASK 1. Criteria Identification**

- **Sub-Task A** Agricultural Lands Base Map
- **Sub-Task B** Protected Lands Inventory
- **Sub-Task C** Williamson Act Contract Inventory
- **Sub-Task D** Priority Base Map

**TASK 2. Stakeholder Group Meetings**

Four Stakeholder Group Study Sessions will be held for the following purposes:

1. Initiation of Project – Review of existing programs and proposed project; Issue Identification
2. Review of Priority Base Map and develop recommendations
3. Review Model Farm Practices and develop recommendations
4. Review Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy and develop recommendations

**Task 3. Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy**

- **Sub-Task 3-A**, Review Task 1 Criteria/ Priority Base Map and County General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Climate Action Plan
- **Sub-Task 3-B**, Develop Model Sustainable Farm Practices
- **Sub-Task 3-C**, Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy
- **Sub-Task 3-D**, Workshops with Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors
- **Sub-Task 3-E**, Final Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy
- **Sub-Task 3-F**, Website Development and Posting
- **Sub-Task 3-G**, Agriculture Conservation Easement Brochure Development and Outreach

**Task 4. Administration**

Contract solicitation and administration for consulting services for document editing, graphic and production.
EXHIBIT A - WORK PLAN

STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL/Department of Conservation– Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy Grant Program

Grantee: Butte County Development Services

Grant Number: 3015-902

Jurisdiction: County of Butte

Department/Office: Development Services

Project Title: Butte County Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation Program


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Level Activities/Milestones (with Deliverables and Indicators)</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
<th>Timetable in months (Start year: 2015)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TASK 1. Criteria Identification</td>
<td>Butte County Department of Development Services; Butte County Information Systems-GIS; CSU Chico Geographic Information Center; Agriculture Commissioner</td>
<td>Month 1-8</td>
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The development of a fine-grained level of criteria and mapping, based upon Assessor Parcel Number, to define and delineate agricultural lands with the greatest local priorities for conservation. This includes lands that are under pressure of being converted to nonagricultural uses, particularly those adjacent to areas most at risk of urban or suburban sprawl, those that also exhibit special environmental significance, or those that may result in enhanced carbon sequestration depending on the cropping and management of the protected lands. Staff will coordinate separate efforts to complete a protected lands inventory, consisting of lands that are already permanently protected through habitat and agricultural conservation easements or other protection, a Williamson Act Contract inventory, consisting of assembling the contract status and mapping elements for all Williamson Act contracts in the County, and merging this information with existing General Plan Designations and Zones to develop a Priority Map showing areas with the greatest priority for conservation.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Task A  Agricultural Lands Base Map</th>
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<th>Month 1-6</th>
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<td>A comprehensive base map will be developed, including the preparation of GIS shape files, and a tabular database that will identify agricultural land use types utilizing DOC Farmland map types, Agricultural Commissioner data on crop types, Soil Survey map types, irrigated non-irrigated status, Central Valley Flood Protection Plan mapping, and other sources of information to be investigated for inclusion as appropriate.</td>
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<th>Sub-Task B  Protected Lands Inventory</th>
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<td>A comprehensive map will be developed, including the preparation of GIS shape files that will identify habitat and agricultural conservation easements in the County, including lands that may be permanently protected by other means. The effort will include a tabular data base identifying uses, easement type, and property owners if available.</td>
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<th>Sub-Task C  Williamson Act Contract Inventory</th>
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<td>A comprehensive map will be developed, including the preparation of GIS shape files that will identify all of the Williamson Act Contracts within the County. The effort will draw upon existing mapping and County Williamson Act contract records. The map will include tabular data identifying contract status, landowner, contract type, crop type, and other pertinent information. As part of this process the stakeholder group will review existing information and provide recommendations for future improvements to the implementation of the Williamson Act in Butte County.</td>
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<th>Sub-Task D  Priority Base Map</th>
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<td>Based upon efforts under Sub-Task A thru C, a Priority Base Map will be developed showing agricultural areas prone to threats and in greatest need of conservation efforts. This map will include the preparation of GIS shape files to allow the Priority Base Map to be combined with a variety of differing layers in the County’s GIS system. Additional mapping products will be produced from the Priority Base Map in support of, and in preparation of, the Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy.</td>
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### TASK 2. Stakeholder Group Meetings

A Stakeholder Group will be assembled to study issues, identify areas needing improvement, review Model Farm Practices and review and make recommendations for the Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy. The Stakeholder Group will be made up of representatives from the Butte County Farm Bureau, Butte County Cattlemen/Women, Farm Advisors Office, City and County Planning Staff, Butte County Association of Governments, USDA/Farm Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Local Agency Formation Commission, local Land Trusts, Butte County Resource Conservation District, agricultural water providers and irrigation districts, conservation and environmental interests, and developer interests. A representative from the County’s Land Conservation Act (Williamson Act) Committee will also be included. Representatives from the Board of Supervisors and local City Councils will also be invited to attend meetings. The Stakeholder Group will hold meetings to study issues, identify needs, review products, and make recommendations.

### Stakeholder Group Study Sessions

Four Stakeholder Group Study Sessions will be held for the following purposes:

1. **Initiation of Project** – Review of existing programs and proposed project; Issue Identification
2. **Review of Priority Base Map and develop recommendations**
3. **Review Model Farm Practices and develop recommendations**
4. **Review Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy and develop recommendations**

Additional meetings may be held depending upon specific needs arising through the process.

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<tr>
<th>Butte County Department of Development Services Staff</th>
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**Task 3. Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy**

**Sub-Task 3-A, Review Task 1 Criteria/Priority Base Map and County General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Climate Action Plan**
The work products generated from **Task 1** will be reviewed in light of the County General Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Climate Action Plan. Staff will identify and fill-in gaps in current information, programs, and strategies. The County’s CAP will be reviewed for programs that will compliment and uphold the Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy. Exhibit Maps will be generated that will support the Stakeholder Group Meetings and Public Workshops.

**Sub-Task 3-B, Develop Model Sustainable Farm Practices**
This task will involve the development of the best management practices in sustainability for major farming types, including cropland, range, and grazing land. Experts will be questioned from various fields and agencies, including UC Davis Farm Extension, UC Davis Rice Experimentation Station, Chico State University, Butte College, Butte County Agriculture Commissioner’s Office, California Air Resources Board, Natural Resource Conservation Service and other regional County Jurisdictions. Strategies may include but not be limited to crop rotation, cover crops, soil enrichment, pest management, energy use, and water use. On-going monitoring of the Butte County Climate Action Plan currently underway will also assist in data collection to document on-farm agricultural management practices targeted to reduce GHG emissions and enhance biological carbon sequestration. The Model Sustainable Farm Practices will be reviewed by the Stakeholder Committee, which will provide recommendations to staff.

**Sub-Task 3-C, Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy**
From the work developed under Task 1, an overall strategy will be developed to focus the variety of existing and new conservation efforts in areas of the County identified as having the greatest risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses. The Strategy will incorporate the Model Sustainable Farm Practices developed under Sub-Task 3-B, and include a public education strategy providing approaches for outreach with local agencies and the Farm Bureau (see Sub-Task 3-G below). Butte County’s Draft Agriculture Mitigation Ordinance will be reviewed against the new Strategy and recommendations will be made to improve the Draft Agriculture Mitigation Ordinance and focus mitigation efforts where most needed. The Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy will be reviewed by the

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<th>Butte County Department of Development Services Staff and Consultant</th>
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Sub-Task 3-D, Workshops with Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors
Workshops will be held at the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in order to provide opportunities for public input, as well as to provide decision-makers time to study issues and become familiar with the project.

Sub-Task 3-E, Final Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy
The Butte County Board of Supervisors will consider the adoption of a Resolution approving and supporting a Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy.

Sub-Task 3-F, Website Development and Posting
Develop and post the County’s Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy including all relevant maps, goals, related policies and ordinances, on the County’s Website.

Sub-Task 3-G, Agriculture Conservation Easement Brochure Development and Outreach
In coordination with the County’s Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy and Draft Agriculture Mitigation Ordinance, the County will prepare a brochure covering the role of local land trusts in the easement process, various aspects of the easement process and benefits of conserving the County’s agricultural resources. The brochure will be made available on the County’s website, as well as provided to key agricultural organizations and local land trusts for outreach to the community.

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<th>Sub-Task</th>
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**TASK 4. Grant Administration**

Consultant work will be retained through an Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the document editing, graphics and production of profession-quality hard copy and electronic document format. Retained consultant will review and observe the planning program process in order to adequately perform document services. The RFP process will be in Month 3-5 for work to be ongoing in Months 5 through 12.

Grant closeout. Finalize submittal requirements to complete the final invoice and administrative process for the grant.

| Month 3-5 | Months 5-12 | Months 12-15 |
## Task 1 Criteria Identification

- **Subtask 1a** - Ag Lands Base Map
- **Subtask 1b** - Protected Lands Inventory
- **Subtask 1c** - Williamson Act Contract Inventory
- **Subtask 1d** - Priority Base Map

## Task 2 Stakeholder Group Meetings

- **Initiation of Project**
- **Review Priority Base Map**
- **Review Model Farm Practices**
- **Review Draft Sustainable Ag Land Strategy**

## Task 3 Draft Sustainable Land Strategy

- **Subtask 3a** - Review Task 1 Criteria/Base Map, GP, ZO & CAP
- **Subtask 3b** - Develop Model Sustainable Farm Practices
- **Subtask 3c** - Draft Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy
- **Sub-Task 3-D, Workshops with Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors**
- **Sub-Task 3-E, Final Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy**
- **Sub-Task 3-F, Website Development and Posting**
- **Sub-Task 3-G, Ag Conservation Easement Brochure Development & Outreach**

## Task 4 Administration (RFP for Consultant)

- **Consultant** -
**CAP & SALC General Plan Supporting Measures**

**AG3- Optimize the efficiency of water irrigation practices through clean, alternative irrigation energy sources.**

AG-P3.1 The County shall use the existing local working group process to cooperate with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide support to farmers regarding conserving water, planting drought-tolerant crops and protecting natural resources.

AG-P6.2 The County shall work with water agencies and irrigation districts to improve the distribution of water for agricultural uses.

W-P4.1 Agricultural and urban water use efficiency shall be promoted.

W-P4.2 Water conservation efforts of local Resource Conservation Districts, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and irrigation districts should be coordinated.

W-P4.3 The County shall work with municipal and industrial water purveyors to implement water conservation policies and measures.

W-A4.2 Identify appropriate water use efficiency best management practices.

**AG5- Implement best practices in fertilizer and pesticide use.**

AG-P4.4 The County shall encourage the establishment of small-scale agriculture uses such as specialty crops, organic farming, specialized animal facilities and agricultural research operations on small parcels of land in existing agricultural areas.

AG-P3.2 The County supports existing efforts, such as those by the U.C. Cooperative Extension, to educate and encourage farmers to use agricultural methods that reduce or minimize use of pesticides, herbicides and manufactured fertilizers.

W-P1.5 Pest-tolerant landscapes shall be encouraged to minimize the need for pesticides.

**AG6- Develop a local carbon sequestration or offset program on agricultural and timber land.**

ED-P2.6 The County supports programs and projects that would help Butte County farmers provide carbon offsets, if and when new regulations require industries to provide carbon offsets.

COS-P1.6 Recognize and promote the emerging market for agricultural producers to provide carbon sequestration services.
**A2- Prepare for changing precipitation patterns and water supply.**

AG-P3.1 The County shall use the existing local working group process to cooperate with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide support to farmers regarding conserving water, planting drought-tolerant crops and protecting natural resources.

AG-P6.2 The County shall work with water agencies and irrigation districts to improve the distribution of water for agricultural uses.

W-P2.1 The County supports solutions to ensure the sustainability of community water supplies.

W-P2.3 Water resources shall be planned and managed in a way that relies on sound science and public participation.

W-P3.1 The County shall continue to ensure the sustainability of groundwater resources, including groundwater levels, groundwater quality and avoidance of land subsidence, through a basin management objective program that relies on management at the local level, utilizes sound scientific data and assures compliance.

W-P3.2 Groundwater transfers and substitution programs shall be regulated to protect the sustainability of the County’s economy, communities and ecosystem, pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Butte County Code.

W-A3.1 Seek funding for and conduct comprehensive, countywide mapping of water resources and groundwater recharge areas.

W-A3.2 Evaluate gaps in existing federal, State and local standards, and develop additional standards as needed to preserve groundwater recharge and protect groundwater quality.

W-A3.4 Seek funds and develop programs that improve the scientific understanding of regional aquifer systems and potential factors related to the sustainability of the county’s water resources.

W-P4.3 The County shall work with municipal and industrial water purveyors to implement water conservation policies and measures.

**R1- Enhance the economic viability of local agriculture in a changing climate.**

ED-P2.1 The County shall create and support opportunities to promote and market agricultural products grown or processed within Butte County (such as a Farmers’ Market).

ED-P2.6 The County supports programs and projects that would help Butte County farmers provide carbon offsets, if and when new regulations require industries to provide carbon offsets.
AG-P3.1 The County shall use the existing local working group process to cooperate with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide support to farmers regarding conserving water, planting drought-tolerant crops and protecting natural resources.

W-P3.2 Groundwater transfers and substitution programs shall be regulated to protect the sustainability of the County’s economy, communities and ecosystem, pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Butte County Code.

R3- Sustain a thriving economy that capitalizes on changing conditions.

ED-P2.6 The County supports programs and projects that would help Butte County farmers provide carbon offsets, if and when new regulations require industries to provide carbon offsets.

PUB-P1.2 County facilities shall be designed, constructed and operated to be environmentally sustainable, and beneficial to the community and the region.*

GR2- Work with partners to prepare for climate change.

W-A3.4 Seek funds and develop programs that improve the scientific understanding of regional aquifer systems and potential factors related to the sustainability of the county’s water resources.

AG-P3.1 The County shall use the existing local working group process to cooperate with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to provide support to farmers regarding conserving water, planting drought-tolerant crops and protecting natural resources.

AG-P6.2 The County shall work with water agencies and irrigation districts to improve the distribution of water for agricultural uses.

W-P4.2 Water conservation efforts of local Resource Conservation Districts, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and irrigation districts should be coordinated.
Additional Policies of Interest

LU-P13.5 Except as provided for in Policy LU-P13.4, require that all land use on the Agricultural Side of the Chico Area Greenline consist solely of agricultural land uses as provided by the “Agriculture” and “Agriculture Services” designations.

LU-P13.7 Conserve and protect for agricultural use the lands in the Chico area that are situated on the Agricultural Side of the Chico Area Greenline.

D2N-P6.6 Protect agricultural lands which currently produce, or have the potential to produce, from encroaching urban uses.
Lands With Agricultural Land Use Designation

Land Use Designation

- City Limits
- Agriculture
- Other Land Uses