

Agricultural Land Conservation Program Updates



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 **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program



SALC Program Goals

Guidelines Round 8

Protect agricultural lands supporting infill & compact development

Contribute to carbon neutrality

Support sustainable land management

Support coordinated land use planning

Support Executive Order N-82-20



SCAN ME

What is agricultural land and use?

Agricultural land:

- both cultivated and non-cultivated lands supporting an agricultural use

Agricultural use: agricultural activity, operation, or facility or appurtenances including...

- Cultivation and tillage of the soil
- Dairying
- Production, cultivation, growing, harvesting of any agricultural commodity
- Any management practices performed by a farmer or on a farm
- Post-farming operations including market delivery, preparation, or delivery to carriers for transportation
- Gathering and activities promoting healthy trees, shrubs, and perennial forbs for cultivation of traditional foods, herbal medicine, fibers, dyes
- Activities led or conducted by or in partnership with California Native American tribe or members thereof

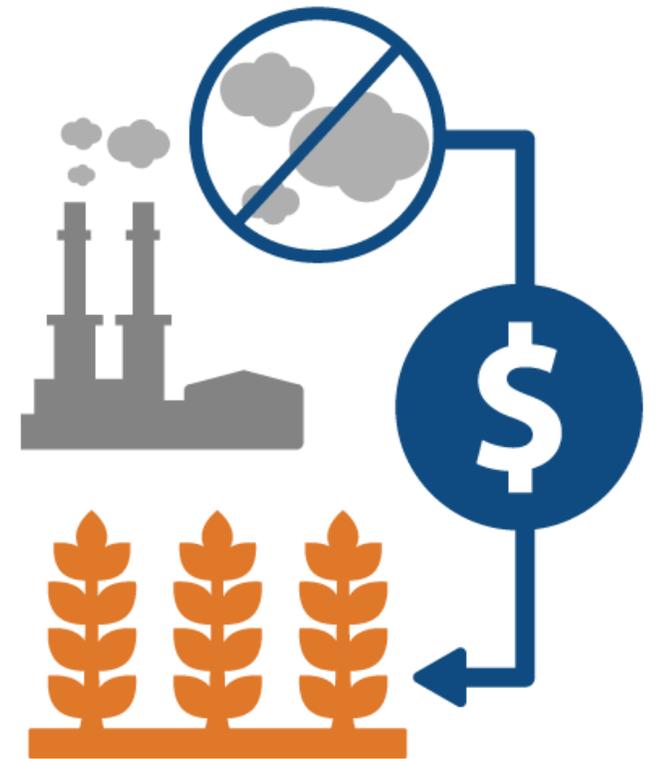
Successes in SALC over Rounds 1-7 (2014-2021)

\$5.2 MILLION awarded for 27 Planning Grants

\$291 MILLION awarded for 142 Acquisition Grants

156,015 ACRES of agricultural lands conserved

59.3 MILLION tonnes GHG emissions avoided



SALC Project Types



Planning Grants

To develop and implement plans for the protection of agricultural lands at risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses.



Acquisition Grants

To permanently protect important agricultural land under threat of conversion.



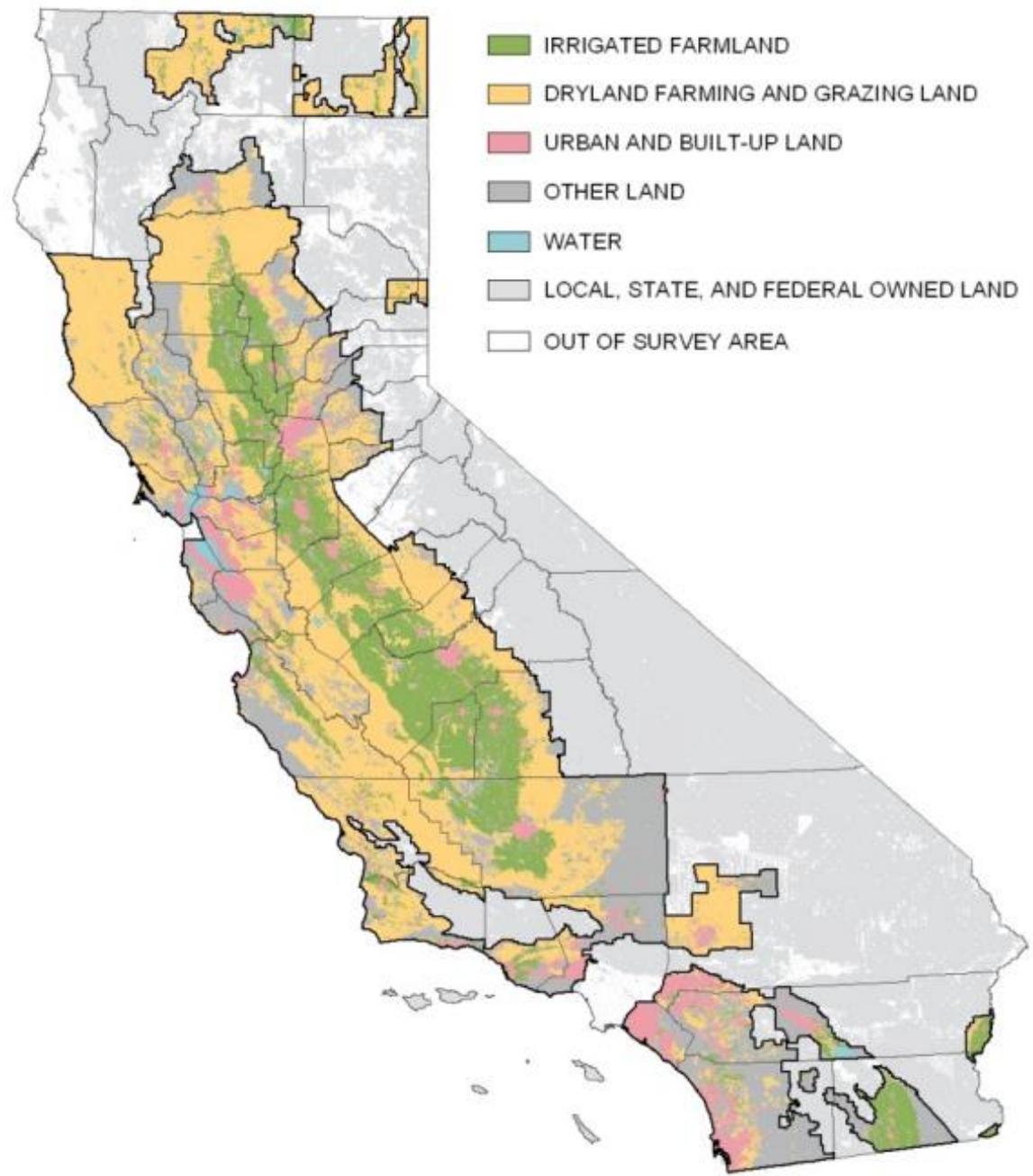
Capacity Grants

To expand organizational capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects





SALC Planning Projects



SALC Planning Grants



Developing and implementing plans for ag land protection from conversion

Eligible applicants

Cities, counties, LAFCOs, California Native American Tribes, COGs, municipal planning organizations, regional transportation planning or groundwater sustainability agencies, special districts with land use or transportation planning authority.

Grant award

- \$500,000 maximum grant award
- 10% match* (no match needed if a priority population)

Planning projects at the County level



Build local political support and momentum

Create Task Force

Explore local ag measures

Leverage State funds as a key motivator

Invoke agricultural plan for land use decisions

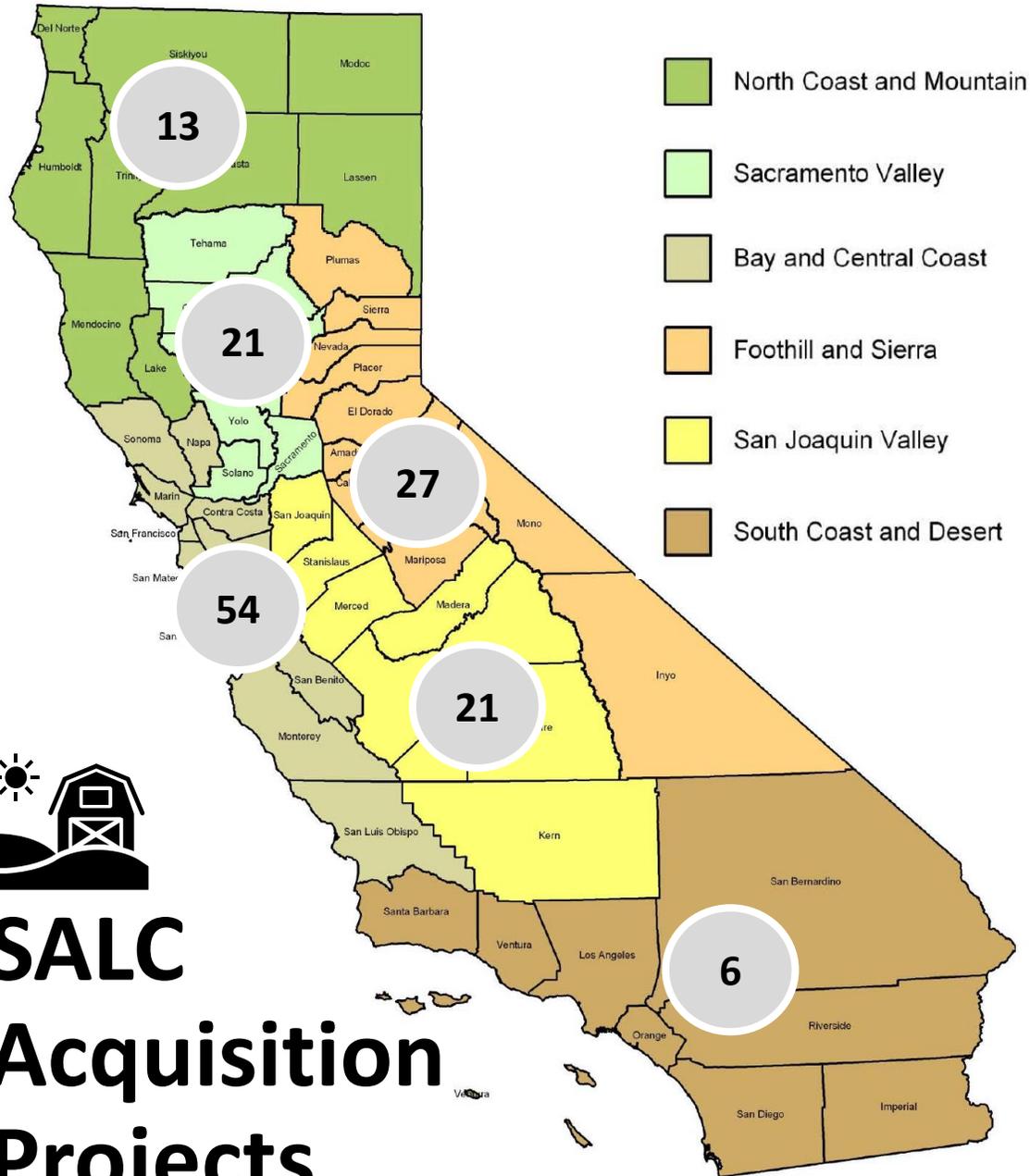
Support preservation of prime farmland

Discourage urban area expansion into agricultural areas

Craft policy framework for the future

Relate planning to general and climate action plans





SALC Acquisition Projects

SALC Acquisition Grants



Supporting landowners to permanently protect their agricultural lands

Eligible applicants

Acquisition buyers: cities, counties, non-profit organizations, RCDs, California Native American Tribes, regional park or open space districts and authorities. *In collaboration with private landowner.*

Grant award

- 75% of the appraisal value, or 100% funding available to projects that can demonstrate meaningful benefits to a priority population
- Up to \$50,000 for real estate associated costs
- Up to \$10,000 for a carbon farming plan or management plan

Why enter into a conservation easement?

Land remains
permanently
protected

Leave a legacy
of
conservation

Protect
natural
resources

Maintain value
as habitat,
open space

Retain private
ownership

Keep the
property
intact

Long-term
investment
gain

Income tax
deductions

Easement project in Calexico, CA



Award
\$3,390,000



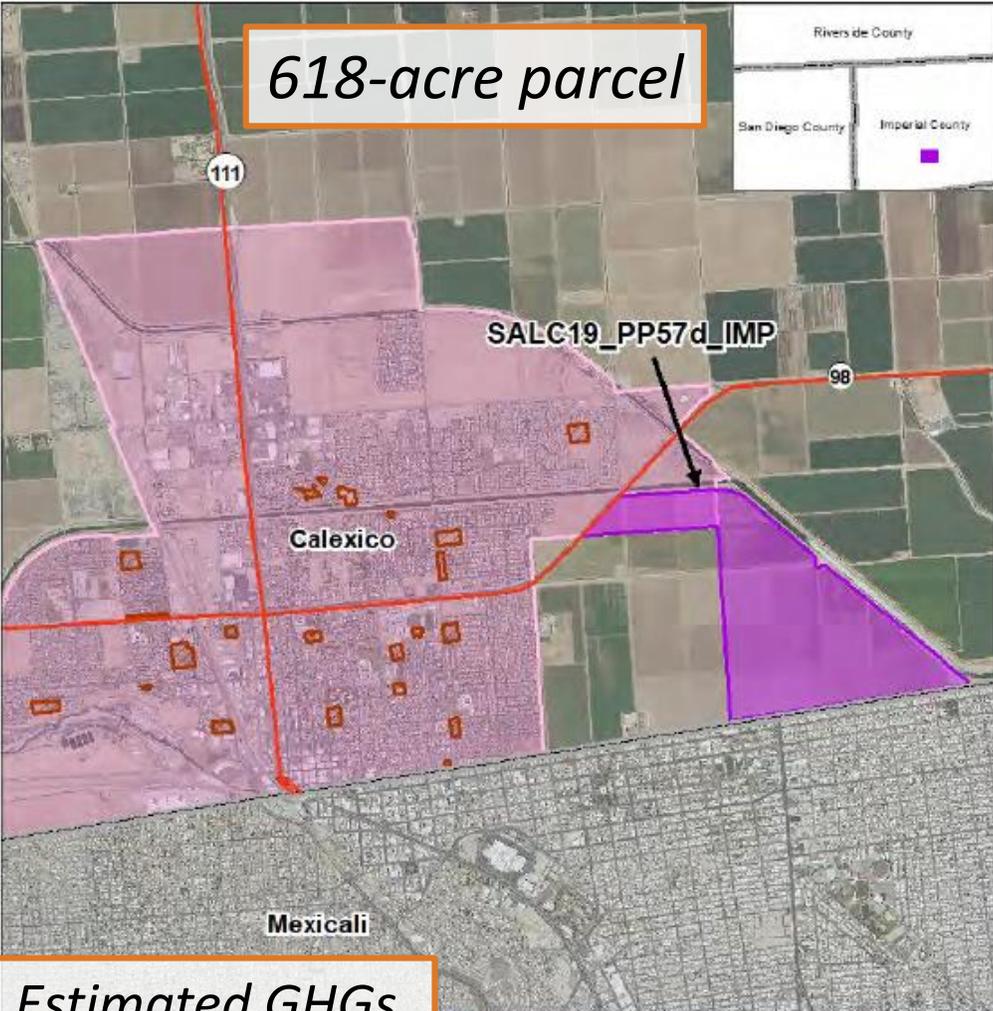
100 acres prime farmland; organic mixed greens sold at various markets



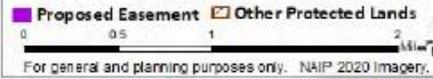
Greenbelt on eastern edge and between US and Mexico dense neighborhoods



Prevent the ranch from being urbanized



Estimated GHGs avoided: 249,595 MT CO₂E

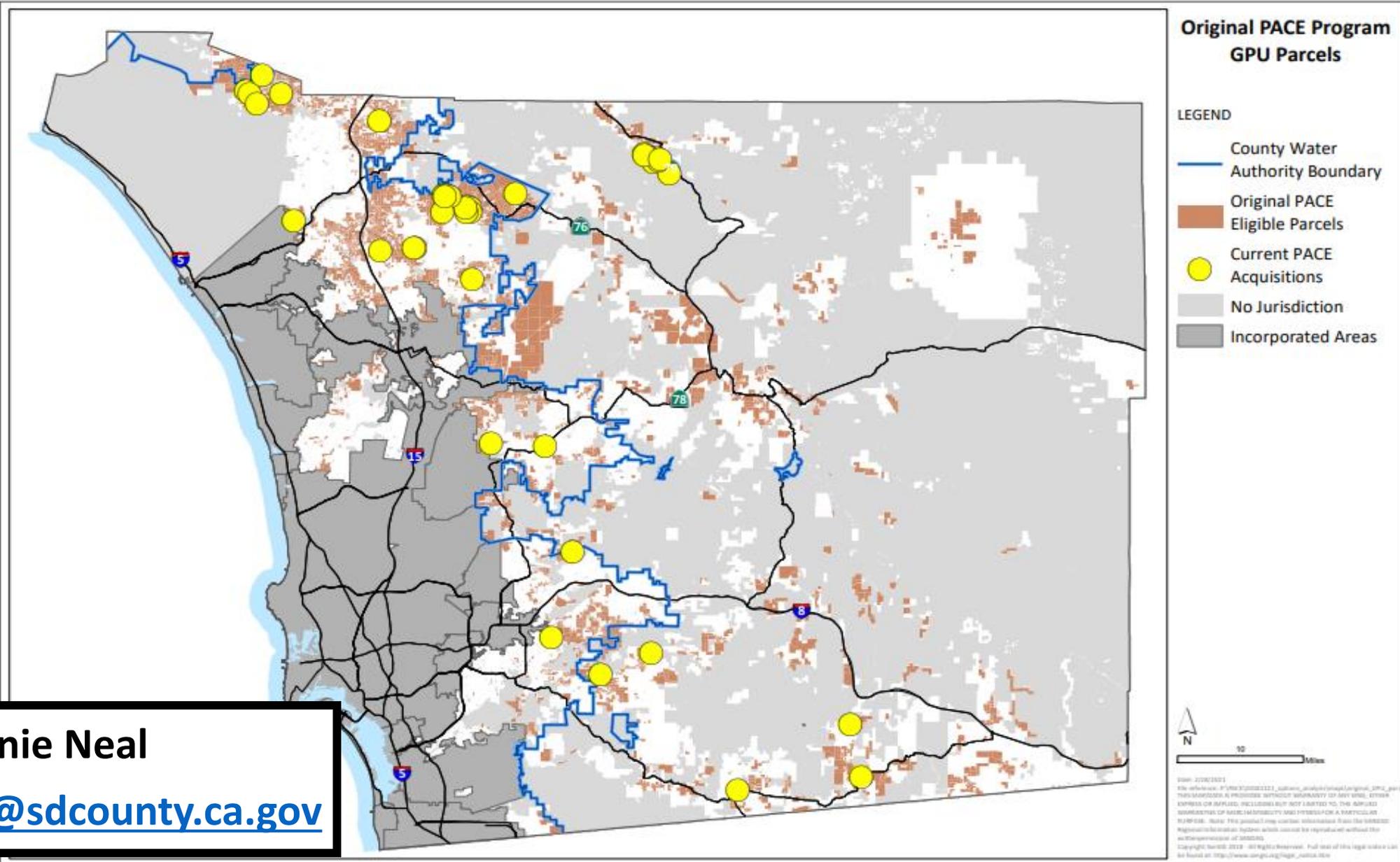


Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE)



Stephanie Neal

AgConservation@sdcounty.ca.gov



Barriers to SALC in California



Dedicated technical assistance

Organization size and capacity

Strength of planning network

Collaborative action

Equity and diversity

Social barriers

Financial incentives

Profitability of agriculture

Additional funding for stewardship

SALC Capacity and Project Development Grants



Increasing organizational support to develop acquisition projects

Eligible applicants

Acquisition buyers: cities, counties, non-profit organizations, RCDs, California Native American Tribes, regional park or open space districts and authorities. *Must have conservation of agriculture, rangeland, or farmland in stated purposes.*

Grant award

- Tier 1: up to \$100,000 for eligible applicants for which this is their first capacity grant, or with up to 2 paid staff.
- Tier 2: up to \$250,000 for eligible applicants who have previously received a capacity grant, or with 3+ paid staff.

Timeline of Critical Dates for Round 8 2021-2022



To learn more about SALC...

Chat with us

Read more
about it



SCAN ME

Connect with
interested
stakeholders

Tell us about
your planning
ideas

Please contact us if you are interested in applying to SALC!

Thank you!



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