



**NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA**
REGIONAL LAND TRUST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL LAND TRUST ANNOUNCES FINALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PERMANENTLY PROTECTING 2,724.55 ACRES OF RANGELAND IN TEHAMA COUNTY

Chico, California (Dec. 21, 2023) –Today, Northern California Regional Land Trust announced finalization of an agricultural conservation easement for a 2,724.55-acre family ranch near Vina, California. This project was several years in the making, with NCRLT awarded a Strategic Growth Council grant in 2019 through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, funded by California Climate Investments through the Department of Conservation (DOC) which funded 75% of the project, and 25% funding from National Resource Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Agricultural Land Easement program, a program of the Farm Bill.

Conservation easements are a tool to shelter farms, ranches, and wild lands from current and future land conversion threats and subdivision, preserving scenic vistas and rich agricultural resources. Through this legal process, the agreement outlines collaborative stewardship objectives and permanently extinguishes development rights, with landowners continuing land management while leaving a unique legacy of open space for the North State. Since 1990, NCRLT has worked with our local community members to conserve land we love, totaling 40,983.98 acres. In this case, a ranch operated by the same family for generations.

“To place a conservation easement on this land is the natural solution to our family’s needs because it preserves our livelihood while conserving the spaces we’ve stewarded with care for generations. This land will remain for the generation just starting to learn the lessons from the land alongside their parents and grandparents, and for whomever comes after,” said one of the three landowners at closing.

“Completing this agricultural conservation easement with funding from DOC and NRCS has been a productive process for the land trust. These landowners remained patient while steering us across hundreds of miles of rangeland to complete the process of baseline documentation, qualified appraisal, and valuation. Because of the stewards’ foresight and diligence, our land trust staff are better equipped to facilitate similar projects with multiple funding sources in the future.”

Funds for this project were made available through the California Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) in collaboration with the Department of Conservation. SALC is part of [California Climate Investments](#), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. In a recent press release announcing the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program awardees, Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director of the California Strategic Growth Council, is quoted saying, “The Sustainable

Agricultural Lands Conservation Program is helping California fight climate change by advancing healthy soils and permanently protecting agricultural and working lands at risk of development."

This conservation easement will protect and preserve the beautiful and unique features of this property including summer and winter rangeland for local cattle operation, historical Lassen Emigrant Trail markers, acres of Blue Oak and Valley Oak woodlands, Deer Creek and Dry Creek riparian access, and over 14 miles of perennial and intermittent streams. An existing conservation easement on the property with The Nature Conservancy also protects vernal pool habitat and floodplain for Deer Creek.

The Northern California Regional Land Trust, which celebrated its 33rd anniversary in 2023, owns 600 acres and protects nearly 41,000 acres in conservation easements. Visit the Land Trust's website at www.landconservation.org to learn more about how you can support important community projects, and advance their mission to *protect working and wild lands forever*.

About the Northern California Regional Land Trust

The Northern California Regional Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that assists landowners and public agencies in the voluntary protection and conservation of agricultural land, open space, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources across Butte, Glenn, and Tehama County. To advance their mission, they negotiate conservation easements, facilitate land acquisitions or exchanges, and provide professional planning and technical assistance in natural resource management and conservation. They also support environmental education for people of all ages, host events that bring the community together to celebrate land, and work to increase public access to wild nature and to outdoor recreation opportunities in the region. The Land Trust is guided by a Board of Directors that generously volunteer their time, including Gerald Armour, Ross Turner, Noelle Ferdon Brimlow, Cindy Wolff, and Adam Groen. For more information about the Land Trust's work, how you can support regional conservation, or to explore ways to achieve your own estate planning and land protection goals, please visit their website at www.landconservation.org.

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