



**NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA**
REGIONAL LAND TRUST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL LAND TRUST RECEIVES A \$250,000 GRANT FROM THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Chico, California (Dec. 15, 2023) –Today, NCRLT is thrilled to announce it is the fortunate recipient of a \$250,000 capacity building grant from the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) under the Department of Conservation. This much-needed funding allows the Land Trust to accelerate efforts supporting local ranchers and farmers in conserving their working lands.

NCRLT was one of 19 applicants to receive capacity grants, as awarded on December 14, 2023, in a meeting of the California Strategic Growth Council, dedicating more than \$116 million in grants to protect 50,880 acres of agricultural land at risk for development and to support organizations throughout California working to protect agricultural lands from land conversion. These grants were awarded through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, a state program that facilitates the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by protecting agricultural lands. 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.

NCRLT plans to use this funding to expand outreach to local landowners, and offer resources to aid succession planning for the longevity of agricultural operations. The funding also facilitates preparing funding proposals with willing landowners to support the process of placing the property in conservation easement.

Conservation easements are a tool to protect farms, ranches, and wild lands from current and future development threats, preserving scenic vistas and rich agricultural resources. Through this legal process, the agreement permanently extinguishes the development rights not required by the agricultural operations, and establishes a management plan outlining stewardship priorities and objectives. Landowners can continue managing and working the land under carefully planned stewardship agreements, while leaving a unique legacy of open space for the North State.

“This grant comes at a critical time for our region’s conservation planning,” says Executive Director Cynthia Graves Perrine. “With land being the literal base supporting every human interest from housing to sustainable food systems to recreation and industrial operations, our collective land ethic must include protecting and conserving land for all uses by all people, in perpetuity. For rural communities especially, conservation planning leads to improved infrastructure or applied efficiencies, increased capacity to diversify crops, and can help families settle and adjust financial interests in the land.”

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. 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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