



## COUNTY OF PLACER

## AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

JOSHUA P. HUNTSINGER  
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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Josh Huntsinger, County Agricultural Commissioner

**DATE:** June 16, 2015

**SUBJECT:** **Application for Grant Funds for a Placer County Agricultural Lands Strategy**

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#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer to apply for Grant Funds for a "Placer County Agricultural Lands Strategy" to analyze and develop a strategic plan specific to the conservation of agricultural lands in Placer County and authorizing the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer to execute all documents in furtherance of said application and grant program.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The CA Department of Conservation is working in cooperation with the CA Natural Resources Agency and the Strategic Growth Council to implement the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALCP). One component of this program funds Agricultural Conservation Easements, and the other component funds the development of local Sustainable Agricultural Lands Strategies. Placer County, in conjunction with the Placer Land Trust, has previously applied for an Easement grant.

The "Placer Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy" grant proposal has been developed in partnership with the County's Planning Services Division, the Agricultural Commissioner, Placer Land Trust, and Placer Resource Conservation District (RCD). The RCD has been the lead on the project. Together, the team has outlined a work plan that includes the following elements: 1) analysis of previous conservation efforts and existing plans, 2) analysis of potential land conservation strategies, 3) inventory of existing agricultural lands, 4) engagement of a community task force, 5) survey of agricultural landowners, and 6) development of a Placer County Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy.

As the Board is aware, the County has been working to balance economic development activities with natural resource conservation through the implementation of the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program and the development of the Placer County Conservation Plan (PCCP). While this plan will indirectly aid in conservation of some

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agricultural lands, that is not its primary intent. With the exception of Williamson Act contracts and some policy language in the 2013 General Plan Policy Document, the majority of existing County natural resource policies are primarily focused on species, and natural resource mitigation and conservation. There is a policy gap in the need for a strategy to conserve agricultural lands in California's fastest growing County. This policy gap has also been recognized by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and is being partially addressed through their Rural Urban Connection Study. Because of the County's efforts in the PCCP and Placer Legacy and regional efforts such as SACOG (and Valley Vision), now is an optimal time to analyze and develop a strategic plan specific to the conservation of agricultural lands in Placer County.

A Placer Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy would integrate all existing permanently protected lands, and would be coordinated with the existing efforts of the PCCP, Placer County General Plan, Placer Legacy, Placer Land Trust, other conservation programs, , and ongoing implementation of the Williamson Act program.

The attached Board Resolution will allow the County Agricultural Commissioner to file the grant application with the State. It is a mandatory requirement of this grant program that the Board provide this authorization. We are requesting the maximum amount of funding from this program - \$100,000.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time. If the grant is awarded, there may be requests for matching funds from various entities, such as the County for materials, supplies and GIS/Mapping tasks. This is estimated at this time to be less than \$10,000. Further information will be brought to the Board if the grant is awarded.

# Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Resol. No: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPT A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR A "PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LANDS STRATEGY" TO ANALYZE AND DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN SPECIFIC TO THE CONSERVATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN PLACER COUNTY AND AUTHORIZING THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/SEALER TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS IN FURTHERANCE OF SAID APPLICATION AND GRANT PROGRAM

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_ by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

passage.

Signed and approved by me after its

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:  
Clerk of said Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PLACER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**WHEREAS**, the CA Department of Conservation is working in cooperation with the CA Natural Resources Agency and the Strategic Growth Council to implement the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALCP). One component of this program funds Agricultural Conservation Easements, and the other component funds the development of local Sustainable Agricultural Lands Strategies.

**WHEREAS**, the "Placer Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy" grant proposal has been developed in partnership with the County's Planning Services Division, the Agricultural

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Commissioner, Placer Land Trust, and Placer Resource Conservation District (RCD) ("the Team").

**WHEREAS**, the Team has outlined a work plan that includes the following elements: 1) analysis of previous conservation efforts and existing plans, 2) analysis of potential land conservation strategies, 3) inventory of existing agricultural lands, 4) engagement of a community task force, 5) survey of agricultural landowners, and 6) development of a Placer County Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy.

**WHEREAS**, the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer wishes to apply for grant funds to assist with implementation of the "Placer Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy".

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors finds that, if awarded, these grant funds could aid in analyzing and developing a strategic plan specific to the conservation of agricultural lands in Placer County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Placer County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes and directs the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer to apply for Grant Funds for a "Placer County Agricultural Lands Strategy" to analyze and develop a strategic plan specific to the conservation of agricultural lands in Placer County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer to execute all documents in furtherance of said application and grant program.