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August 2, 2022

Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
California Strategic Growth Council
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear SALC Review Committee,

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) supports the Sacramento Valley Conservancy's application for 'Capacity and Project Development' funding from SALC to pursue the Southeast Sacramento Agricultural Buffer project. SACOG, is the council of governments and the metropolitan planning organization for six counties and the cities within them including: El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba. Across the six counties, approximately 40 percent of our lands are agricultural. Agriculture has deep roots in our region's history and future as we have some of the most productive farmland in the world. In our region, agriculture is a \$2 billion industry. Growing food and fiber in our region creates opportunities for jobs and income on and off the farm through supporting and value-add activities related to food production, agritourism, local food serving restaurants, and more. But there's more to what we get from agriculture than this economic activity. Keeping land in agricultural production helps to provide clean air, clean water, recreation, tourism, and wildlife habitat.

SACOG has worked through its Rural-Urban Connections Strategy to understand and support the potential for our region's rural, agricultural, and natural resource lands. RUCS is an "outside-in" strategy to complement SACOG's long-range sustainable growth vision known as the Blueprint. More recently our efforts have focused on the development of a Coordinated Rural Opportunities Plan (CROP). CROP aims to complement any local preservation efforts by highlighting the economic incentives for agriculture and creating a strategy that will help our members and partners compete for grants and secure other available funding to preserve and expand critical agricultural infrastructure.

We support the Southeast Sacramento Agricultural Buffer project's goal to protect agricultural operations and land adjacent to protected land in contiguous blocks that can be sustainably managed. Preserving agricultural land in the southeast area will benefit the community by sustaining multicultural farms, supporting local food production, providing areas for nature study and environmental education, preventing

traffic and air quality impacts from subdivision construction, and providing open space enjoyment for residents in nearby developments.

We urge your support of this project that will bring the above benefits to meet community needs in the Southeast Sacramento area.

Sincerely,



Clint Holtzen (Aug 3, 2022 11:44 PDT)

Clint Holtzen

Planning Manager







SVC SALC Support Letter - SACOG

Final Audit Report

2022-08-03

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