
Date: June 3, 2025

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ Majority Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Directors Of The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (District), approving the submission of an agricultural conservation easement proposal to the California Strategic Growth Council's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, administered by the California Department of Conservation for the South Sonoma Mountain – Grove Project, certifying that there is no known conflict of interest, and authorizing the General Manager to take related actions to accept the Grant, if awarded.

Whereas, the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program is a component of the Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainability Program and is administered by the Department of Conservation in conjunction with the CA State Natural Resources Agency; and

Whereas, the purpose of the SALC Program is to protect agricultural land to support infill and compact development and to further the purpose of California AB 32 by avoiding increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the conversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses; and

Whereas, funds have been allocated to SALC from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to accomplish the above purposes; and

Whereas, the Department of Conservation has established Guidelines to disburse said allocated funds via a competitive grant process, which Guidelines require a resolution certifying approval of the application before submission of said application to the State; and

Whereas, the District intends to negotiate an agricultural conservation easement over the 370.51-acre South Sonoma Mountain – Grove property located at APN 017-100-006 and portions of APN 017-100-018 and APN 017-100-030 for the purpose of conserving priority agricultural land resources; and

Whereas, the property is located in a designated Plan Bay Area 2050 Priority Conservation Area (PCA), which calls for the protection and management of high value open space lands by reducing conversion to other uses, thereby reinforcing the development of in-fill and compact communities; and

Whereas, the property is located in a designated CAL FIRE 2023 High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which encourages protection and active management to reduce development in high fire risk areas and reduce ignition risk and fire intensity; and

Whereas, the conservation project is consistent with the District's Vital Lands Initiative

in the Agricultural Lands, Water, Wildlands, and Community Identity categories; and

Whereas, District staff intend to submit an application to the Department of Conservation for a grant under the SALC Program to assist with the preservation of the South Sonoma Mountain – Grove property’s agricultural land resources; and

Whereas, the Board of Directors desires to make certain findings required by the State in connection with applications for grants under the SALC Program.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that this Board of Directors hereby finds, determines, declares and orders as follows:

1. The foregoing recitations are true and correct.
2. This Board authorizes the submittal of the South Sonoma Mountain – Grove project acquisition grant application to the SALC program;
3. This Board authorizes the District General Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the Department of Conservation for the project if the project is awarded funding, which agreement shall conform substantially with the State grant agreement template presented to this Board and on file with the Clerk, with such minor modification as may be approved by County Counsel;
4. This Board certifies that no known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest exists as to any member of this Board of Director, as it relates to the project; and
5. This Board authorizes the District General Manager to execute and implement the grant agreements, including signing applications, agreements, invoices, and other documents related to the applications and grant agreements, if awarded funding.

Directors:

Hermosillo: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.