

Santa Clara County - Climate And Agricultural Preservation Action Plan (CAPP):

A Plan to Create a Vibrant and Sustainable Agricultural Economy in Santa Clara County

1.0 Introduction - CAPP's main purpose

A regional effort to protect agricultural lands as a long-term resource and minimize the impacts of climate change. The effort is led by Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA) with funding from the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALCP).

- Provide comprehensive, detailed mapping of agricultural priorities for Southern Santa Clara County;
- Analyze existing policy and planning frameworks to craft potential policies and programs that support a more integrated approach to protecting farmlands while keeping agriculture viable; and
- Bring together local and regional government agencies, municipalities and the agricultural sector to craft a unified policy framework for the future

2.0 Key Findings So Far - What we have learned:

A summary of the key findings regarding Agriculture and Farming trends in Santa Clara County, as initially discussed at the February Technical Panel meeting. Including a discussion / evaluation of the risks of doing nothing (no CAPP) – conversion trends going forward.

- Mapping products showing Southern Santa Clara County Farming:
 - Prime farmland areas
 - Lands most at risk
 - The state of existing ag in Southern Santa Clara County
 - Character defining attributes within Southern Santa Clara County
- The risks of doing nothing – going forward
 - Continued conversions
 - Loss of prime farmland and rural character
 - Loss of vital farming economy

3.0 Draft Vision - CAPP - A Framework for Creating a Vibrant and Sustainable Agricultural Economy in South Santa Clara Valley

A regional effort to protect Santa Clara Valley's working lands and minimize the impacts of climate change.

A Goals / strategies-

1. Keeping Land in Farming and Ranching
 - Build awareness and support that a sustainable future for the region includes the importance of thriving working lands within its boundaries.
2. Protecting Critical Agricultural Lands from Conversion to Urban or Rural Residential Development
 - Avoid generation of greenhouse gas emissions by limiting the conversion of farmland and rangeland to urban land uses.

3. Honoring and Building upon the Agricultural Legacy of Santa Clara Valley 2
 - Reconnect people to the rich farming and ranching legacy of Santa Clara Valley and its sense of place.
4. Crafting a Unified Policy Framework for the Future
 - Bring together local and regional government agencies together to develop a shared vision and policy agenda for protecting agriculture in the region

B Establishing the Agricultural Core: The foundation to a comprehensive Agricultural Preservation and Economic Development Plan

Designation of an area that helps to focus conservation efforts and priorities

C CAPP Elements – Four Primary Focus Areas

1. Land Use Ordinances and Policies – Managing the Conversion of Farmland
2. Regional Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and Voluntary Financial Incentives – Providing incentives to support sustainable agricultural practices, ecosystem services and rural community investment.
3. Agricultural Economic Development Strategy – Making the Case for Investment in Santa Clara County’s agricultural economy.
4. Regional Branding, Education and Awareness Strategy – Promoting Agriculture and highlighting its value to the region.

D Foundational Tools & Agricultural Core Sub Areas

- Utilization of foundational tools within Agricultural Core area as discussed previously, including:
 - Zoning/land use policies that limit conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses
 - Voluntary financial incentive programs – Agricultural Conservation Easements, Farmland Security Zone, Transfer of Development Credits, Payments for Ecosystem Services
 - Agricultural Economic Development Strategy
 - Marketing and branding strategy
- Initial identification of potential “Ag Enterprise Districts/Areas” within the Core to focus on distinctive local Ag opportunities with their own custom tools if needed.
- Sub-Areas of Agricultural Core and potential Ag Enterprise Areas
 - Coyote Valley
 - Tennant / Morgan Hill
 - Watsonville Road Wine Trail
 - Fitzgerald / Santa Teresa
 - Leavesley
 - Pacheco Pass

4.0 Input from Tech Panel on Ag Core and sub-districts/Tools.