Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Planning Grant Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PG1

Applicant
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)

Project Location
Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties

Project Title
Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study

Total Funding
$275,000

Funding Request
$250,000

Match Funding
$25,000

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is seeking a Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Planning Grant to fund the creation of a Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study.

The implementation of the study will include the creation of a new land use model as well as a carbon modelling tool such as the Land Use and Carbon Scenario Simulator (LUCAS) or TerraCount that will create an inventory of natural and working lands carbon stock in the region.

The report developed from the study will identify mitigation potential of the natural and agricultural lands in the region and identify threats posed by climate change. This effort will be fully integrated into the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategies that serves as a blueprint for long range land use and transportation planning in the region to inform city and county decisions relating to land use and future growth. Results of the study will be made available to regional stakeholders to inform land use planning and conservation decisions in the future.

Land Use Conversion Threats
The Monterey Bay region is one of the largest agricultural production areas in the United States with over 1.5 million acres used for agricultural purposes and agricultural production worth over $5 billion annually. Land use development and climate change pose great risks to the natural and working lands throughout the region. The proposed planning project will provide a tool that will assist in the understanding of the benefits of natural and working lands, the risks posed by climate change, and the positive impact that climate adaptation and mitigation measures could bring that result in land conservation throughout the region.

Strategic Value or Special Features
The project will help protect the agricultural land base economy by accounting for the value that natural and working lands bring to the region and outlining the how to best protect natural lands directly impacted by climate change.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Planning Grant Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Not Recommended
SALC20_PG2

Applicant
Sonoma County Farm Bureau

Project Location
Sonoma County

Project Title
Elevating and Valuing Agriculture's Role in Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Planning

Total Funding
$568,589.12

Funding Request
$499,589.12

Match Funding
$69,000

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description

Provide capacity for nonprofit organizations to engage farmers to support development of an Implementation Plan for the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy. Focus is on farm practices that may reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Planning Grant Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PG03

Applicant
Metropolitan Transportation Commission / Association of Bay Area Governments

Project Location
9 County Bay area

Project Title
Next Generation Priority Conservation Areas: Planning for Resilience and Equity in the San Francisco Bay Area

Total Funding
$350,000

Funding Request
$250,000

Match Funding
$100,00

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) are areas for the protection of natural and working lands in the bay area. The PCA planning framework was established by AMAG in 2007 and update in 2014. There are currently over 185 PCAs within the region. Of these, 60 include an agricultural lands designation, representing over 1.4 million acres of land.

PCAs are a key regional policy tools available to support the conservation-oriented strategies adopted as part of the first-ever Environment Element for the Draft Plan Bay Area 20501 – the long-range regional plan which will serve as the San Francisco Bay Area's next Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). Protect and Manage High-Value Conservation Lands is a plan strategy that seeks to provide strategic matching funds to help conserve and maintain high-priority natural and agricultural lands. This strategy works in tandem with two others – Maintain Urban Growth Boundaries and Modernize and Expand Parks, Trails and Recreation Facilities – to support expanded access to parks and open space for the region.

MTC/ABAG identified related needs to revamp the PCA framework to be more data-driven and science based, address a wider range of emerging concerns such as resilience to climate hazards, equity, and expanded access to parks and open space.

The purpose of the proposed planning project will be to engage in a broad-based, multi-partner and multi-stakeholder effort to (1) Understand the strengths and weaknesses of the current PCA planning framework and program; (2) Articulate a vision for next-generation PCAs; (3) Establish clear goals and objectives for PCAs utilizing a science-based and data-driven approach, with a focus on prioritizing the most critical areas for conservation; (4) Incorporate a wider range of policy concerns into the planning framework, including resilience to climate hazards, equity, and expanded access to parks, open space, and recreation opportunities; and (5) Develop and/or refine data and mapping tools available to program partners.

Land Use Conversion Threats
Per MTC's land use tracking system, and substantiated by California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Data for much of the same period, 12,000 acres of greenfield development occurred on agricultural and grazing lands in the 9 county region. Much of this development was concentrated in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara Counties.

Strategic Value or Special Features
Natural and working lands in the PCAs provide numerous ecosystem services including climate change adaptation and resiliency, wildfire resiliency, and sea level rise adaptation along the bay. The PCA revamp, and all initiatives related to the Plan Bay Area 2050 implementation, is being undertaken with focus on equity and inclusion. Equity and equitable access will be among the most important policy considerations which are slated for evaluation as part of the revamped PCA planning framework and program.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Planning Grant Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PG04

Applicant
Yolo County Department of Community Services

Project Location
Dunnigan, Yolo County

Project Title
Dunnigan Community Plan

Total Funding
$79,599

Funding Request
$71,487

Match Funding
$8,112 (pending)

Priority Population Benefits
Yes

Project Description

The proposed planning project is to complete a community plan for the unincorporated community of Dunnigan. The county will work with farmers, business owners and other community members through the Dunnigan Citizens Advisory Committee to compose a new plan that takes into account current growth and development pressures as well as community needs.

The plan would set a clear growth boundary with non-agricultural development restricted to the area within the boundary creating a sustainable blueprint for future development.

Work plan and project deliverables include: community surveys, community workshops, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors presentations, public hearings, and the draft(s) and final Community Plan.

Land Use Conversion Threats
Dunnigan has grown over the last decade by nearly 50% from a population of 1,043 in 2011 to approximately 1,500 residents. The 1996 Dunnigan plan focuses on highway service commercial rather than local town serving businesses.

Without an up-to-date community plan adopted for the area, the potential for another large development plan remains and hinders the long-term protection of agricultural lands.

Strategic Value or Special Features
The proposed project would set a clear growth boundary with non-agricultural development restricted to the area within the boundary. Community water and wastewater services would be limited to areas within the growth boundary allowing for increased density while restricting development outside the boundary.

Additionally, the plan would emphasize affordable housing for farmworkers and local employees, regional farmers would be encouraged to restore or apply for Williamson Act contracts. The Community Plan would also identify programs to improve roads and water systems to better provide fire protection and safety. The plan would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on local services, housing, and jobs to reduce vehicle miles driven.

This project is consistent with SACOG's MTP/SCS, aligns with the 2020 Countywide General plan and could also work in coordination with the Yolo County Agricultural Conservation Priority Plan (SALC 2020 Grantee).

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Planning Grant Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Not Recommended
SALC20_PG05

Applicant
Yolo Local Area Formation Commission

Project Location
Yolo County

Project Title
Ag Land Conservation 2.0 – Enhancing the Yolo County Climate Action, Plan through field-tested, data-driven land use solutions

Total Funding
$275,000

Funding Request
$250,000

Match Funding
$25,000

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description

The project would provide capacity funding for nonprofit partners to engage landowners and producers on climate action plan and climate smart agricultural practices. Focus is on farm practices that may reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP01_SHA

Applicant
Shasta Land Trust

Project Location
Redding, Shasta County

Recommended Ranking:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 3, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
146 potential development rights extinguished 147,174,244 VMT
57,202 MT CO_2e

Acreage
97.2 acres

Funding Requested
$521,983

Match Funding
Funding Approved – landowner bargain sale

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project will protect ±97 acres of agricultural land adjacent to Redding via an agricultural conservation easement. The property produces alfalfa hay, oat hay, barley feed grain, bird seed millet, and cucurbit crops. The property is part of a larger operation that includes a seasonal you-pick pumpkin patch that hosts 20,000 visitors each year.

Strategic Value
Infill and Compact Development

Infill/Compact Development: The property is within Redding's Sphere of Influence and adjacent to its city limit.

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property is within the Stillwater-Churn Creek Watershed and will conserve open space between the communities of Redding and Bella Vista. The property is approximately 1 mile from another SALC easement acquisition.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: the property owner utilizes cover crop composting over the 45.8-acre main field, maintains a riparian forest buffer, and clears underbrush for fire resilience across the 42 acres of riparian and wildlife habitat.

Co-Benefits

Biodiversity: The property has high aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity benefits including habitat for bald eagle, pygmy owls, black bear, bobcat, grey fox, and deer. Plant species present on the property include valley elderberry, oaks, red bud, buckeye, and Oregon ash.

Economic: The property is part of a larger operation that includes a you-pick pumpkin patch that is a local institution in Redding, attracting 20,000 visitors each year.

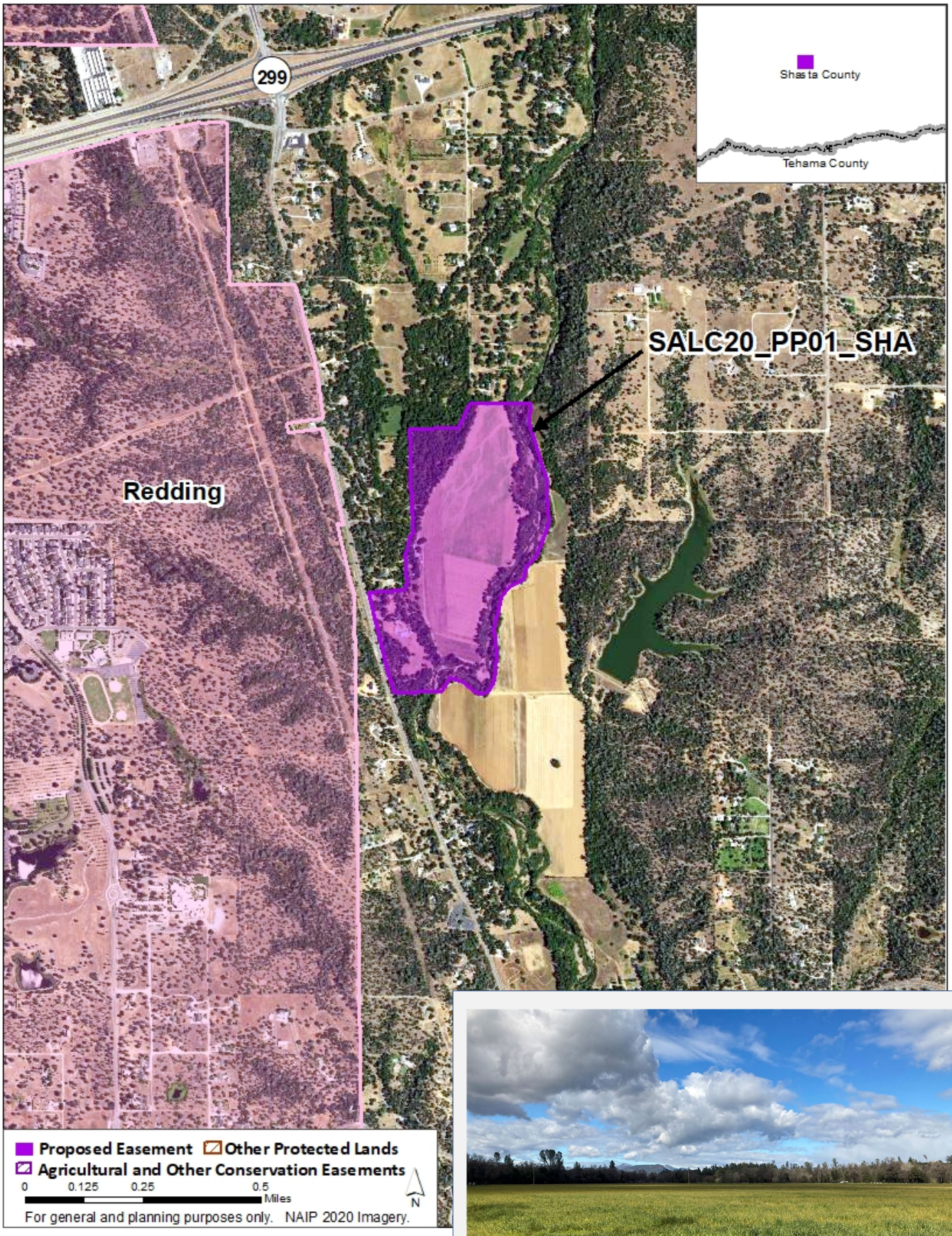
Education: The property partners with the college Future Farmers of America program and local 4-H programs. Additionally, the farm hosts elementary students each autumn.

Notable Features
Final acreage is to be determined. The landowner is in the process of a lot line adjustment that may impact the final acreage.

Reserved rights include the ability to host weddings, you-pick farm stand and haunted house, and annual charity mud run. These activities will occur in a way so as to minimize negative impacts to the conservation values. Parking for these activities will occur within established parking areas and identified building envelopes.

The project includes development and implementation of a SALC-funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP03_YUB

Applicant
Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

Project Location
Wheatland, Yuba County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5 and 7, residential and rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
327 potential development rights extinguished
326,040,498 VMT
135,915 MT CO_2e

Acreage
952.3 acres

Funding Requested
$14,424,500

Match Funding
Applications Submitted – Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) with the Department of Defense

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This two-easement project would conserve ±952 acres of Prime and Unique Farmland located between Wheatland and Olivehurst in Yuba County. The two contiguous properties are utilized for rice cultivation. The landowners have their own local equipment shop, dryer, and storage that support the agricultural operation. The two properties have adequate water supply via surface water rights supplied by Wheatland Water District and ten deep wells. Each easement contains one existing single-family residence, and each will reserve the right for one additional single-family residence. The properties have existing agricultural structures such as barns, storage, pumps, as well as a runway strip for crop dusting. No other infrastructure exists on the property.

Strategic Value
Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property acts as the beginning of a community separator and is strategically located to influence growth between Wheatland and Olivehurst.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Water Management Practices: The property participated in the construction of water delivery facilities for Wheatland Water District that allowed access to surface water from the Yuba River Development Project, reducing its reliance on groundwater. The ranch has a drain water collection system that is part of its internal distribution system that allows the re-use of tailwater. There is currently an application with PG&E for a recycle pump at the outfall of the drain to capture additional tailwater.

Co-Benefits

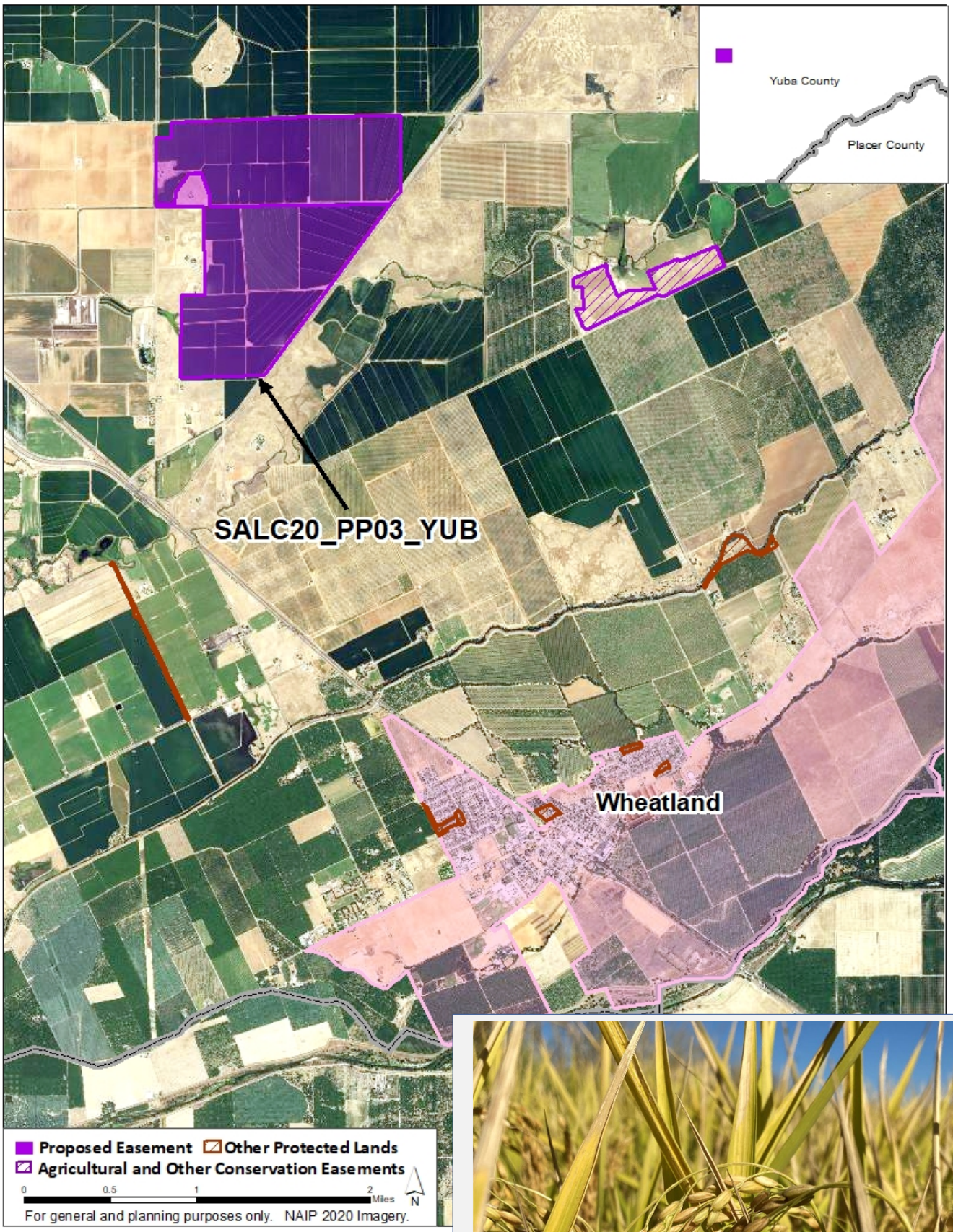
Environmental:

Biodiversity: Protection of the property protects 4.49 acres of annual grasslands and 1.56 acres of wetland habitat that is utilized by migrating bird species.

Notable Features
The project includes development and implementation of a SALC-funded management plan.

The applicant is requesting $130,000 in associated costs to close both easements. Staff recommends funding $75,000 of the $130,000 requested for associated costs. Program guidelines permit applicants to request more than $50,000 if the costs "are commensurate with the work needed to complete the project."

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP04_SOL

Applicant
Solano Land Trust

Project Location
Vacaville, Solano County

Recommended Ranking
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
359 potential development rights extinguished
31,740,101 VMT
27,120 MT CO_2e

Acreage
303.5

Funding Requested
$1,085,000

Match Funding
Match Funder Identified – NRCS

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ±304-acre farm located 0.4 miles from the city of Vacaville. The property is grazed by ~ 80 head of cattle and the landowner has plans to move his high-volume specialty market quail production to this site. The property supports winter/summer grazing and a cutting of hay in the late spring. The landowner has raised both cattle and quail for over 30 years, supplying to specialty markets and restaurants in the Napa and Bay Area.

The 77-acre crop envelope will be farmed in permanent pasture, orchards, and small row crop sections. The 8-acre farmstead area will support quail production and processing.

Strategic Value
Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The project adds to an existing greenbelt along the edge of Vacaville and in between Solano and Napa counties.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The property provides wildfire resilience benefits to the Vacaville community through active grazing on the property.

Co-benefits

Environmental:

Biodiversity: The property serves as habitat for wildlife including mountain lions, bobcats, fox, coyote, bear, deer, turkey, hawks and various small animals and rodents. It will also expand the amount of contiguous wildlife habitat corridors.

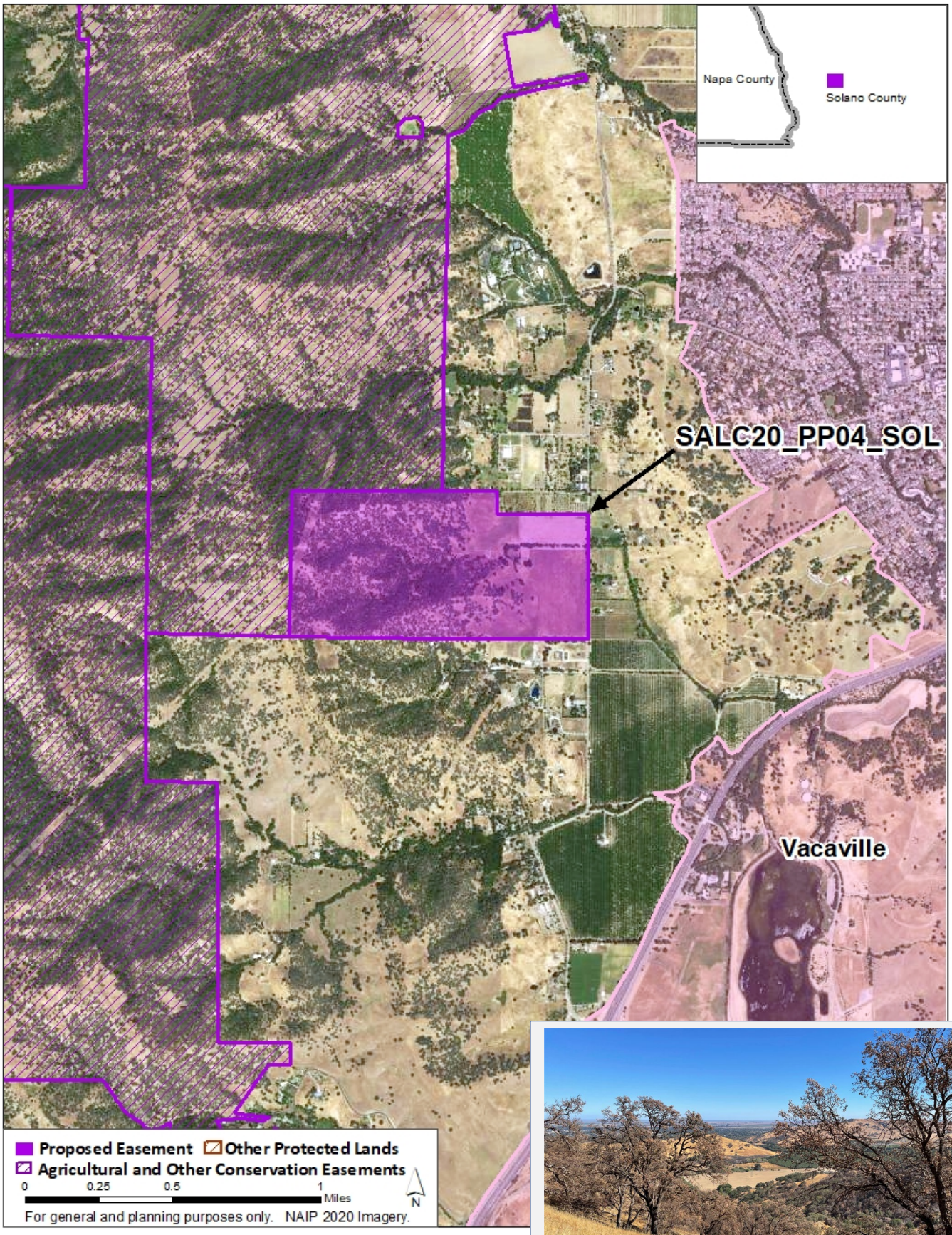
Proximity to Protected Land: The property is adjacent to approximately 4,000 contiguous acres of permanently protected land—Brazelton and Blue Ridge conservation easements. This adjacency will also keep intact a large agriculture area for cattle production.

Other:

Viewshed: The project would expand the protected viewshed along I-80 and Pleasants Valley Road.

Notable Features
No intensified crop farming will be allowed on the 226 acres of rangeland.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP05_SCR

Applicant
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

Project Location
Watsonville, Santa Cruz County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
588 potential development rights extinguished
139,085,668 VMT
67,838 MT CO_2e

Acreage
177.8 acres

Funding Requested
$810,000

Match Funding
Qualifies for 100% SALC Funding

Priority Population Benefits
Yes

Project Description
This project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ±178-acre irrigated farm located in the Pajaro Valley, less than ½ a mile from the City of Watsonville in Santa Cruz County. The property has been in production for over 100 years and currently grows cane berries and organic vegetables that are shipped throughout the world. Water on the property is supplied from two agricultural wells on site. No other infrastructure exists on the property.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property is strategically located between two conserved properties on the eastern edge of the City of Watsonville and will serve as an important buffer between the City and farmland to the east and will promote infill development.

Equity

Priority Population Benefits: The project reduces negative impacts on impaired water bodies that serve as drinking water to the surrounding communities.

Secure Land Tenure: The Conservation Fund (TCF) utilized its "Revolving Fund" to purchase fee title to the property on behalf of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County in 2019 as part of a buy-protect-sell effort. TCF is now negotiating sale of the property to Dirt Capital Partners. Dirt Capital is an institutional investor whose mission is to invest in farmland in partnership with farmers while promoting land access and financial security to economically disadvantaged communities.

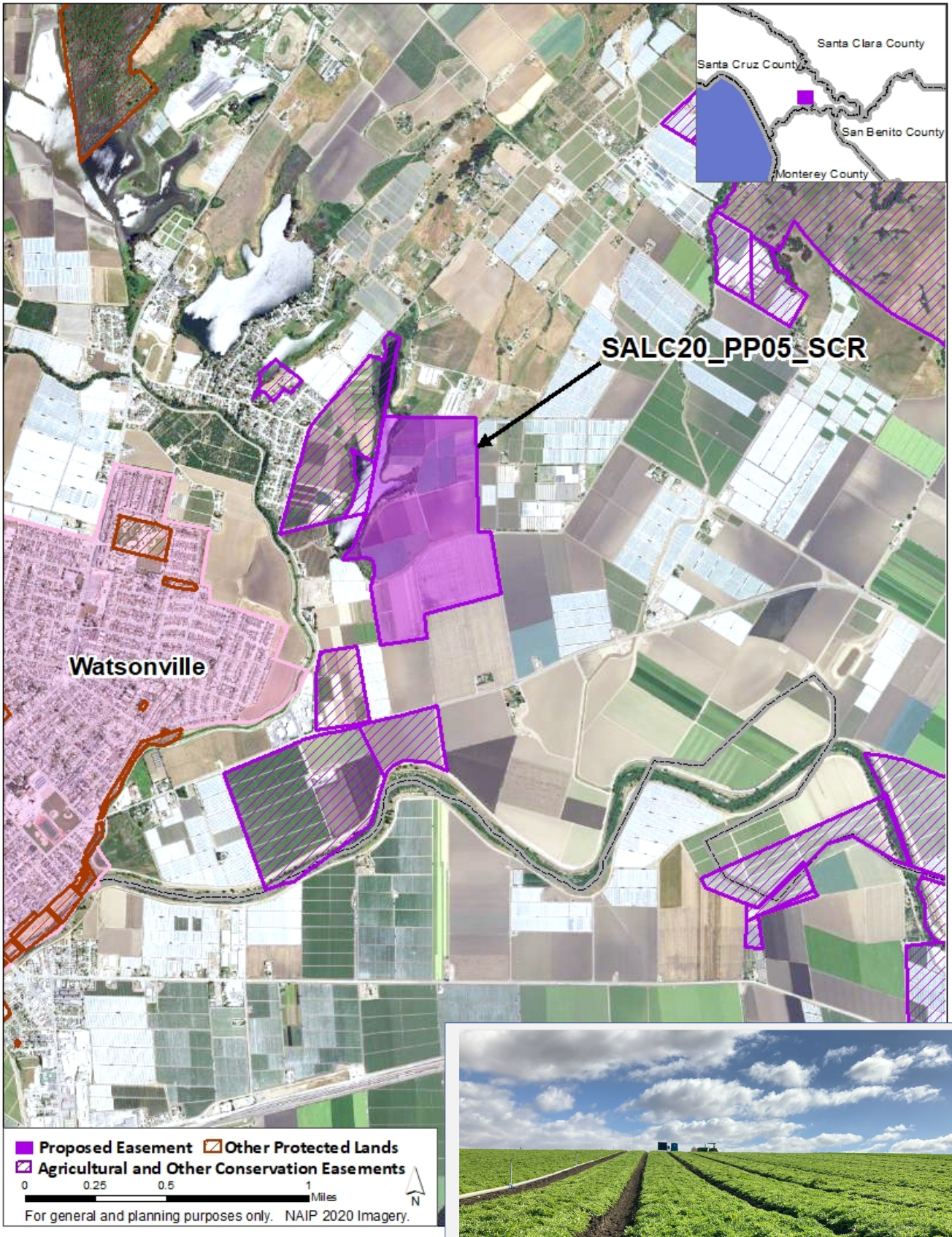
Co-Benefits

Economic: Crops produced on the property support coolers, shippers, processors, irrigation suppliers, and farmworkers in the region which support the local economy.

Public Health: The property is USDA certified organic and reduces the surrounding community to exposure to pesticides.

Notable Features
N/A

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP06_MEN

Applicant
California Rangeland Trust

Project Location
Cloverdale, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 7, rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
353 potential development rights extinguished
212,593,431 VMT
105,899 MT CO_2e

Acreage
2,492.8

Funding Requested
$3,810,000

Match Funding
Match Funders Identified – NRCS or CALFIRE

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project would protect ±2,493 acres of rangeland through an agricultural conservation easement. The property is located approximately 3.25 miles northwest of Cloverdale, on the border between Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. The property is comprised of approximately 30 acres of certified organic olive orchards, 20 acres available for hay, and 2,443 acres of grazing land. The grazing land supports approximately 100 cow-calf pairs year-round. Fencing, five stock ponds, and two water tanks support the cattle operation. There are two single family residences, a caretaker residence, and a cabin located on the property. The landowner would reserve the right to build one additional single-family residence on the property. The landowner would also reserve the right to sell carbon credits, develop onsite solar, perform sustainable timber harvesting, develop a small vineyard, and allow for up to 100 natural burial plots onsite.

Strategic Value
Infill and Compact Development

Wildland Urban Interface: The project would protect lands in an identified wildland urban interface from development and supports managed grazing and sustainable forest management to reduce available fuel loads.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The landowner maintains intact riparian corridors throughout the property and has conducted minor reforestation of redwoods and oaks. The rangeland is rotationally grazed, and no till farming, cover crops, and integrated pest management practices are used throughout the certified organic olive orchard.

Co-Benefits

Environmental:

Biodiversity: The project will protect over 2,400 acres of mixed conifer, oak woodland, riparian, and grassland habitats lying in the Coast Range to Marin Coast Wildlife Linkage.

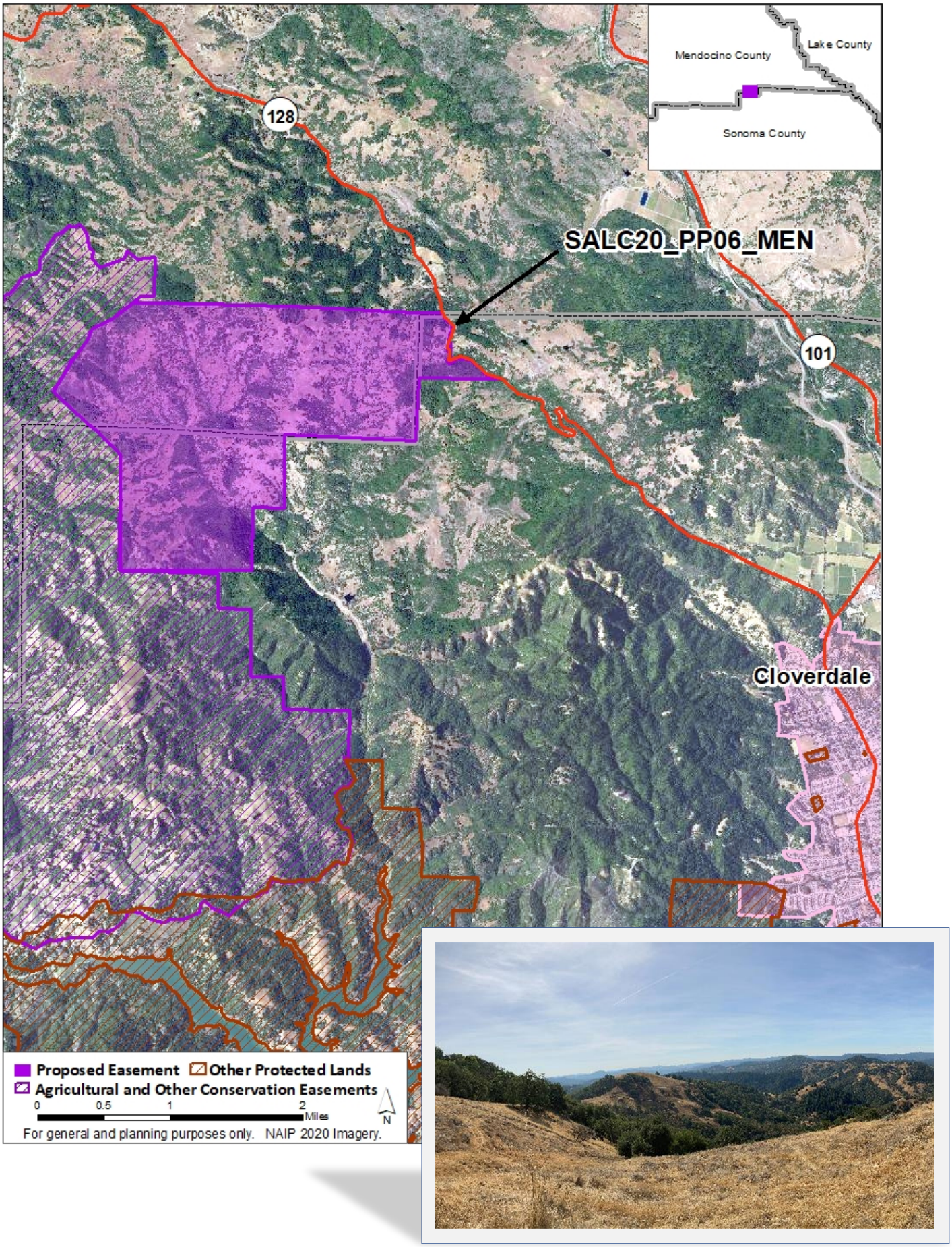
Proximity to Protected Land: The property is adjacent to nearly 20,000 acres of permanently protected land.

Source Water Protection: The project will protect water quality within the headwaters of the Cherry Creek watershed, a tributary to the Russian River. The orchard's organic certification places stringent restrictions on use of chemical pesticides and herbicides.

Notable Features
Property boundaries need to be surveyed and confirmed.

The project includes development and implementation of a SALC-funded carbon farm plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP07_COL

Applicant
California Rangeland Trust

Project Location
Williams, Colusa County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 7, rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
593 potential development rights extinguished
597,769,362 VMT
253,521 MT CO_2e

Acreage
7,521.7

Funding Requested
$4,700,850

Match Funding
Funding Approved – NRCS

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project would protect ±7,522 acres of rangeland west of Williams and Arbuckle through an agricultural conservation easement. The property is comprised of 160 acres of almond orchards and 7,362 acres of grazing land. Fencing, an historic barn, corrals, numerous reservoirs and stock ponds, and surface water via Westside Water District support the cattle operation and almond orchard. One single family residence is located on the property. The landowner would reserve the right to sell carbon credits and convert an additional 160 acres to almonds.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Wildland Urban Interface: Managed grazing and controlled burns on the property help reduce the risk of wildfire to nearby communities. The property serves as a training site for controlled burns.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The landowner has restored and maintains habitat along portions of two riparian corridors. Exclusionary fencing and off-stream water sources are utilized to keep livestock out of sensitive areas.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: 132 acres of the property are comprised of Prime Farmland.

Co-Benefits

Environmental:

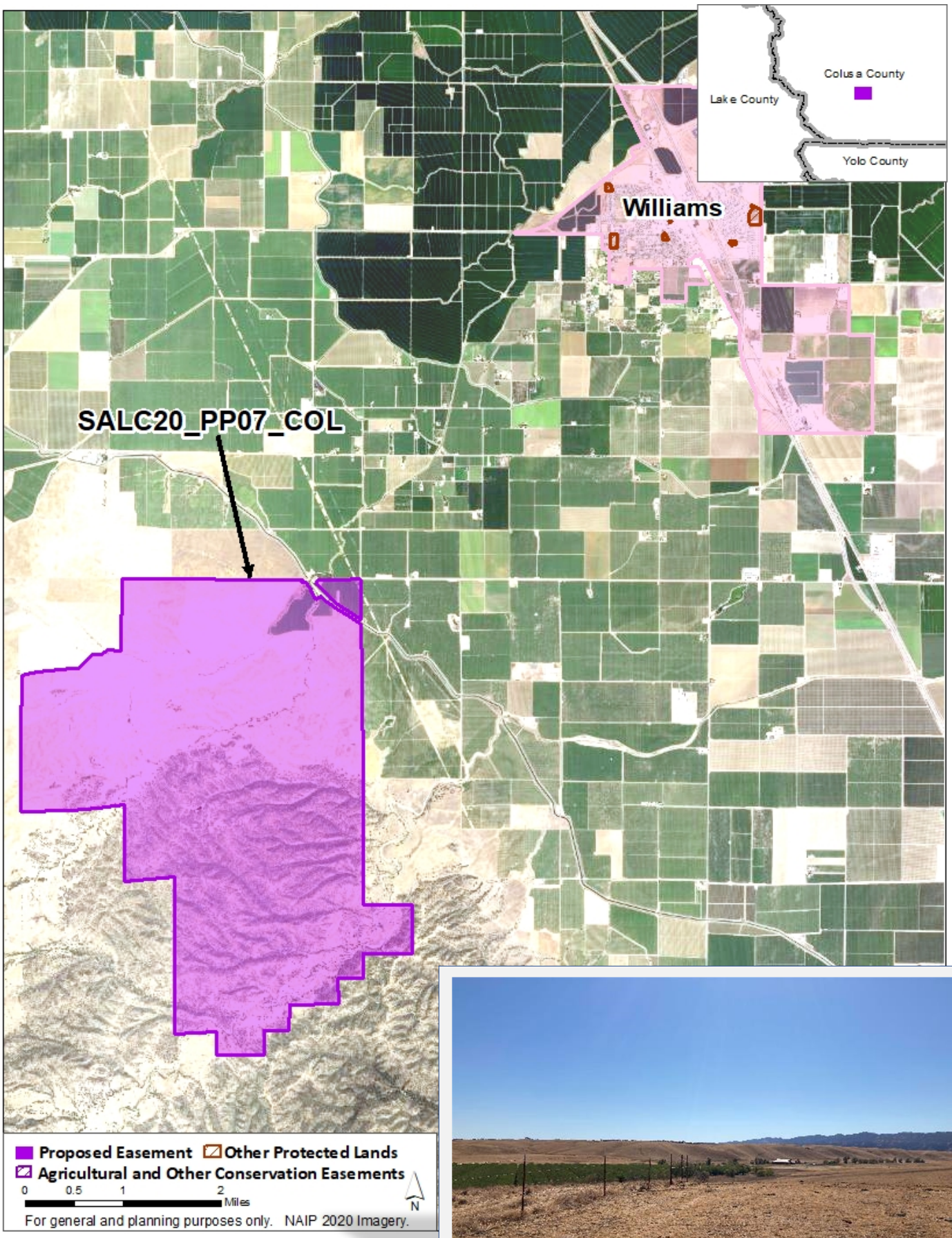
Biodiversity: The property is comprised of 7,400 acres of mixed grassland, oak woodland, and riparian habitat, which support numerous aquatic and terrestrial species, including burrowing owl, golden eagle, and American badger.

Proximity to Protected Land: The property is within 3 miles of over 20,000 acres of permanently protected land.

Other: The property is frequently open to visitors, researchers, and ranch tours and has been the site of past wildlife releases. Protection of the property would protect extensive Native American artifacts and archaeology onsite.

Notable Features
The project includes development and implementation of a SALC-funded management and carbon farm plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP08_MER

Applicant
California Farmland Trust

Project Location
Delhi, Merced County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
115 potential development rights extinguished
96,011,299 VMT
37,797 MT CO_2e

Acreage
59.2

Funding Requested
$538,400

Match Funding
Funding Secured - Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation and CFT funds

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
The ±59-acre Ranch is located south of Turlock approximately a half a mile from the unincorporated community of Delhi and is currently producing almonds. The orchard was planted in 2006. Irrigation water is supplied by Turlock Irrigation District & a groundwater/well agreement with the neighboring property owned by the same landowner.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt: The proposed project would build upon an established 116-acre greenbelt along the north eastern edge of Delhi and south of Turlock.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: On farm practices include compost and manure applications, and no-till farming.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: 27% of the property is comprised of Prime Farmland.

Water Management Practices: The farm uses water-use efficiency technologies like underground piping and micro-sprinklers.

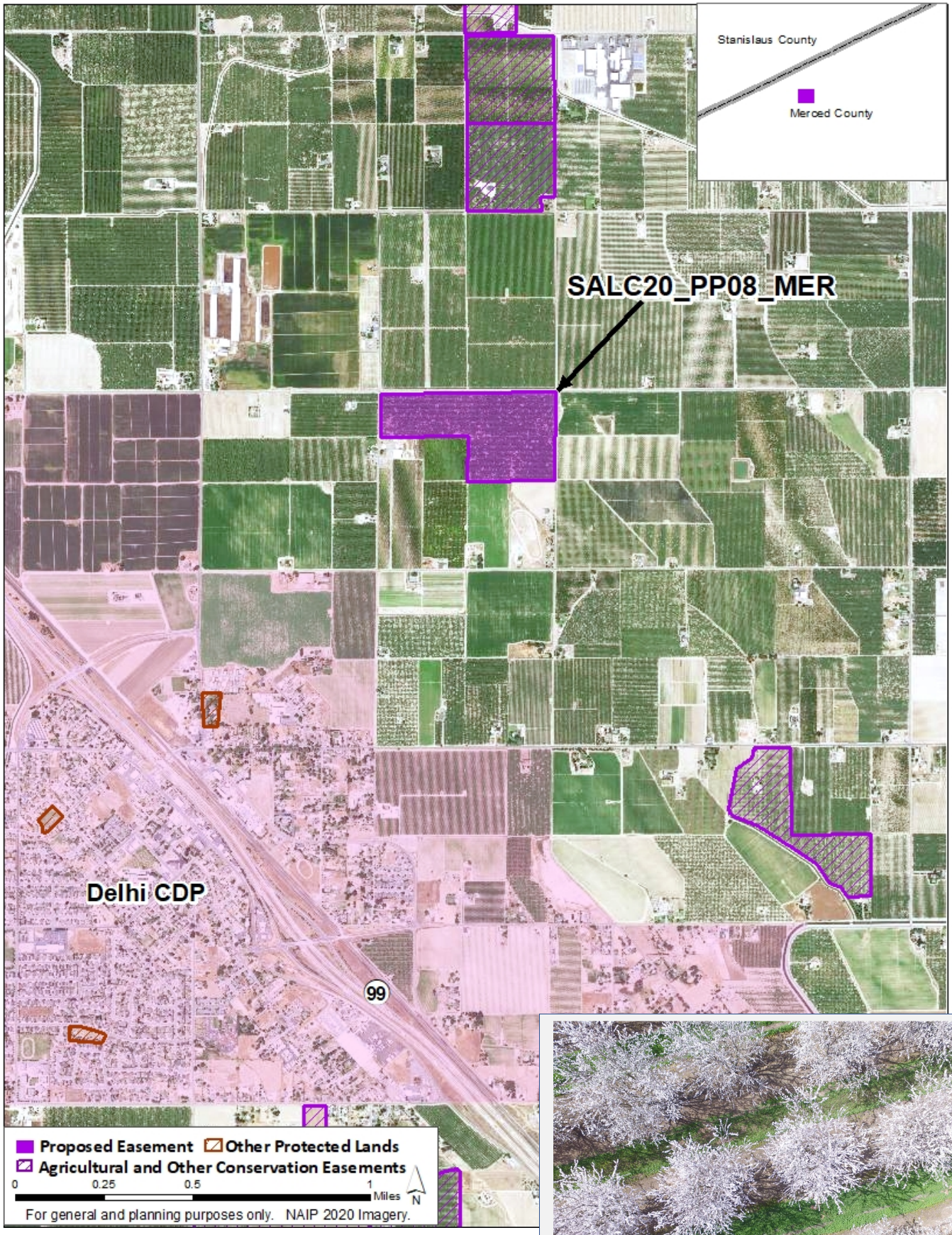
Co-Benefits

Proximity to Protected Land: The proposed project is located near three agricultural conservation easements.

Notable Features

The property is managed by the third and fourth generations on the farm.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP09_IMP

Applicant
The Trust for Public Land

Co-Applicant
Rivers and Lands Conservancy

Project Location
City of Imperial, Imperial County

Recommended Ranking
B-project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk options 5 and 7, residential and rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
5,062 potential development rights extinguished
1,445,934,141 VMT
692,687 MT CO_2e

Acreage
4,411

Funding Requested
$7,451,250

Match Funding
Application submitted – Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on an ±4,411-acre irrigated farm within one mile of the City of Imperial's sphere of influence. The property is one of the largest agricultural lands under one ownership in the Imperial Valley. Alfalfa, Bermuda grass, sugar beets, sudangrass, and organic lettuces are grown on a rotational basis on the property. Water is supplied by Imperial Irrigation District (IID). The ranch is located within a large-scale agricultural production area with quick access to needed infrastructure, food processors and markets. The property lies within the "Military Compatibility Area" (MCA) of the Naval Air Facility-El Centro (NAFEC), which is located immediately adjacent to the ranch. An MCA is a geographic area where military operations may impact local communities or vice versa.

Strategic Value
Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property would act as a greenbelt on the edge of the City of Imperial.

Co-Benefits

Environmental:

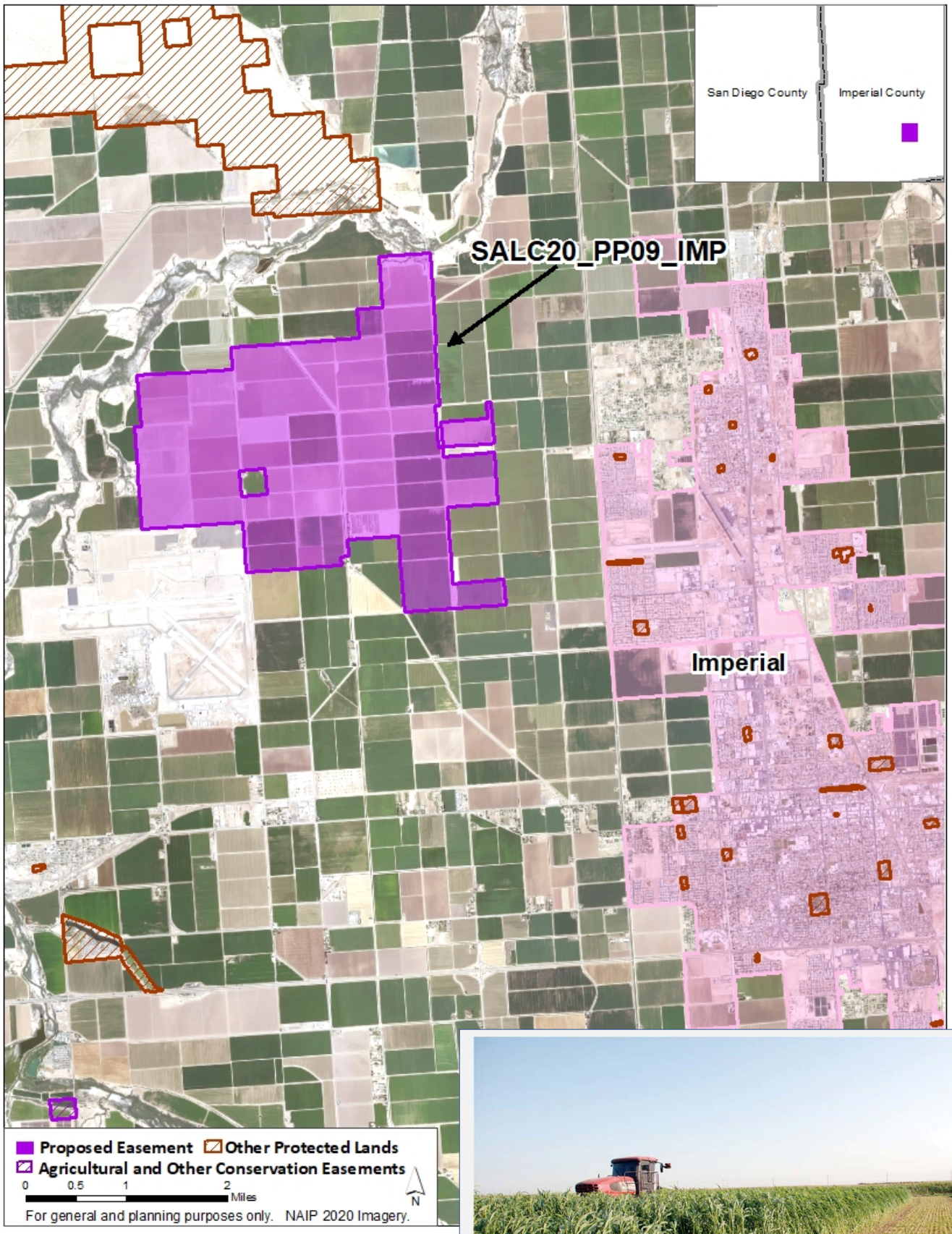
Biodiversity: The Imperial Irrigation District's open canals border some sides of the property. These canals are classified by the National Wetlands Inventory as riverine wetlands and provide an important source of habitat throughout Imperial Valley, including for burrowing owls and mountain plovers. In addition, Audubon has designated the Imperial Valley a Globally Important Bird Area and describes it as "one of the premiere winter birding spots in the country."

Other: The proposed easement acquisitions are a 2020/2021 regional priority for the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI). Preventing development of the ranch will help to ensure the future compatibility between land uses necessary to support the continuation of the military mission at NAFEC and civilian development occurring near the installation, its ranges, and below its airspaces.

Notable Features
The ability to sell the property in four portions in the future is being sought for this ranch.

The project includes development and implementation of a SALC-funded management plan that will be overseen by the Rivers and Lands Conservancy, the co-applicant.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP10_SJQ

Applicant
California Farmland Trust

Project Location
Farmington, San Joaquin County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 7, rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
18 potential development rights extinguished
15,027,855 VMT
6,489 MT CO_2e

Acreage
53

Funding Requested
$567,043

Match Funding
Funding Approved – CFT held farmland mitigation funds from San Joaquin County

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project is for a ±53-acre farm located east of Stockton near the unincorporated community of Farmington in San Joaquin County. The farm currently produces walnuts. Irrigation water is supplied by an on-site deep agriculture well, and the property has access to Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District surface water.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: Protection of the property would form over a 250-acre greenbelt block of ACEs directly north of Highway 4 and less than one mile east of Farmington.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: On farm practices include compost and manure applications, and no-till farming.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: 90% of the property is comprised of Prime Farmland.

Water Management Practices: The farm uses water-use efficiency technologies like underground piping and micro-sprinklers.

Co-Benefits

Environmental:

Biodiversity: The North Fork of Duck Creek flows along the Farm's northern boundary and provides both riparian habitat and a corridor for wildlife.

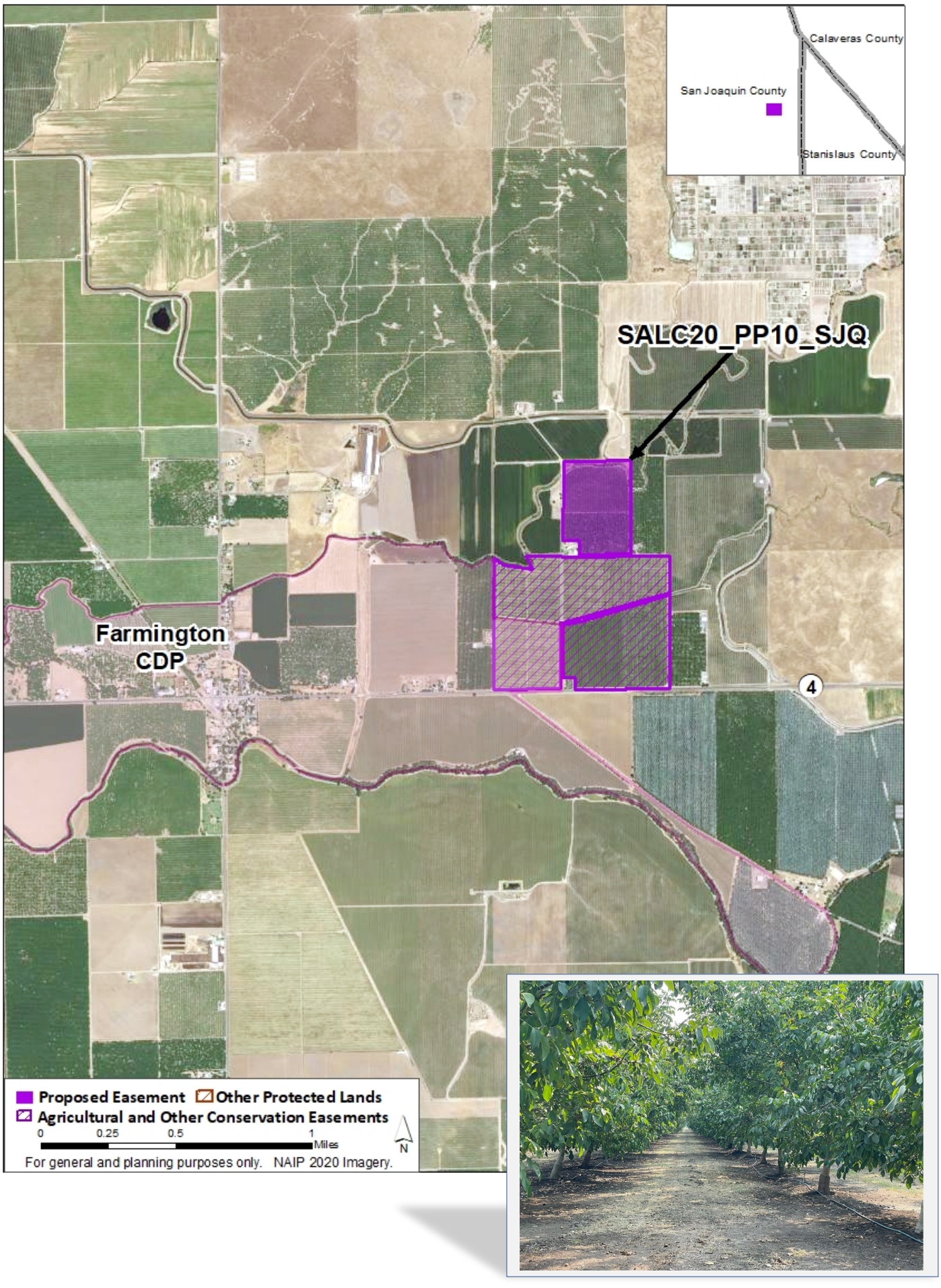
Proximity to Protected Land: The property is contiguous with two conservation easements funded through SALC and owned by the same family. The property is also approximately one mile from the 2,235-acre Cook Cattle Ranch conservation easements.

Other:

Viewshed: The project would provide protection of the viewshed along Highway 4.

Notable Features
The farm is managed by the third generation of the family on the ranch with the fourth generation expressing interest.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP11_HUM

Applicant
Northcoast Regional Land Trust

Project Location
Benbow, Humboldt County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk options 5 and 7, residential and rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
1,460 potential development rights extinguished
1,167,759,830 VMT
528,312 MT CO_2e

Acreage
6,606 acres

Funding Requested
$6,650,000

Match Funding
Qualifies for 100% SALC Funding

Priority Population Benefits
Yes

Project Description
The proposed easement is for a ±6,606-acre grazing and timber forest property in Humboldt County. The property includes 4,879 acres of rangeland, 1,727 acres of timber forest, and roughly 5 miles of the lower East Branch of the South Fork Eel River. Although limited cattle graze the timber forest, they are not prohibited from those areas. There are currently 95 cow-calf pair and 10 bulls on the property and in non-drought years, the property typically supports 125 cow-calf pairs and 10 bulls. There are two existing single-family residences on the property, and the landowner would reserve the right to construct an additional two. The applicant is also reserving the right to include a renewable energy facility, communication towers, a small woods products manufacturing facility, and an equipment staging zone on the property.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property acts as a greenbelt along the edge of Benbow.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: Silvopasture is practiced on all grazing lands with minor integration of associated forestlands to minimize water evaporation and maintain shade. The property contains roughly 10.5 miles of Class I and Class II streams plus many miles of ephemeral streams. The landowners also practice beneficial forestry, which includes understory fuel treatments, fuel thinning, and less intensive forest/timber management. The lessee practices the production of biochar utilizing slash created during fuel treatments, which is then distributed onto the rangelands to enhance long-term productivity and sustainability.

Equity

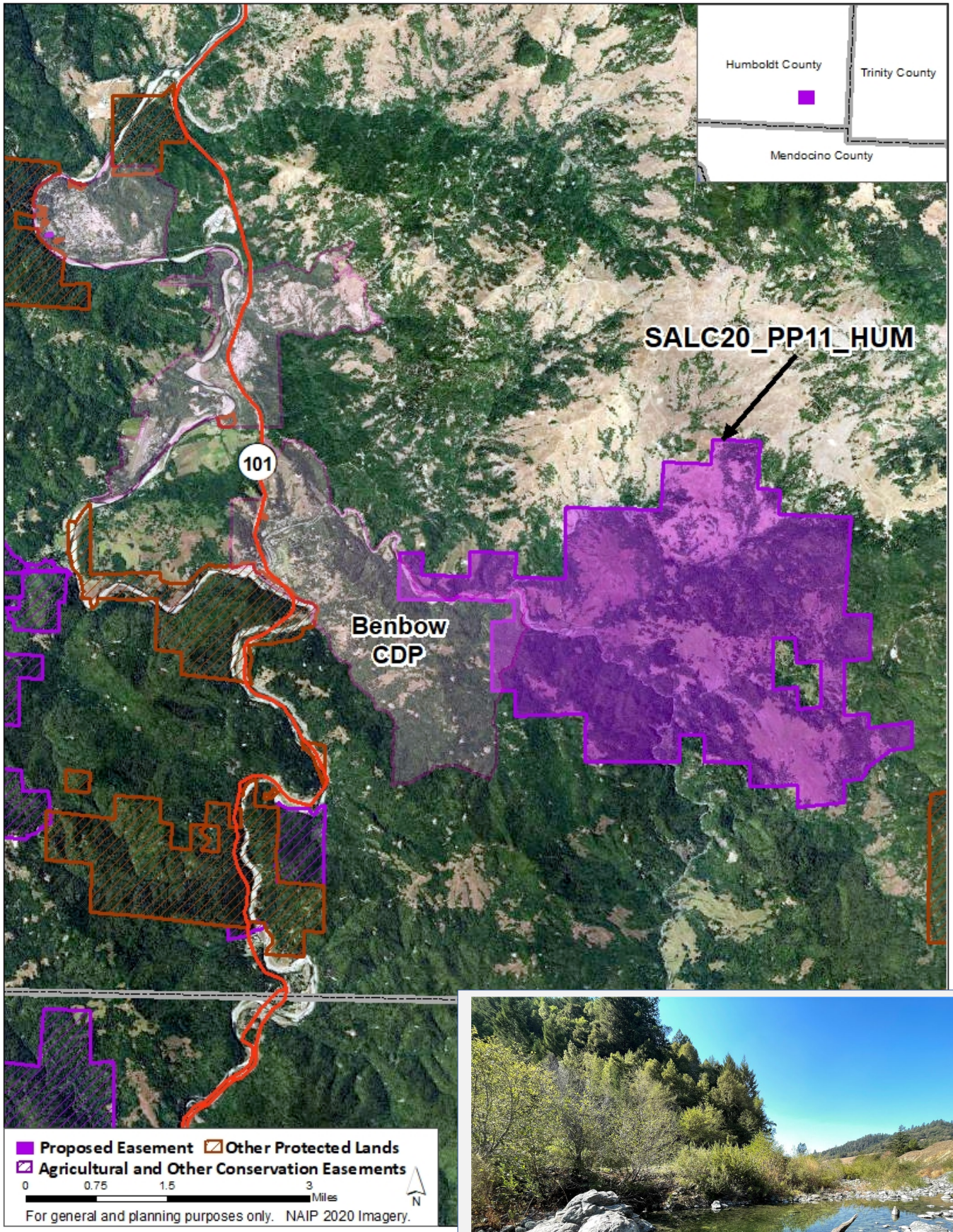
Priority Population Benefits: The project provides priority population benefits by maintaining water quality and health of watersheds. The nearby low-income community of Benbow obtains drinking water from the Del Oro Water Company, which serves the greater Benbow District. The water company obtains surface water from the East Branch of the South Fork Eel River.

Co-Benefits

Public Health: The property provides public health co-benefits by reducing wildfire-related health impacts and contributing to clean drinking water to the low-income communities.

Notable Features
May donate two additional parcels prior to easement close.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP12_TEH

Applicant
Northern California Regional Land Trust

Project Location
Vina, Tehama County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
297 potential development rights extinguished
299,388,702 VMT
120,789 MT CO_2e

Acreage
595.4

Funding Requested
$4,865,600

Match Funding
Qualifies for 100% SALC Funding

Priority Population Benefits
Yes

Project Description
This project is for an agricultural conservation easement on ±595 acres of irrigated land adjacent to Vina and near the confluence of Deer Creek and the Sacramento River. The property supports approximately 384 acres of prune and walnut orchards and 15 acres of certified organic vineyards. The property has four irrigation wells, two domestic wells, water rights to Deer Creek, and shares in the Stanford Vina Irrigation District. The property is home to a Trappist-Cistercian monastery, which operates a winery and retreat center onsite. Structures and improvements to support these uses, including a winery, tasting room, cloisters, solar arrays, gardens, and a private cemetery are located within the existing building envelope. These uses would continue, and the landowner would reserve the right to expand its solar capacity to support onsite energy needs, as well as expand the winery, tasting room, retreat center infrastructure, and monastic housing, all within the existing building envelope, should the project be funded. The property is also home to one of the oldest churches in the nation and was a portion of Leland Stanford's historic estate.

Strategic Value
Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The monks maintain over 80 acres of intact mature riparian cover, periodically use cover crops in the CCOF Certified Organic vineyard (~15 acres), and plant cover crops for two seasons before planting new trees. They also use mixed plantings for pest management.

Equity

Priority Population Benefits: The project will ensure public access to open space and community assets within a low-income community.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: 75% of the property is comprised of Prime Farmland.

Water Management Practices: The monks dry farm the vineyard following establishment and recycle water from the winery as irrigation water.

Co-Benefits

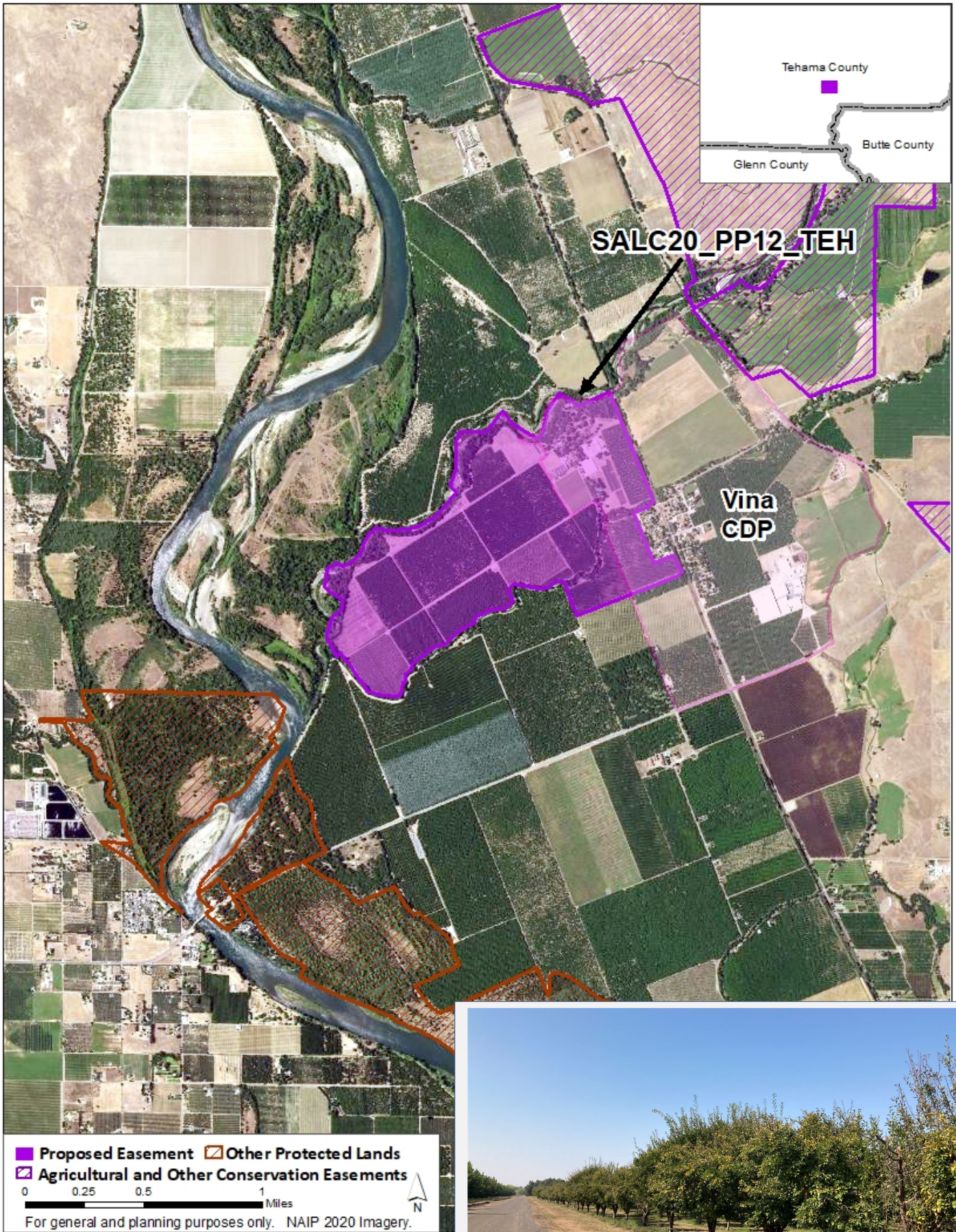
Environmental:

Biodiversity: The project would protect intact riparian corridors along Deer Creek and China Slough, which provide habitat for fish, birds, mammals and pollinators, including fall run Chinook, Steelhead, Swainson's Hawk, and the Western yellow-billed cuckoo.

Proximity to Protected Land: The property is within 0.5 to 1 mile of easements totaling 50,000 acres of permanently protected land east of the site.

Notable Features
The project includes development and implementation of a SALC-funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP13_MNT

Applicant
Ag Land Trust

Project Location
Castroville, Monterey County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
559 potential development rights extinguished
57,134,441 VMT
38,861 MT CO_2e

Acreage
184.6 acres

Funding Requested
$1,560,000

Match Funding
Agreement Executed – Landowner via bargain sale

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ±185-acre farm located in the Blanco area of the Salinas Valley. Located adjacent to the town of Castroville and within the triangle between Salinas, Castroville and Marina, the farm produces green leafy vegetables such as lettuce, celery, broccoli, and cauliflower, as well as other green vegetables and strawberries. Onsite infrastructure includes the underground irrigation water distribution system that supports sprinkler and drip irrigation. The farm uses 100% recycled irrigation water with drip systems.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: Protection of the property would serve as a greenbelt along the edge of Castroville and promote infill development.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The property utilizes cover cropping throughout the year that helps promote soil health.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: 100% of the property is comprised of Prime Farmland.

Food Security: The highly productive property produces fruits and vegetables year-round that are sold locally, nationally, and internationally.

Co-Benefits

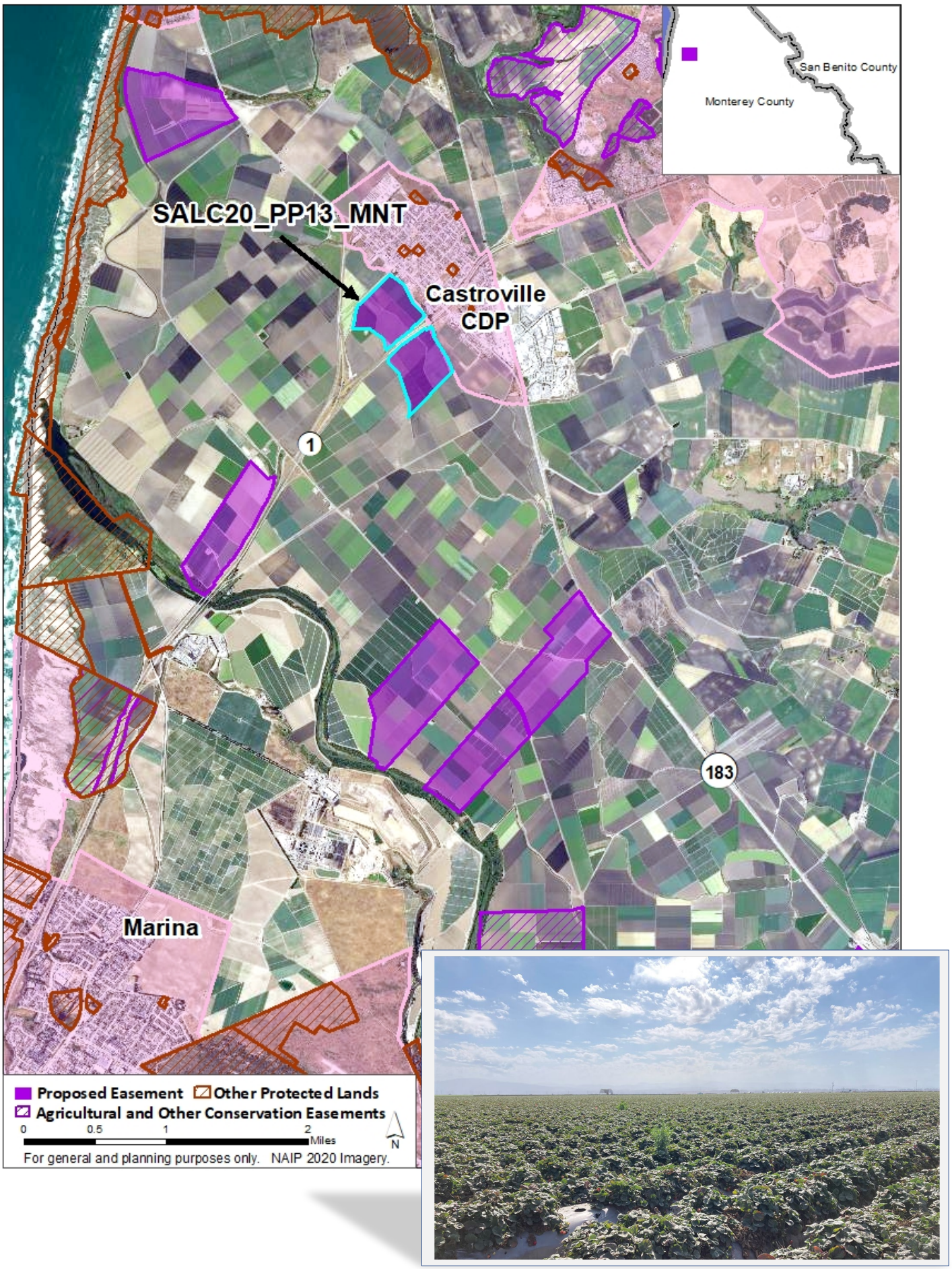
Environmental:

Biodiversity: The property is adjacent to and includes a portion of the Alisal slough, which provides habitat for wildlife.

Other: The property provides open space and prominent viewshed along Highway 156.

Notable Features
The entire area from the Monterey Bay to Salinas has been contaminated with saltwater intrusion, including the subject property. Pumping of groundwater is no longer available for the property. All the Irrigation water is recycled water supplied by the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP).

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP14_MNT

Applicant
Ag Land Trust

Project Location
Marina, Monterey County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
151 potential development rights extinguished
15,433,454 VMT
14,858 MT CO_2e

Acreage
591.7 acres

Funding Requested
$5,550,000

Match Funding
Agreement Executed – Landowner donation via bargain sale

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
The property is an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ±592-acre farm located in the Blanco area of the Salinas Valley. Located within the triangle between Salinas, Castroville and Marina, the farm produces green leafy vegetables such as lettuce, celery, broccoli, and cauliflower, as well as other green vegetables and strawberries. Onsite infrastructure includes the underground irrigation water distribution system that supports sprinkler and drip irrigation. The farm uses 100% recycled irrigation water with drip irrigation.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The project adds to an existing block of permanently protected properties between Marina and Salinas. The property acts as the beginning of a community separator between Marina and Castroville.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The properties utilize cover cropping throughout the year, which helps promote soil health.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: 100% of the property is comprised of Prime Farmland.

Food Security; The highly productive properties produce fruits and vegetables year-round that are sold locally, nationally, and internationally.

Co-Benefits

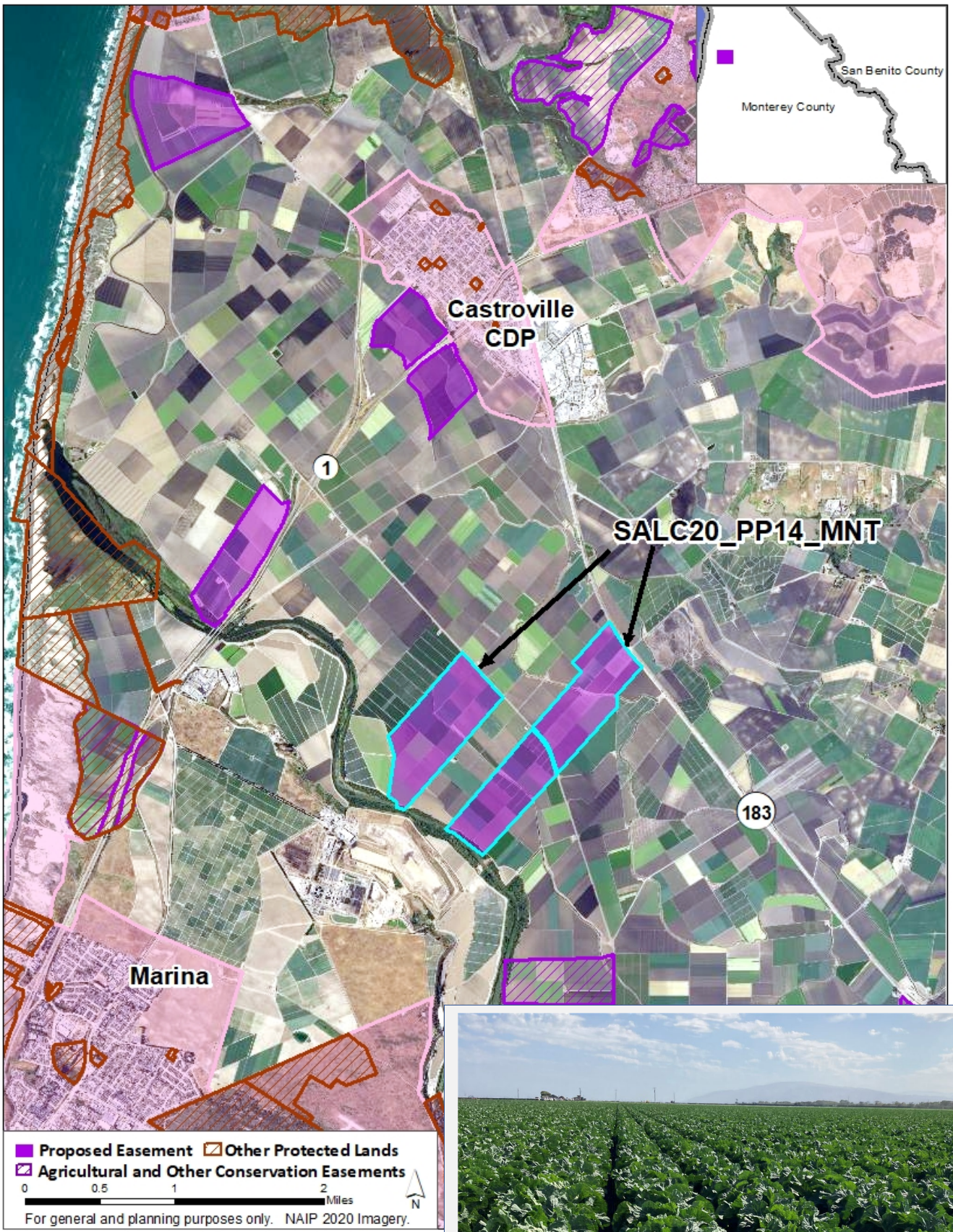
Environmental:

Biodiversity: The southern property is located along the Salinas River and provides riparian habitat benefits.

Other: The property provides open space and prominent viewshed along Highway 156.

Notable Features
The entire area from the Monterey Bay to Salinas has been contaminated with saltwater intrusion, including the subject property. Pumping of underground water is no longer available for the property. All the Irrigation water is recycled water supplied by the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP).

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP15_MNT

Applicant
Ag Land Trust

Project Location
Castroville, Monterey County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
A-Project ready

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
166 potential development rights extinguished
16,966,578 VMT
16,330 MT CO_2e

Acreage
348 acres

Funding Requested
$2,875,000

Match Funding
Agreement Executed – Landowner donation via bargain sale

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project is for the acquisition of two non-contiguous properties under one agricultural conservation easement that total ±348 acres along Highway 1 between the City of Marina and Moss Landing in Monterey County. The farm produces green leafy vegetables such as lettuce, celery, broccoli, and cauliflower, as well as other green vegetables and strawberries. Onsite infrastructure includes the underground irrigation water distribution system that supports sprinkler and drip irrigation. The farm uses 100% recycled irrigation water with drip systems.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The two properties will act as the beginning of a community separator and are strategically located to influence growth between the City of Marina and CDP of Castroville along Highway 1.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The properties utilize cover cropping throughout the year, which helps promote soil health.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: 100% of the property is comprised of Prime Farmland.

Food Security: The highly productive properties produce fruits and vegetables year-round that are sold locally, nationally, and internationally.

Co-Benefits

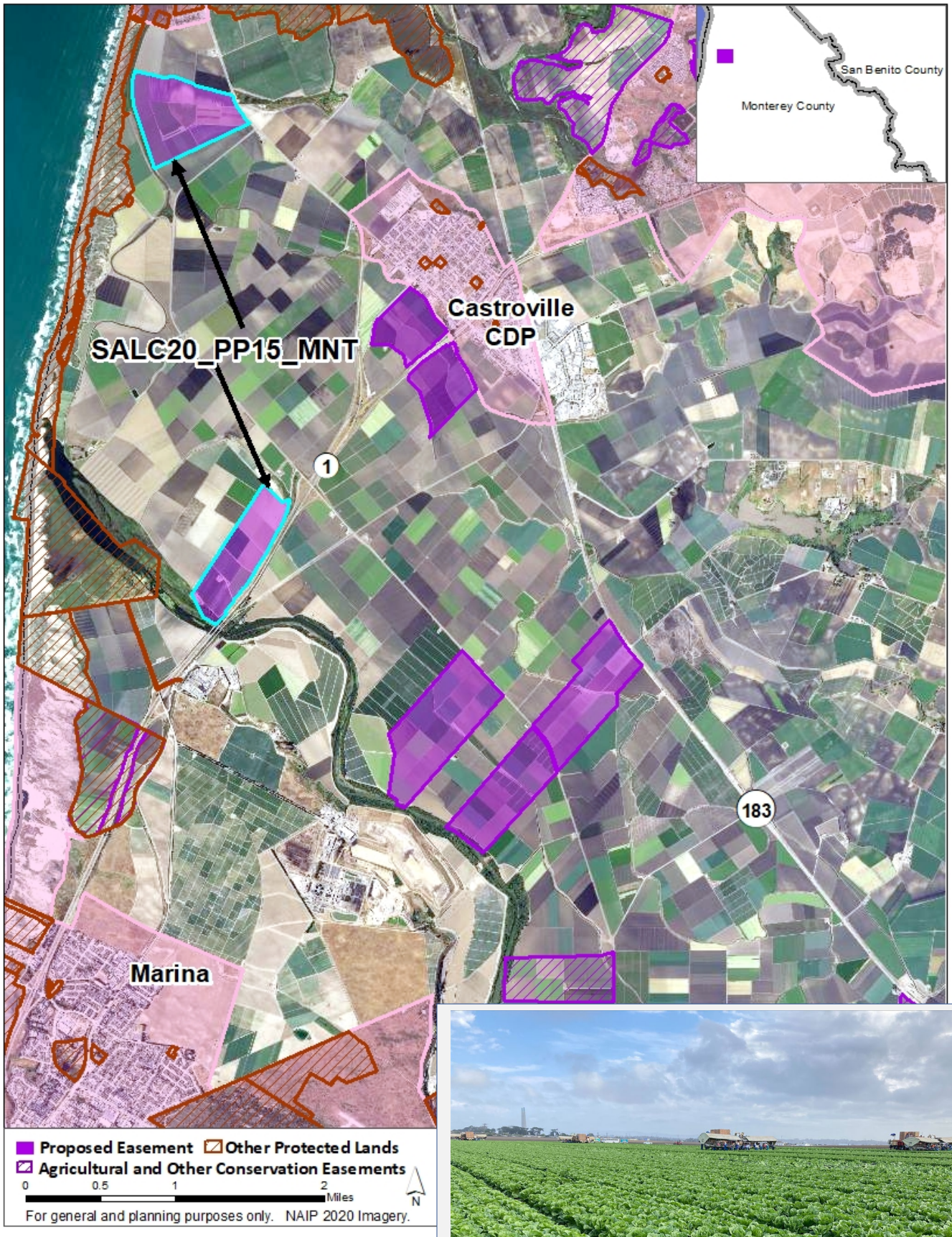
Environmental:

Biodiversity: The southern property is located along the Salinas River and provides riparian habitat benefits.

Other: The property provides open space and prominent viewshed along Highway 156.

Notable Features
The entire area from the Monterey Bay to Salinas has been contaminated with saltwater intrusion, which includes the subject property. Pumping of underground water is no longer available for the property. All the Irrigation water is recycled water supplied by the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP).

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP16_PLA

Applicant
Placer Land Trust

Project Location
Lincoln, Placer County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk options 5 and 7, residential and rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
113 potential development rights extinguished
88,280,835 VMT
37,981 MT CO_2e

Acreage
574

Funding Requested
$2,967,000

Match Funding
Match Funders Identified-Landowner; Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program; and/or NRCS ACEP/ALE

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project would protect ±574 acres of irrigated agricultural land two miles west of Lincoln's sphere of influence through an agricultural conservation easement. The property is comprised of ±442 acres of certified organic almond orchards, 92 acres of organic rice, and 40 acres of canals, riparian areas, and ranch infrastructure. There are five wells located on the property, as well as allocations from the South Sutter Irrigation District. A 6.5-acre area containing an existing single-family residence will be excluded from the easement.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property adds to an identified greenbelt west of Lincoln and northwest of Roseville.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The lessees apply chicken manure compost to fertilize the soil, leave mowed residue as mulch, use no-till practices under the almond trees, and maintain riparian habitat along nearly a mile of Auburn Ravine.

Equity

Secure Land Tenure: The landowner provides secure land tenure for farming or ranching on the property to a beginning farmer via a 25-year lease. The lease provides the right of first refusal to the lessee to purchase the property.

Sustainable Agriculture Use

Soil quality: 54% of the property is Prime Farmland, 8% is Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 43% is Unique Farmland.

Co-Benefits

Environmental:

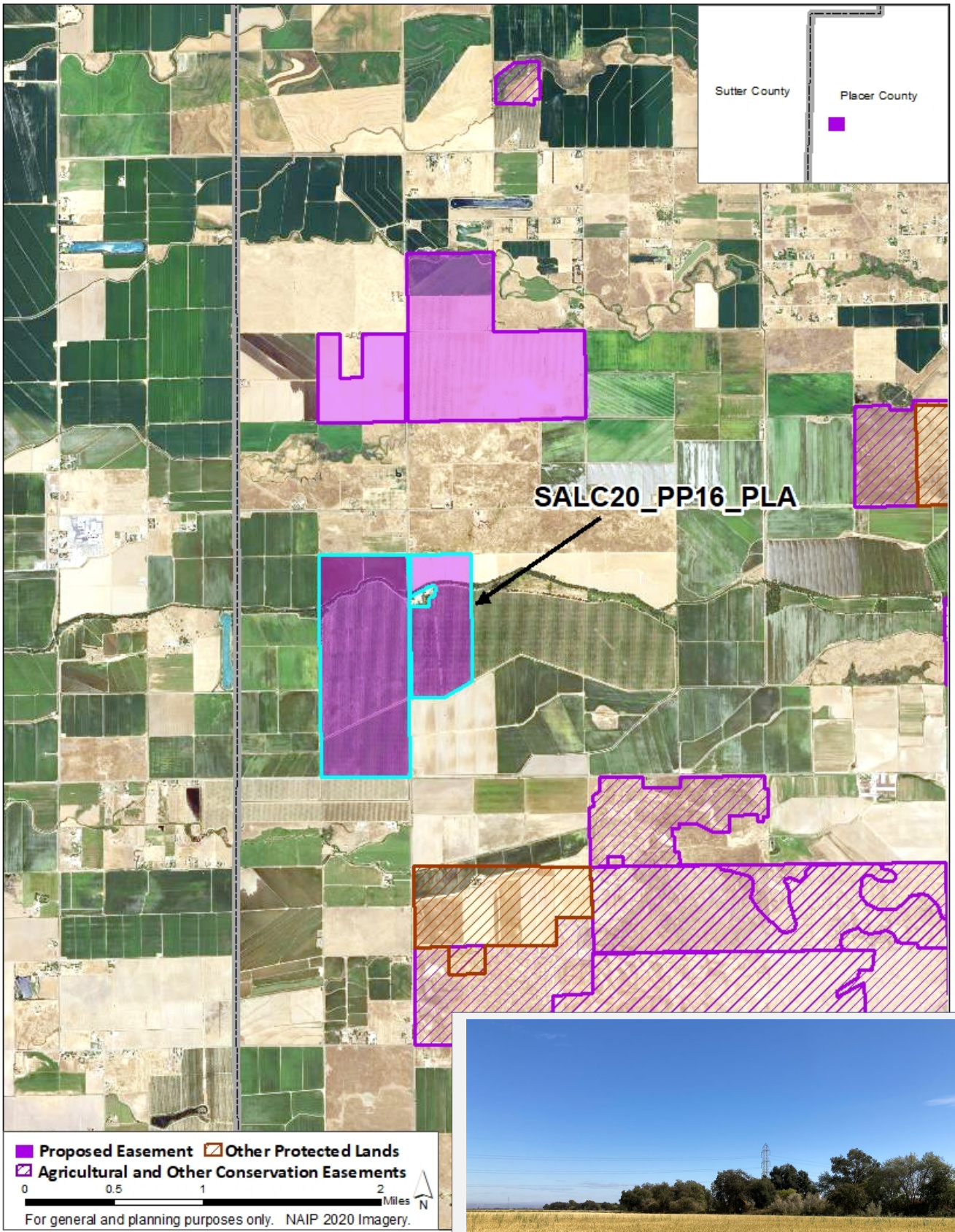
Biodiversity: The project would protect nearly 1 mile of Auburn Ravine and 20- to 50-foot wide riparian buffers. The riparian area provides nesting habitat for large raptors. The stream supports steelhead, and the stream and rice fields support waterfowl.

Proximity to Protected Land: The property is adjacent to an existing conservation easement and within 2 miles of over 2,000 acres of conserved lands. It is also located in the Reserve Acquisition Area identified in the Placer County Conservation Plan.

Notable Features
Property boundaries need to be surveyed and confirmed.

Staff recommends funding $59,000 of the $72,000 requested for associated costs. Program guidelines permit applicants to request more than $50,000 if the costs "are commensurate with the work needed to complete the project."

Site Photo and Maps



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP17_PLA

Applicant
Placer Land Trust

Project Location
Lincoln, Placer County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk options 5 and 7, residential and rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
202 potential development rights extinguished
157,811,759 VMT
66,864 MT CO_2e

Acreage
595.2

Funding Requested
$3,300,250

Match Funding
Match Funders Identified-Landowner; Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program; and/or NRCS ACEP/ALE

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on ±595 acres currently planted as 491 acres of almonds and 62 acres of organic rice. 543 acres are classified as Unique farmland and 52 acres are Farmland of Local Importance. The western edge of the property is 2 miles from Lincoln's sphere of influence. From 2000 to 2010, Lincoln was the fastest growing community in the nation with a population over 10,000.

Strategic Value

Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: The property adds to an identified greenbelt west of Lincoln.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The landowner maintains a riparian buffer strip along Markham Ravine.

Equity

Secure Land Tenure: The two almond orchards are leased to separate tenants; each are beginning farmers who have secured 25-year leases. One of the leases provides the right of first refusal to purchase the property.

Co-Benefits

Environmental:

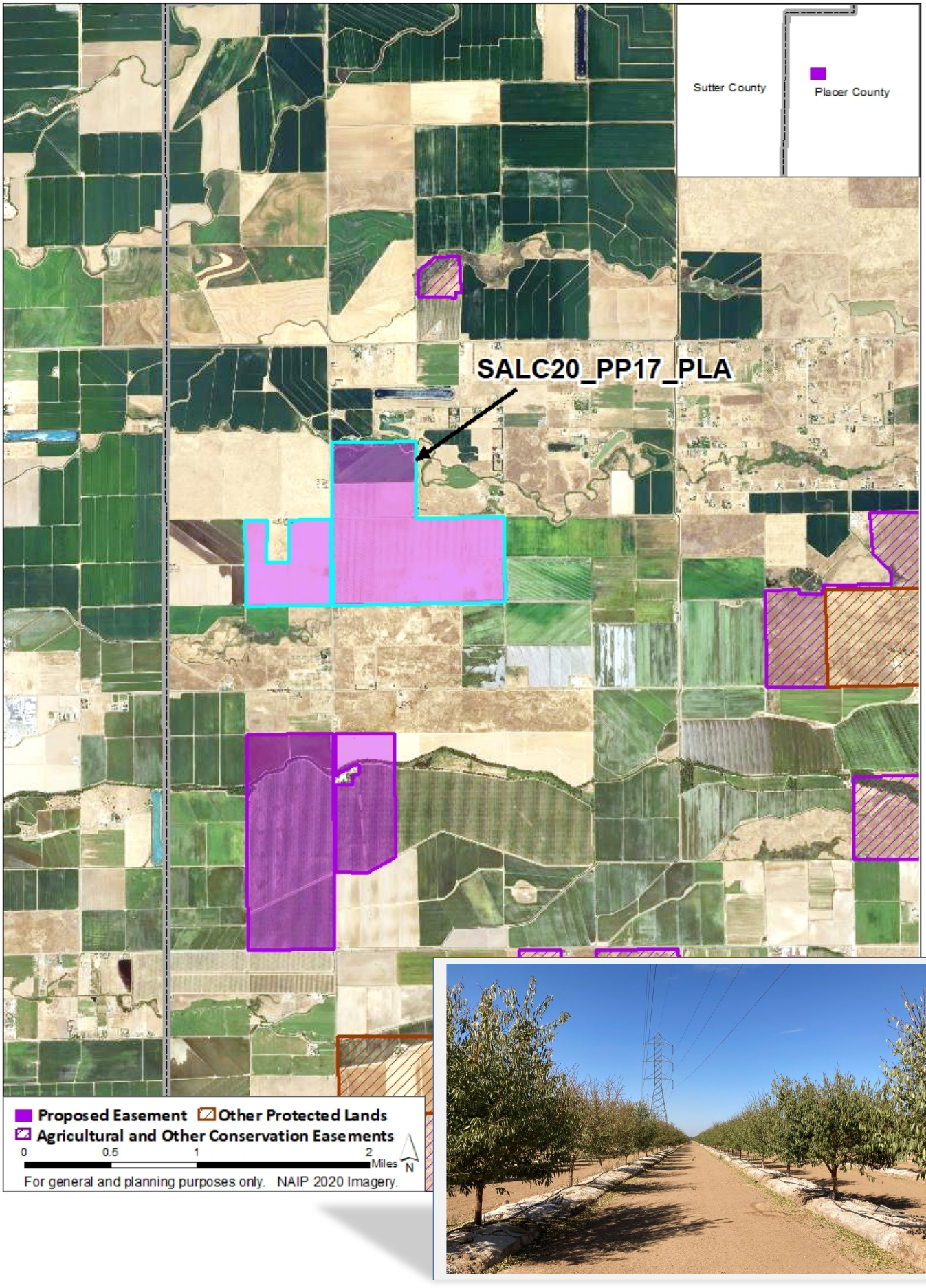
Biodiversity: Approximately ¾ of a mile of Markham Ravine borders the property and maintain riparian buffer strips. Markham Ravine is a designated salmon and steelhead stream. Species present in the riparian areas include cottonwood, oaks, alder, walnut, and willow trees providing nesting habitat for large raptors. 40% of the property is mapped as historical floodplain.

Proximity to Protected Land: The Property is within 2 miles of 2,000 acres of conserved land and is located in the Reserve Acquisition Area identified in the Placer County Conservation Plan.

Notable Features
Property boundaries need to be surveyed and confirmed.

Staff recommends funding $59,000 of the$64,000 requested for associated costs. Program guidelines permit applicants to request more than $50,000 if the costs "are commensurate with the work needed to complete the project."

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP18_SLO

Applicant
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County

Project Location
Cambria, San Luis Obispo County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
B-Project feasible but requires resolution of specific issues

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 7, rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
146 potential development rights extinguished
48,039,106 VMT
29,523 MT CO_2e

Acreage
736.1

Funding Requested
$1,150,000

Match Funding
Match Funders Identified – Wildlife Conservation Board Climate Adaptation and Resilience Program, WCB Adelaida CAPP Funding

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This proposed project is for an agricultural conservation easement acquisition on a ±736-acre farm located in the Adelaida region near Cambria in northwest San Luis Obispo County. Commercial calf/cow production has been the primary agricultural use of the Ranch for more than 100 years. Existing structures include a small home and farm infrastructure. The property currently supports a commercially viable herd of cattle. Existing water sources and abundant grasslands provide ample resources for year-round cattle grazing.

Strategic Value
Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt/Community Separator: Project adds to an existing greenbelt near the edge of Cambria.

Wildland Urban Interface: The proposed project would provide wildfire resilience benefits to the nearby community through on-ranch grazing practices that reduce fuel loads.

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The landowner maintains several land management practices including prescribed grazing, silvopasture, and riparian buffers.

Co-Benefits

Environmental:

Biodiversity: The property includes coastal streams and intact wildlife habitat. Riparian habitat onsite provides benefits to threatened steelhead populations. The property lies within a regional wildlife corridor that connects the southern extent of the Santa Lucia Range to protected wilderness areas within the Los Padres National Forest to the north.

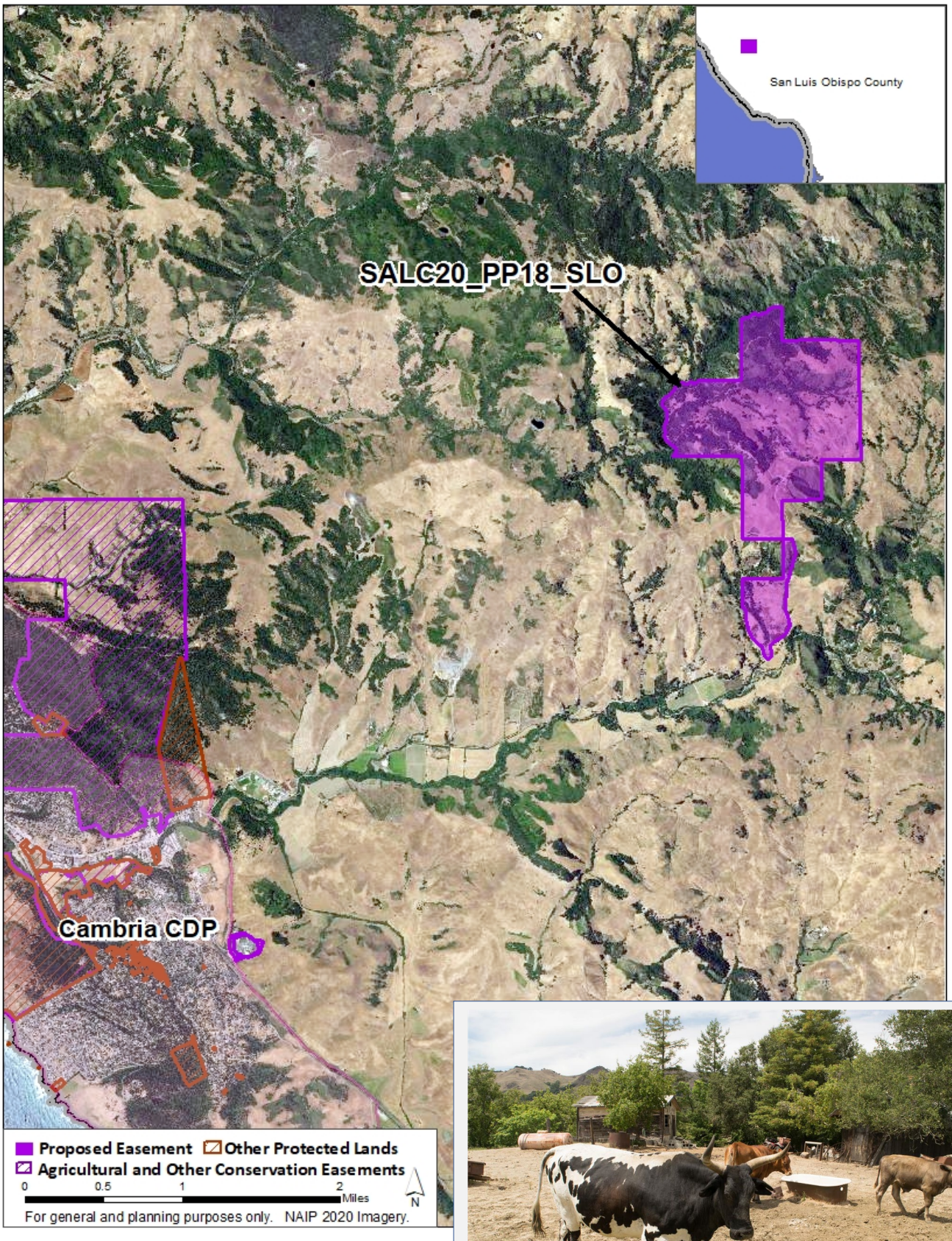
Proximity to Protected Land: This project will add 736 acres of highly scenic agricultural land and wildlife habitat to nearly 2,000 acres of existing permanently protected lands near Cambria.

Other:

Viewshed: The project would provide protection of the viewshed along Santa Rosa Creek Road.

Notable Features
The easement would restrict intensive agriculture such as commercial vineyard and orchard production to protect the use of the ranch for grazing.

Site Photo and Map



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Not Recommended
SALC20_PP19_SLO

Applicant
California Rangeland Trust

Project Location
Atascadero, San Luis Obispo County

Recommended Ranking: Select one and delete the rest:
D-Project not ready

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 7, rural residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
1 potential development rights extinguished
672,376 VMT
319 MT CO_2e

Acreage
1,014 acres

Funding Requested
$820,568

Match Funding
Match Funders Identified– Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wildlife Conservation Board, or Landowner Donation

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project is for an agricultural conservation easement on ±1,014 acres of rangeland property located less than two miles west of the City of Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County. The lessee on the property operates a year-round 30 cow/calf operation. Water on the property is sourced from natural springs that supply water to a 10,000 gallon above-ground storage tank. Existing infrastructure includes a farm labor residence and shop that support the operation.

Strategic Value
Infill and Compact Development

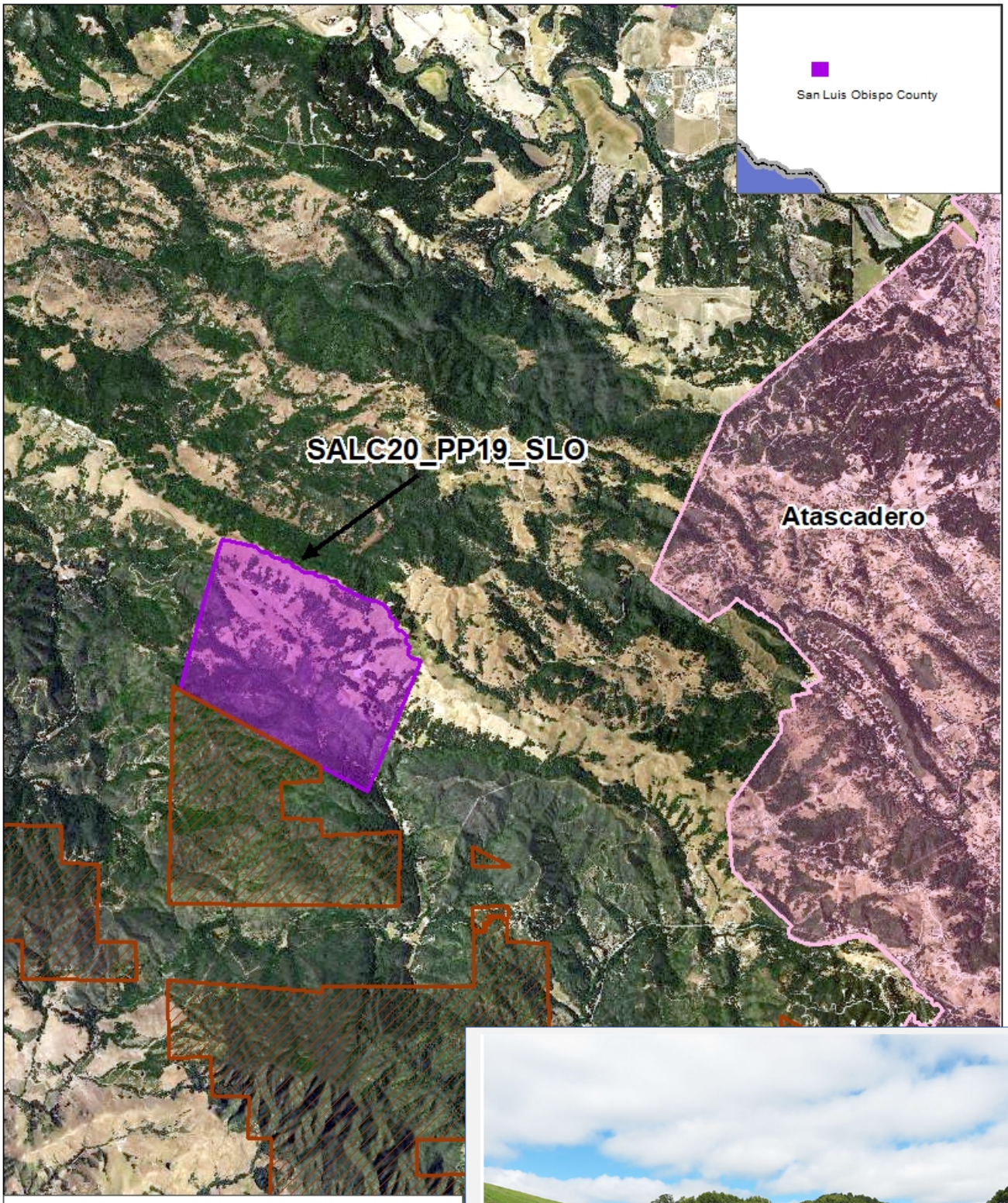
Wildland Urban Interface – The property is located within the wildland urban interface between the Los Padres National Forest and the City of Atascadero and continued grazing management may help prevent catastrophic wildfire.

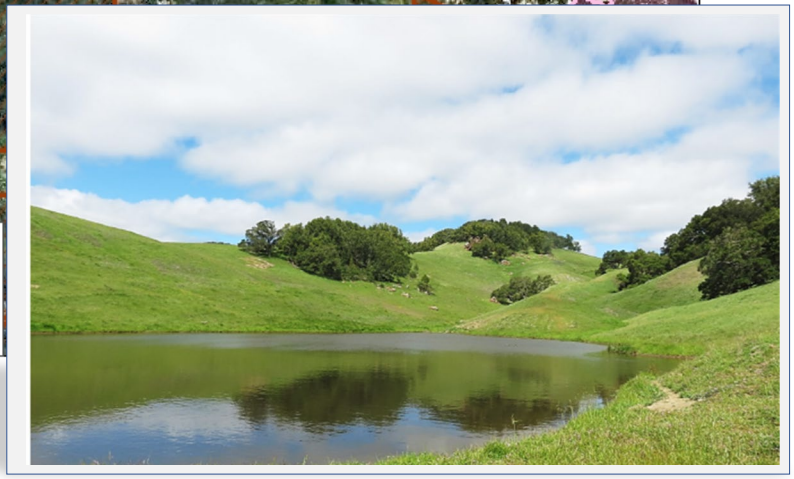
Co-Benefits

Habitat – The property protects riparian habitat along several creeks on the property.

Notable Features
Existing restrictions on title suggest that the property is not likely to be converted to residential uses in the foreseeable future.

Site Photo and Map





Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP23_MER

Applicant
American Farmland Trust

Project Location
Livingston, Merced County

Recommended Ranking
A-Project Ready

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
227 potential development rights extinguished
189,517,955 VMT
74,375 MT CO_2e

Acreage
75.4 acres

Funding Requested
$814,000

Match Funding
Qualifies for 100% SALC funding

Priority Population Benefits
Yes

Project Description
This project would protect ±75 acres of agricultural land through the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement. The property is located less than two miles east of the City of Livingston along the Merced River. Out of the 75 acres, approximately 38 acres are in permanent crops and 9 acres are in annual crops. The owners have produced vegetable and fruit crops on the property for over 25 years. The property is certified organic and grows a diversity of crops, such as blueberries, grapes, walnuts, cherries, apples, persimmons, and pomegranates. Irrigation water is available through multiple sources.

Strategic Value

Climate Resilience

Climate Smart Management Practices: The landowner has implemented numerous on-farm conservation management practices that build soil health, including an active WCB grant for riparian and wetland restoration, organic certification, cover crops, reduced tillage, and hedgerow planting.

Equity

Priority Population Benefits: The project provides priority population benefits by continuing to provide regular and ongoing educational opportunities through partnerships with schools and nonprofits. The landowner is a resident of a disadvantaged community.

Sustainable Agricultural Use

Regional Food Systems Resilience: The property promotes regional food systems resilience through crop diversification, production of fresh agricultural products for local markets, and distribution of fresh food via local market channels.

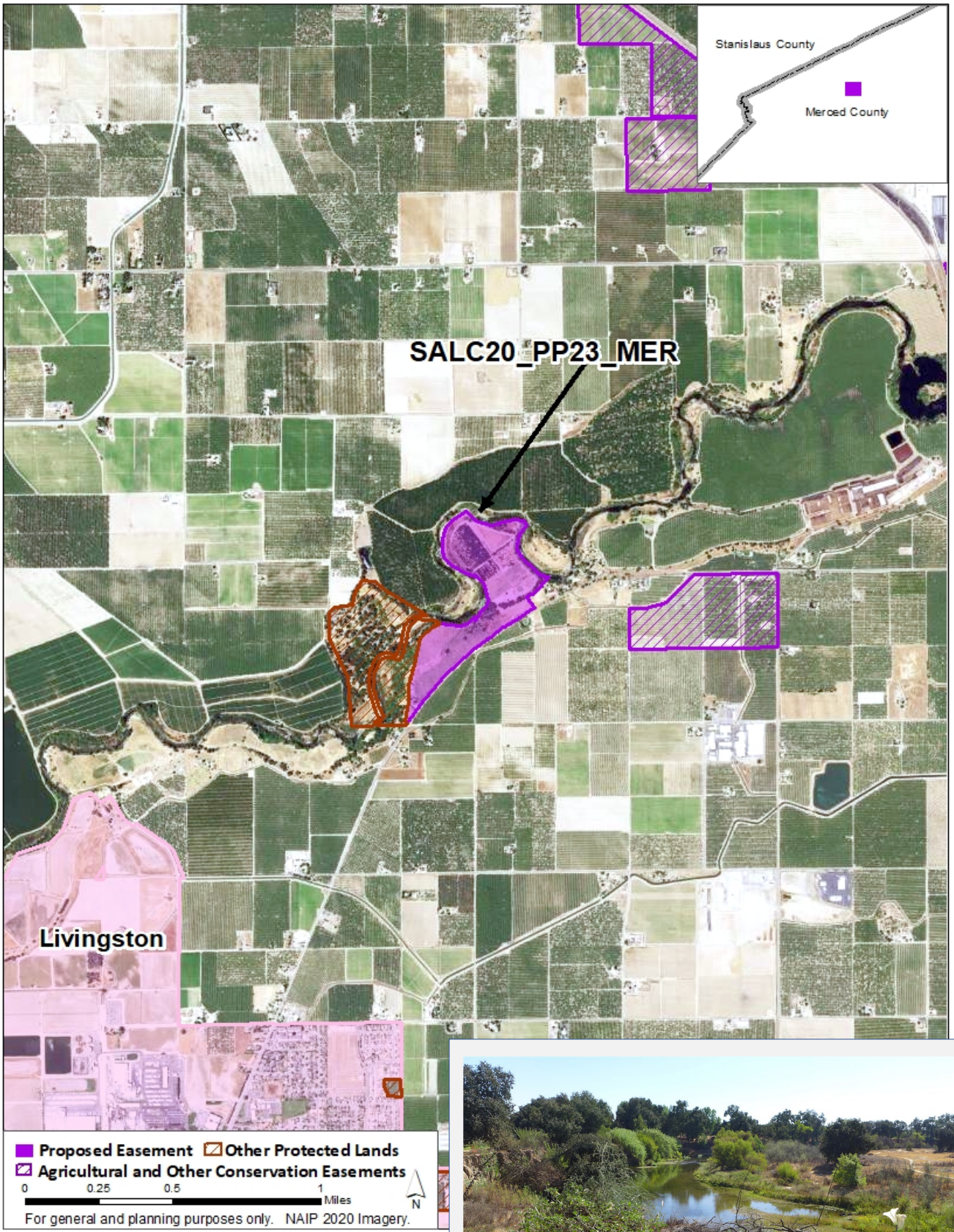
Co-Benefits

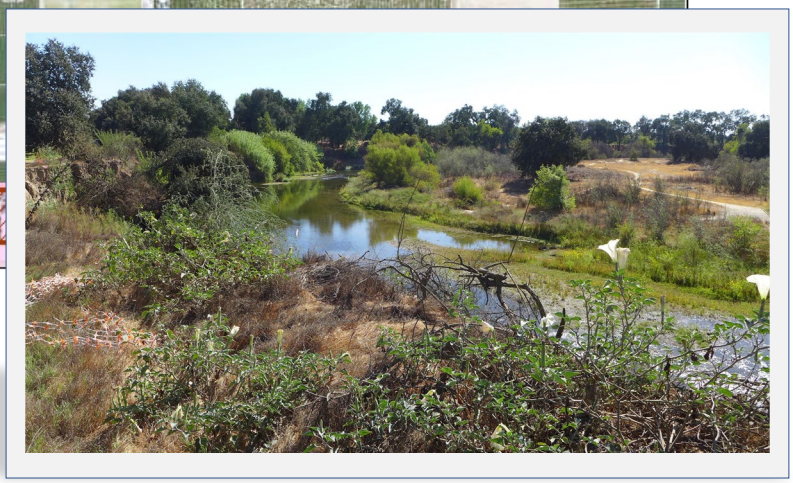
Environmental:

Biodiversity: Protection of the property will support biodiversity through restored riparian habitat along the Merced River and an established 1.5 ac wetland area. California elderberry bush has been planted for the threatened longhorn beetle. Bee boxes and bird houses exist onsite. The landowner has been called a "farmer bird hero" by the National Audubon Society for her partnership with the Working Lands Program to create bird habitat on the property.

Notable Features
The property hosts a variety of onsite educational events that promote thoughtful land stewardship and agriculture. A small portion of the property is made available for local school engagements to learn about gardening and agriculture.

Site Photo and Map





Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program
Acquisition Project Summary
FY 2020-21 Funding Recommended
SALC20_PP24_SBT

Applicant
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

Project Location
San Juan Bautista, San Benito County

Recommended Ranking
A – Project Ready

Land Use Conversion Threat
Risk option 5, residential zoning density

Estimated GHGs Avoided
577 potential development rights extinguished
182,000,963 VMT
89,085 MT CO_2e

Acreage
540.6 acres

Funding Requested
$1,850,000

Match Funding
Secured – WCB, CNRA-EEMP, TPL

Priority Population Benefits
No

Project Description
This project would protect ±541 acres of agricultural land through an agricultural conservation easement. The property is currently leased for cattle grazing. The operation supports 40 cow/calf pairs seasonally. Cattle are then sold at the 101 Auction Market located across the highway from the property. The property is comprised of quality grasslands, two reservoirs, one active well, fencing, a barn and water troughs that support the cattle operation. There are no existing homesites on the property.

Strategic Value
Infill and Compact Development

Greenbelt: The property would act as a greenbelt along the western edge of San Juan Bautista.

Wildland Urban Interface: Protection of the property will reduce the risk of high intensity wildfires by maintaining grasslands at the wildland urban interface via grazing.

Equity

Tribal Co-Management & Access: The project partners will work with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust through a separate but well-integrated cultural easement to provide opportunities to bring grazing compatible indigenous land stewardship practices to the property, including native plant propagation, upland habitat restoration, and stream and spring restoration.

Co-Benefits

Environmental:

Biodiversity: The property includes approximately 25 acres of wetland habitat, which provides breeding habitat for California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and western pond turtle. There is also approximately 70 acres of coast live oak woodlands, 10 acres of riparian habitat and 445 acres of annual grasslands.

Proximity to Protected Land: The property is adjacent to a 521-acre easement held by San Benito Agricultural Land Trust. The property is also identified for conservation in the Santa Cruz Mountain Linkages Conceptual Area Protection Plan, and the project supports the implementation of the Pajaro Compass report.

Wildlife Corridor: The project provides extensive habitat connectivity via three culverts under Hwy 156, connecting the Santa Cruz Mountains with the Gabilan and Diablo Ranges.

Notable Features
Protection of the property will protect views of open space to the southwest of the city, including views from Mission San Juan Bautista.

The project includes development and implementation of a SALC-funded management plan.

Site Photo and Map