

# SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities

## Natural & Farm Lands Conservation Working Group

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## Estimated Crop Value in the SCAG region

- Imperial – \$1.9 Billion
- Los Angeles – \$189 Million
- Orange – \$136 Million
- Riverside – \$1.2 Billion
- San Bernardino – \$466 Million
- Ventura – \$1.9 Billion
- Total – \$5.9 Billion



Source: California Farm Bureau Federation

*Promote conservation of natural and agricultural lands and restoration of habitats.*

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.*
- Encourage regional economic prosperity and global competitiveness.*
- Support healthy and equitable communities.*
- Adapt to a changing climate and support an integrated regional development pattern and transportation network.*

# Importance of Agriculture Conservation

- Economic Driver
  - Protects habitats and connectivity
  - Protects watershed and riparian areas
  - Encourages ground water recharge and clean drinking water
  - Part of Southern California culture
  - **Local food\***
- Climate benefits:
    - Emissions avoidance
    - Increase regional resilience
    - Carbon sequestration
    - Supports compact development patterns
    - Reduces Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT)

\*Feedback from last meeting (Feb)

Source: Strategic Growth Council & Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

# **SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities Workplan Under Development**

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- Objectives
  - (1) Understand the agricultural landscape in the SCAG region.
  - (2) Determine benefits from agricultural conservation to the SCAG region.

# SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities

- Research Gaps
  - Agricultural Baseline (Acreage and crops grown)
  - Carbon Sequestration and GHG Emission Reduction
  - **Water Requirements/Drought Impacts\***
  - Crop Values
  - Economic and Social/Cultural Benefits
  - Land Use, Mobility, Accessibility Benefits
  - Farmworker Housing
  - **Public Health Impacts of Agricultural Activities\***

\*Feedback from last meeting (Feb)

# SCAG Agricultural Conservation Priorities

- Facilitate Collaboration and Build Partnerships
  - EO 30x30
  - Healthy Soils Program
  - Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation



# SCAG Agricultural Conservation Program Outcomes

- Potential Implementation of Findings
  - Creation of Mapping Tools
  - Grant Opportunities
    - Increased funding potential
  - Including agricultural conservation in Regional Advance Mitigation Program (RAMP)
  - **Outreach\***
    - Conversations with regional farmers and ranchers



\*Feedback from last meeting (Feb)

Questions?  
Thank you!

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