



# County of San Mateo

## Inter-Departmental Correspondence

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**Department:** COUNTY MANAGER: OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

**File #:** 19-749

Board Meeting Date: 7/23/2019

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**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Jim Eggemeyer, Director, Office of Sustainability

**Subject:** County of San Mateo's application to the Department of Conservation Local and Regional Planning Project Grant under the Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Grant Program

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution affirming the County of San Mateo's support for the Department of Conservation Grant application to integrate Agriculture into Climate Mitigation.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Whereas this County is proactively preparing for climate change in numerous ways, there remains an urgent need to slow the production of greenhouse gases. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, improved agricultural practices can make a significant contribution to the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at relatively low cost. Integrating working lands into climate action planning provides opportunities for slowing climate change. It is anticipated that State agencies such as the DOC and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will soon require jurisdictions to include working lands components in climate action plans as a prerequisite for funding agricultural conservation related work.

### **DISCUSSION:**

To incorporate agricultural practices and forest-related mitigation activities into our efforts to control our greenhouse gas emissions, the County proposes to submit an application to the DOC Local and Regional Planning Project grant program. This grant will allow the County to integrate a working lands component to the Climate Action Plan and help the County and its communities adapt to a changing environment through identifying new partners and solutions.

The project will be in partnership with Santa Clara County, the San Mateo Resource Conservation District, and the Carbon Cycle Institute, and represents an opportunity for the County to lead the State in confronting climate change and involve the agricultural sector in innovative ways. Additionally, by documenting the process and developing policy guidelines and templates, this work

can easily be scaled, potentially benefitting jurisdictions across California.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no net County cost associated with this grant application. Should the grant be awarded, it will fund the work across the application partners.