



San Benito County Agricultural Element

November 14, 2024

Presented By: Arielle Goodspeed, Principal Planner

Introductions

San Benito County Planning Staff

- ▶ Abraham Prado, Director of Planning and Building
- ▶ Arielle Goodspeed, Principal Planner
- ▶ Victor Tafoya, Associate Planner

Partner Organizations

- ▶ Karminder Brown, San Benito RCD
- ▶ Lynn Overtree, San Benito Agricultural Land Trust
- ▶ Laura Kirschmann, San Benito Agricultural Land Trust

ICF Consultant Team

- ▶ Sally Zeff, Project Manager
- ▶ Bernadette Clueit, Project Director
- ▶ Zachary Cornejo, Deputy Project Manager
- ▶ Shay Humphrey, Outreach Lead



Agenda

- ▶ Introduction to Staff, RCD, Land Trust and County's consultants
- ▶ Welcome and Introduction to the Agricultural Element
- ▶ Purpose of the Ag Element Stakeholder Planning Group
- ▶ Overview of the process and timeline for developing the Ag Element
- ▶ Gather Input on Stakeholder Planning Group Participants
- ▶ Next Steps and Opportunities to Participate



Agricultural Element and Purpose in General Plan

The General Plan is the County's constitution for land use, development, and environmental quality.

- ▶ The San Benito County 2035 General Plan sets a clear direction for the future of the county and goals, policies, and programs necessary to achieve the community's vision and guiding principles.
- ▶ The General Plan also addresses issues of sustainability, including environmental protection, economic expansion and diversification, and equity.
- ▶ The General Plan contains goals and policies supporting agriculture in several elements, including Land Use, Economic Development, Public Facilities and Services and Natural and Cultural Resources.
- ▶ The General Plan does not include an element specifically focused on Agriculture.



Agricultural Element and Purpose in General Plan - *continued*

This effort is intended to strengthen the County's support for agriculture, including rangelands, and the long-term viability of the agricultural economy. The reports and the Agricultural Element are expected to include:

- ▶ Identification of intrinsic values of farmland that are of high value in addition to food production.
- ▶ Identifying farmland at risk of conversion or loss.
- ▶ Identifying high priority agricultural lands for conservation.
- ▶ Conservation strategies and approaches.
- ▶ General Plan policies related to agriculture.



Questions?



Process Overview and Timeline

- ▶ Grant from the State, involvement of RCD and Land Trust

Anticipated Project Schedule	Summer 2024	Fall 2024	Winter 2025	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025
Technical Report Development	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange
Public Review Draft Agricultural Element	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange
Environmental Review Process	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Orange	Light Orange
Final Agricultural Element	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Light Orange	Orange



Stakeholder Planning Group

Purpose of the Ag Element Stakeholder Planning Group

- ▶ Provide input on issues and information
- ▶ Provide input on policy development

What will members be committing to?

- ▶ Attend 6 or 7 meetings throughout the process.
- ▶ Meetings will be in-person/virtual hybrid.
- ▶ There will be materials to be reviewed prior to each meeting.



Provide Input on Stakeholder Planning Group Participants & Schedule

- ▶ In-person attendees, fill out hard copy form and return it to Arielle.



San Benito County Ag Element Stakeholder Planning Group Participation Questionnaire

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Organization/Affiliation: _____

Are you interested in participating in the stakeholder planning group?
 Yes No Maybe

What industry or interest group do you represent?

Please list any relevant background and experience that you feel would make you a good candidate for the Stakeholder Planning Group.

Do you prefer in-person, virtual, or hybrid meetings?
 In-person Virtual Hybrid (in-person and virtual)

What day(s) of the week do you prefer for meetings? Check all that apply.
 Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday No Preference

What time of day do you prefer for meetings? Check all that apply.
 Morning Afternoon Evening No Preference

 

- ▶ Alternatively, fill out online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/gKGrFTm6ih>



Anticipated Next Steps

- ▶ County Staff will review the input provided and invitations to be part of the group will be sent out.



Questions?



Links to Other Ongoing Planning Efforts

- ▶  **Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP)**

- ▶ Explore our strategies for a sustainable future:



- ▶  **Conservation Plan (SBCCP)**

- ▶ Learn about our dedication to preserving natural resources:





Thank You

Your participation is a valuable and important part of this process.