



EXCELSIOR/KINGS RIVER
Resource Conservation District

Michael Miya, President
Ed Esajian, Treasurer
Jerred, Barba, Director
Tony DeGroot, Director
Paul Newton, Director
Nathan Heeringa, Associate Director

Special Board Meeting
August 12, 2026 at 1:30 PM
870 Greenfield Ave., Hanford

1. **Call to Order**
 - a. **Flag Salute**
2. **Public Comment**
 - a. *Any person may directly address the Board at this time on any item on the agenda or any other item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.*
3. **New Business**
 - a. HSP Block Grant Narrative Draft – **Action**
 - b. Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) DRAFT Resolution – **Action**
 - c. August 19, 2026 Regular Meeting - **Action**
4. **Adjournment**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting
August 19, 2026
1:30 PM

Project Purpose

Project Goal: Describe the overarching goal for the project that addresses a community and/or regional need. The goal should align with the concept proposal but may be further refined here based on reviewer feedback

The EKRC D Project seeks to provide farmers in its region and surrounding areas with financial support and technical assistance to address soil health planning and project implementation with a focus on smaller farms. Often the greatest hardship in implementing HSP practices impacts small farms who lack the benefit of economies of scale in purchasing, and increased cost for technical advice.

395/400

Performance Indicator 1: Describe data that will assist the Lead Applicant and OARS in assessing performance of the project relative to the Project Goal.

Provide the Socially Disadvantaged/Small Farm Fund pool beneficiaries with full service HSP technical advising, project planning, application assistance, project implementation and financial support to increase underserved and small farmer success.

250/250

Performance Indicator 1 Data: Describe how and when the lead applicant will collect the data.

The percentage of on-farm projects planned and selected that qualify for the SDFR/Small farm fund pool will be measured. The lead applicant will collect information on all potential participants generated from outreach events to create a potential client profile, and sort them into two applicant pools during intake. Applicants in the SDFR/Small Farm Fund pool will then begin to receive full planning to completion, to ensure that the P.I. target is met.

495/500

Target 1: Identify a target related Performance Indicator 1.

A minimum of 50% of total projects selected for full project implementation are from the SDFR/Small farm fund pool, with a minimum of 20 SDFR applicants being served.

166/250

Target 1 Justification: Justify target 1, explaining why the target is ambitious but achievable.

By setting a target goal above the minimum requirement, EKRCD is showcasing its commitment to exceed Canella Act and Climate Bond goals and ensuring the most vulnerable populations have access to Climate Smart Agriculture techniques. The method of project selection (ongoing pass/fail system) for the SDFR fund pool will ensure that the target is reached before all funds are committed and will allow for additional outreach and program enrollment of SDFR clients. EKRCD projects the goal to be ambitious but achievable based on it's previous HSP Block Grant. During the previous block grant only 27% of applications were submitted by SDFR candidates, but the submissions resulted in 50% of funded projects. With the more intensive Technical Assistance enrollment process that is planned, EKRCD is going to commit a minimum of 50% of it's TA budget to ensure that ensure that it can match the same number of SDFR clients as previously served, despite having a 20% reduced budget.

979/1000

Performance Indicator 2: Describe data that will assist the Lead Applicant and OARS in assessing performance of the project relative to the Project Goal.

Keeping farmland vulnerable to development healthy and productive by focusing at least half of implementation funds on small farms (less than 100 acers of total ownership) located within Disadvantaged Community Tracts.

229/250

Performance Indicator 2 Data: Describe how and when the lead applicant will collect the data.

As a part of the outreach and initial project enrollment location and the producer's ownership in farm ground data will be gathered. Not only will this be considered when directing potential beneficiaries into fund pools but also be considered in the scoring rubrics. In both fund pools, being in a DAC tract will provide an enhancement bonus for scoring. In the SDFR pool a reduction in the MtCO₂e per/\$ threshold will be lowered, in General fund pool, it will be awarded as preference points.

494/500

Target 2: Identify a target related Performance Indicator 2.

A minimum of 50% of implementation funds will be expended in DAC areas from both fund pools.

95/250

Target 2 Justification: Justify target 2, explaining why the target is ambitious but achievable.

While a large portion of EKRCD's service area qualify as a DAC census tract; the Preliminary 2026 Disadvantaged Communities update has reduced the number of tracts that have the CalEnviroScreen Version 5.0. top 25% scores or 5% pollution burden scores. By setting the aggressive 50% target of selected projects in both fund pools, EKRCD is committed to exceeding AB1550 25% DAC allocation goals. By connecting DAC census goal funding to both fund pools EKRCD also seeks to ensure that farm ground surrounding the most venerable communities remains healthy and productive while increasing positive environmental outcomes. Preservation of the economic viability of small farms in DAC areas provides greater upward mobility opportunities for those that live there, and EKRCD believes that investing in those small farms will reduce their chances of being developed into nonagricultural uses.

890/1000

Performance Indicator 3: Describe data that will assist the Lead Applicant and OARS in assessing the performance of the project relative to the Project Goal

Reducing water, energy, and utility costs for production on farms by increased use of multiple Climate Smart agriculture Healthy Soils practices, to increase soil health, water holding capacity and crop health, rather than on a single practice.

244/250

Performance Indicator 3 Data: Describe how and when the lead applicant will collect the data.

The CDFA Replan tool, TAP pre site reports, and the applications will be the primary source of identifying and recording beneficiary planned practices. During preplanning meetings, the TA will be making suggestions to maximize multiple practice adoption and record prospective beneficiary feedback on chosen and rejected practices. These notes will remain internal and be shared with CDFA and other partners and used to select case study and field days to increase adoption in future rounds.

492/500

Target 3: Identify a target related to Performance Indicator 3.

No more than 20% of HSP Block Grant implementation funds will fund projects that only utilize compost application practice, biochar application practice, or compost blended with biochar practice.

195/250

Target 3 Justification: Justify target 3, explaining why the target is ambitious but achievable.

While EKRCD had great success in selecting projects that had more than one HSP practice during their administration of their HSP block grant, many producers primary focus was on compost applications, and many projects scoring the lowest were compost only, or due to farm size had lower GHG reduction scores. With EKRCD planning on making bulk purchases of compost and biochar to try to reduce the cost to deliver those practices to producers and be able to increase the acres that the practices could be applied on they feel they should have some flexibility to fund single practices. By allowing for up to 20% of implementation funds to be used for compost/biochar” single practice” grants they hope to be able to maximize outreach to small farm and SDFR producers who may be limited in practices that can be applied to their situation. However, the 20% of implementation funds limit ensures that most projects are well rounded and provide better soil health outcomes.

969/1000

Performance Indicator 4: Describe data that will assist the Lead Applicant and OARS in assessing the performance of the project relative to the Project Goal.

Reducing GHG emission and increasing carbon sequestration by finding innovative methods of cost savings to increase the amount of projects funded through limited funding. Utilizing bulk purchases for compost and biochar directly.

229/250

Performance Indicator 4 Data: Describe how and when the lead applicant will collect the data.

All GHG impacts will be measured by the CDFA Replan tool and be broken down and analyzed by practice type. To maximize GHG sequestration by compost, biochar, and mulch practices, EKRCD will be bidding out both purchase and spreading in bulk and distributing it. Purchases and payments will be recorded directly between EKRCD and the vendors, to ensure cost savings is achieved. MtCO₂e impact accounting will be analyzable with direct comparison to EKRCD previous reimbursement rates.

484/500

Target 4: Identify a target related Performance Indicator 4

The direct bulk purchases of compost will maintain the price of \$55 per ton (or less,) allowing for a greater price parity compared to beneficiary reimbursement.

163/250

Target 4 Justification: Justify target 4, explaining why the target is ambitious but achievable.

EKRCD's goal of conducting and distributing bulk purchases of compost, biochar, and mulch practice materials has several benefits. First, it will maintain price parity between all producers and ensure that Prop 4 funds are receiving the same MtCO_{2e} per/\$, regardless of the project's size. Second, it will reduce the out-of-pocket impact for the beneficiaries and vendors, with EKRCD making the payments directly. This will reduce potential cashflow issues with smaller producers, who have reported that some vendors want payment on delivery, while larger producers often have 30–60-day terms. Another benefit will be increased control of sampling, a part of the bulk purchase agreement will be TAP access for compost sampling, so that samples can be acquired at regular intervals during the delivery season. This will allow for greater monitoring of C:N ratios of compost applied and allow the TAP to update the beneficiary on the soil health impacts.

952/1000

Performance Indicator 5: Describe data that will assist the Lead Applicant and OARS in assessing the performance of the project relative to the Project Goal.

Improving air and water quality for nearby communities through increased technical assistance and education for producers to ensure they have access to the most regenerative farming methods with the least negative impact to the environment.

243/250

Performance Indicator 5 Data: Describe how and when the lead applicant will collect the data.

The CDFA Replan tool, TAP conservation/pre site reports, TAP producer touchpoints, and the applications will be the primary source of identifying and recording beneficiary planned practices. The TAP conservation/ pre site reports and Replan tool will be used by the TAP to identify and educate the beneficiaries on water and air impact risks on the farm and encourage them to adopt HSP practices that will improve their farm's environmental outcomes.

452/500

Target 5: Identify a target related Performance Indicator 5.

Provide a minimum of 50 applicants TA support including a pre-site visit, Re Plan tool assistance and written Soil Health conservation / pre site reports.

155/250

Target 5 Justification: Justify target 5, explaining why the target is ambitious but achievable.

To address air and water quality concerns, EKRCDC will be greatly increasing its TA support in comparison to its previous HSP Block grant. Rather than wait for potential beneficiaries to seek assistance, EKRCDC is looking to be proactive in healthy soils planning. By having their TAP conduct pre-site visits with the producer, and helping them through the planning process, they will be able to see site specific air and water risks and make suggestions to address them through the HSP program activities. In addition, by producing a written report containing the recommendations the producer will have guidance for future applications from other funding sources in the case that their project is not selected for funding the block grant. The previous HSP block grant selected 40 projects, so the target is greater than previous rounds. In addition, the internal notes portion of the plan will be utilized by EKRCDC and its partners to plan improvements to practice adoption strategies.

984/1000

Optional Deliverable(s): Describe any discrete products the team will produce and justify how their development will support the goal. Indicate when the deliverables will be complete and if they will be utilized during the grant term to further the work on the project, and/or if they will have an impact beyond the grant term. These are in addition to the required deliverables that are identified in the Workplan Template

Optional Deliverable: EKRC Healthy Soils sampling mobile lab- TAP soil testing and training. To ensure that soil health testing aligns with HSP goals, EKRC is proposing that all sampling for project beneficiaries will be done by TA staff and will utilize a suite of sampling methods not commonly in use in the region. One of the stipulations of the implementation grants will be that the producer has to accompany the TAP for at least one of the soil sampling on their site, and receive instruction on the proper methods of sampling, sample handling, what analysis are useful for determining soil health, and how to interpret them. The goal will be to equip them to conduct sampling for soil health going forward or identifying that their consultant is providing requested tests correctly after the grant is complete.

The mobile lab will also develop TAP level curricula, focusing on the soil sampling protocols for compaction, bulk density, infiltration rate, in addition to laboratory sampling test protocols. The mobile lab will contain the tools necessary to conduct the sampling so that TAPs can be trained with the equipment. If allowed, EKRC would also like to be able to rent out the sampling and training service to other HSP block grant recipients to support their grants, while recovering their costs. The mobile lab will conduct at least one sampling field day during year two of the project, with additional annual field days if there is demand.

Alignment with the Grant Program: Describe the Lead Applicant's mission and, if applicable, the Subrecipient's mission, identifying synergies with CDFA, OARS and HSP.

The Excelsior - Kings River Resource Conservation District (EKRCDD) is a special district government dedicated to conserving and improving water and land resources through groundwater and surface water sustainability, runoff and erosion control, water distribution, and projects that support Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in achieving long-term sustainability goals. EKRCDD was formed in 1990 and has worked closely with the Kings County NRCS to address natural resource concerns in its region.

Kings County Farm Bureau's mission is to provide education, promotion and representation of agriculture. Whether you're a farmer, rancher or dairyman, we are here to advocate for you at the local, state and federal levels, protecting your right to farm. During today's challenging times, amidst complex regulations, water shortages and excessive taxation, Kings County Farm Bureau is here to ensure the future of the family farm. Whether through educational programs, training classes, industry workshops, political activism, or community involvement, we are committed to supporting local farmers.

Both EKRCDD and KCFB are aligned with CDFA's Ag Vision, Prop 4's meaningful and direct benefit goals, OARS and HSP goals, and Canella Act targets. Both their entities' missions are to preserve all people's ability to farm, that assistance should be distributed in an equitable and fair manner, should utilize the most environmentally friendly methods, and preserve farmland for future generations. The HSP Block Grant provides both entities with a chance to further their missions, while partnering with the state of California to ensure the best outcomes for the rural residents it serves.

Climate Bond Funding Targets: Estimate the percentage of funding that will support the Climate Bond funding targets of providing meaningful and direct benefits to disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations.

EKRCD will utilize its past experience serving SDFRs and SDAC community members to exceed the Climate Bond's 40% funding and 25% technical assistance goals. In its CDFA HSP Pilot, 26.98% of grant applicants were identified as SDFR producers, but 50% of the grants were awarded to SDFR applicants. By creating the two fund pools, the SDFR/Small Farm pool and the General Pools and utilizing the Five performance indicators previously listed, EKRCD has created a situation where a minimum of 50% of funds expended in TA and distributed in implementation grants will be guaranteed to SDFR producers and with the boundaries of DAC tracts.

EKRCD is committed to maintaining these targets to provide the following four direct and meaningful benefits to its grantees. 1. Keeping farmland healthy and productive, 2. Reducing water, energy, and utility costs for production. 3. Reducing GHG emission and increasing sequestration. 4. Improving air and water quality for nearby communities. They believe that their creation of two fund pools, with each containing hard goals in regard to SDFR, DAC, and small farm producers served have created a plan that exceeds Climate Bond funding targets. Even with the reduction of DAC tracts within their service area from the CalEnviroScreen version 4 to version 5, a majority of the service area remains DAC tracts. Nearly all funds expended from the HSP block grant should benefit DAC and SDFR populations by improving environmental outcomes, but EKRCD has decided to amplify this by focusing on SDFR and small farms within DAC tracts with at least half of all expended funds.

1615/2000

Other State Initiatives: Discuss any other state initiatives that will be advanced by the proposed project, providing citations and describing how the project will benefit the initiative(s).

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2000

Experience in Sustainable Agriculture: Discuss the project team, providing a summary of each key personnel member's qualifications. Address their experience with conservation agriculture technical assistance and working directly with the agricultural community including SDFRs, and farms of 500 acres or less.

Excelsior Kings RCD has hired Dusty Ference, the Kings County Farm Bureau to act as the General Manager and lead technical assistance coordinator. Dusty has experience managing a 500-acre citrus farm with Climate Smart practices and has been acting as the technical lead for the EKRC D HSP Pilot. With the expanded TA plans, KCFB is committed to hiring a part-time TAP lead to oversee the project technical assistance and hiring and training TAP tech to further develop their TAP capacity and eventually serve as KCFB's TAP for future projects. Dusty will continue to have oversight of the TAP team to ensure that activities match project goals and objectives.

Ian Vietti has agreed to take a part-time position with KCFB for the duration of the HSP grant. As NRCS TSP and CCA, he has 11 years' experience in designing conservation plans and assisting producers in integrating healthy soils and Climate Smart Agriculture method on farms ranging from 2 acres to 3000+ acres. During his former role at IAS as their Director of Conservation, his focus was working directly with farmers on conservation planning and project implementation.

In 2021 he started Bountiful Agricultural Planning with a focus on grant writing, planning, and technical assistance capacity building for agricultural focused RCD's, Irrigation Districts, commodity groups, Farm Bureaus, and environmental non-profits, who did not have adequate staff or budgets to apply for State and Federal conservation and agricultural grants. In 2025 he transitioned into this role fully, exiting the farm level project implementation business completely, and began focusing on his conservation planning and agency support work. His experience as both a farm consultant and grant developer has uniquely situated him to conduct technical assistance with all stakeholders' interests and objectives in mind. His background in conservation planning on the farm, long familiarity with Healthy Soils Practices, and past experience in training NRCS TSP's will allow him to train the hired TA tech while completing the programs TA activities and coordinating with contractor staff to ensure that the Climate Bond's meaningful and direct benefits goals are met.

Innovative Ag's TSP staff have been providing technical assistance to farmers and ranchers for over 15 years, working at an individual level with producers on over 350 NRCS conservation plans. With a CPAg and 3 staff CCA's who also are NRCS TSP's focused on soil health and nutrient planning, their technical staff have been at the forefront of private conservation planning. They have also been involved in several nonprofit technical service efforts on a contract basis, offering their TSP's at below market rates. Having previously provided technical expertise to a non-profit for CDFA TAP program and provide seminars on applying for HSP grants at no cost to help increase interest in the HSP program and educating producers how to prepare for completing applications. Innovative Ag's team is familiar with the processes and rules supporting producers in a TAP capacity and have been assisting producers privately with planning HSP projects successfully for 7 years.

IAS staff will be providing additional technical assistance under the direction of the KCFB TAP and will serve as additional capacity during the peak demand periods of the HSP grant enrollment and implementation. To meet the demand of a minimum of 50 pre-site visits and producer planning assistance during project enrollment and manage the annual soil test and compost testing of 40 planned projects, as well as be sensitive to producer activities during the growing season, additional TAP staff will be required. IAS has the ability to provide four trained TSP's to take direction from the TAP lead to meet the workload demand as needed, plus additional support staff. IAS also has a Spanish bilingual TSP who will be able to provide translation services with clients and for produced media.

Administrative Capacity and Experience: Discuss the Lead Applicant and, if applicable, the Subrecipient's experience with project management, grant management and/or accounting.

Kings County Farm Bureau Dusty Ference will be managing the HSP Block grant for EKRCD. Running a county Farm Bureau for 10 years successfully has equipped him with skills in operational management, organizational budgeting, project milestone tracking, and project leadership. He is also versed in interviewing candidates, human resource management, and working with overseeing boards to achieve their goals. Dusty also plans, budgets, contracts, and runs 10+ grower outreach and educational events per year, with attendance ranging from 10 participants to 500+ participants at their larger fundraising events.

Tiffany Flores, KCFB's office manager has 18 years of experience in administrative support and customer relations in the private and government sectors. As a member of Lions Club International, an associate member of the Sarah A. Mooney Memorial Museum Board of Directors, she has substantial experience in coordination amongst collaborators on projects large and small. Currently she is managing coordination for EKRCD's HSP Block Grant Pilot with the practice verification team and is well versed in communicating between HSP recipients and contractors. She also has worked with CDFA staff to ensure data reporting meets CDFA requirements and oversees accounting and payment requests.

Innovative Ag's (IAS) funding management staff have been providing project tracking, accounting, verification, and technical assistance, assisting producers with their grant funded projects to ensure project success. IAS staff has assisted growers in managing over 150 OARS grants over the past ten years, and over 500 NRCS funded projects. Managing all projects within Salesforce and other management software systems, IAS has built extensive project management experience and has in place data retention policies to ensure that projects are prepared for audits. Melody Herbert is dedicated IAS's HSP account manager and coordinates multiple field techs for sampling, reviewing verification photos and reimbursement requests, coordinating sampling and application timing with producers, and working with CDFA staff on EKRCD's 40 HSP Block grants and 65 general HSP grants from previous rounds of funding.

2205/3000

Capacity Building and Training Opportunities: Describe the potential for this grant to build capacity within the organization and in building the skills of individuals working on projects. Does the project team need to hire or train to support successful implementation of the proposed project? If so, what hiring or training is necessary? If hiring, describe key qualifications for the role.

As a small RCD without staff, Excelsior - Kings River RCD currently relies on its partners, the Kings County NRCS and Kings County Farm Bureau to remain active. Its partnership with KCFB provides access to staff to maintain the RCD and minimize staff costs. However, with the expanded goals and activities of EKRCDC's proposed HSP block grant, KCFB plan on expanding the region's TAP capacity by hiring a part-time TAP lead, and a full-time TAP trainee to carry the program forward as well as expand their TAP services.

The TAP trainee will require a bachelors in soil science, plant health, or equivalent degree, and the ability to acquire a CCA license, TSP certification, as well as have a driver's license. Candidates that have public speaking, are bilingual, have farming experience, conservation planning experience, and strong writing skills will also be sought out.

Training under the TAP lead will be "learn by doing," and will be exclusively conducted in the field. Both the CCA and TSP certifications that the trainee will undergo have significant theoretical education courses. The TAP will train them in how to apply it in the real-world scenarios on the beneficiaries' projects.

The proposed mobile soil health sampling lab will also serve as a training opportunity to increase both industry and TAP knowledge about testing for soil health in addition to the normal fertility testing. One of the proposal's optional objectives is to train additional TAP and TSPs to complete soil health testing, and how to take some of the under-utilized soil sampling methods and handle them correctly for shipment to the lab. The mobile lab's equipment will be owned by EKRCDC, with the plan of providing specialty Healthy Soils sampling services and training to continue the projects mission after completion.

Activity	Led By	Quarter Initiated (Y, Q)	Quarter Completed (Y, Q)
Phase 1: Outreach and On-Farm Project Selection			
Develop a Process for Selecting On-Farm Projects - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 1			
Update existing EKRCD HSP program RGA and Scoring Rubric to reflect Prop 4 meaningful and direct benefits to target populations; calculate projected outcomes, outline the two finding tracts, and plan TAP support	Recipient	Y1, Q1	Y1, Q2
Create technical support protocols for the individual funding tracks	Recipient	Y1, Q1	Y1, Q2
Update materials to reflect new RGA/scoring rubric, produce materials on changes to distribute to partner agencies	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Enlist and plan outreach events with existing network of partners/agencies, give guidance on outreach	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Launch updated website with RGA, Rubric, Schedule of outreach events, and interest form	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Negotiate bulk purchase of compost to determine quantity of grants available	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Estimate amount of grants available per fund pool for TAP planning purposes	Recipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Selection Process Design - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 1			
Perform Outreach - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 4			
Update materials to reflect new RGA/scoring rubric, produce materials on changes to distribute to partner agencies, plan and hold outreach events	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Enlist and plan outreach events with existing network of partners/agencies, give guidance on outreach	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Launch updated website with RGA, Rubric, Schedule of outreach events, and interest form	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Line up translators for live events	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q2
Hold workshops /outreach events and field demonstration days, TAP demonstrations	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q3
Conduct SDFR TAP signups for full project development, have TAP available for General Fund pool assistance	Subrecipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q3
Review SDFR/Small Farm TAP signups to determine if 40% service goal met, if not conduct additional outreach events	Recipient	Y1, Q3	Y1, Q3
Outreach Plan and Schedule - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 2			
Outreach Website - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 2			
Provide Application & Project Design Technical Assistance - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 4			
Conduct SDFR TAP signups for full project development; including pre site visit, recommendations, Replan tool analysis, conservation plan report, complete project application, and assist with project revision if it does not meet Pass/Fail criteria, or enroll in General Fund pool if the producer wishes. TAP available for General Fund pool assistance	Subrecipient	Y1, Q3	Y1, Q4
Conduct General Fund Pool TAP pre site visit, documentation, replan tool assistance, presite visit report	Subrecipient	Y1, Q3	Y1, Q4
Review SDFR/Small Farm TAP assistance to determine if 40% service goal met, if not conduct additional assistance	Subrecipient	Y1, Q3	Y1, Q4
TAP review of all project applications in General Fund pool, outreach for final recommendations	Subrecipient	Y1, Q4	Y1, Q4
Technical Assistance Delivery Summary - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 4			
Select On-Farm Projects - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 4			
Outreach to potential technical review committee members to enlist review and selection panel.	Recipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q3
Select local NRCS, UCANR, University/College staff, and farmer representatives from outreach	Recipient	Y1, Q2	Y1, Q3
Provide orientation and training on scoring rubric and selection criteria to selection panel	Subrecipient	Y1, Q3	Y1, Q3
Committee conducts technical review and provides Pass/Fail analysis for SDFR/Small Farm fund pool projects	Subrecipient	Y1, Q3	Y1, Q4
Committee conducts technical review and provides rubric score for General fund pool projects	Subrecipient	Y1, Q4	Y1, Q4
Board approves all projects for tentative approval and sends to CDFA for eligibility review	Recipient	Y1, Q4	Y1, Q4
Additional projects tentatively approved if previous submitted projects rejected or withdrawn (with CDFA approval)	Recipient	Y2, Q1	Y2, Q2
On-Farm Project Selection Summary - Deadline: End of Year 1, Quarter 4			
Phase 2: On-Farm Project Implementation and Outcomes			
Obtain Grant Beneficiary Commitments - Deadline: End of Year 2, Quarter 2			
Notify tentative beneficiaries of project acceptance pending CDFA approval	Recipient	Y2, Q1	Y2, Q1
Develop draft beneficiary agreements and submit to CDFA for approval	Recipient	Y2, Q1	Y2, Q1
Conduct field inspection and documentation to ensure conditions match application documentation (TAP report)	Contractor	Y2, Q1	Y2, Q1
Finalize beneficiary agreements and execute agreement with beneficiary	Recipient	Y2, Q1	Y2, Q2
Provide tentative project specific outline to beneficiary with contact list and approximate contact dates	Subrecipient	Y2, Q2	Y2, Q2
Provide Implementation Technical Assistance and Facilitate On-Farm Project Completion			
Conduct initial soil assessment and review implementation plan with beneficiary and project verification contractor. Review documentation requirements, soil testing sites, and party responsibility with all stakeholders to ensure project success	Subrecipient	Y2, Q3	Y2, Q4
Provide availability for TAP support during project implementation if issues arise or conditions change	Subrecipient	Y2, Q2	Y4, Q3
Coordinate bulk material delivery (compost, biochar, mulch) /spreading from bulk buy contracted producer request	Contractor	Y2, Q2	Y4, Q3
Conduct project application/implementation documentation, gather project invoices, audit beneficiary activities	Contractor	Y2, Q2	Y4, Q3
Prepare, review, and submit beneficiary practice payment request to Recipient for payment	Contractor	Y3, Q2	Y4, Q3
Conduct annual soil test, conduct soil test interpretation with Recipient, annual inspection	Subrecipient	Y2, Q2	Y4, Q3
Conduct quarterly check in with recipient, refer to TAP if issues are noted	Contractor	Y2, Q2	Y4, Q3
Ensure final agreement implementation is completed and verified prior to grant end date, submit extension if needed	Subrecipient	Y2, Q2	Y4, Q3
Quarterly Update to On-Farm Project Selection Summary - Deadline: Each Quarter starting Year 2, Quarter 1			

Disburse Funds to Producers in a Timely Manner			
<i>Develop internal payment procedure, produce practice payment rates, create invoicing forms and documentation</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q1</i>	<i>Y1, Q4</i>
Train contractor on forms and procedures, create grant implementation estimated budget and timeline for cash flow	<i>Subrecipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q1</i>	<i>Y2, Q1</i>
Review cash flow to determine need for advance request prior to annual vendor bulk purchase	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y2, Q2</i>	<i>Y2, Q2</i>
Make advance payment request with sufficient cash flow to pay for 75% bulk purchase and beneficiary payments	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y2, Q3</i>	<i>Y4, Q3</i>
Conduct annual bulk purchase from material vendors, 75% deposit, balance after delivery completion	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y2, Q3</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Prepare, review, and submit beneficiary practice payment request to Recipient for payment	<i>Contractor</i>	<i>Y2, Q2</i>	<i>Y4, Q3</i>
Review beneficiary implemented practice documentation and payment request, issue payment within 30 days	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y2, Q2</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Request reimbursement from CDFA for beneficiary, Subrecipient, and Contractor payments on a quarterly basis	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q2</i>	<i>Y3, Q4</i>
Conduct monthly cash flow analysis and report to board for approval	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q1</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Conduct annual financial review and budget	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q1</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Amplify Project Outcomes			
<i>Create project media documentation plan to record and make publically available field day/event recordings</i>	<i>Subrecipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q1</i>	<i>Y1, Q2</i>
Conduct 2 additional case studies on unique projects or crops with a focus on documenting technical planning	<i>Subrecipient</i>	<i>Y2, Q1</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Host a TAP blog/vlog for general education on soil health	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q1</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Conduct a soil health testing workshop/ seminar to educate producers/ crop consultants on soil health testing	<i>Subrecipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q3</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Expand partner agency network to increase reach into additional SDFR/DAC communities to increase participation	<i>Subrecipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q1</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Produce an annual public update for publication, reporting project meaningful and direct benefits and upcoming goals	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Y1, Q1</i>	<i>Y4, Q4</i>
Demonstration Day Summary - Deadline: Submit in the Quarter following the Demo Event			
Three On-Farm Project Case Studies - Deadline: Submit as completed or by end of Y4, Q3			
Final Report (see GAP 2.3.5) - Deadline: 30 days before end of grant term			

EXCELSIOR-KINGS RIVER RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXCELSIOR-KINGS
RIVER RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT RATIFYING THE SUBMISSION OF
AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL LANDS CONSERVATION (SALC)
PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF RELATED
DOCUMENTS**

WHEREAS, the California Department of Conservation (“Department”) administers the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (“SALC”) Planning Grant Program to support planning efforts that protect agricultural lands, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen local and regional planning, and advance California’s Planning Priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Excelsior-Kings River Resource Conservation District (“District”) identified the opportunity to pursue SALC Planning Grant funding for the Central Valley Climate Adaptation and Agricultural Conservation Project (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors previously discussed the Project and directed District staff to prepare and submit an application for SALC Planning Grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the Department’s application deadline occurred before the District’s next regularly scheduled Board meeting, requiring staff to submit the application in order to preserve the District’s eligibility for funding; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to formally ratify those actions and provide the authorizations and certifications required by the Department; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kings County Community Development Agency, the local agency possessing land use planning authority, consistent with SALC Program requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Excelsior-Kings River Resource Conservation District as follows:

1. Ratification

The Board hereby ratifies, confirms, and approves all actions previously taken by the General Manager and District staff in preparing and submitting the SALC Planning Grant application for the Project.

2. Approval

The Board approves the District's application for SALC Planning Grant funding and authorizes the District to continue participating in the application process.

3. Certifications

The Board certifies that the District understands and accepts the assurances and certifications required by the SALC application and any resulting Grant Agreement; will provide sufficient matching funds, if required; and will work toward California's Planning Priorities.

4. Grant Agreement

The Board authorizes the District to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Department should funding be awarded and agrees to accept the Department's standard grant agreement, subject to review by legal counsel as appropriate.

5. Memorandum of Understanding

The Board authorizes the District to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kings County Community Development Agency consistent with SALC requirements and acknowledging the respective roles and responsibilities of each party.

6. Financial Responsibility

The Board acknowledges that the District is responsible for eligible project costs pending reimbursement by the State in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

7. Authorized Representative

The Board designates the General Manager, or his designee, as the District's authorized representative to execute and submit all applications, agreements, amendments, memoranda of understanding, payment requests, reports, certifications, and other documents necessary to administer the Project.

8. Further Actions

The General Manager and District staff are authorized to take all actions reasonably necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Excelsior-Kings River Resource Conservation District at a regular meeting held on _____, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Michael Miya, President

ATTEST:

Dusty Ference
General Manager / Secretary to the Board



KINGS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Chuck Kinney, Director

PLANNING DIVISION

Alex Hernandez, Deputy Director - Planning

Web Site: <http://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency>

July 17, 2026

California Department of Conservation

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

RE: Statement Regarding Kings County Partnership Approval

To Whom It May Concern:

The Kings County Community Development Agency (KCCDA) is serving as the land use planning partner with the Excelsior-Kings River Resource Conservation District (EKRCD) in its application for funding through the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Planning Grant Program for the Central Valley Climate Adaptation and Agricultural Conservation Project.

Because the application review schedule does not allow sufficient time to obtain formal action by the Kings County Board of Supervisors, a Board resolution approving the partnership is not feasible within the Department's requested timeframe.

The Kings County Community Development Agency has informed County leadership of the proposed partnership and planning effort. It is the County's intent to seek formal approval of the partnership through the appropriate County process, including a Resolution and/or Memorandum of Understanding, as appropriate, as soon as practicable.

Pending that formal action, the Community Development Agency intends to continue working collaboratively with EKRCD to refine the proposed planning effort and, if the project is funded, to participate as the County's land use planning partner through in-kind staff support and technical assistance.

July 17, 2026

Page 2 of 2

The County further intends to consider the completed plan through its normal public review and decision-making process for potential adoption, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law and County policy.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" and last name "Kinney" clearly distinguishable.

Chuck Kinney, Director

Kings County Community Development Agency