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An act to amend Sections 10280, 10281.5, and 10282 of the Public Resources Code, relating to agricultural lands.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 10280 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

10280. The Agricultural Protection Planning Grant Program is hereby established within the Department of Conservation, to provide planning grants to improve the protection of agricultural lands and grazing lands, including oak woodlands and grasslands, do all of the following:

(a) Conserve California's most productive farmlands and ecologically important rangelands.

(b) Advance California's climate change goals through carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions reductions resulting from the implementation of local plans.

(c) Maintain local food supplies and agricultural economies through the protection of agricultural lands.

SEC. 2. Section 10281.5 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

10281.5. (a) In addition to the requirements established by the department, the applicant shall demonstrate that the changes to the existing goals, objectives, policies, or programs of the city, county, or city and county that will logically result from the grant will improve protection ~~of of,~~ or have a beneficial effect on climate change goals for, agricultural land, grazing land, or grasslands.

(b) The department shall develop and adopt guidelines and criteria for awarding ~~grants that achieve the greatest lasting preservation of agricultural land.~~ grants. The department shall develop these guidelines in consultation with farming and ranching groups, agricultural land conservation groups, the State Coastal Conservancy, and the Wildlife Conservation Board.



SEC. 3. Section 10282 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

10282. (a) Under the grant program, a local government entity, nonprofit organization, authority, or joint powers authority may apply to the department for a planning grant to be used for the protection of agricultural lands and grazing lands, including oak woodlands and grasslands. In addition to any requirements established by the department, to be eligible for a grant under the grant program, an applicant shall do all of the following:

(1) Identify and map, utilizing the designations in the farmlands mapping and monitoring program of the Department of Conservation pursuant to Section 65570 of the Government Code, existing or potential agricultural lands in its jurisdiction.

(2) Specify its existing goals, objectives, policies, or programs that support the long-term protection of agricultural land.

(3) Specify the proposed changes to its existing goals, objectives, policies, or programs that support the long-term protection of agricultural land.

(4) Specify how the planning grant would be used to improve the long-term protection of agricultural land within its jurisdiction.

(b) A grant awarded by the department under the grant program shall not exceed two five hundred fifty thousand dollars ~~(\$250,000)~~ (\$500,000) to any applicant, or five hundred seven hundred fifty thousand dollars ~~(\$500,000)~~ (\$750,000) if the department determines that a grant application is for collaborative planning activities proposed to include two or more adjacent counties, cities, or city and county.

(c) In granting funds pursuant to this division, the department shall give priority to proposals that include matching funds from local sources.



(d) A grant proposal by a park or open-space district, resource conservation district, other special district, nonprofit organization, authority, or joint powers authority shall be approved by resolution of the city, county, or city and county, or multiple cities and counties, whose jurisdiction the proposal is intended to benefit. The city, county, or city and county shall provide evidence that it is willing to implement some of the planning process funded by the grant.

(e) The purposes for which a grant made pursuant to this division for agricultural protection may include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(1) To update the general plan of a city, county, or city and county to improve protection of agricultural land, or a zoning ordinance designed to improve protection of agricultural land.

(2) To develop multicounty strategies to protect agricultural land.

(3) To develop city-county agreements to protect agricultural land.

(4) To develop strategies to implement existing general plan provisions, city-county agreements, or multicounty agreements to protect agricultural land, including technical assistance.

(5) To develop public-private partnerships for the long-term protection and stewardship of agricultural lands.



## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.

as introduced, \_\_\_\_\_.

General Subject: Agricultural Protection Planning Grant Program.

Existing law establishes the Agricultural Protection Planning Grant Program within the Department of Conservation, to provide planning grants to improve the protection of agricultural lands and grazing lands, including oak woodlands and grasslands. Under existing law, the program authorizes a local government entity, nonprofit organization, authority, or joint powers authority to apply for a grant under the program, to be used for the protection of agricultural lands and grazing lands, and requires those applicants to demonstrate that the changes to the existing goals, objectives, policies, or programs of the city, county, or city and county that will logically result from the grant will improve protection of agricultural land, grazing land, or grasslands.

This bill would state that the program is instead established to provide planning grants for new specified purposes. The bill would authorize applicants for grants to



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instead demonstrate that the changes that will logically result from the grant will have a beneficial effect on climate change goals for agricultural land, grazing land, or grasslands.

Existing law requires the department to develop and adopt guidelines and criteria for awarding grants that achieve the greatest lasting preservation of agricultural land.

This bill would instead only require the department to develop and adopt guidelines and criteria for awarding grants.

Existing law prohibits the department from awarding a grant in excess of \$250,000 to any applicant and \$500,000 if the department determines that the grant application is for collaborative planning activities proposed to include two or more adjacent counties, cities, or city and county.

This bill would change these limits to \$500,000 and \$750,000, respectively.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.



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