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
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
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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