

Water-related Agricultural Sustainability

Redline version of public draft with suggestions for discussion with County counsel.

The objective of this focal area is to promote water-related agricultural sustainability projects that also provide ecosystem and/or watershed protection and/or restoration benefits. Examples of water-related agricultural sustainability projects include those that, but are not limited to:

- ~~Projects that I~~ improve water management to support agriculture and provide other benefits within watersheds.
- Develop infrastructure or implement other improvements that enhance agricultural productivity and provide ecosystem or watershed benefits.
- ~~Projects that M~~ minimize the detrimental impacts of water diversions for agriculture, including by consolidating existing intakes and screening new intakes.
- Sustain agricultural productivity and enhance the habitat ecosystem and/or watershed value of agricultural lands, including:
 - ~~Projects that increase support for native terrestrial wildlife through~~ Planting hedgerows and native vegetation to increase support for native terrestrial wildlife.
 - ~~Projects that M~~ modifying planting, harvesting, irrigating, or other practices on productive fields to ~~improve habitat value~~ provide ecosystem and watershed benefits and to increase agricultural productivity.
 - Implementing flexible management in agricultural areas to support diverse and dynamic ecosystems and watersheds, such as by managing agricultural fields in a way that mimics seasonal wetland or floodplain habitat.
 - ~~Projects that I~~ install livestock exclusion fencing along drainage canals and other sensitive waterways to improve ~~livestock health and~~ water quality and/or reduce habitat disturbance.
- Support continued farming and minimize detrimental impacts to water quality, including:
 - ~~Projects that D~~ developing and implementing best management practices ~~for pesticide and fertilizer applications to reduce chemical use (and associated costs) and~~ to improve the quality of agricultural discharges.
 - ~~Projects that A~~ assisting with the exclusion or drainage of seepage water to reduce salinity intrusion ~~and support continued farming and improve the quality of agricultural discharges.~~
- Projects that acquire an interest in real property to protect agricultural and ecosystem benefits.