



**NEVADA  
COUNTY**  
CALIFORNIA

# Board of Supervisors

Department of Conservation  
Division of Land Resource Protection  
Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program  
715 P Street, MS 1904,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 22, 2023

Re: Nevada County Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation grant application

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the NCRCD and its supporters, we would like to express firm support for the Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation planning grant application referenced above. Our organization is a member of the stakeholder group that developed the proposal project, which we believe could play an important role in maintaining production agriculture as a key component of Nevada County's economy, community, and landscape. If the application is approved, we are committed to supporting the project's success.

As the County of Nevada, we have a strong understanding of the way agriculture has changed over time in response to threats and opportunities. We recognize the value of agriculture to our economy and rural quality of life, and that multiple challenges present themselves with respect to sustainable local agriculture. Many of these are described in some detail in the application, such as water-supply reductions, increased pest pressures for both agriculture and the environment, labor shortages, high land and energy costs, the continuing encroachment of urban development into fertile farm and ranch land. Increased extreme weather events, such as wildfires also threaten long-term economic viability. Together, these challenges have made significant impacts on markets and the food supply chain.

We believe that a well-designed agricultural conservation plan, while not a complete remedy of these problems, will provide the agricultural community an important tool to support operational flexibility and economic resilience in the face of these profound challenges. We urge you to approve the application, so we can begin planning a future that works for farmers, ranchers, farm workers, and all those in our county who depend on them and the important service they and the land provide.

Sincerely,

Ed Scofield, Chair of the Board on behalf of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors