Farmland Preservation in Monterey County
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Sherwood Darington
Managing Director, Ag Land Trust,
Commissioner, Local Agency Formation Commission of Monterey County

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Monterey County’s Agriculture Industry

Our Largest Economic Engine and the “Salad Bowl of the World”

- 10+% of the State’s agricultural output on 1+% of the state’s irrigated farmland
- Innovation, soils, climate and infrastructure are keys to viability, along with the availability of water and land to farm.
Preservation Efforts by Monterey County

- **General Plan** – City-centered growth policies; Ag Element; ag preservation policies; ag buffer policies

- **Agricultural Land Mitigation Program** – Countywide ordinance is in progress; funded by SALT grant

- **City-County Memorandums of Agreement**
  - Purpose: to establish principles for annexation and growth
  - Terms: long-term direction of growth; ag land mitigation; ag buffers; ag truck routes; efficient urban development patterns; regional traffic needs, etc.

- **Williamson Act** – 20-year contracts

- **Conservation Easements & Fee Purchases**
  - State Funding - Department of Conservation & Coastal Conservancy (bond acts)
  - Federal Funding – USDA Farm Protection Program
LAFCO Preservation Efforts

- Authority: Discourage urban sprawl; *preserve open space and prime ag lands*, and promote orderly urban development.
- Local LAFCO ag preservation and buffer policies
- Encourage City-County consultation and MOAs prior to amending a City’s Sphere of Influence
- Participate in City and County General Plan, CEQA and development processes
- Cooperate with Cities, County and Land Trust—common ground, compromise, agreement
Monterey County’s Ag Land Trust

- Formed in 1984, completed 85 transactions to date, covers 30,000 acres ±
- Grantee with County on conservation and buffer easements, to ensure longevity
- Easements guide the desired direction of growth
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT & CONSERVATION EASEMENTS EXAMPLE - GONZALES AREA

MOA Permanent Ag Edge (2014) and Ag Buffer Easements (Future)
Existing Agricultural Conservation Easements
Prime Farmland

Map Produced 11/8/2016
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Conservation Easements
Salinas Area

- Easement in process
- Agricultural Conservation Easement

Date: 5/1/2007

Garin Thompson Farm
130 Acres

Garin Dougherty Farm
67 Acres
Farmland Preservation in Monterey County
Agricultural Buffer Easement Zones

- INTERIM – Moves as the City expands
- PERMANENT – No services, municipal or otherwise, shall be extended to any territory from the City beyond the Buffer Easement property.
- MULTIPLE USES – Allowed
No Farms, Mo’ GHG!

www.aglandtrust.org
www.monterey.lafco.ca.gov