

Attachment B – COUNTY ALIGNMENT WITH SALC 2.0 STRATEGIC ACTIONS

SALC 2.0 Strategic Action Plan

The table below includes the 19 Tools organized by the four Seeds. For each action, existing County efforts and the departments engaged in those efforts are listed with a brief description. These efforts highlight current alignment but are not intended to define or limit the full range of potential future approaches. Lead departments are indicated in bold.

Acronym Reference Guide

ARCC	Assessor, Recorder, County Clerk	DPR	Dept. of Parks and Recreation	PDS	Planning & Development Services
AWM	Agriculture, Weights and Measures	DPW	Dept. of Public Works	PHS	Public Health Services
AWQ	Agricultural Water Quality Program	EDGA	Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs	RCD	Resource Conservation District
CAP	Climate Action Plan			SOILS	Sustainable Operations in Land Stewardship Program
CSLMP	Climate Smart Land Management Program Grant	FJCAP	Food Justice Community Action Plan	UCCE	University of California Cooperative Extension
DEHQ	Dept. of Environmental Health & Quality	OSEJ	Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice		
DGS	Dept. of General Services	PACE	Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement Program		
DPC	Dept. of Purchasing and Contracting				

#	Tools	County Effort	Key Departments	Brief Description
Seed 1 – Improve Infrastructure and Systems that Support Local Producers				
1A	Increase access to direct-to-consumer models, such as farmers' markets, food hubs, farm stands, and co-ops, by addressing barriers, streamlining permitting processes, and strengthening regional coordination.	FJCAP Action 3.c	OSEJ , AWM, DEHQ, PDS	Explore and develop strategies to support and build the capacity of existing food hubs and incubators.
		FJCAP Action 5.b	PHS , AWM	Provide technical assistance and incentivize use of CalFresh at certified farmers' markets and direct to consumer channels, such as community supported agriculture and farm stands.
		Certified Farmers' Markets	AWM	Certify more than 40 farmers' markets throughout the region, verifying that vendors sell only produce grown on their farms and confirming compliance with labeling standards
		Agritourism and on-site farm guidance	AWM	Contract with UCCE to promote agritourism, direct marketing or value-added marketing opportunities in San Diego County through organizing at least one annual workshop, webinar, or extension activity focusing on marketing or agritourism in San Diego County.
		2026 Legislation Program	EDGA	Support legislation to improve, simplify, and streamline funding opportunities and market access programs that enhance the economic viability of regional farmers, including initiatives that expand distribution channels and strengthen local food systems.
1B	Identify opportunities to streamline the establishment of farm employee housing and explore scalable, low-cost, and flexible farm employee housing models (temporary, shared facilities)	CAP Action A-4.1b	PDS	Evaluate opportunities to increase farmworker housing in the unincorporated area to reduce emissions from farmworker transportation.

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1C	Support the expansion and promotion of the CropSWAP Program and similar incentive programs.	CSLMP Grant CropSWAP Demonstration Project Task 3	PDS	Develop a demonstration project of climate-smart agricultural practices (e.g., climate-smart practices, converting a grove to a low-water alternative, and prescribed grazing).
		Enterprise Alternatives for Small-Scale Farmers	AWM	Contract with UCCE to conduct applied research on new crops; develop and disseminate production, pest management and marketing information on such crops; and/or conduct research, field days, workshops, seminars, or one-on-one consultations with prospective growers.
1D	Support the development of regional food system infrastructure (i.e., cold storage, processing, distribution centers, and packaging facilities) to reduce costs for local producers.	FJCAP Action 3.b	OSEJ, DEHQ, DGS, DPC, DPW	Support edible food recovery by identifying funding for edible food recovery transportation networks and other infrastructure support, such as cold storage, to increase food recovery capacity in the region and comply with Senate Bill 1383.
		FJCAP Action 3.c	OSEJ, DEHQ, PDS	Explore and develop strategies to support and build the capacity of existing food hubs and incubators.
1E	Support local food procurement by local institutions and distributors (e.g., public schools, government institutions) by addressing barriers and creating local sourcing initiatives that track and assess product origin to strengthen local supply chain visibility.	Board Policy B-75: <i>County of San Diego Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Policy</i>	DPC, PHS	Support a sustainable, equitable, and local food system through County of San Diego food service programs and operations by directing public funds to food and beverage purchases that align with the Board of Supervisors' identified value categories. Value categories include local sourcing, equity-informed sourcing, elevated labor standards, organic or regenerative certification, low-carbon intensity, and nutritional co-benefit.
1F	Work with regional partners to create a centralized, multilingual, user-friendly online platform to help producers navigate local regulations, access resources such as funding opportunities, permitting information, and connect with relevant agency staff.	County of San Diego Website Update	Multiple	Identify opportunities to consolidate agricultural resources across County departments and offices as part of the County's website redesign.
		AWQ Program	AWM	Provide technical and financial resources to all unincorporated agricultural operations during AWM inspections.
Seed 2 – Grow Consumer Awareness and Local Market Demand				

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2A	Support the development of a regional branding campaign and consumer education campaign that promotes San Diego-grown products, strengthens community connections, and encourages local purchasing to programs to intensify demand for locally grown agricultural products and support a resilient, sustainable food system.	Certified Farmers' Markets Platform	AWM	Maintain the interactive Story Map that allows visitors to find Certified Farmers' Markets and learn how they support small-scale farmers and expand access to fresh, healthy produce across the region.
		San Diego Agritourism Story Map	AWM	Contract with UCCE to host the interactive San Diego Agritourism Story Map directory of agricultural businesses in the San Diego County region that are open to the public to purchase produce and products directly from the grower and/or participate in agritourism opportunities.
2B	Develop a coordinated outreach strategy to increase producer awareness of available programs, funding opportunities, technical assistance, and regulatory resources.	CSLMP Grant Task 4C	PDS	Identify alternative engagement methods to increase accessibility for the PACE Program.
		AWQ Program	AWM	Partner with UCCE, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and RCDs to conduct a joint conference/workshop on available resources and regulatory requirements.
2C	Strengthen pathways into future agriculture partnerships with educational programs to support heritage farming and cultivate the next generation of producers.	CSLMP Grant Task 4	PDS	Mentorship and succession planning grant deliverables include enabling beginning farmers and ranchers to benefit from the knowledge and resources of career producers through multiple facilitated gatherings.
		Green Industries and High Road Jobs Initiative	OSEJ	Board directed initiative will find and support green industries in the region that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and help local communities. Industry focus areas include farming and working lands.
Seed 3 – Cultivate a Supportive Policy Environment				
3A	Ensure regulations and development standards support on-farm marketing and direct-to-consumer systems (e.g., agritourism, farm stands, Pick-Your-Own)	Board Policy I-133: <i>Support and Encouragement of Farming in San Diego County</i>	PDS, AWM	Support and encourage farming in San Diego County through establishment of partnerships with landowners and other stakeholders to identify, secure, and implement incentives that support the continuation of farming as a major industry in San Diego County.
		Agriculture Promotion Program Ordinance	PDS	Implement the Board approved amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Temporary Agritourism Community Events Ordinance that increase opportunities for producers to host agritourism events.
		Process Improvements Zoning Ordinance Updates Project: Amplified Live Music at Boutique Wineries	PDS	Board approved amendment to the Tiered Winery Ordinance relating to amplified music at Boutique Wineries. PDS staff will explore additional amendments to the Tiered Winery Ordinance including tasting room criteria and minimum setbacks for live music.
		Tiered Winery – Rural Residential Expansion	PDS	Develop recommendations for an updated Tiered Winery Zoning Ordinance that allows wineries to operate in RR zones under clear and consistent criteria, while also ensuring community character and natural resources are respected.

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3B	Promote the adoption of climate-smart land management practices that enhance soil health, conserve water, improve long-term productivity, soil sustainability, and create diversified revenue streams for producers.	SOILS Program	PDS	Incentivize natural and working land practices that will help avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the unincorporated area. Identify how the County can best support local land managers, ranchers, and agricultural producers in implementing different climate-smart land practices such as compost application, hedgerow planting, and cover crop utilization.
		Organic Certification Program	AWM	Verify organic produce integrity and protect consumers purchasing organic produce at retail locations by ensuring produce is grown, transported, stored, and handled in a manner that prevents contact with chemicals that are prohibited within the organic program. Collect produce samples for pesticide residue testing to verify that no prohibited chemicals are present.
		AWQ Program	AWM	Provide resources on California Department of Food and Agriculture programs, such as the Healthy Soils Program and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program.
		Healthy Soils Incentives Program	AWM	Contract with UCCE to provide outreach and education to support access to the Healthy Soils Program funding through a block grant awarded to Zero Foodprint.
		Commodity-based Water Efficiencies	AWM	Contract with UCCE to host webinars, workshops, and onsite evaluations regarding irrigation efficiency for crops and plants grown in San Diego.
		2026 Legislative Program	EDGA	Support legislation that creates programmatic or funding opportunities to support local agricultural operations, climate-smart and resilient agricultural practices, preservation of agricultural lands, economic viability of local food production, and food waste prevention and edible food recovery.
3C	Support the protection of high-risk agricultural lands by purchasing conservation easements.	PACE Program	PDS, DGS	Promote the long-term preservation of agriculture in the unincorporated area by compensating willing agricultural property owners for placing a perpetual easement on their property that limits future uses to agriculture.
		Board Policy I-38: <i>Agricultural Preserves</i>	PDS, DGS	Support willing property owners in the establishment of Agricultural Preserves and/or entry into voluntary contracts with the County that restrict their land to agricultural uses, enabling their property to be assessed based on its restricted use rather than market value.
		Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones	PDS, ARCC	Encourage small-scale, urban farming by promoting participation in voluntary five-year urban agriculture agreements that provide property tax benefits to landowners who commit to maintaining their property in agricultural use.

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3D	Explore opportunities for expanded leasing opportunities on publicly owned lands, with a focus on underserved and/or emerging producers.	FJCAP Action 1.e	OSEJ , AWM, DEHQ, DGS, DPR, DPW, PHS	Promote existing County-owned and leased land that is for community food production. Explore and develop strategies and/or incentives to support long-term agricultural leases on identified agricultural lands (e.g., County-owned properties, public lands, vacant/underutilized lands) for supporting sustainable farming practices and community agriculture.
		FJCAP Action 2.a	OSEJ , AWM, DEHQ, DGS, DPR, DPW, PDS, PHS	Develop a community food production model ordinance or policy with accessible leasing contracts and favorable terms for community food production.
3E	Develop a formal grants policy to guide future grant applications that prioritizes direct farmer benefit, and includes opportunities for agricultural stakeholder input prior to submittal.	LAFCO-led Action	--	--
Seed 4 – Foster Regional Alignment and Agricultural Advocacy				
4A	Coordinate with regional partners to establish an Agricultural Ombudsman position to serve as a centralized point of contact to support producers with navigating government systems, gaining access to capital and land, grant funding, and other incentive programs and to coordinate efforts across cities and agencies.	CSLMP Grant Task 2A	PDS	Partner with the RCD of Greater San Diego to provide land access services to land seekers and landowners from a California FarmLink representative.
		Agricultural Liaison Specialist	PDS	Retain and strengthen the Building Division's Agricultural Liaison Specialist role as the primary point of contact for agricultural use, permitting, and clearing requirements related to the San Diego County Zoning Ordinance and Grading, Clearing, and Watercourses Ordinance.
4B	Coordinate with regional partners to establish a Regional Agricultural Water Advisory Committee to assess the impacts of state and local water policies on agriculture, advise on regulatory changes, explore targeted subsidy programs, identify tiered rate schedules, and guide research on irrigation efficiency and crop-specific water use.	Water Ways Report	DPW , OSEJ	The County conducted a regional assessment of drought management and water use strategies that align with California's Water Supply Strategy, address local needs and opportunities, and include input from various stakeholders across the greater San Diego Region, including San Diego County, local municipalities, Tribal Nations, Imperial County, and Mexico border cities. Water Ways Report can be used to help inform a Regional Agricultural Water Advisory Committee.
		Avocado Irrigation Workshop	AWM	Contract with UCCE to address water management-related issues for avocados. The 2025 Avocado Irrigation Workshop included topics on avocado water use, salinity tolerant rootstocks, and soil moisture sensors.

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		Policy & Innovation Center Water Reports	LUEG	Water research and policy reports prepared by the Policy & Innovation Center. The reports focus on multiple aspects of water systems, including affordability, upgrading regional water infrastructure, and interventions that promote a more sustainable future.
4C	Develop and implement a cross-sector training and coordination program for local agency staff, organizations, and community leaders to build shared understanding of agricultural operational issues, concerns, access and improve service delivery to producers.	FJCAP Action 4.a	OSEJ	Leverage existing communications structures to host and lead a biannual Food System Initiative (FSI) collaborative meeting with departments, communities, and food system stakeholders for co-development of Food System Initiative priorities, information sharing, and fostering meaningful relationships.
4D	Expand agricultural analysis in local government planning documents	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy	EDGA	The San Diego County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) outlines the key priorities and objectives of the county; compiles data and information to be leveraged to secure funding for projects throughout the county; and highlights key projects, collaborations, and capacity-building potential that will maximize the effectiveness of investments in the county. Future updates to the CEDS will include additional agricultural analysis and highlight agricultural projects in the region.
		2026 Legislative Program	EDGA	Support legislation to improve, simplify, and streamline funding opportunities and market access programs that enhance the economic viability of regional farmers, including initiatives that expand distribution channels and strengthen local food systems.
4E	Develop an implementation plan/strategy and present an annual report on the progress and status of the Strategic Actions to the LAFCO Commission and stakeholders.	LAFCO-led Action	--	--