STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	**2/24/15**
SUBJECT:	**Support for County of Shasta's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program Grant Application**
AGENDA ITEM:	**6-11**
STAFF CONTACT:	**Daniel Wayne, Senior Transportation Planner**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors authorize the executive director to sign the attached letter of support and intent to provide $5,000 cash match for the county of Shasta's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program grant application.

DISCUSSION:

The Shasta County Housing & Community Action Programs Department intends to submit a SALC Program grant application. The county of Shasta would act as lead agency with project support from the Superior California Economic Development District and Growing Local, a coalition of local farmers, ranchers, and other partners that support the health and development of local food systems. The scope of this project will be to identify agriculturally significant lands threatened by conversion to other uses and to prepare specific properties for agricultural easement grants. This project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the draft 2015 Regional Transportation Plan and would complement the agency's FY 2015/16 planning activities.

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may decline to support or provide financial contributions toward the grant application.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Shasta County Housing & Community Action Programs will act as lead agency for the grant pending resolution of the County of Shasta Board of Supervisors.

FINANCING:

If selected for funding, SRTA would budget $5,000 to cover minimum cash match required by the grant program.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: Letter of Support for County of Shasta's SALC Program Planning Grant Application

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Daniel S. Little, Executive Director

February 24, 2015

Richard Kuhns, Director
County of Shasta, Housing & Community Action Programs
1450 Court Street, Suite 108
Redding, CA 96001-1661

Subject: Support for County of Shasta's SALC Program Planning Grant Application

Mr. Kuhns:

The Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (SRTA) is pleased to provide this letter of support and funding commitment for the County of Shasta's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Program application under the sub-section of Sustainable Agricultural Land Strategy Grants. The scope of this project will be to identify agriculturally significant lands threatened by conversion to urban uses, and to prepare specific properties for a future grant cycle.

As the designated metropolitan planning organization and regional transportation agency for Shasta County, SRTA is responsible for development of the Regional Transportation Plan, including a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as introduced by the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (Senate Bill 375). One of the required elements of the SCS is the identification of significant resources and farmland in the region that would be excluded from development. The County of Shasta's proposal would assist SRTA in both planning and implementation efforts related to this requirement.

Should the County of Shasta's application be selected for funding, SRTA intends to contribute $5,000 cash match toward the project in the FY 2015/16 budget.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director
Shasta Regional Transportation Agency (MPO)

DSL/DTW/jac