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CCLT ANNOUNCES NEW TOOL FOR FARMLAND MITIGATION

SACRAMENTO, CA – California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT) just announced the release of a new tool for farmland mitigation in California.

A new publication, *Conserving California's Harvest – A Model Mitigation Program and Ordinance for Local Governments*, is intended for use by those who are charged with designing and implementing programs to conserve one of California's most valuable resources: farmland.

"Despite the fact that California produces nearly 50% of fruits, vegetables and nuts in the country, there continues to be pressure to convert our precious farmland to non-agricultural uses," says CCLT Executive Director Darla Guenzler. "Mitigation is a valuable resource for conservation and many local governments are taking on the challenge of creating farmland mitigation programs. We developed this guidebook with them in mind."

The guidebook includes a comprehensive overview of the elements required to develop mitigation programs including conservation easements, mitigation banking and maintaining mitigation endowments, as well as several sample documents. There are also a number of sample documents and resources posted on CCLT's website: calandtrusts.org/conserving-californias-harvest.

"Our goal in developing this guidebook is to assure that farmland mitigation programs continue to be a trusted and legally defensible method for protecting farmland," says Guenzler.

The guidebook was funded through grants from the California Farmland Conservancy Program and the Columbia Foundation. A Farmland Mitigation Advisory Committee, made up of experts from a variety of local government, land use, conservation and related fields, provided valuable tools and insights during the development process. A foreword was provided by John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency, and Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Electronic copies of the guidebook are available on CCLT's website at www.calandtrusts.org/resources/conserving-californias-harvest. To inquire about hardcopies, call 916-497-0272.

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