



LEGACY

Summer 2021

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SAVE THE DATE

Race to Slow the Pace

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Protecting the farms that feed your family



**CALIFORNIA
FARMLAND
TRUST**

OUR MISSION

Help Farmers Protect the Best
Farmland in the World

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Climate-Resilience Starts With Farmland Protection

By Charlotte Mitchell, CFT Executive Director

Recently, there has been considerable momentum from California, the United States, and even global leaders, to react to climate change. The focus is to coordinate all natural and working land programs to move toward the combined goal of maintaining a resilient carbon sink and improve air and water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation, along with other benefits.

In 2020, Governor Newsom announced his "30x30" plan and shortly after that, President Biden issued his order to address the climate crisis by conserving an additional area twice the size of Texas - more than 440 million acres, within the next 10 years. Trustee Council member and Ag Council president, Emily Rooney discusses the topic in detail on page 6.

Working lands, specifically farmland, have always been seen as a critical strategy to the broader climate change portfolio of activities. Not surprising, the work of California Farmland Trust and our landowners, such as the Murphy family, complement these focus areas, while pursuing our primary goal of protecting farmland.

Farmers continue to find innovative approaches to manage land to achieve multiple objectives, including practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through low or no-till practices and utilize newer technology by converting old irrigation pumps and systems to increase efficiency. Those in production agriculture have worked to improve soil health through compost, crop rotation, and cover crops among other management practices, all while balancing economic sustainability and production results.



Likewise, as farmers become more innovative, California Farmland Trust is doing the same. Earlier this year, we revealed a newly updated logo that blends together the elements of who we

are and what we do. You may have noticed our refreshed Legacy design also follows suit. We aim to entice a larger audience so that our mission can be more widely shared, while sticking to our roots and traditions to better serve our community of farmers.

While the "30x30" efforts are still developing, we know the first and most important step to achieving a climate-resilient environment starts with conserving our farmland from conversion to non-agricultural uses. CFT will continue to be proactive in stakeholder and public outreach

opportunities to express the importance of increasing funding for conservation easement programs.

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What's New at CFT...



WELCOME CLAY DAULTON

We are proud to welcome well-respected Madera County rancher and community member, Clay Daulton as a newly appointed California Farmland Trust board member. In addition to being a current owner of Daulton Ranch, Clay has served on numerous boards and committees including the Madera County Farm Bureau, Madera County Cattleman's Association, the Foreign Trade Committee at the National

Cattleman's Beef Association, and The Agricultural Foundation of California State University, Fresno. "Given Clay's extensive experience and professional involvement in the agriculture industry, we are excited to collaborate with him to further the mission of protecting farmland," said Charlotte Mitchell, executive director at California Farmland Trust. Daulton joins the existing 13 members of California Farmland Trust's board of directors and will serve on the farmland conservation committee.



WELCOME ADRIANA TOSTE

We are excited to introduce our new communications associate, Adriana Toste to California Farmland Trust! Adriana is a recent agricultural communications graduate of Oklahoma State University. A native of Gustine, Adriana was born and raised on her family's dairy farm and brings a wealth of knowledge and passion for the agriculture

and communications industries. We are looking forward to working with Adriana to capitalize on our communications, outreach, and education efforts to help protect California's farmland. Welcome aboard, Adriana!



CONGRATS CHELSEA

Congratulations to our Conservation Director, Chelsea Slaton (Molina) on her recent marriage to Beau Slaton! All of us at CFT send you our best wishes as you two start your lives together!



CFT 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

California Farmland Trust is proud to present our 2020 Annual Report. 2020 was a year of uncharted territory and there is no doubt it has left a mark on all of us. While all things normal seemed to be cancelled, we cautiously charged ahead, while utilizing our "shelter in place" time to dig into our internal operations and our own sustainability. 2020 also reiterated the steadfast support of our staff, leadership, volunteers, landowners, sponsors, donors, and friends who understand agriculture is essential and a resilient food system is critical. Despite the uncertainty of 2020, we collectively made the most of it and appreciate your efforts to sustain the future of agriculture and California Farmland Trust. We encourage you to visit the website to read our Annual Report (www.cafarmtrust.org/annual-reports) or call the office if you would like to receive a hard copy.

"Despite the uncertainty of 2020, we collectively made the most of it and appreciate your efforts to sustain the future of agriculture and California Farmland Trust."

Greenbelt ensures scenic views and productive, *protected* farmland

BY VICKY BOYD

TOM AND CHESTER Murphy grew up in a red brick house along Highway 4, which today is a paved gateway to the Sierra Nevadas with a steady stream of traffic, particularly on summer weekends. As kids, the two brothers remember their father describing the slower pace of life on the ranch east of Farmington in the late 1930s.

"My grandfather built this house, and we have pictures of Model T's out here," said Chester, the older of the two brothers.

"I'm thinking it was 1938 that the house was built," Tom said. "The old wooden-spoked wheels on the cars. There was a picture we had when the roof wasn't on the house. My dad used to talk about when Highway 4 was just a dirt road. When you saw somebody once or twice in a day, that was high traffic."

The Murphys' grandparents were cattle ranchers near Telegraph City in Calaveras County. In the 1930s, their grandmother wanted a home with the modern conveniences provided by electricity. At

the time, electricity was not available in Telegraph City, but it was in Farmington, so their grandfather built the brick house.

Following their move to Farmington, Tom and Chester's grandparents slowly expanded their business and began a path of diversification, adding various grain and row crops.

AN EASEMENT "MADE A LOT OF SENSE"

Watching their brother, Bill, put an adjacent 125-acre walnut orchard into the California Farmland Trust in 2019 got Tom and Chester thinking about protecting the ground abutting their childhood home.

"We started talking about it, and it made a lot of sense," Tom said.

They followed suit and placed the 72-acre ranch, which is planted to almonds, in an easement with California Farmland Trust.

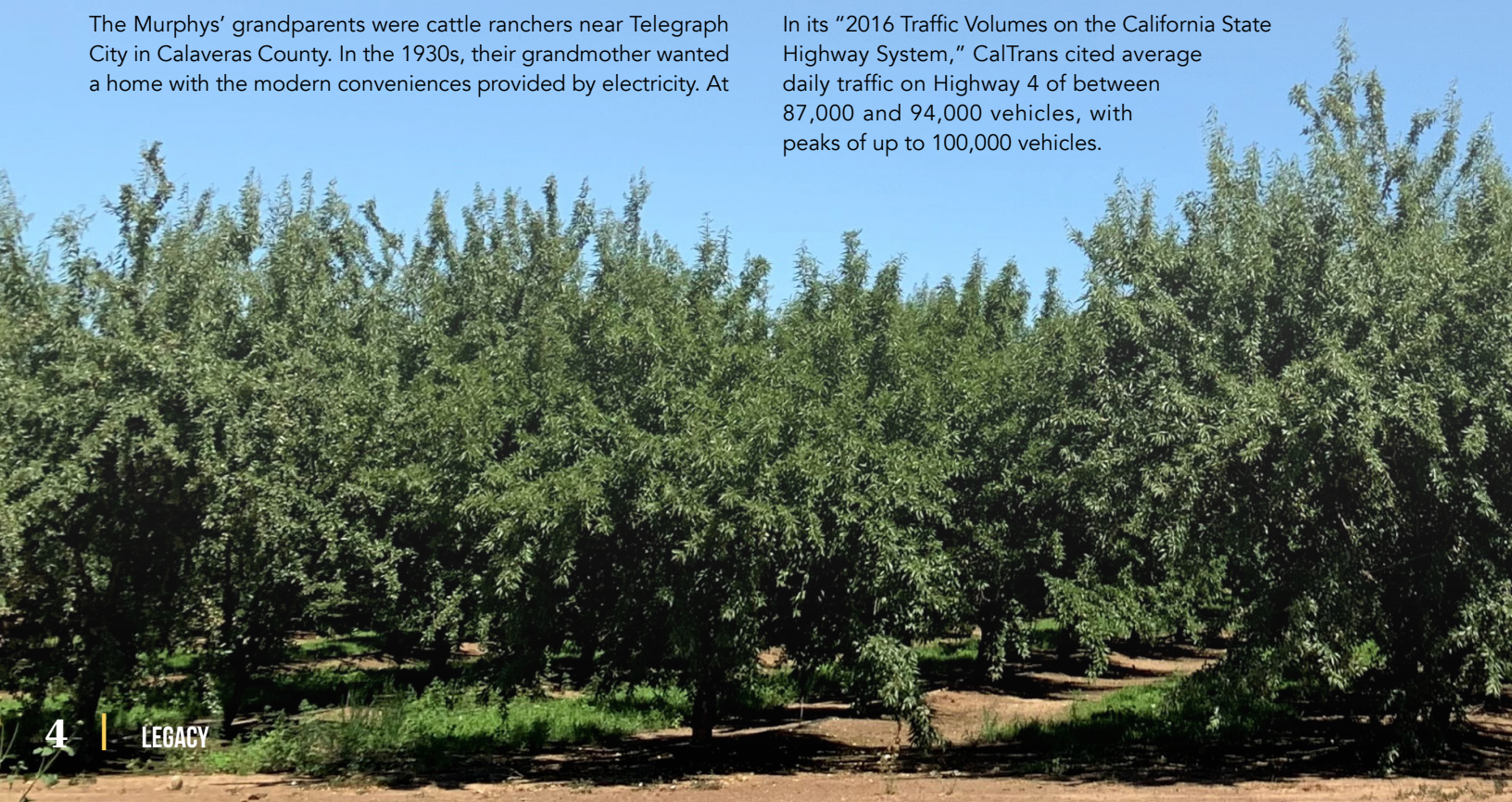
The property is within 1 mile of land zoned residential in Farmington, which they expect to expand.

"This is up against Farmington and is on a major highway," Chester said. "Twenty-five years from now, it's likely to be on the outskirts."

Charlotte Mitchell, CFT executive director, agreed and said being along a major thoroughfare puts more development pressure on adjacent farmland.

"Highway 4 is a major east-west artery connecting the Bay Area to the Sierra Nevada," she said. "Protecting the important farmland along this artery sends a clear signal to local planners that urbanization along this corridor needs to be thoughtfully planned."

In its "2016 Traffic Volumes on the California State Highway System," CalTrans cited average daily traffic on Highway 4 of between 87,000 and 94,000 vehicles, with peaks of up to 100,000 vehicles.



"Permanently protecting the Murphys' farm will not only ensure scenic views along Highway 4 but will encourage ongoing production of a permanent orchard crop that employs low-carbon best management practices," said Chelsea Slaton, CFT conservation director. "In addition, Duck Creek, which flows along the farm's northern boundary, provides both riparian habitat and a corridor for wildlife."

Funds for the C&T Murphy Farm agricultural conservation easement were made available through the California Strategic Growth Council's (SGC) Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) in collaboration with the Department of Conservation. SALC is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Slaton said Tom, Chester and Bill's easements will create a 200-acre greenbelt less than 1 mile east of Farmington to help ensure prime farmland remains available for agriculture and is not subdivided for residential uses.

"CFT has several priority areas to continue its work to build meaningful protected farmland areas, and the area in San Joaquin County where the Murphys' easements are located is just one", Mitchell said.

FARMING FLEXIBILITY

The Home Ranch is currently home to a 6-year-old almond orchard comprising 50% Nonpareil, 25% Wood Colony and 25% Supareil varieties. It is irrigated with a micro-sprinkler system, which conserves water and provides a bit of frost protection. But that hasn't always been the case.

"The industry has cycled over the decades, and it's given us the ability to change with the times," Tom said.

The ranch started as dryland cattle grazing and evolved into dryland grains. Once the ground was leveled and pumps were

installed, the 100% prime soil was planted to irrigated row crops and more recently, a winegrape vineyard.

Seeing opportunities in almonds, the two brothers pulled out the vineyard and planted the orchard about six years ago. Without knowing what agricultural markets hold in the future, the Murphys' like that the easement provides for the flexibility in crop choices and farm management practices that will ensure the land will be sustainable for agriculture and for the environment.

They also like knowing the ground will remain in agriculture, even if a family member isn't tilling it. Two of their children have shown interest in possibly farming. Tom's oldest daughter is pursuing an agriculture degree at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and his eighth-grade son is excited about shop class and welding.

Tom and Chester faced similar choices in 1991, when their father passed away unexpectedly, and they had to decide whether they wanted to come back to farming. At the time, both were involved in non-agricultural jobs off the farm.

"After he passed away, we all sat down to decide whether we were going to be the generation who sold it or be more proactive and actively farming it, so it led to us starting a vineyard business," Tom said.

He and Chester also remain involved in the family's cattle operation in Calaveras County as well as venturing more into almond, walnuts and winegrapes in San Joaquin County.



Brothers Chester (left) and Tom (right) Murphy.

Land Management Proposals Create Opportunities & Challenges for Working Lands Conservation Efforts

By Emily Rooney, President, Agricultural Council of California, emily@agcouncil.org

Last fall, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-82-80, commonly known as "30x30," which is an effort to conserve 30 percent of California's land and coastal waters by 2030.

In this effort, the governor plans to protect the biodiversity in plants and animals prevalent in our state, the 2,500 soil types and other environmental benefits California has to offer. Governor Newsom also plans to protect natural and working lands and, in fact, part of his Executive Order requires the newly created California Biodiversity Collaborative to:

"Advance multi-benefit, voluntary and cooperative approaches that protect and restore biodiversity while stewarding natural and working lands, building climate resilience and supporting economic sustainability."

Under this Executive Order, a diverse community of stakeholders will be engaged, including a farmer and rancher-led effort, managed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). CDFA held workshops and is in the process of synthesizing comments at this time. We are hopeful the comments will provide foresight in the coming weeks and that funding for conservation easements will be a priority as ideas from the process at both CDFA and the California Natural Resources Agency start to filter to the top.

At the same time, three climate bonds have been under consideration in the State Legislature. The proposals are not moving forward in 2021 given the unexpected state budget surplus. However,



"Amid the efforts, conservation easements are usually part of the conversation. Elected and appointed officials understand the pressure of increasing urbanization and the impact it has on our natural resources, including agriculture."

conversations continue about the prospects heading into 2022. The concept behind a climate bond is to fund activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon. Many of the programs within the proposals are focused on the farm-level.

On the regulatory side, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is focusing on its Natural and Working Lands regulation in the second half of 2021. This regulation will become part of the next "Scoping Plan" within the statewide climate change regulation. CARB may look to this regulation to find and create incentives for farmers to sequester carbon and decrease their environmental footprint from a greenhouse gas perspective, and Ag Council is participating in this process.

Amid the efforts, conservation easements are usually part of the conversation. Elected and appointed officials understand the pressure of increasing urbanization and the impact it has on our natural resources, including agriculture.

The key to ensuring success in funding conservation easements is flexibility in the execution of these programs. Some groups attempt to restrict the types of activities performed on easements. We believe the lands must be working lands – in every sense of the word – to best secure the future of California agriculture.

The ability to farm on these lands and produce our incredible California food and fiber will be key in our dialogue and in the pursuit of final outcomes, and we look forward to working with like-minded

entities to achieve these objectives in the months and years to come.



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Find the podcast by searching *Capitol Farm Connection* on your favorite podcast platform.

Tackling the Issues: A Conversation with Secretary Crowfoot

In a conversation not to be missed, Secretary Wade Crowfoot of the California Natural Resources Agency discusses critical water and environmental issues with Ag Council President Emily Rooney in the newest *Capitol Farm Connection* podcast.

Save the Date for CFT's Inaugural Race to Slow the Pace

CFT will be hosting the inaugural Race to Slow the Pace run at Bokisch Vineyards on Sunday, September 19, 2021. This live (virtual optional) 5K fundraiser aims to connect people with nature, the environment and the family farms that feed them. The run will foster a connection to the land and the importance of slowing the pace of development to protect valuable farmland.



Race to Slow the Pace runners will weave through the scenic Bokisch Vineyards, kicking-off where the winery meets the vineyard, continuing through the property on a maintained terrain, taking in the vines and the habitat, and eventually crossing the finish line at Bokisch's infamous oak tree picnic area. Runners and registered guests will be served a paella lunch and celebrate with awards and Bokisch wine.

To make this event successful, we are looking for sponsors and event volunteers. To learn more or register visit www.cafarmtrust.org/racetoslowthepace.

Sponsor Spotlight: Raley's

Raley's®

Raley's is a privately-owned and family-operated customer experience grocery company headquartered in West Sacramento, CA. Raley's stores are the destination for the best fresh products, affordable offerings, and personalized service. The company's commitment is to infuse life with health and happiness by changing the way the world eats, one plate at a time, while positively impacting the communities they serve. Raley's has carefully and intentionally balanced purpose with profit and believes in serving multiple bottom lines. The success of their business relies on the vitality of the communities they serve, so they continue to offer fulfilling career opportunities, donate generously to hundreds of nonprofit organizations, food banks and schools and work to reduce their environmental impact everywhere they operate.

Since 2016, Raley's has proudly sponsored the CFT educational program, focused at elementary students. Thanks to their support, so far in 2021, CFT was able to present our Orange You Glad We Have Farmland Activity virtually to more than 5,600 students.

Raley's operates 129 stores under five banners: Raley's, Bel Air Markets, Nob Hill Foods, Food Source, and Market 5-ONE-5. Thank you Raley's for your support!

Monthly Donors

You can make a difference and impact the future of farmland protection in California. Every year we work with farmers to steward nearly 17,000 acres of farmland and ensure it remains farmland – that's enough farmland to feed 72,000 families.

Your monthly donation can help protect farmland and feed more families. Your support is put right to work, protecting more farmland and ensuring more families have a safe and abundant food supply. You'll have the satisfaction knowing you've helped protect family farms, promote agriculture education and support farmers who steward our natural resources day in and day out. Your consistent support helps us confidently continue to ensure more farmland is protected and not paved over or developed.

"I'm moved by Kimball Musk's quote 'Strong communities are built around local, real food. Food we trust to nourish our bodies, the farmer and planet.' Everything needs to eat, so it's important to me to support CFT as they work towards building resilient communities." - Florin Barnhart, Monthly Donor

"It's important agriculture and family farms stay viable – more farmland needs to be protected. We used to give annually, but we can help CFT do more collectively by giving monthly." - Pam Magnuson, Magnuson Dairy, Easement Holders in Merced County. Pictured below, back row left to right; Sally Magnuson, Jake Magnuson, Pam Magnuson, Scott Magnuson, Bryce Magnuson, Front row; Justus Magnuson.



When you become a monthly donor, you will join a special, dedicated group of people reaching out each month to further our mission to protect farmland. Together, we can make a difference. To learn more visit www.cafarmtrust.org/giving.



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Legacy

Visionary

Heritage



Sustaining

Guardian



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