



The "Brandenburg property," SBALT's first conservation easement, produces lettuce mixes and is one of the many properties SBALT helps protect.

SBALT NEWS

A long tradition of protecting agriculture

This article draws from previously published SBALT content and has been updated for this issue.

SBALT was formed in 1993, but its first acquisition wasn't until 1997. The 68-acre "Brandenburg Property" was permanently protected through the donation of an agricultural conservation easement by the developer for the San Juan Oaks Golf Course. A conservation easement is an agreement between the landowner and SBALT (or other qualified organization or government agency) that removes the future right to develop the property. The easement agreement is recorded at the County.

This farm, which produces lettuce mixes, is part of a large landscape of highly productive soils and a strong agricultural industry. The partnership between the County of San Benito (which required the protection of this property to offset the loss of farmland to build the golf course), the developer of the golf course, and SBALT is an example of one way to balance multiple land uses.



Since 1997, this property has had different owners. Just like utility or road easements, a conservation easement remains in effect as land ownership changes. SBALT strives to develop constructive relationships with each new landowner and visits properties annually to ensure the land use remains consistent with the easement goals.

Landowner Steven Dobler stated, "When we purchased the property, we were glad to learn that it was under a conservation easement. As farmers, we appreciate people understanding the value of such productive farmland and taking the step to ensure that it will remain productive into the future."

Last month, we highlighted the importance of conserving agricultural lands in our county. The Brandenburg property represents just one of the many lands SBALT protects, totaling more than 7,300 acres under stewardship. Next month, we'll look ahead to what will be our next step in protecting local land. Learn more by visiting us at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■

