



Farm managers, SBALT staff and funders meet to discuss a conservation project.

SBALT NEWS

Our valentine to you

By Emily Renzel, Board President

We at San Benito Agricultural Land Trust (SBALT) are grateful for our many partners who share our LOVE for the land and made 2021 a banner year for our organization.

The Community Foundation for San Benito County awarded SBALT a Community Impact grant that enabled us to complete our application for accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We anticipate the result of this four-year process this month.

All of our easement landowners gave of their time to help us complete our annual monitoring requirement, and several also made generous donations to SBALT. In July, Phil and Katherine Foster hosted a tour for our donors of the Foster Ranch, home of Pinnacle Organically Grown, followed by a lovely garden reception.

Through a grant from the California Department of Conservation, California Farm-Link and SBALT jointly created a brochure about conservation easements in English and Spanish which is now available on our web-

site. The information was presented in Spanish to graduates of the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) program, which trains new farmers in the Central Coast region.

An anonymous donor transferred the final of three \$50,000 installments to SBALT last fall. We are inspired by this person's generosity and we strive to be the vibrant local land trust they envision.

Our partner, The Trust for Public Land (TPL), purchased the 540-acre Nyland Property, which will be conveyed to SBALT by the end of this year. TPL also provided a generous grant in honor of The Harvey S. Nyland and Gladys M. Nyland 1999 Family Trust to help rebuild the iconic barn on the Nyland Property.

Our board, advisors, and committee members -- all volunteers -- worked hard on potential projects and those still underway, at least two of which we expect to complete in 2022.

We especially want to thank the farmworkers who grow, harvest and pack our County's abundant produce, and all of the community members who have so faithfully supported us. It was a year of great progress and excitement for SBALT. Thank you, one and all. Learn more about your local land trust at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■



SBALT relies on grants, partnerships, and community support to protect San Benito County's irreplaceable agricultural soils.