



## Tweet

### **Lompoc Valley Farm Protected**

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*Source: Land Trust for Santa Barbara County*

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County and The Trust for Public Land today protected the 780-acre Jordan property, a Lompoc Valley farm that dates to shortly after California became a state. The property will be permanently protected from future residential development by an agricultural conservation easement, the first in the agriculturally rich Lompoc Valley.

"This is a terrific opportunity to protect, in perpetuity, one of most productive farms in the Lompoc Valley, due to its significant size and the fact that it is prime agricultural land" said Chet Work, Executive Director of the Land Trust.

Gina Fromer, California Director of The Trust for Public Land, said, "This is a great example of our mission of protecting land for people because protecting this farm means protecting a classic California landscape for future generations."

The 780-acre property, located west of Lompoc and surrounded on three sides by Vandenberg Air Force Base, is now permanently protected. Produce grown on the farm, which includes a variety of flowers, fruits and vegetables like Brussels' sprouts, artichokes, broccoli, cauliflower and lettuce, supplies restaurants, grocery stores and farmers' markets throughout the county.

"The Jordan family has long contemplated placing an agricultural easement on this property," stated Steve Jordan, who runs the farm. "We are extremely pleased that this long-term goal of keeping our property in agricultural use permanently has been brought to fruition. We greatly appreciate the efforts of The Trust for Public Land and the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County in providing this opportunity and bringing us to this successful conclusion."

The \$1.5 million in funding came from a pair of federal pots of money, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), and the Pentagon's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program which protects land near military bases.

"I am very pleased that federal funding has made the difference in the completion of this project which will protect local agricultural lands and contribute to the beautiful open space and rural atmosphere of the Lompoc Valley," stated Congresswoman Lois Capps, (D-Calif.). "Protecting the Jordan Farms property will not only permanently protect 780 acres of prime farmland adjacent to the Santa Ynez River, but it will also provide an important connectivity opportunity for future land conservation projects in the area. I am hopeful that this is just the first of many similar agricultural protection projects in the Lompoc Valley."

"Not only is this permanent agricultural easement on the Jordan property a step in

the right direction toward protecting agriculture in the County, but it is also critical to preserving the agricultural heritage and rural character of the Lompoc Valley," stated Santa Barbara County Supervisor Doreen Farr, who supported the project since its inception.

The Trust for Public Land worked out details of the permanent easement, which will be held and monitored by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County. In addition to preserving the property's agricultural resources, the easement will preserve the highly scenic qualities of the Lompoc Valley, as well as providing environmental benefits due to its adjacency to the Santa Ynez River along its northern boundary. Finally, the easement will provide an incentive to other landowners in the area to similarly protect their agricultural lands.

"Protection of the Jordan Farms property is entirely compatible with the mission of Vandenberg Air Force Base and will provide more flexibility to the Base's Western Range and Launch Operations when considering new technologies, launch vehicles, and project development," stated Kenneth Domako, Chief of Planning and Programs. "We are thrilled to have played a role in the success of this very positive project."

The REPI Program prevents encroachment on military missions, such as training, testing and operations by helping to remove or avoid land-use conflicts near military bases, such as Vandenberg Air Force Base.

"This project, with the Trust for Public Land, the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County and the Department of Defense, is unique for us at NRCS California," said State Conservationist Carlos Suarez. "As the first easement adjacent to a military installation in part funded by California NRCS, it clearly provides a productive buffer ripe with many mutual benefits for agriculture and defense. We are happy to partner on this easement near Vandenberg and welcome the possibility to pursue similar opportunities in the future." The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements component, NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land.

"Protecting the Jordan Farms property was a high priority for The Trust for Public Land due to the site's highly productive soils, adjacency to the Santa Ynez River and connection to Santa Barbara County's agricultural community, including the area's local farmers' markets," stated Alex Size of The Trust for Public Land, the organization's project manager for the easement acquisition. "The Santa Barbara Foundation helped support this, and we appreciate that support."

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1985 and dedicated to preserving and enhancing Santa Barbara County's natural resources, open spaces and agricultural heritage for present and future generations. To date, the LTSBC has helped to preserve nearly 24,000 acres of natural resource and agricultural land and has assisted landowners in placing conservation easements on 43 properties totaling more than 16,000 acres in Santa Barbara County. For more information, visit [www.sblandtrust.org](http://www.sblandtrust.org). The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable

communities for generations to come. Nearly ten million people live within a ten-minute walk of a Trust for Public Land park, garden, or natural area, and millions more visit these sites every year. To share your story or learn more, visit [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org).

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