



**Connecting the dots...**

## **A Summit on the Importance of Local Farmland to Santa Clara Valley's Future Health and Well-being**

American Farmland Trust, the Committee for Green Foothills, and the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO) are partnering to bring together leaders and policy makers with the goal of broadening the dialogue about the need for local farmland preservation.

**Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2014**  
**Time : 8:00 AM to Noon**  
**Place: Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Room**  
**5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118**

Presentations will focus on the overlapping interests of agricultural viability and sustainable healthy communities in meeting the demands of our future population. Experts and leaders in the fields of farmlands conservation, public health and planning sustainable communities will discuss:

- Global, regional and local trends that are influencing the future of farmland in Santa Clara County
- The important connections between local farmlands, the local food movement, our health, our local economy, environmental quality and livable communities
- Successful strategies, replicable models and innovative tools / funding mechanisms for making local farmlands key components of sustainable communities

Attendees will have an opportunity to engage in a conversation about creating a shared vision for preserving local farmlands.

This is an invitation only event for city/county/special district elected officials; city/special district managers; county officials; planning commissioners; city/county planning directors; and other leaders dealing with public health issues, sustainable communities, and environmental/conservation and agricultural issues.

RSVP to Serena Unger at [sunger@farmland.org](mailto:sunger@farmland.org) by August 25.

Space is limited. If you would like to invite others, please provide Serena with their contact information and she will try to accommodate your request.

Further information on speakers and program will be forthcoming.

Thanks to our sponsors



Connecting the dots...

## A Summit on the Importance of Local Farmland to Santa Clara Valley's Future Health and Well-being

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Room

5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose

Presented by



COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS



The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors proclaimed September 2014 as Local Food Month.

In celebration, the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) members and partners will host several events showcasing the diversity of foods in the region.

For a full list of events, please visit: <http://caff.org/news-and-events/lfm/>

# PROGRAM

- 8:00-8:30**     **REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST/COFFEE**
- 8:30-8:35**     **INTRODUCTIONS**  
Serena Unger, Sr. Policy Associate, American Farmland Trust
- 8:35-8:45**     **OPENING REMARKS**  
Ed Thompson, CA Director, American Farmland Trust
- 8:45-9:15**     **SESSION 1**  
Why should we care about local agriculture in Santa Clara Valley?  
Dr. Glenda Humiston, CA Director USDA Rural Development  
Mark Nechodom, Director, CA Department of Conservation  
*Moderator: Joseph McIntyre, Executive Director Ag Innovations Network*
- 9:15-9:40**     **BREAKOUT TABLES DISCUSSION**  
How is the local food production connected to our communities?
- 9:40-10:15**     **SESSION 2**  
Why build and grow a viable local agricultural sector to support sustainable communities? What are the opportunities to be gained from safeguarding and investing in local farmland?  
Matt Gerhart, Deputy Program Manager  
California Coastal Conservancy  
Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager  
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
- 10:15-10:25**     **BREAK**
- 10:25-11:00**     **SESSION 3**  
On-the-ground tools and models for making local farmlands a key component of sustainable communities  
Amie MacPhee, Founder, Cultivate Studio  
Reggie Knox, Executive Director, California Farmlink  
Pete Aiello, President, Santa Clara County Farm Bureau and Uesugi Farms  
*Moderator: Linda J. LeZotte, SCVWD Director and LAFCO Vice Chairperson*
- 11:00-11:50**     **TOWN HALL DISCUSSION**  
How do we embrace the agricultural sector and preserve local farmlands to build sustainable prosperity and quality of life in our communities?  
*Moderator: Joseph McIntyre, Executive Director Ag Innovations Network*
- 11:50-12:00**     **CLOSING SUMMARY**  
Ed Thompson, CA Director, American Farmland Trust
- Bill Shoe**, Principal Planner  
Santa Clara County Planning Office  
*Moderator: Susan Vicklund Wilson, Chairperson LAFCO of Santa Clara County*