



Lou Ann Teixeira
Executive Officer

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October 8, 2014

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Agenda Item 6

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Lou Ann Teixeira, LAFCO Executive Officer

SUBJECT: *Informational Presentation – Kathryn Lyddan, Contra Costa Land Use and Agricultural Conservation*

Kathryn Lyddan, Executive Director, Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust (BALT), will make a presentation on farmland conservation, land use and agricultural conservation in Contra Costa County.

Contra Costa County includes more than 12,000 acres of irrigated farmland. Brentwood farms have provided food for the Bay Area since the 1880's. Today, Brentwood farmers continue to grow a diversity of food, primarily fruits and vegetables.

BALT was established in 2002 to preserve Contra Costa's productive agricultural land and work with farmers and the community to create a vibrant local agricultural economy. BALT works to preserve productive agricultural land through conservation easements; works with local governments to strengthen agricultural enterprise zoning, permitting and policies; and creates food connections between farmers and urban neighbors.

Kathryn was hired in June 2003 as BALT's first Executive Director. Prior to her work at BALT, Kathryn practiced land use and public finance law for ten years. Kathryn also serves on the Harvest Time Board and Bay Area Open Space Council Advisory Council.