

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP – ALE)

FY 2027 California NRCS Entity Application Questionnaire

Information, policy, and regulation disclosed in this packet is subject to change pending the authorization of the 2027 Farm Bill and updates to the Federal Register rules and regulations. Please check the [California NRCS ACEP-ALE website](#) for updated information prior to submitting a completed application package. Please see the current [ACEP-ALE Program Manual](#) for full guidance.

Please submit completed applications to:

BOX ELECTRONIC UPLOAD:

*****PREFERRED*****

Request Box invitation via email:
elizabeth.palmer@usda.gov See
instructions on page 12

EMAIL:

To: elizabeth.palmer@usda.gov
See instructions on page 14

**Entity applications are accepted on a continuous basis.
However, if also seeking ACEP-ALE funding in FY 2027, all applications
must be received by 5:00 PM PST on the FY 2027 application batching date.**

The following application questionnaire collects required information for becoming an eligible entity that can then apply for easement funding under ACEP-ALE Classic, ACEP-ALE Buy-Protect-Sell (ACEP-ALE BPS), or ACEP-ALE Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (ACEP-ALE GSS). Narratives and supporting documentation may be provided under the applicable question or as a separate attachment. The appendices to this questionnaire are for reference only and do not need to be included in the application submission.

Submitting your application

Submission instructions begin on page 12. Please carefully follow all instructions to ensure an eligible application. It is the responsibility of the primary applying entity to ensure the application is complete and accurate. Identification of eligibility within the questionnaire is only to be used as a guide; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) determines eligibility at its discretion upon review of a complete and accurate application. If a question indicates that an entity may be ineligible, contact the California NRCS Easement Team before continuing with the application. The application may not be considered if the issue cannot be resolved.

Farm Service Agency Eligibility

Up-to-date records with the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) are required in order to process an entity application. Applying entities can work directly with FSA to create or update records about the organization, including the tax identification number and the articles of organization. Applying entities may also complete the [Customer Data Worksheet](#) to create or update records and submit as supplemental information with this application questionnaire. Ensure the organization name is accurately entered in the system, as having the

organization listed under more than one name or name changes can cause processing delays. The resulting report from establishing these records is a [Subsidiary Print](#), which is a document that summarizes key eligibility information and categorizes the organization by type of entity.

If an entity intends to enter into a post-closing buy-protect-sell transaction using ACEP-ALE there are additional requirements that will need to be met. In these transactions, the organization acts as an interim landowner and will need to meet *FSA landowner criteria*. Landowner criteria include a limit on adjusted gross income and compliance with highly erodible lands and wetlands conservation (HEL/WC) on any land owned or farmed by the organization. Subsidiary prints record these eligibility items as well.

To find your local FSA office, visit the [FSA Service Center Locator](#).

Program Agreements

NRCS requires the use of Program Agreements and Parcel Contracts for ACEP-ALE projects. New parcels may only be enrolled using ACEP-ALE Parcel Contracts associated with an active, valid ACEP-ALE Program Agreement.

- If the entity has an existing and valid Program Agreement covering ACEP-ALE, the entity is not required to submit a new Entity Application Questionnaire, and is only required to submit a Parcel Application
- If there is not an existing Program Agreement, or if there is an existing Program Agreement for a program other than ACEP-ALE, the entity will need to submit a new Entity Application for ACEP-ALE

Buy-Protect-Sell Applicants

While BPS transactions need to follow the processes and meet the applicable requirements of ACEP-ALE, they are subject to their own rules and regulations. Only private or Tribal lands are eligible for these transactions; therefore, only eligible entities that are nongovernmental organizations or Tribal Nations may apply for a BPS transaction on land they own or are in the process of purchasing. ACEP-ALE cost-share funds for an approved BPS transaction may be provided through an ACEP-ALE Parcel Contract executed under a valid ACEP-ALE Program Agreement.

If an eligible entity has an existing and current Program Agreement covering ACEP-ALE, the entity should work with the California NRCS Easement Team to determine whether the Agreement needs to be updated to include the terms of the BPS transaction.

For more information or assistance with completing any entity application forms, please contact the California NRCS Easement Team:

Elizabeth Palmer – elizabeth.palmer@usda.gov, Easement Program Specialist
Kaytee Todoroff – kaytee.todoroff@usda.gov, Easement Program Specialist
Dean Kwasny – dean.kwasny@usda.gov, Easement Program Manager

Thank you for your interest in the NRCS ACEP-ALE Program!

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PART I – ENTITY APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Entity Application Checklist

Submit the following forms and information once to cover a defined period. Funding is not assigned to the Program Agreement. Individual parcels are funded through separate contracts covered by the terms of the Program Agreement.

Save each checklist item as an individual document. Name each electronic document following the naming convention in **[bold]** next to each item.

FORMS*:

- ☐ [NRCS CPA-41](#) date 02/2020 or later **[NRCS-CPA-41]**
- ☐ Entity Application Questionnaire (pp 4-11) **[Entity Questionnaire]**
- ☐ [SF-1199A](#) (required for each entity receiving payment from NRCS) **[SF-1199A]**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

- ☐ Evidence of eligible entity type for each applicant entity and/or co-holder **[Evidence of Entity Type]**
- ☐ Evidence of active [SAM](#) registration Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) for each entity applicant and/or co-holder **[Current SAM Verification]**
- ☐ Signature authority **[Signature Authority]**
- ☐ [AD-2047](#) Customer Data Worksheet (*optional; include if new or updating records*) **[Customer Data]**

**Refer to Appendix 2 for the description and purpose of each form.*

PART II – ENTITY QUESTIONNAIRE

All questions in this section must be answered and with adequate detail and supporting documentation. Responses may be attached as additional documents. Please reach out to the CA NRCS Easement Team with any questions. You may also refer to the [ALE For Entities Checklist](#) for further descriptions and examples of what to provide. Additionally, instructions for completing the NRCS-CPA-41 form [can be found here](#).

A. Entity Applicant Information

1. Primary/Lead Entity applicant name (must match the entity name in FSA and IRS records):
2. Primary/Lead Entity mailing address (must match address in FSA records):
3. Primary/Lead Entity point of contact (name, phone number, email):
4. Primary/Lead Entity type:
 - ☐ State agency (ineligible for buy-protect-sell)
 - ☐ Local government (ineligible for buy-protect-sell)
 - ☐ Native Nation
 - ☐ Non-governmental organization described in 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1), (2), or (3) that has conservation purposes (IRS Code Section 170(h)(4)(A)(i-iv))
 - ☐ Other:

5. Provide the following information for each entity that will be on the agreement. This includes other eligible entities, co-applicants, co-holders, and third-party rights holders that may be a party to any parcel now or in the future.

Entity Name	Entity Type	Applicant Type	Certified Entity?	Contact Name	Phone Number	Email

6. Provide a copy of the authority under which each applicant is authorized to operate. Acceptable forms of authority may include organizational charter, statutory authority, articles of incorporation, or bylaws.

7. Provide the name and title of the appropriate signatory for the primary applicant, co-applicant(s), and co-holder(s) listed in question 5. (*NOTE: Signatures of third-party rights holders are not required on program documentation*).

Entity Name	Signatory Name	Signatory Title

B. Entity Eligibility Requirements

Entity Performance

1. **Authority:** List all entity applicants (i.e., primary entity, co-applicant(s), co-holder(s), and third-party rights holder(s)) who have the authority and capability to purchase, hold, manage, and enforce agricultural conservation easements in the state of California. Briefly describe or reference this authority for each applicant.

Entity Name	Authority

2. **Established programs:** List all entity applicants who have an established agricultural land protection program that purchases conservation easements for the purpose of protecting agricultural use or future viability or protecting grazing uses and related conservation values. Briefly describe and reference the program(s) for each listed entity.

Entity Name	Description of Program

3. **Demonstrated commitment:** Briefly describe how each entity applicant demonstrates their commitment to long-term protection of agricultural lands. Include any supporting documentation such as a mission statement, organizational charter, annual report, Articles of Incorporation, or other official documentation.

Entity Name	Description of Commitment

4. **Monitoring ability:** List and summarize all entity applicants who have the staff capacity, either directly or through formal agreements with other entities, dedicated to easement monitoring and stewardship.

Entity Name	Description of Monitoring & Stewardship Ability

5. **Monitoring protocols:** Briefly describe easement monitoring protocols for all entity applicants responsible for monitoring easements under this agreement.

Entity Name	Description of Monitoring Protocols

6. **Prior experience:** Identify all applicants that are a current or former participant under an ACEP-ALE agreement. Briefly describe their performance under those agreements and state whether the applicant met the terms of those agreements. If not applicable, please put N/A.

Administrative Requirements

1. Are all listed applicants, including co-holders and third-party rights holders, established and up to date in the FSA Service Center Information Management System (SCIMS)?
- ☐ YES; proceed to Question 2
- ☐ NO; please specify and describe (*NOTE: establishment in SCIMS is **required** for program eligibility*):

2. Will any entity applicants other than the primary entity applicant benefit from, or receive NRCS payment, if funded? (*NOTE: each entity receiving NRCS payment must file Form SF-1199A*).

☐ YES; specify the percent amount of the NRCS payment that will be attributed to the entity

☐ NO

3. List the entity applicant responsibility for each of the tasks below:

Acquisition	Enforcement	Monitoring	Funding	Third Party Rights	Other (specify)

C. Certification Statement

By submitting this application and if awarded an agreement, the entity applicant(s) agrees to:

1. Perform necessary legal and administrative actions to ensure proper acquisition and recordation of valid agricultural land easements, including such additional actions as required for agricultural land easements acquired through an authorized buy-protect-sell transaction.
2. Procure and pay all costs related to determinations of value, due diligence, and closing.
3. Hold title to the agricultural land easement(s).
4. Meet the requirements of the [Program Agreement](#) and carry out all responsibilities specified in the agreement, including submitting all required documentation and requests for reimbursements, advances, or extensions by required deadlines.
5. Ensure that any required or agreed-to agricultural land easement plans are complete at, or prior to, closing and that these plans are updated as necessary pursuant to applicable easement deed terms (see [ACEP-ALE Minimum Deed Terms](#)).
6. Provide information to the [USDA-Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) as required.
7. Ensure [System for Award Management](#) (SAM) Unique Entity ID (UEI) registration is established and maintained for each eligible entity and co-holder.
8. Ensure any legal entities that will be identified in the conservation easement deed as a co- holder (grantee) or as a third-party right holder (not a grantee) meet the requirements applicable to such legal entities as set-forth in the terms of the Program Agreement.
9. Conduct annual monitoring and provide the monitoring report to the CA NRCS Easement Team by the designated annual due date.
10. Enforce the terms of the agricultural land easement. After consultation with and approval by NRCS, an eligible entity may assign another entity to manage and enforce the agricultural land easement, granted they have the appropriate expertise and capacity to carry out such responsibilities.

Primary/Lead Applicant Signature (*OneSpan e-signature or wet ink signature*)

Date

Primary/Lead Applicant Signatory Name & Title (Printed)

Primary/Lead Applicant Entity Name

PART III – APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. **Box Upload (PREFERRED):**

Create a Box Account and Folder

1. Request an invitation to Box by emailing Elizabeth Palmer: elizabeth.palmer@usda.gov.
2. Upon approval of the request, you will receive a Box invitation via email.
3. Open the invitation and click “**Accept Invite**”. You will then be prompted to create an account with an email address and password.
4. Complete the required steps for signup.
5. After creating an account, you will be routed to a webpage asking if you are “**Part of FPAC Box Environment?**”
 - a. Select “**Not a part of FPAC Box Environment**” (*DO NOT* click “Continue”).
 - b. You should now have access to Box and your entity-specific folder.

USDA English (US) Sign Up

Part of FPAC Box Environment?

FPAC Box Environment uses your network credentials to login to Box. Continue to login to Box through your network.

Continue

If you are not a part of FPAC Box Environment, continue to log in with your Box.com account.

Not a part of FPAC Box Environment

Welcome to USDA FPAC Box

ATTENTION: Do NOT use the Sign Up link above to request your official FPAC Box account. Licenses are managed at the state office. Only a limited number of licenses were provided to each state. Please work through your State BOX POC to request access.

FPAC users with a managed account may login here to store, share, and access files online.

6. Click the folder to gain access to the contents. Files will appear once added to the folder. This is a shared folder, so both you and the CA NRCS Easement Team will have access to the contents.

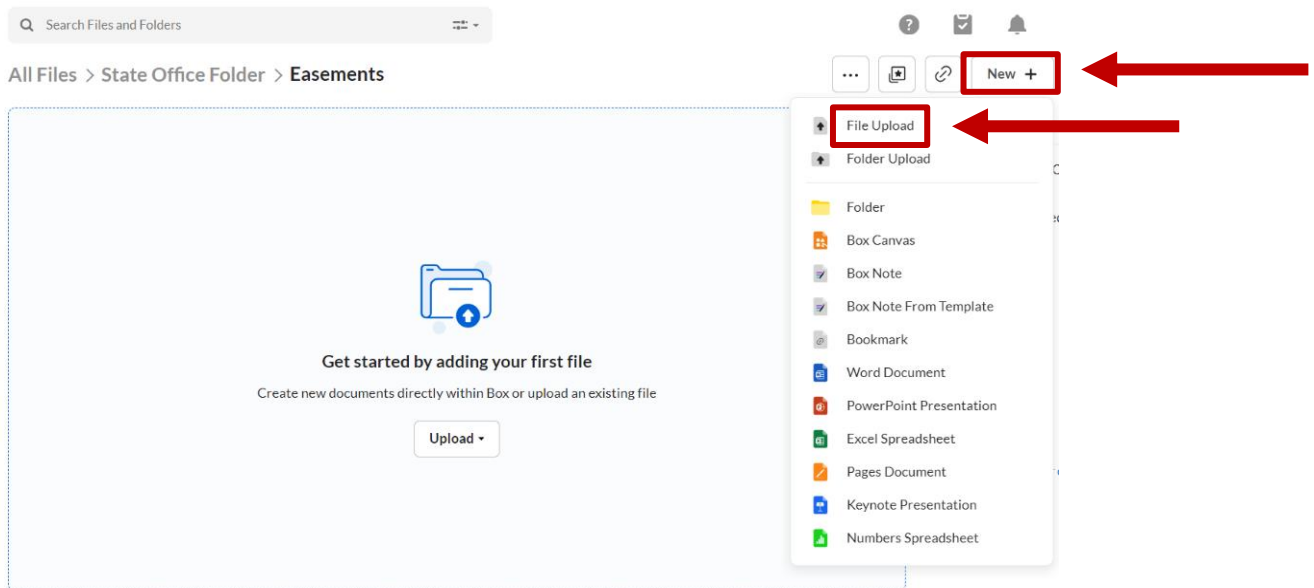
Upload Documents

1. Download and complete the required forms from the checklist on Page 4, as well as any supplemental documents or forms. Be sure to reference the relevance of each additional document in the Entity Application Questionnaire.
 - Ensure all documents are signed and dated.
 - Do not include application cover letter, appendices, or instructions.
2. Separate the forms by document type (i.e., do not combine the Entity Application NRCS-CPA-41 with the Entity Application Questionnaire or supplemental forms or documents).
 - EACH document must be uploaded to Box as an independent file and named according to the following naming convention:

Entity Name_Document Name
Note it is acceptable to use abbreviations or acronyms

Example: Sunny Land Trust_NRCS-CPA-41

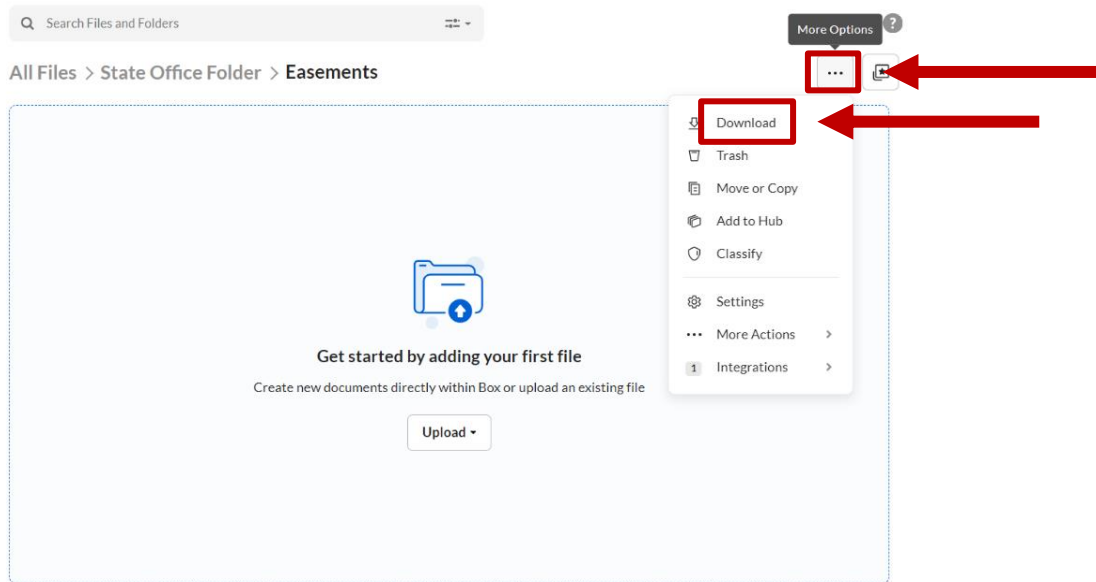
3. Log into Box and access the shared folder labeled with your entity's name.
 - Locate and click the **"New"** button at the right-hand side of the page.
 - Select **"File Upload"**.



- Search your computer for the document you want to upload.
 - Click **"Open"** to upload the file.
 - Box will show a notification when your document is successfully uploaded. *Please note: uploaded documents cannot be renamed.*
4. The CA NRCS Easement Team will receive notification when you upload documents to the folder. Applicants are still encouraged to notify Elizabeth Palmer at elizabeth.palmer@usda.gov once they have uploaded all application materials to confirm receipt.

Download Documents

1. Log into Box using your email and password.
2. Access the shared folder with your entity's name and locate the file you want to download.
3. Click the **"..."** button (**"More Options"**).
4. Select **"Download"**.



B. Email Submission:

1. Download and complete the required forms from the checklist on Page 4, as well as any supplemental documents or forms. Be sure to reference the relevance of each additional document in the Entity Application Questionnaire.
 - Ensure all documents are signed and dated.
 - Do not include application cover letter, appendices, or instructions.
2. Separate the forms by document type (i.e., do not combine the Entity Application NRCS-CPA-41 with the Entity Application Questionnaire or supplemental forms or documents).
 - EACH document must be attached to the email as an independent file and named according to the following naming convention:

Entity Name_Document Name_FY26 Entity Application

Example: Sunny Land Trust_NRCS-CPA-41_FY26 Entity Application

3. When sending your email:
 - Please use the following email subject (*NOTE: we recognize that a complete application includes large file types and that you may need to send multiple emails*):

Entity Name _FY26 Entity Application_1 of X

Example: Sunny Land Trust_ FY 26 Entity Application_1 of 3

- In the email body please include:
 - i. Entity name.
 - ii. A statement requesting the attached Entity Application be considered to establish entity eligibility for ACEP-ALE beginning FY26.
 - iii. A list of the attached documents to ensure all documents are accounted for.
- 4. Email your application to Elizabeth Palmer at elizabeth.palmer@usda.gov; you will receive a confirmation of receipt for each email containing application materials.

PART IV – APPENDICES

APPENDICES ARE INCLUDED FOR APPLICANT INFORMATION ONLY AND DO NOT NEED TO BE SUBMITTED

Appendix 1: Definitions

Agricultural land: Real property considered to be agricultural land or land in agricultural use, including land on a farm or ranch, if it is consistent with the state's program to purchase agricultural conservation easements. If there is no state program, the definitions of a farm, ranch, or agricultural use in the state's agricultural use tax assessment program will be used to define agricultural land. The definition must not be so broad as to lead to the degradation of the soils.

Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE): An easement or other interest in eligible land conveyed under ACEP-ALE for the purposes of protecting natural resources and the agricultural nature of the land, and of promoting agricultural viability for future generations, and permits the landowner the right to continue agricultural production and related uses subject as applicable, to an agricultural land easement plan.

Agricultural land easement plan (ALE plan): A document developed by the eligible entity that describes the activities which promote the long-term viability of the land to meet the purposes for which the easement was acquired. It includes a description of the farm/ranch management system and the natural resource concerns on the land, conservation measures and practices that may be implemented to address applicable resource concerns for which the easement was enrolled, and incorporates by reference any component plans such as a grasslands management plan, forest management plan, or HEL conservation plan as defined in this part.

Buy-Protect-Sell transaction: A legal arrangement between an eligible entity and NRCS relating to land owned or being purchased by an eligible entity on a transitional basis during which an agricultural land easement will be secured on eligible private or Tribal land, and ownership of the land transferred to a qualified farmer or rancher following conditions specified by NRCS.

Co-holder: A legal entity that will be identified in the agricultural land easement deed as a grantee but is not the applicant and does not have to meet the requirements of being an eligible entity. A co-holder is required to maintain an active SAM registration and must agree to and comply with the terms of the ALE agreement. Co-holders may not receive direct payment of the federal share provided by NRCS but are considered a beneficiary of the federal funds. All prospective co-holders must be listed on the NRCS-CPA-41.

Cropland: An official NRCS land use from the National Planning Procedures Handbook. It is land used primarily for the production and harvest of annual or perennial field, forage, food, fiber, horticultural, orchard, vineyard, or energy crops.

Entity applicant (also, eligible entity): An Indian Tribe, state government, local government, or a nongovernmental organization that has a farmland or grassland protection program that purchases agricultural land easements for the purpose of protecting: (i) The agriculture use and future viability, and related conservation values, of eligible land by limiting non-agricultural uses of that land that negatively affect the agricultural uses and conservation values; or (ii) grazing uses and related conservation values by restoring or conserving eligible land. Any entity applicant must meet all the requirements of an eligible entity, must be listed as such on the NRCS-CPA-41, and must accept all the terms and responsibilities of the ALE agreement.

Future viability: The legal, physical, and financial conditions under which the land itself will remain capable and available for continued sustained productive agricultural or grassland uses while protecting related conservation values such as management of the agricultural land easement area consistent with an agricultural land easement plan.

Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (GSS): Grasslands that contain little or no noxious or invasive species, as designated or defined by state or federal law; are subject to the threat of conversion to non-grassland uses or fragmentation; and the land meets both of the following:

- Is rangeland, pastureland, shrubland, or wet meadows on which the vegetation is dominated by native grasses, grass-like plants, shrubs, or forbs, or is improved, naturalized pastureland, rangeland, or wet meadows.
- Provides, or could provide, habitat for threatened or endangered species or at-risk species, protects sensitive or declining native prairie or grassland types or grasslands buffering wetlands, or provides protection of highly sensitive natural resources as identified by the State Conservationist, in consultation with the State Technical Committee.

Landowner: A person, legal entity, or Indian Tribe having legal ownership of eligible land and those who may be buying eligible land under a purchase agreement. The term landowner may include all forms of collective ownership including joint tenants and tenants-in-common, and includes heirs, successors, assigns, and anyone claiming under them. The term landowner also includes both the owners of a life estate interest in land and the owners of a remainder interest in land that is subject to a life estate, and includes both the purchasers and sellers under an active contract for deed, contract for sale, land contract or other similar “lease to own” land purchase financing arrangement. State governments and local governments are not eligible as landowners. For ACEP-ALE, nongovernmental organizations and Indian Tribes that qualify as eligible entities are not eligible as landowners unless otherwise determined by NRCS following an approved buy-protect-sell transaction.

Legal entity: An entity created under federal or state law that meets either of the following criteria:

- (i) Owns land or an agricultural commodity, product, or livestock
- (ii) Produces an agricultural commodity, product, or livestock

Parcel: The defined area of land and may be a portion or all of the area of land that is owned by the landowner.

Pastureland: Land composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that is used primarily for the production of livestock. Pastures receive periodic renovation and cultural treatments, such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. Pastures are not in rotation with crops.

Program: Only for the purposes of determining the necessity of a new Program Agreement entity application, program means ACEP-ALE or different Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) overarching projects. Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance or other initiatives do not count as a separate program for the purposes of a Program Agreement.

Rangeland: An official NRCS land use from the National Planning Procedures Handbook. It is land on which the historic and/or introduced vegetation is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs managed as a natural ecosystem. Rangeland may include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, tundra, alpine communities, marshes, and meadows.

Third-party right holder: A legal entity that will be identified in the agricultural land easement deed as having specific rights or responsibilities but is not listed as grantee. A third-party right holder is not the applicant, does not have to be party to the ALE-agreement, may not receive direct payment of the federal share provided by NRCS, is not considered a beneficiary of federal funds, and is not required to be registered in SAM. All prospective third-party right holders must be listed on the NRCS-CPA-41.

Appendix 2: Description of Application Forms

AD 2047 Customer Data Worksheet: USDA customer worksheet to add or update a customer record for entity program eligibility. Customer (entity) information can be submitted to FSA for entry into SCIMS or to CA NRCS Easement Staff for records update.

Entity Application Questionnaire: A California-state specific program supplemental questionnaire to identify and establish eligibility for all applying entities, co-holders, and third-party right holders under ACEP-ALE. Entities may provide answers to questions directly on the form or as additional documents. The Entity Application Questionnaire is supplemental to, and not intended to replace, the NRCS-CPA-41 Entity Application for an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Agreement.

Evidence of Active SAM Registration and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): Applying entities must provide the 12-digit Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued by the System for Award Management (SAM). The UEI replaces the previous Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) identifier. SAM registration must be renewed annually and kept up to date throughout the ACEP-ALE application and acquisition processes.

Evidence of Eligible Entity Type: Applying entities must provide documentation showing they are a) an agency of a state or local government, b) a non-profit organization that is organized for the purpose of land preservation, or c) a “federally recognized” Indian Tribe (non-federally recognized Tribes may qualify under non-profit organization status). Documentation will vary depending on entity type and may include, but are not limited to, the state or local law establishing the agency, your organization’s Articles of Organization, proof of 501(c)(3) status, or the Federal Register notice that lists your Tribe’s recognition.

NRCS-CPA-41 Entity Application for an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Agreement: Used to determine the eligibility status of an entity interested in applying for federal financial assistance to acquire conservation easements on eligible land. An entity only needs to submit one CPA-41 for eligibility for the given agreement period, even if applying for multiple parcels. This form may be submitted at any time throughout the year. However, if an entity plans to submit a parcel application for the upcoming fiscal year funding cycle, the entity will need to submit CPA-41 by the fiscal year funding cycle cut-off date. An entity with an established and current Program Agreement for the program of interest does not need to complete or submit a new CPA-41 form until that Program Agreement expires. [Instructions for completing the NRCS-CPA-41 can be found here.](#)

NRCS-CPA-41A Parcel Sheet for Entity Application for an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Agreement: Used to determine the eligibility status of the parcel and parcel landowner(s) for the ACEP- ALE program. Information disclosed on this form is also used to assess how the parcel ranks using national and state criteria. The term “parcel” refers to the portion of the property that is proposed for an ALE. The CPA-41A can be submitted simultaneously with an Entity Application (NRCS-CPA-41). Alternatively, one or more CPA-41A forms can be submitted any time after the applicant entity has an executed Program Agreement with NRCS. However, this form must be submitted by the advertised application batching date to be considered for funding in the upcoming FY funding cycle. [Instructions for completing the NRCS-CPA-41A can be found here.](#)

Parcel Application Questionnaire: A California-state specific program supplemental questionnaire to identify and establish eligibility for parcels being offered as easement areas under ACEP-ALE. The application and questionnaire are to be completed by the applying entity on behalf of, and in coordination with, the applying landowner(s). Entities may provide answers to questions directly on the form or as additional documents. The Parcel Application Questionnaire is supplemental to, and not intended to replace, the NRCS-CPA-41A Parcel Sheet for Entity Application for an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Agreement

Program Agreement for ACEP-ALE: Sample Program Agreement for ACEP-ALE conservation easements. An ACEP-ALE Program Agreement establishes the framework under which NRCS and an eligible entity will operate and identifies the potential co-holder and third-party right holders that may be party to the acquisition of any ACEP-ALE easement associated with the ACEP-ALE Program Agreement. ACEP-ALE funds are not obligated to a Program Agreement; instead, the obligation and payment of cost-share assistance occurs on an individual parcel basis through execution of individual ACEP-ALE cost-share contracts that are associated with the ACEP-ALE Program Agreement and are entered into by NRCS, the eligible entity, and any co-holders specific to the individual parcel.

Program Agreement Exhibit 1: Identification and signature page for ACEP-ALE Program Agreement parties. Defines the roles and identifies the legal entities (eligible entities, easement co-holders, and third-party right holders) that may be party to or identified on any individual ACEP-ALE parcel cost-share contract entered into under the Program Agreement.

Program Agreement Exhibit 2: Specifications and scope of work for real property appraisals under ACEP-ALE. All ACEP-ALE appraisals must comply with NRCS appraisal specifications and statement of work.

SF-1199A Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form: Required to identify the applicant's bank routing information so that the federal payment can be deposited directly into the entity's account. This form is required for all Program Agreements. All eligible entities receiving payment from NRCS for an easement transaction must complete this form. The form is not applicable to landowners, only to the entity purchasing the easement from a landowner.

Signature Authority: Any and all documents denoting applying entity signature authority, including signature specimen(s) for each entity applicant and/or co-holder (e.g., articles of incorporation, LLC papers, trust documents, etc.).