



**The Watershed Agricultural Council's (WAC)
Conservation Easement (CE) Enforcement Policy**

Serving in its capacity as a land trust, the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) holds and stewards Conservation Easements (CE) that protect agricultural and forest lands by limiting the form, location and density of development and promote good stewardship through Whole Farm Plan and Forest Plan implementation. WAC recognizes this commitment is dependent on WAC's ability to effectively enforce respective CE terms. Such enforcement builds public confidence in easements as a land protection tool and in WAC's ability to safeguard natural resources in perpetuity.

Occasionally, the terms of a CE are violated (intentionally or not) by the landowner, or a third party. When a CE is violated, WAC's objective and legal obligation is to restore compliance with the terms of the agreement and to ensure protection of the property's conservation values. WAC will work with landowners to rectify violations so long as WAC's legal interests, stewardship responsibilities and conservation interests are maintained.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS PRINCIPLES:

1. Address all potential violations, no matter how minor, but maintain perspective and keep WAC's response proportional to the severity and circumstances of the violation. Such actions will remain confidential and shall not be disclosed publicly.
2. Maintain WAC's mission and legal obligations as a qualified land trust, preserving public confidence in WAC's ability to uphold and defend easement interests.
3. Comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws.
4. Maintains WAC's tax-exempt status or standing as a charitable organization.
5. Protect WAC's legal rights and financial investments in the Property.
6. Makes decisions that do not knowingly result in private inurement or confer private benefit.
7. Be consistent with WAC's Conflict of Interest Policy.
8. Be consistent with the Conservation Purposes.
9. Use litigation sparingly, but as necessary to defend CE principles when a cooperative approach is not adequate to restore, or further protect WAC's property interests.