



Contact: Sharma Torrens

Phone: 602-540-5331

Email: [agconserveconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:agconserveconsulting@gmail.com)

Website: [www.centralazlandtrust.org](http://www.centralazlandtrust.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Phoenix Conserves Maya's Farm

Maya's Farm is now permanently protected from development through the efforts of the City of Phoenix. The city recently invested \$1,000,000 in a [Farmland Preservation Program](#), part of its Phoenix Resilient Food System Program. By funding the purchase of the development rights from the landowner of Maya's Farm, with Central AZ Land Trust (CALT) as the administrator, this farm now has a conservation easement on it to ensure it can continue providing food for the community.

Governed by A.R.S. 33-271, *et seq.*, conservation easements are a voluntary contractual relationship between a land trust and a landowner whereby the landowner sells or donates their development rights while still owning the land. A landowner can get paid 60-80% of the full sale value of the property (based on a qualified appraisal), and the farm will remain in agricultural production and open space since the conservation easement binds all future owners of the property.

"Losing our farms threatens the resiliency of our long-term food system," said Rosanne Albright, Environmental Programs Coordinator for the city of Phoenix. "To protect our food system, we need to prevent urban farms from being paved over."

[Maya's Farm](#), in south Phoenix, is a 3.3-acre farm using organic and sustainable production methods. A mainstay at local farmers' markets, the farm provides produce to local restaurants, engages in a Community Support Agriculture program and numerous educational efforts, and grows specialty vegetables, herbs, flowers, and eggs.

"We are so thankful that the City of Phoenix recognized the importance of maintaining working lands, and CALT is thrilled to be a part of the permanent protection of this farm," said Becky Ruffner, President of the CALT Board.

With the success of having conserved Maya's Farm, [CALT](#) will continue to encourage farmland owners with the city's support. Interested farmland owners in Phoenix can contact Sharma Torrens at [agconserveconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:agconserveconsulting@gmail.com).