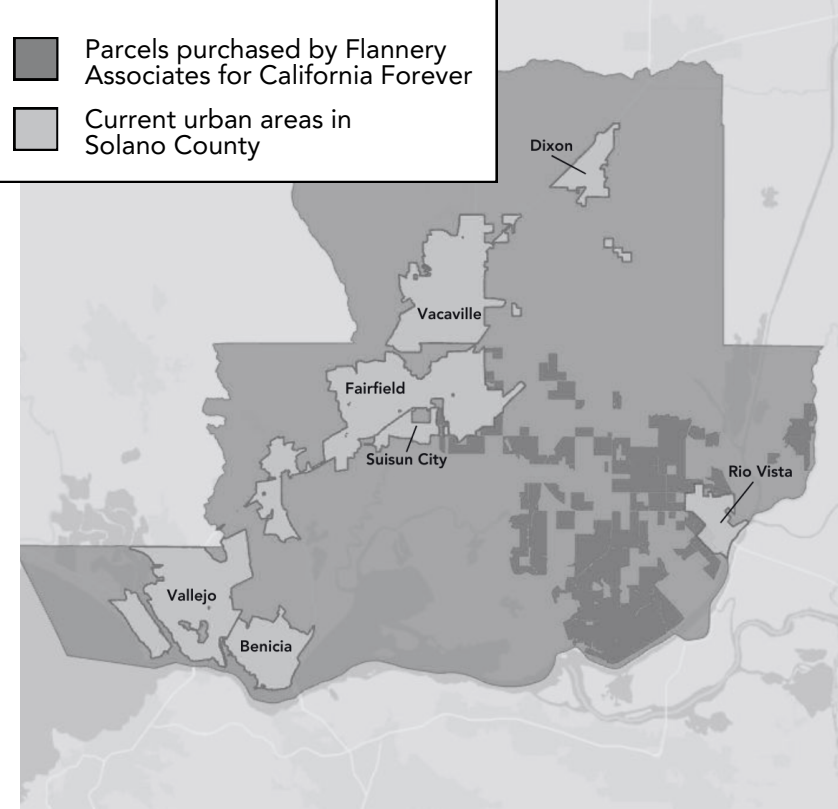


# WHAT'S AT RISK WITH California Forever?

“California Forever” is a sprawl development project proposed for eastern Solano County by a group of billionaire Silicon Valley investors known as “Flannery Associates.” Starting in 2017, the group has acquired 62,000 acres of agricultural land between Fairfield, Rio Vista, and Dixon—an area larger than both Fairfield and Vallejo combined—for over \$900 million ([New York Times](#), 2023). When certain farmers and ranchers refused to sell, Flannery Associates' launched a half a billion dollar litigation process against the farmers, accusing them of antitrust behavior ([SFGate](#), 2023). Since the news of who was behind the land purchases became public, concerned Solano County residents have accused Flannery of deploying secretive tactics by keeping their identity elusive and misleading the public, government officials, and landowners about their intentions.

Flannery Associates' initial statements proclaimed they would build one or more cities and thousands of new homes, offering its residents dense urban living, walkable communities, access to public transit, open spaces, and clean energy. Sounds great, right? The development of a remote, isolated community by paving over ranchlands and prime habitat comes with a suite of ecological, social, and economic concerns.



**This fact sheet is presented by Solano Together, a coalition of concerned residents, leaders, and organizations who came together to envision a better future for our region that focuses development into existing cities and strengthens our agricultural industry.**

**We aim to keep our community informed and engaged as the project evolves. Join our mailing list for more updates.**



## **The “California Forever” proposal is in clear violation of the County’s Orderly Growth Initiative—which is why Flannery must go to the ballot in November to convert agricultural land to urban uses.**

From 1984 to 2014, the Bay Area lost over 217,000 acres of agricultural land to sprawl development alone ([Greenbelt Alliance](#), 2015).

On average, sprawl development costs 38% more for upfront infrastructure costs and 10% more for ongoing services, as compared to compact development—yet compact development results in 10 times more tax revenue per acre ([Smart Growth America](#), 2013).

## **Extensive development in Jepson Prairie and the Montezuma Hills presents major threats to habitats, water security, climate resilience, and Solano’s agricultural industry.**

Flannery owns 50% of the County’s High Value Vernal Pool Conservation Land, which is home to nearly 20 species of protected fauna and over 200 species of plants (LSA Associates, 2023).

This land is feeding our communities. Using just rainwater, one farmer in the Montezuma Hills can produce enough wheat for 6 million loaves of bread every year through regenerative dry farming practices (Anderson Ranch).

## **Threats to local water resources and state water security.**

Roughly 75% of Flannery’s land contributes to a watershed vital for the county’s drinking water. Development would reduce groundwater infiltration, affecting local resources ([Conservation Lands Network](#), 2019).

Drawing water from the Solano Subbasin for urban use risks over-drafting, while relying on the Sacramento River poses a risk of saltwater intrusion during droughts, compromising water supply ([CA Department of Water Resources](#)).

## **Long-term threats to Travis Air Force Base.**

Travis AFB is the largest single contributor to the County’s local economy. Over 34,000 people work or live on Travis. The Base contributes over \$2 billion annually to the local economy ([Travis Air Force Base EIR](#), 2019).

A significant portion of Flannery’s land is located in a Military Compatibility Area (MCA) which is in place to limit uses that are incompatible with the Base’s operations.