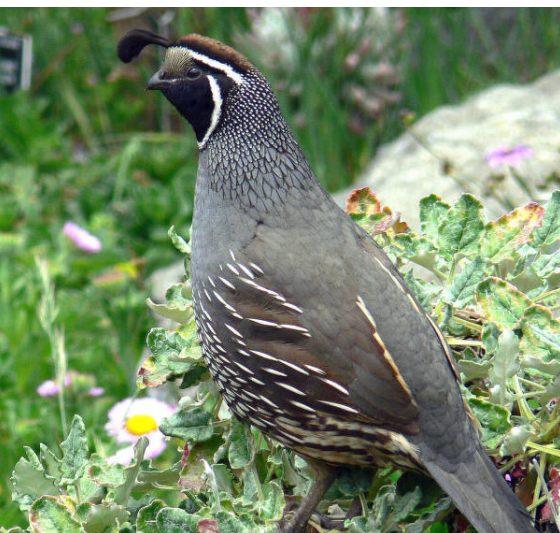


Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop

**MARCH 14, 2024
4 PM - 6:30 PM**





WELCOME!

We're excited to have you join us for the 3rd annual Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop! This is a regional workshop for property owners looking for funding or technical assistance on conserving their land, agricultural operations, land management best practices, and more.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide resources to:

- Assist landowners to enhance and maintain native plants and animals on their lands
- Aid in resource management for farmers
- Add biological and conservation value to current uses and practices
- Help landowners understand planning processes and receive technical assistance; and
- Increase knowledge of technical assistance and grant programs for landowners.

This workbook outlines each of the programs participating in this workshop, as well as additional resources that may be helpful to you.

Co-Sponsored By:



**RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**
Greater San Diego County



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Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop

MARCH 14, 2023 | 4 PM - 6:30 PM
County Operations Center, 5560 Overland Ave, Room 171

AGENDA

4:00 - 4:10 PM

Introductions & Welcome*

4:10 - 4:30 PM

Overview of Programs*

4:30 - 6:30 PM

Expo Session

***Virtual Option via Zoom**

Getting Started with Evaluating Your Property

A simple planning guide for evaluating resources on your private lands.

1. Get information about your property using the County's Initial Study Research Packet tool at www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/reports

2. Walk your property with resource concerns in mind – take a note pad and the aerial map from the Initial Study Research Packet. Look for erosion issues, non-native plants or invasive weeds, fire concerns like woody debris by structures, old trash dumps, and old fences that may tangle wildlife.

Don't just look for problems also look for positive things about your property. Look for oak groves, views, native habitat, home for your animals, home for native animals, and natural water.

3. When you return inside go over your notes and make a list of resource concerns, also list things that you like about your property (things you want to preserve, protect or support).

4. Think about which, if any, of the things on your list you would like to improve or keep as they are (protect/support). It might be helpful to prioritize your list based on different factors.

Some things to consider as you prioritize items are: How important is it to you? Is it a safety concern? Is it something I can take action on without a lot of cost? How big of a job is it to accomplish?

5. Based on your list of priorities, browse this workbook to determine if there are programs that could assist in accomplishing projects on your property.

6. Choose one item on your list and commit to improving that item in 2024.

Good Job! Essentially conservation and land management means keeping an eye on your property, learning about common resource concerns and issues, and then making a plan to take action.

Thanks for taking care of your property!

We hope that this guide has been helpful to you. If you have any suggestions on how to improve this planning guide, please send a note to Michael Blackmun at Michael.Blackmun@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Section 1

Restoration Programs

Healthy Soils Program
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Healthy Soils Program

DESCRIPTION:

Healthy Soils Program (HSP), is an initiative stemming from a collaboration of state agencies and departments to promote the development of healthy soils on California's farmlands and ranchlands. The program has two components which are the HSP Incentive Program and the HSP Demonstration Projects.

Eligible practices include On-farm management practices that include but are not limited to: Cover Cropping, No-till, Reduced till, Conservation plantings, Mulching, and Composting.



The HSP INCENTIVE PROGRAM provides financial assistance for implementation of on-farm conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions.

THE HSP DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

- Showcase California farmers and rancher's implementation of HSP practices.
- Try out in the state, the viability of healthy soils' practices implemented elsewhere.
- Measure field GHG emissions and conduct analysis on cost/benefits for adoption of the proposed practice(s) and document anticipated barriers in California.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes.
- University and research farms, and city community gardens are NOT eligible for funding through the HSP Incentives Program. These entities may apply for the HSP Demonstration Projects.
- Awards are limited to one per agricultural operation using a unique tax identification number per round of funding.
- Individuals or business entities receiving grant award funds must be located in California with a physical California business address.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

- \$100,000 for the Incentive program &
- \$250,000 for the Demonstration Projects

HOW TO APPLY:

Information on where to apply and when to apply will be communicated. Go to the CDFA website listed below to learn more about the programs.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Applications are on a rolling first-come-first-served basis or when funds are exhausted.

CONTACT(S):

Michael Jaquez, mtjaquez@ucanr.edu

www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysouls/IncentivesProgram.html

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program



DESCRIPTION:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a program with the goal of assisting private landowners with the restoration of native habitat for wildlife on their properties. The projects done through this program can assist with the removal of invasive species, restoring stream habitat, improving grassland habitat, or improving other types of native habitat that benefit native wildlife. This program provides both technical and financial assistance to private landowners.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Private landowners - in the case of this program this means non-state, non-federal lands. This could be private lands, land trusts, County and City owned land, and Tribal Lands.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

This program funds approximately 3 projects a year with up to \$20,000 per project. We are looking for 1 to 1 matches to the funding provided either in cash from another partner or through in-kind contributions.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you have a project that you would like to submit for consideration, please contact Jonathan Snapp-Cook, Biologist, USFWS for a short questionnaire to fill out. Jonathan can be contacted at jonathan_snapp-cook@fws.gov or (760) 805-5608.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

New applications are taken November to February each year, however, you can contact Jonathan with question about the program throughout the year.

CONTACT(S):

Jonathan Snapp-Cook, jonathan_snapp-cook@fws.gov, (760) 805-5608

Section 2

Conservation & Sustainability Programs

SALC Easement Grants
Purchase of Agricultural Easement (PACE) Program
Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program
Rain Saving Containers
Septic Rebate Program
Compost Connector
State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Easement Grants



DESCRIPTION:

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) aims to fight climate change by protecting prime farmlands and encouraging compact transit-oriented communities and offers both planning, acquisition, and capacity & project development grants. A statewide program funded by the Strategic Growth Council and administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), the acquisition grants offer funding to protect agricultural lands at the urban-rural fringe and on the outskirts of cities from development or conversion to non-agricultural uses.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Conservation buyers, specifically cities, counties, non-profit organizations, resource conservation districts, California Native American Tribes, regional park or open space districts and authorities; the buyer works in collaboration with a private landowner.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

SALC Acquisition grant awards offer 75% of the appraised easement value, or 100% funding available to projects that demonstrate meaningful benefits to a priority population; in addition to up to \$60,000 for real estate associated costs and up to \$10,000 for a carbon farm plan or management plan.

HOW TO APPLY:

Reach out to Chandra Richards (UCCE) and the Department of Conservation for technical assistance support and the Round 10 guidelines, which includes sample pre-proposal, full application, and grant agreement documents and also other helpful resources. DOC SALC page: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/SALCP>

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Pre-proposals are due in January 2025 and full applications are due in July 2025.

CONTACT(S):

Chandra Richards, cmrichards@ucanr.edu or 619-786-2620
Department of Conservation, salcp@conservation.ca.gov

Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program



DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego's Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Program supports local agriculture by preventing agricultural lands from being developed for other uses.

Agricultural property owners receive a one-time payment from the County for voluntarily placing an easement on their property. As a result, the agricultural land is preserved for continued agricultural use for future generations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Be zoned A70 – Limited Agriculture, A72 – General Agriculture, RR – Rural Residential, S90 – Holding Area, or S92 – General Rural; and
- Have been actively farmed and/or ranched for a minimum of two years immediately prior to applying

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Planning & Development Services receives \$1.5 million in General Fund appropriations and \$410,000 for implementation of Climate Action Plan Measure T-1.2 each year.

Typically, 5-8 properties are selected to receive an easement each year.

HOW TO APPLY:

The PACE Program accepts application year-round. Applications are ranked and selected for participation in the Spring of each year. You can fill out an application by visiting our website at the link below.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous, please submit by March 31, 2024 to be included in the 2024 application review cycle.

CONTACT(S):

Michael Blackmun, AgConservation@sdcounty.ca.gov, (858) 505-6677

www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/advance/PACE

Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program



DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program is offering a rebate to agricultural growers that will help cover the cost of irrigation upgrades recommended in a free irrigation evaluation, conducted by Mission Resource Conservation District (MRCD).

An efficient irrigation system provides crops with the required amount of water at the correct time and avoids costly over-watering.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Agricultural producers within unincorporated San Diego County that receive water from the San Diego County Water Authority (or member agencies)
- Growers must have one or more acres of planted, irrigated agricultural material.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Up to \$550/acre or \$5,000 (whichever is lower) to implement efficiency upgrades recommended by MRCD.

HOW TO APPLY:

To sign up for a free agricultural irrigation system evaluation, contact Ani Vartanians (MRCD Contact) by phone or email.

Please include acreage, crop type, and contact information.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous

CONTACT(S):

Ani Vartanians, appointments@missionrcd.org, (760) 728-1332

www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/RebatesIncentives/AIEP.html

Rain-Saving Containers



DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program is offering supplemental rebates on rain barrels and cisterns.

Using a rain-saving container allows you to actively choose what to do with the rainwater you capture and save money in the process.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Properties in unincorporated San Diego County
- Properties that receive water from the San Diego County Water Authority (or member agencies) are eligible for additional rebates

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

- \$30 per rain barrel
- \$100 per cistern
- \$0.75 per gallon stored (not to exceed \$2,100 for residential properties, not to exceed \$6,000 for commercial properties)
-

HOW TO APPLY:

Fill out an application form located on the website and submit pre-application photos.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous

CONTACT(S):

Joe Tomerlin, jtomerlin@waterscaperebates.com, (619) 777-9071

www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/RebatesIncentives/RainSaving.html

Septic Rebate Program



DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego Waterscape Rebate Program is offering rebates for having your septic system serviced after completing a brief online training.

The training covers proper septic maintenance, how regular maintenance can prevent system failures, what to look for in the event of a failure, how septic systems relate to water quality, and information on additional resources.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Septic system located on a property in the unincorporated County of San Diego
- Only County-approved septic pumpers are eligible for rebate program participation

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

\$100 per service (one septic system per parcel)

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit the Septic Rebate Program website by clicking the link in the contact section

1. Verify County Eligibility
2. Watch the County's Septic System Training Video
3. Apply for your rebate pre-approval

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

CONTACT(S):

Watershed.Rebates@sdcounty.ca.gov

www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/RebatesIncentives/SRP.html

Compost Connector



DESCRIPTION:

As a result of State Bill 1383 implementation, California is ramping up compost production. Through Compost Connector, Zero Foodprint works with local jurisdictions to make the best use of this compost by directing it to farms and ranches where it can sequester carbon and promote healthy soil.

For 2024, Compost Connector has moved away from a first come first served rebate to awarding compost grants. Applying does not guarantee you will be awarded funds. Once awarded, you will receive a notice of award letter with a breakdown of the funding amount and parameters specified. You will have until December 12, 2024 to purchase and use compost, and provide the requested documentation to ZFP.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Any rancher or farmer interested in purchasing compost procured from a Zero Foodprint approved facility.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Grants are awarded based on available Compost Connector funding which increases throughout the year.

HOW TO APPLY:

Apply online at <https://www.zerofoodprint.org/cc-apply>

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

No application deadline. .

CONTACT(S):

Leo Beckerman: compost@zerofoodprint.org
www.zerofoodprint.org/compost

CDFA State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP)



DESCRIPTION:

The State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program (SWEEP) is a grant program that funds projects that reduce water use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve irrigation efficiency. Some of the funded projects include amongst others; the Soil moisture sensors, Electronic weather station linked to irrigation controller, use of evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation scheduling, conversion to micro-irrigation or drip irrigation, pump conversion from diesel to electric or to renewable energy such as solar, conversion to low-pressure irrigation system, Installation of a variable frequency drive (VFD's) and/or pump retrofit or replacement.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- California farmers, ranchers and Federal and California Recognized Native American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply.
- The farm location and the business mailing address must be in California.
- The irrigation project must be on a California agricultural operation.
- An agricultural operation cannot submit more than one application per unique tax identification number.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Unfortunately, due to current budget uncertainties, CDFA is pausing the current SWEEP Direct-to-Producer solicitation. We will provide an update on the status of this solicitation in early 2024 through our email subscription list

HOW TO APPLY:

Use the link provided here (<https://www.cdca.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>) and subscribe to be informed when applications will be accepted.

Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA)



DESCRIPTION:

This program offers free and subsidized technical support to help commercial farming operations become as water efficient as possible. The two primary elements of this program are as follows:

1. Irrigation Efficiency Evaluations, which involve assessing the distribution uniformity of existing drip or micro sprinkler systems and providing a comprehensive report of any issues identified along with detailed recommendations for how to improve performance.
2. Free pump efficiency testing provided through a rebate program. We will put you in contact with an approved pump efficiency contractor for you to arrange an evaluation of your equipment. The information in the efficiency report will help to determine your eligibility for the SWEEP program, which provides state funding for upgrades to water and energy infrastructure.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Irrigation Efficiency Evaluations: Any commercial farmer or rancher with an existing low pressure irrigation system in the jurisdiction of the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County or Upper San Luis Rey.
- Free Pump Efficiency Test: Farmers in historically underserved communities and farmer who cultivates less than 50 acres.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Free efficiency evaluations and up to \$500 subsidy on pump efficiency

HOW TO APPLY:

<https://www.rcdsandiego.org/irrigation-efficiency>

CONTACT(S):

Andy Williamson, Irrigation Specialist
Andy.Williamson@RCDsandiego.org

Section 3

Planning Programs

SALC Planning Grants
Carbon Farm Planning
Working Lands for Pollinators
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Planning Grants



DESCRIPTION:

The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) aims to fight climate change by protecting prime farmlands and encouraging compact transit-oriented communities and offers both planning, acquisition, and capacity & project development grants. A statewide program funded by the Strategic Growth Council and administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), the planning grants offer funding to develop and implement plans for the protection of agricultural lands at risk of conversion to non-agricultural uses.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Cities, counties, LAFCOs, California Native American Tribes, councils of governments, municipal planning organizations, regional transportation planning or groundwater sustainability agencies, special districts with land use or transportation planning authority.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

SALC Planning grant award offers up to \$500,000. In addition, the application must include a minimum of 10% match funding, which may be provided directly by the applicant or from other funding sources. (e.g. other grant funds, local government contributions or donations).

HOW TO APPLY:

Reach out to Chandra Richards (UCCE) and the Department of Conservation for technical assistance support and the Round 10 guidelines, which includes sample pre-proposal, full application, and grant agreement documents and also other helpful resources.

DOC SALC page: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/SALCP>

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Pre-proposals are due in January 2025 and full applications are due in July 2025.

CONTACT(S):

Dr. Chandra Richards (UCCE), cmrichards@ucanr.edu or 619-786-2620
Department of Conservation, salcp@conservation.ca.gov

Carbon Farm Planning



DESCRIPTION:

Carbon Farming, also known as Climate Smart Agriculture, refers to the use of land management practices that help sequester (store) carbon in the soil. Some of the most common ways are to use compost, mulch, and cover crops - but there are many more to choose from! If you are interested in seeing how to transform your land management practices, the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County can offer guidance and technical support in the creation of a Carbon Farming Plan for your operation, and connect you to potential funding opportunities to help implement the proposed practices.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Agricultural producers and grazing land managers with multi-year land tenure.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Technical Assistance and Carbon Farm Plan creation

HOW TO APPLY:

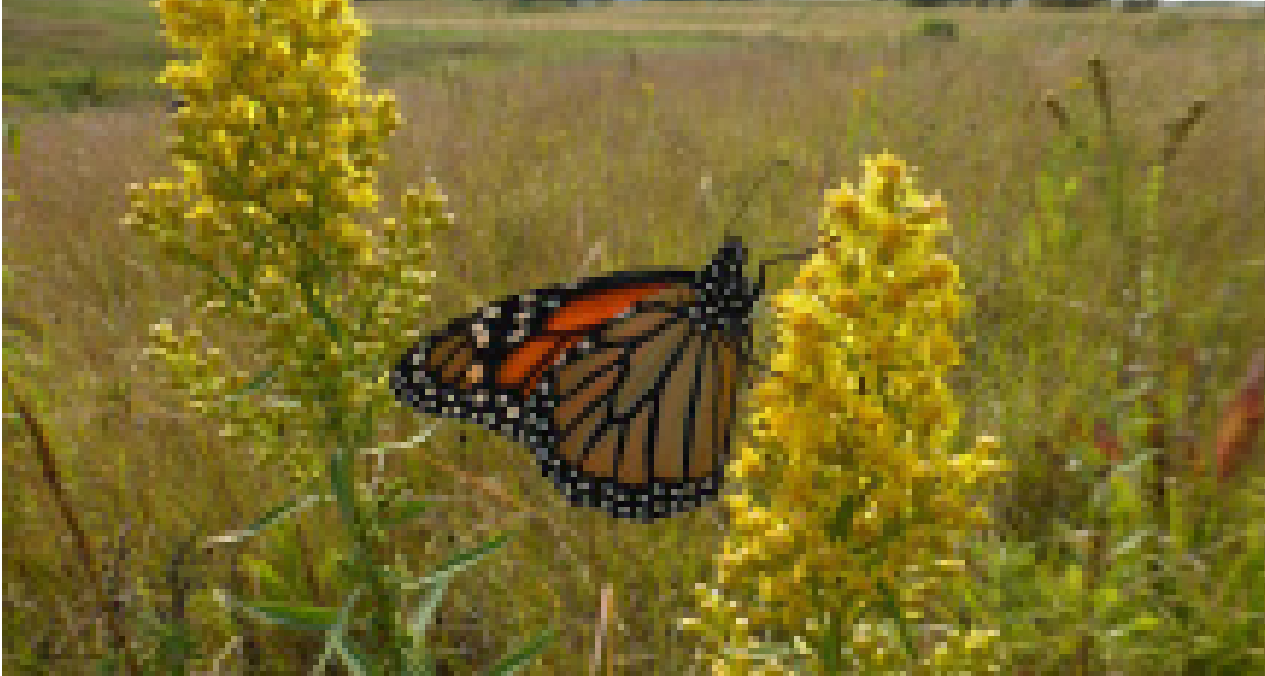
Would you like to develop a Carbon Farm Plan for your land? Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) in San Diego County are trained to assess needs, develop plans, pursue funding and implement practices. Reach out to the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County to learn more.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Ongoing

CONTACT(S):

Gregg Cady, Farm Conservation Advisor
gregg.cady@rcdsandiego.org | (619) 562-0096 x 203

Working Lands for Pollinators



DESCRIPTION:

In partnership with Partners for Fish & Wildlife, Point Blue Conservation Science, Earth Discovery Institute and NRCS, we are offering technical assistance and funding to expand pollinator habitat conservation/restoration on working lands. This opportunity will involve a site assessment to provide private working land owners with information and resources for adding pollinator habitat to their lands, which includes helping them to identify areas on their farms/ranches for establishing habitat, assisting them with planning, and connecting them with programs to implement the specific conservation practices.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Private owners of working lands (agriculture and/or rangeland)

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Technical Assistance for interested landowners with opportunities to receive implementation funding for on-farm/ranch pollinator habitat projects (ex: planting a hedgerow, spreading a native cover crop seed mix, etc)

HOW TO APPLY:

Connect with the pollinator team at Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego to set up a site visit and see if you are a candidate for technical assistance and/or funding.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: Ongoing

CONTACT(S):

Codi Hale, Community Programs Manager
codi.hale@rcdsandiego.org | (619) 562-0096 x 104

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



Environmental Quality Incentives Program



DESCRIPTION:

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) assists farm, ranch, and forest production and improves and protects environmental quality. The Farm Bill program offers financial and technical assistance to help agricultural producers voluntarily implement conservation practices that keep lands healthy and productive.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assists applicants with developing conservation plans for EQIP enrollment. Plans include conservation practices that meet NRCS' standards and the applicant's objectives.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP offers payments for over 100 conservation practices to help all types of farmers and landowners.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

EQIP offers assistance for all types of agriculture, including:

- Conventional and specialty crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Historically underserved farmers*
- Livestock operations

HOW TO APPLY:

Landowners or agricultural producers may apply by contacting their local USDA service center in the county in which the land is located.

*Special payment rates available for farmers who qualify under beginning, economically and socially disadvantaged criteria. Special provisions apply to qualifying veterans.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: EQIP applications are accepted throughout the year. Cutoff dates are scheduled to allow for current year ranking and selection of applications for funding. State and local ranking criteria are developed considering annual stakeholder advice.

Visit the website below to review current EQIP cutoff dates, eligibility information, and special initiative opportunities.

CONTACT(S):

Raul Alvarado; raul.alvarado@usda.gov; : (760) 705-9873
Isabel Garcia; isabel.garcia@usda.gov; (760) 745-2061 Ext. 9872
www.nrcs.usda.gov/EQIP

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Section 4

Other Assistance Programs

Private Resource Management Plan Program
Healthy Soils Program Assistance
Become an Organic Grower
UC Integrated Pest Management
Agricultural Water Quality Program
Pest Exclusion and Pest Detection Programs
Integrated Pest Control Program
Audubon Conservation Ranching Program
Emergency Conservation Program
Farm Operating and Ownership Loans
Emergency Loan Program
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Dairy Margin Coverage and Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage
Organic Materials Recycling Assistance

Private Resource Management Plan Program

DESCRIPTION:

A Private RMP is a guidance document that identifies the required monitoring and management activities necessary to sustain the biological values for a specific site in perpetuity. A Private RMP serves as a mitigation tool for impacts to biological resources resulting from private development projects, where mitigation lands exceed 50 acres or if a particularly sensitive resource is present.

CONTACT(S):

Tanya.Agrawal@sdcounty.ca.gov, Autumn.Viglione@sdcounty.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/mscp.html

Healthy Soils Program Assistance

DESCRIPTION:

The Solana Center for Environmental Innovation offers workshops and technical assistance to those applying for Healthy Soils Program grants from the state. Healthy Soils Program assistance is available for any applicants in San Diego County.

CONTACT(S):

HSP@solanacenter.org

WEBSITE: <https://solanacenter.org/healthy-soils-program/>

Become an Organic Grower

DESCRIPTION:

To ensure organic integrity of organic products grown, packaged, and/or sold in San Diego County. We do this through random inspections at all locations where organic product is grown, stored, or sold and through random sampling for pesticide residue analysis.

CONTACT(S):

sdcawm@sdcounty.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/organic.html

UC Integrated Pest Management

DESCRIPTION:

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program assists residents, growers, land managers, community leaders, and other professional pest managers prevent and solve pest problems, while managing pests using safe and effective techniques and strategies that protect people and the environment.

CONTACT(S):

UCCE Area IPM Advisor for Southern California

WEBSITE: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/>

Agricultural Water Quality Program

DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego Agricultural Water Quality Program (AWQ) helps to ensure that our waterways are protected by preventing pollutants from commercial agricultural businesses from entering the County's storm drain system.

CONTACT(S):

AWQ.AWM@sdcountry.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/ag_water.html

Pest Exclusion and Pest Detection Programs

DESCRIPTION:

Pest Exclusion is the first line of defense in keeping out unwanted pests. Inspections are performed on plant shipments coming into and leaving San Diego County in addition to annual inspections of production nurseries to look for damaging pests. The Pest Detection program looks for exotic insects in over 9,000 traps that are placed in residential yards throughout the County for this purpose. Early detection allows eradication efforts to begin before pests multiply and spread, becoming economically and technically impossible to control.

CONTACT(S):

Travis Elder, Travis.Elder@sdcountry.ca.gov; Jason Schwartz, Jason.Schwartz@sdcountry.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/pest_det.html

www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/ppq.html

Integrated Pest Control Program

DESCRIPTION:

The Integrated Pest Control program works to control invasive and noxious weeds within region. Invasive weeds establish populations that result in uncontrolled growth that can cause economic and environmental problems such as increased wildfire fuel loads, potential harm to local agriculture, and threaten endangered species and habitats.

CONTACT(S):

IPC.AWM@sdcountry.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/awm/ipc.html

Audubon Conservation Ranching Program

DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of Audubon's Conservation Ranching Program is to stabilize declining grassland bird populations in partnership with land stewards. The Program provides technical assistance to ranchers and connects bird-friendly and management practices to consumer demand for healthy food and environmental sustainability.

CONTACT(S):

Matt Allshouse (matt.allshouse@audubon.org), Pelayo Alvarez (pelayo.alvarez@audubon.org)

WEBSITE: <https://ca.audubon.org/conservation/conservation-ranching>

Emergency Conservation Program

DESCRIPTION:

This program provides funding to assist farmers and ranchers repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help put in place methods for water conservation during severe drought.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE:

www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/emergency-conservation/index

Farm Operating and Ownership Loans

DESCRIPTION:

Eligible farmers and ranchers may apply for loans up to \$600K to cover operating expenses (purchase of livestock, equipment, etc) and/or purchase farm real estate or make capital improvements to farm. Operating loan terms up to 7 years; ownership terms up to 40.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans

Emergency Loan Program

DESCRIPTION:

Eligible farmers and ranchers who own or operate land in a county declared by the President or Secretary of Agriculture as a primary disaster area can apply for fully collateralized loans to restore or replace essential farm property due to a disaster. Borrowing limited to 100% of actual production or physical losses to a maximum of \$500K.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

DESCRIPTION:

Program provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government. Payments are equal to 75% of avg. fair market value of livestock.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE:

www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity/index

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees & Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

DESCRIPTION:

Program provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm raised fish for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events as determined by the Secretary. Includes assistance for feed transportation costs.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE:

www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-assist-for-livestock-honey-bees-fish/index

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance

Program

DESCRIPTION:

This program provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/nap

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

DESCRIPTION:

This program pays a yearly rental payment in exchange for farmers removing environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and planting species that will improve environmental quality. General CRP runs from March 4 to March 29, 2024

CONTACT(S):

Locate your local FSA Office here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/crp

Dairy Margin Coverage and Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage

DESCRIPTION:

DMC offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer. Supplemental DMC allows supplemental production to be enrolled.

CONTACT(S):

Local FSA Office: Locate here: offices.usda.gov

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/dairy-margin-coverage-program/index

Organic Materials Recycling Assistance

DESCRIPTION:

The County's Organic Materials Recycling Assistance Program helps landowners, businesses, and institutions with on-site composting and other organic materials management options. Resources are available for small to medium scale projects as well as to large, industrial scale composting operations. Aid may include technical assistance with operational planning, design, permitting and troubleshooting.

CONTACT(S):

Steve Weihe, Recycling@sdcounty.ca.gov, (858) 694-2456

WEBSITE: www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling/businessrecycling.html

Section 5

Hot Topics

Organic Farming
Integrated Pest Control
Climate Smart Land Stewardship Program
Waste Free SD
How to Recycle Organic Waste
California FarmLink
Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice

Organic Farming

INTRODUCTION:

San Diego County has always been at the forefront of organic farming. The county has over 350 growers registered as organic. In 2017, organic growers in the county produced more than 150 unique crops and over 320 unique crop varieties. Crop varieties range from the usual such as oranges, grapes, and avocados to the unusual like cherimoyas, loquats, and jujubes.

The majority of organic produce grown locally is sold to wholesalers who in turn sell it to markets across the United States. Organic growers can also sell directly to the public through produce stands, Certified Farmers' Markets throughout the region, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. The USDA's National Organic Program defines "organic agriculture" as an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. This means that organic operations must maintain or enhance soil and water quality, while also conserving wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife. Synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, irradiation, and genetic engineering may not be used. San Diego County has 9.6% of the total number of organic growers in the state.

The California Organic Products Act of 2003 (now the California Organic Food and Farming Act) was created at the request of the organic food industry with the goal of protecting producers, handlers, processors, retailers, and consumers of organic foods sold in California. The law amended existing California organic law to conform with the requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) and enforced labeling requirements relating to "organic" claims for fresh agricultural products.

The law divides the oversight responsibilities between the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) which is responsible for processed food products, cosmetics and pet food, and the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) which is responsible for raw agricultural commodities, meat, poultry, and dairy products. The County Agricultural Commissioner works with CDFA's Organic Program in registering organic growers, enforcing applicable organic laws and regulations, and investigating consumer complaints regarding organic products.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

Every person engaged in this state in the production or handling of raw agricultural products sold as organic must register with CDFA before the first sale of the product. You can register online with CDFA at organic.cdfa.ca.gov/OrganicReg

Registration fees are based on operation type or activity and gross sales. Fees can be viewed by going to the CDFA website. In general, most farms and businesses that grow, handle, or process organic products and have gross sales of more than \$5,000 must be certified.

CDFA has a list of Accredited Certifying Agents (ACA) who are registered with the SOP www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/docs/CertifiersList.pdf

Integrated Pest Control

The Integrated Pest Control Program (IPC) promotes public safety, protects County infrastructure and the environment, and reduces wild land fire fuels through its control and eradication of pests and weeds. IPC works under the Board of Supervisors' Policy F-45 "Pesticide Use Reduction" that requires the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), an effective and environmentally sound approach in mitigating pest issues. IPM incorporates current scientific information and control methods to manage and eradicate weeds and pests by the most economical means with the least possible impact to people, property, and the environment. The IPC Team is comprised of experienced and State-licensed pest control applicators who deliver excellent customer service to the public and County staff.

A core function of IPC is to survey and control invasive and noxious weeds within the region. Invasive weeds are considered one of the biggest threats to endangered species and their habitats. These plants establish populations in new areas resulting in uncontrolled growth and causing economic and environmental problems such as increased wildfire fuel loads. IPC follows a strategic approach toward the eradication and management of invasive weeds in the region, working across jurisdictional boundaries to protect native plants and animals, restore habitats, and ensure the sustainability of local agriculture. IPC also co-chairs the San Diego Weed Management Area (SDWMA), a group of agencies, organizations and individuals working together to control prioritized invasive and noxious plant species within the region.

Top 10 Invasive Weed Species to be on the lookout for:



Voluntaria



Wards Weed



Spotted Knapweed



Yellow Starthistle



Carnation Spurge



Eupatory



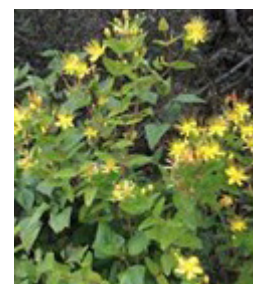
French Broom



Bridal Broom



Barbed Goat Grass



Canary Island St. John's Wort

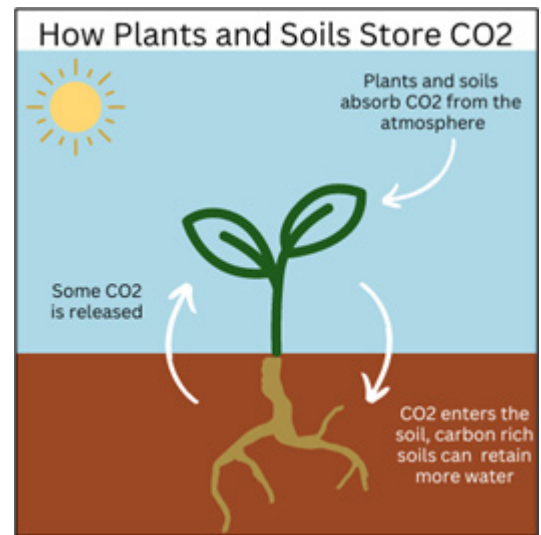
Climate Smart Land Stewardship Program

The County of San Diego Planning & Development Services is developing a Climate Smart Land Stewardship Program, previously known as the Pilot Carbon Farming Program.



The Climate Smart Land Stewardship Program (CSLSP) aims to financially incentivize natural and working land practices that will help avoid and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the unincorporated county. CSLSP, with stakeholder input and best practice research, will identify how the County can best support local land managers, ranchers, and agricultural producers in implementing different climate smart land practices. Ultimately, this will result in the development of Program options for the Board to consider along with the Climate Action Plan 2024.

Climate smart land practices support the ability for plants and soils to remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it. Beyond sequestering carbon, climate smart land practices have the potential to improve soil health and produce other co-benefits such as increasing water retention in soil, improving biodiversity, and increasing crop production. Climate smart land practices include things like compost application, hedgerow planting, cover crop utilization, no till, and whole-orchard recycling.



Visit:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sustainability/projects/carbonfarming.html> to stay up to date on CSLSP details!

Waste Free SD

Discovering choices, making changes

WasteFreeSD is a one-stop zero waste resource which offers information on diversion of household items, recyclables, and household hazardous waste from our crowded landfills. Easy access information connects you to local resources that reduce waste.

The beauty of San Diego is in our hands

WasteFreeSD is a zero waste database that strives to empower local community members by providing solutions to common day disposal problems. I Love A Clean San Diego maintains information on over 1,700 centers to help residents and businesses find hassle-free solutions.

Connect and protect. Keeping San Diego clean together

I Love A Clean San Diego leads and inspires our community to actively conserve and enhance the environment through example, outreach, and local involvement.

Looking to recycle, repair, donate or properly dispose of an item? Visit:

<https://wastefreesd.org/>



How to Recycle Organic Waste

Did you know that 40% of what we discard in landfills is organic waste? Senate Bill 1383 was passed into law to change that! Beginning in 2022, residential, commercial, and multi-family properties were required to start recycling, composting or otherwise diverting their organic waste from landfills. Sound complicated? The process might be simpler than you think!

Within the unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego, you may now be able to add your food scraps and food-soiled paper to your green, curbside bin along with your yard trimmings and nonhazardous wood waste. Check with your hauler to confirm. Ensuring organic materials like these get recycled has never been easier!

What is organic waste? Keep this in mind: If it grows, it goes!



ORGANIC WASTE INCLUDES:

- Food Scraps
- Food-Soiled Paper
- Yard Trimmings

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Plastic bags
- Dirt, soil rocks and concrete
- Pet waste and kitty litter
- Diaper
- Clothing
- Liquids
- Glass, metal, and plastics

Have a recycling question? Email Recycle@sdcounty.ca.gov or call the Recycling Hotline:



California FarmLink

INTRODUCTION:

California FarmLink works to create an inclusive farm and food economy with equitable access to opportunity for farmers and ranchers. We connect the next-generation of sustainable farmers and ranchers with land and financing.

We partner with farmers to build strong business skills, access fair financing, and establish secure land tenure. We strive to create economic and environmental resilience for the next-generation of California farmers and ranchers. Visit our website at californiafarmlink.org to learn more.

LENDING:

We are a non-profit lender that has provided more than \$50 million in fair and affordable loans for agricultural and fishing businesses. Certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) our work focuses on underserved people and communities. We understand the unique needs of farm, ranch and fishing businesses.

Contact: loans@cafarmlink.org, (831) 425-0303 ext 7012

LAND ACCESS:

California FarmLink helps farmers and ranchers find land opportunities. By registering with us, landseekers and landholders can learn about each other and establish relationships that can result in good land tenure. Our Land Portal is a one-of-a-kind online community to help people seeking land. It is a bilingual English-and-Spanish tool that connects people, facilitates access to land, and provides a gateway for getting assistance with land leases and other agreements.

Contact: land@cafarmlink.org, (831) 425-0303 ext 7017

EDUCATION:

Our educational courses, presented in English and Spanish, are rooted in growing equity and prosperity with a focus on serving people of color, women, and small- to mid-scale businesses. Our educational courses support program services by ensuring that knowledge informs decisions; for example, the best uses of loan capital or the key questions to ask when negotiating a land lease. Plus, any course fees that we charge are refundable when you successfully complete a course. We strengthen the next generation of farm businesses through our three education programs: El Resilerador, The Resilerator and The Regenerator.

Contact:

The Resilerator/El Resilerador
Andrea Levy, Program Manager
andrea@cafarmlink.org
831.425.0303 ext. 7023



**CALIFORNIA
FARMLINK**

Regenerator

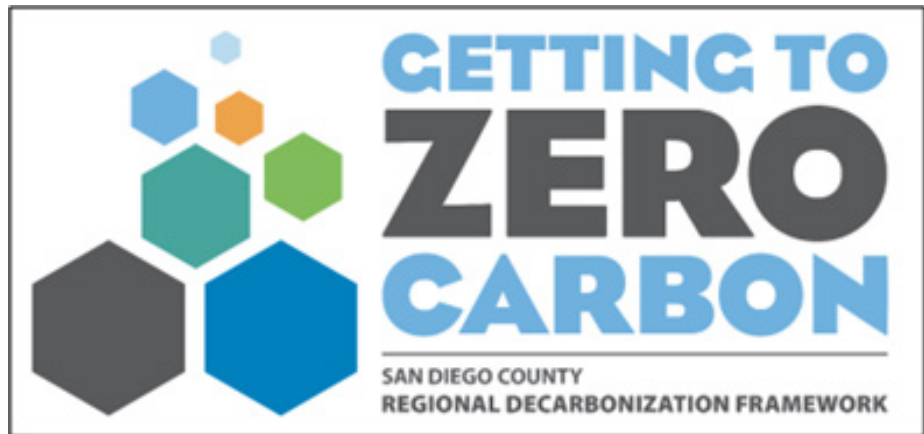
Liya Schwartzman Senior Program Manager
liya@cafarmlink.org
831.425.0303 ext. 7030

Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice

The County's Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice (OSEJ) serves as a central point of coordination for advancing external and internal sustainability efforts. OSEJ is a uniquely positioned office, serving the entire region and supporting other County departments and offices as we collectively strive to achieve zero carbon emissions while safeguarding the health of people and natural systems. OSEJ intentionally and actively works alongside communities and other regulatory agencies, as well as local and regional jurisdictional partners to steward sustainability solutions within the unincorporated area and incorporated cities.

OSEJ leads the Regional Decarbonization Framework (RDF) which promotes public and private interests working together to move the entire San Diego region toward zero carbon emissions in transportation, buildings, energy supply, land use, and food systems by mid-century. The RDF helps policymakers work in harmony with community, industry, environmental, business, and labor groups to realize distinct and tangible actions that respond to the specific needs of cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.

The foundational three-part publication for the RDF includes: a Technical Report, Workforce Development Study, and the "Let's Get There" Playbook, a guide to action that offers individuals, organizations, communities, and the region strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The RDF informs and serves as a resource for the development of the County's other sustainability initiatives such as the Climate Action Plan Update and enterprise-wide departmental sustainability commitments. Learn more at our [RDF website](#).



OSEJ is also working on an equity-centered assessment of drought impacts and water use best practices related to stormwater on County roads, highways, parks, and facilities; graywater from buildings, particularly affordable housing; and water in agriculture sector, [as directed by the Board of Supervisors](#) in September 2022.