

Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop

**MARCH 26, 2025
4 PM - 6 PM**





WELCOME!

We're excited to have you join us for the 4th 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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The San Diego County Farm Bureau
420 S Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025

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/reports2

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 2025.

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

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 AgConservation@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, the HSP Incentive Program and the HSP Demonstration Projects.

The HSP Incentives Program provides financial assistance for implementation of conservation management practices that include but are not limited to: compost application, mulching, cover cropping, hedgerow establishment, reduced/no-till, and range planting.



The HSP Demonstration Projects showcases California farmers and rangers implementation of HSP practices through GHG emissions data collection and conducting a cost benefit analysis for the adoption of the proposed practices.

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.

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:

Past applications have been on a first come, first served basis, or when funds are exhausted.

CONTACT(S):

Michael Jaquez, mtjaquez@ucanr.edu
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysouils/>

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)
Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA)

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 up to 90% of the appraised easement value, or 100% funding available to projects demonstrating meaningful benefits to a priority population; also, 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 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):

Department of Conservation, salcp@conservation.ca.gov

Chandra Richards, cmrichards@ucanr.edu, for additional support

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 General Fund appropriations each year for the acquisition of PACE easements and implementation of Climate Action Plan Measure A-3.1. Typically, 5-8 properties are selected to receive an easement each year.

HOW TO APPLY:

The PACE Program accepts applications 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, 2025 to be included in the 2025 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 San Diego Water Authority is offering a rebate to agricultural growers that will help cover the cost of irrigation upgrades recommended in a free irrigation evaluation conducted by the participating Resource Conservation District (RCD). 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)
- One or more acres of irrigated agricultural material.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Rebates start at \$1,000 per acre (up to cost of equipment) and can be higher depending on water savings.

HOW TO APPLY:

To sign up for a free agricultural irrigation system evaluation, contact the the appropriate RCD representative below.

Find your Resource Conservation District at bit.ly/RCD-Map

CONTACT(S):

Mission RCD: Ani Vartanians, appointments@missionrkd.org, (760) 728-1332

RCD of Greater San Diego County and Upper San Luis Rey RCD:

Andy Williamson, andy.williamson@rcdsandiego.org, (619) 562-0096

<https://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:

- \$65 per rain barrel
- \$450 for one 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.

If you're a California farmer or rancher purchasing compost from an Zero Foodprint approved facility, you're eligible to apply for Compost Connector.

Zero Foodprint Approved Facilities: <https://bit.ly/ZFP-Approved>

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

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

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

For 2025, Compost Connector has moved to a first come, first served rebate program.

HOW TO APPLY:

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

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

No application deadline. .

CONTACT(S):

Jami Witek: jami@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. Components of funded projects include: Soil moisture sensors, weather stations, irrigation scheduling technology, 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.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

- In past funding cycles, up to \$200,000 can be requested for this program. Prop. 4 was recently passed which allocated funds towards future SWEEP solicitations.

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.

CONTACT(S):

Michael Jaquez, mtjaquez@ucanr.edu
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>

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

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 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):

Department of Conservation, salcp@conservation.ca.gov

Dr. Chandra Richards, cmrichards@ucanr.edu, for additional support

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):

Joel Kramer, Agricultural Specialist
joel.kramer@rcdsandiego.org | (619) 562-0096 x 103

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

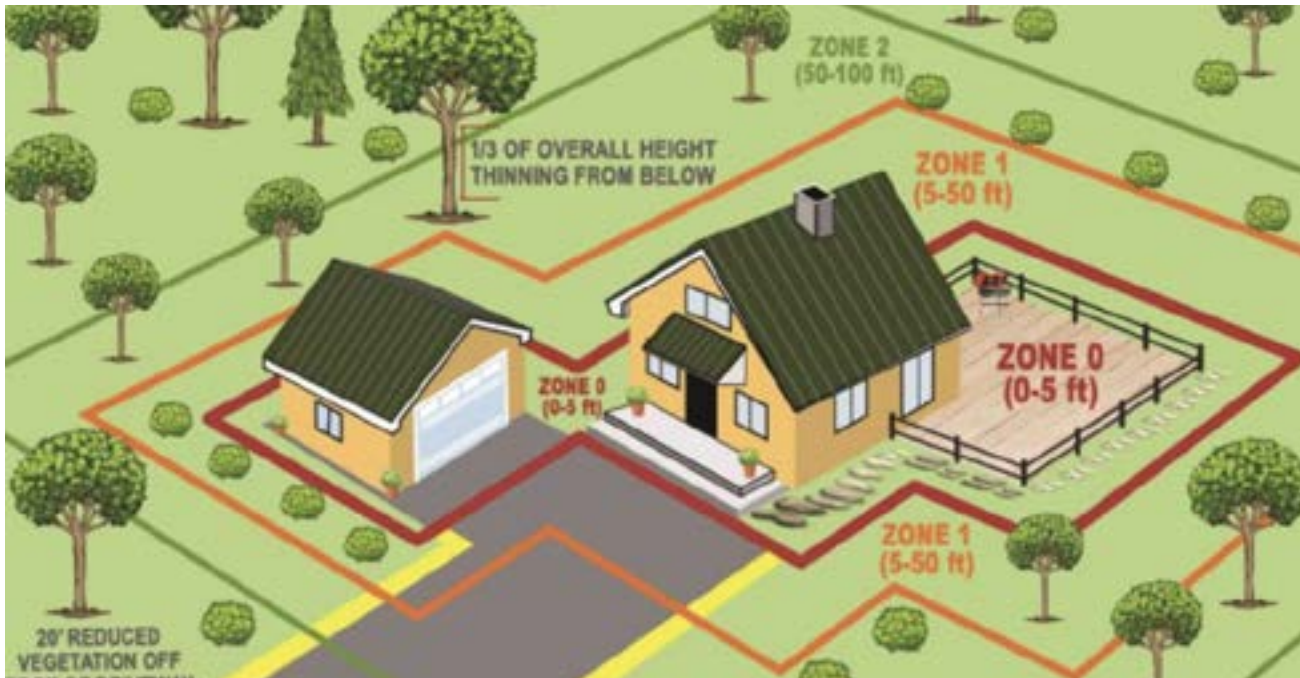
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Section 4

Fire Safety Programs

Home Assessment Program

Home Assessment Program



DESCRIPTION:

The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County is now offering FREE home ignition zone and defensible space assessments. Available in select communities, our Home Assessment Program provides an overview of home hardening, defensible space, and fire-wise landscaping options. Through this program, our assessors will provide you with our top recommendations to improve your defensible space and home hardening measures, and refer you to programs to help you meet your wildfire resilience goals.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

In 2025, assessments are only available in five communities: Fallbrook, Julian, Wynola, Warner Springs, and Ramona.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Technical assistance from trained staff to provide recommendations, educational resources, and program referrals that can help you meet your wildfire resilience goals.

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit the Home Assessment Program website at www.firesafesdcounty.org/hap to find out when assessments are available in your area and to apply.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: There is no deadline. The program is continuous.

CONTACT(S):

Morgan Graves, morgan.graves@rcdsandiego.org, 619-562-0096
firesafe@rcdsandiego.org

Section 5

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
California Agricultural Mediation Program
Community Alliance with Family Farmers Programs
California Farm Bureau Federation Mentorship Program

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.Heckendorn@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; Jasmine Lopez, Jasmine.Lopez@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 ranchers and land managers. Through the voluntary Audubon bird-friendly land certification, ranchers are connected to technical assistance for bird-friendly management practices and consumer demand for environmental sustainability and healthy food.

CONTACT(S):

Grace Ferguson (grace.ferguson@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](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/offices)

WEBSITE:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/emergency-assistance-livestock-honey-bees-farm-raised-fish-elap>

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](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/offices)

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](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/offices)

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](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/offices)

WEBSITE: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/resources/programs/dairy-margin-coverage-program-dmc>

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

California Agricultural Mediation Program

DESCRIPTION:

The California Agricultural Mediation Program is a free mediation service to the agricultural community within the Environmental Mediation Center, which administers agricultural and environmental public policy projects, dispute resolution programs, and mediation cases. Their agricultural mediation program specifically focuses on contracts, farm management, labor, certification, interpersonal disputes, succession planning, and related financial issues (loans, leases, insurance). It is certified by both CDFA and USDA.

CONTACT(S):

Mary Campbell, SoCal Program Coordinator, maryc@emcenter.org, (916) 330-4500 ext.103

WEBSITE: <https://emcenter.org/calamp/>

Community Alliance with Family Farmers

DESCRIPTION:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers builds sustainable farming and food systems through programs, policy advocacy, and events toward the support of California farmers and communities. They offer programs connecting farmers to services, markets, and resources, promoting ecological farming practices, and ensuring operational resilience through food safety and wildfire protection.

CONTACT(S):

Elizabeth Vaughan, evaughan@caff.org, (619) 333-8412

Keely Cervantes, keely@caff.org, (619) 721-3109

WEBSITE: <https://caff.org/programs/>

California Farm Bureau Federation

DESCRIPTION:

California Farm Bureau Federation protects the state's farming and ranching legacy and heritage. Their Expanding our Roots Program is a beginning farmer and rancher mentorship service that provides no-cost mentoring from experienced growers to facilitate knowledge transfer.

CONTACT(S):

Tyler Rood, trood@cfbf.com, (916) 956-4266

WEBSITE: cfbf.com/EOR

Section 5

Hot Topics

Organic Farming
Integrated Pest Control
Sustainable Operations in 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 <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/organicprogram/registration.html>

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 <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/organicprogram/pdfs/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

Sustainable Operations in Land Stewardship Program

The County of San Diego Planning & Development Services is developing the Sustainable Operations in Land Stewardship Program (SOILS Program), previously known as the Pilot Carbon Farming Program.



The SOILS Program will offer funding to agricultural producers and ranchers to incentivize the use of climate smart land practices in the unincorporated area of San Diego county. Climate smart land practices, like planting cover crops or applying compost, help capture and store carbon in the soil while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These practices also improve soil health, boost water retention, and increase crop production.



Scan or click the QR Code for the website and contact details!



As part of the County's 2024 Climate Action Plan, the SOILS Program will be operationalized by 2026 with the goal of increasing carbon sequestration on 3,000 acres by 2030 and 36,214 acres by 2045. This voluntary program aims to support adoption of climate smart land practices to meet the County's climate goals and support agricultural production in the region. By providing funding, agricultural producers and ranchers can adopt or experiment with these practices and the County benefits from cost-effective land management that can reduce and/or sequester GHG emissions and support agricultural resilience in the region. Interested participants would submit a short application and the online tool, COMET-Planner, will be used to estimate sequestration potential of the practices proposed in the application.

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

Visit the San Diego County Department of Public Works Recycling Section website for information: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/recycling.html>

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. They connect the current and next-generation of sustainable farmers and ranchers with land opportunities, financing, and education. They partner with farmers to build strong business skills, access fair financing, and establish secure land tenure. They also strive to create economic and environmental resilience for the next-generation of California farmers and ranchers. Visit their website at californiafarmlink.org to learn more about their services serving the agricultural industry.

LENDING:

They are a non-profit lender that has provided more than \$50 million in fair and affordable loans for agricultural and fishing businesses as well as housing, disaster, and conservation. Certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) their work focuses on underserved people and communities.

Contact: loans@cafarmlink.org, (831) 425-0303 ext 8933

LAND ACCESS:

California FarmLink helps to connect farmers and ranchers seeking land. By registering with the Land Portal Program, landseekers and landholders can learn about each other and establish relationships that can result in good land tenure. The Land Portal 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, (831) 373-1423 (Spanish)

EDUCATION:

Their 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, such as for the uses of loan capital and the key questions when negotiating a land lease. Any course fees are refundable when the course is successfully completed. 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

Regenerator

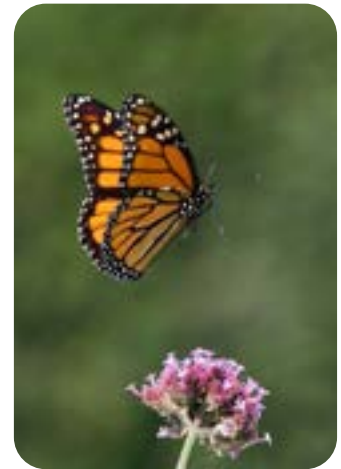
Liya Schwartzman Senior Program Manager
liya@cafarmlink.org
831.425.0303 ext. 7030



Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice

The Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice (OSEJ) advances collaborative sustainability solutions that repair systemic inequities and environmental burdens throughout the County organization and across the greater San Diego region.

- **We spur transformational change** from within the County organization by facilitating the integration of sustainability and environmental justice into our programs and operations.
- **We create ripple effects across** the region and beyond by activating public and private interests working together to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2045.
- **We uplift community-driven initiatives**, especially those centered on people who have been disproportionately and negatively impacted by past and current practices, programs, and policies.



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 establishes pathways for OSEJ to expand cross-jurisdictional relationships to harmonize local/regional government responses to decarbonization and invest in community partnerships for community-driven initiatives.

As a first step, three RDF foundational publications were completed with academic experts and input from 2,000+ residents, and include: a Technical Report, Work-force 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 facilitating the Food Justice Community Action Plan (FJCAP) which is a multi-departmental effort to develop a next steps-guide for the County that can bolster momentum for collaborative change to improve food access and reduce food insecurity in the San Diego region. All actions in the FJCAP grew from community-identified priorities and recommendations. Learn more with this [update](#).