

MARCH 1, 2023 4 PM - 7 PM









WELCOME!

We're excited to have you join us for the 2nd 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:









CONTENTS

Agenda3
Getting Started with Evaluating Your Property4
Section 1: RESTORATION 5 Healthy Soils Program Partners for Fish and Widllife Program
Section 2: CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY
Section 3: PLANNING SALC Planning Grants Carbon Farm Planning Working Lands for Pollinators Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Section 4: FIRE SAFETY No Cost Chinning Contine 24
No-Cost Chipping Service Defensible Space Assistance Program
Section 5: OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS Section 6: HOT TOPICS Organic Farming Integrated Pest Control Sustainability in Your Home Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice SB1383 Food Waste
California FarmLink

Voluntary Conservation and Land Management Assistance Workshop

MARCH 1, 2023 | 4 PM - 7 PM County Operations Center Hearing Room

AGENDA

4:00 - 4:10 PM Introductions & Welcome*

4:10 - 4:30 PM

Overview of Programs*

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Expo Session 1

5:30 - 6:00 PM

Break/Information Session

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Expo Session 2

*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 2023.

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 Stephanie Neal at Stephanie.Neal@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Section 1Restoration Programs

Healthy Soils Program
Partners for Fish and Widllife 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 onfarm 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:

Application and instructions are on the CDFA website listed below. Mission RCD can provide support to producers in MRCD's District in North San Diego County

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

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

CONTACT(S):

Esther Mosase, enmosase@ucdavis.edu

Jameson Meyst, agirrigtech@missionrcd.org

www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysoils/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:

The local program has approximately \$75,000 available for 3-4 projects each year. 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)
California Underserved and Smll Producers (CUSP) Program

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 9 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 June and full applications are due in mid-September each year.

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 - 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 Residential, S90 - Holding Area, or S92 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, 2023 to be included in the 2023 application review cycle.

CONTACT(S):

Stephanie Neal, AgConservation@sdcounty.ca.gov, (858) 505-6677 www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/advance/PACE

Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program



DESCRIPTION:

The San Diego County Water Authority's Agricultural Water Management Program offers rebates to agricultural growers to improve on-farm irrigation system efficiencies. A free irrigation system evaluation provides recommendations for improvements that integrate the use of efficient irrigation technology, components and irrigation scheduling practices for irrigation system equipment retrofits to improve distribution uniformity and efficiency. Eligible producers are provided cost-sharing rebates to help cover the cost of recommended irrigation upgrades.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Agricultural producers within the San Diego County Water Authority service area (with participating 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 Mission RCD by phone or email.

Please include acreage, crop type, and contact information.

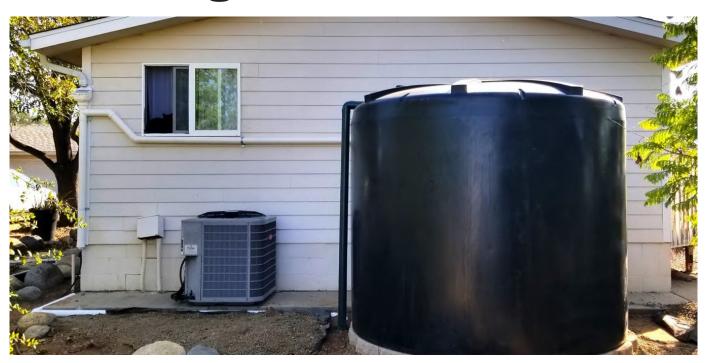
DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous

CONTACT(S):

Jameson Meyst, agirrigtech@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)

HOW TO APPLY:

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

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous

CONTACT(S):

Eleonore Durand Walker, eleonorew@waterscaperebates.com, (201) 290-6680 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

HOW TO APPLY:

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

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Continuous

CONTACT(S):

Watershed.Rebates@sdcounty.ca.gov www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/RebatesIncentives/SRP.html

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

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

Compost Connector



DESCRIPTION:

Compost Connector is a program of Zero Foodprint and is designed to reduce the cost of compost application on working lands. Compost Connector is funded by Zero Foodprint and California Cities and Counties looking to meet their SB1383 compost procurement requirements. Discounts range based on available funds.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Anyone seeking at least 20 cubic yards or 10 tons of compost for use in agriculture. Compost must be purchased from a Cal-Recycle approved facility. Additional funding may be available for those who follow conservation practice standards.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Anticipated funding for 2023 of approximately \$350,000.

HOW TO APPLY:

Apply online at https://www.zerofoodprint.org/compost

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

No application deadline. Discounts based on available funding and practice standards.

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:

The maximum grant award is \$200,000 and the maximum grant duration is 24 months.

CONTACT(S):

Esther Mosase, enmosase@ucdavis.edu

HOW TO APPLY:

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

California Underserved and Small Producers (CUSP) Program



DESCRIPTION:

Natural disasters including drought has increased the cost of water and energy and farmers are experiencing a direct effect on their crops, livestock and business operations. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has partnered with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to administer direct financial support through Drought Relief Grants. These funds can be used to reimburse small-scale and historically under-served producers for expenses incurred as a result of

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Farmers must make no more than \$400,000 per year in gross farm sales.
- Agriculture must be the primary source of income for the applicant.
- At least 50% of funds will be awarded to socially disadvantaged farmers, immigrant farmers, and undocumented

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

This grant provides for award amounts of \$1,000 – \$20,000 per farmer. Applications will be received and awards will be available on a rolling basis through at least Spring 2024.

HOW TO APPLY:

The application can be found on the CARCD website (https://carcd.org/our-work/project/cusp/), and is offered in English, Spanish and four other languages. Applicants must have documentation to demonstrate financial loss or reduced production. For additional assistance, contact your local Resource Conservation District.

DEADLINE TO APPLY:

Ongoing, with recurring application review cycles through Spring 2024.

CONTACT(S):

Elizabeth Garcia, elizabeth.garcia@rcdsandiego.org, 619-562-0096 Program Information: www.cdfa.ca.gov/CUSP/

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 effiency evaluations and up to \$500 subsidy on pump efficiency test.

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit https://www.rcdsandiego.org/irrigation-efficiency

CONTACT(S):

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



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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 9 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 July and full applications are due in mid-September.

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):

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

Working Lands for Pollinators



DESCRIPTION:

In partnership with NRCS and Partners for Fish & Wildlife, we are offering technical assistance and some 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 NRCS and other programs to implement the specific conservation practices.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

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

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

Technical Assistance for 10 interested land owners - no financial funding, includes a site assessment and plan of action and resources to increase pollinator habitat on property.

Funding and Technical Assistance for 3 interested land owners - Purchase of native seed and up to \$1,000 to prepare site for habitat.

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):

pollinators@rcdsandiego.org

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.

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.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

EQIP offers assistance for all types of agriculture, including:

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

*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

Section 4Fire Safety Programs

No-Cost Chipping Program
Defensible Space Assistance Program

No-Cost Chipping Program



DESCRIPTION:

Maintaining the legally-required 100 feet of defensible space around your property can be a challenge. Once you've taken the necessary steps to protect your property by thinning and trimming hazardous brush, you are often left with large piles of dry vegetation, which can themselves become a fire hazard. The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County created this program to get rid of this hazardous vegetative debris, turning it into a useful, weed-suppressing mulch. Get your piles ready, and our crew will come to your property to chip the debris on site.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

Any homeowner/landowner in San Diego County.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego in partnership with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County has received grant funds from San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego Gas and Electric, and the United States Forest Service to administer the program. We service roughly 100 homes per quarter with these funds.

HOW TO APPLY:

The No-Cost Chipping Program takes applications year-round as funding permits. Applicants are scheduled at a first-come, first-serve basis. The application can be found online at https://firesafesdcounty.org/no-cost-chipping/ or applicants may call our office at 619-562-0096 to fill out the application over the phone.

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

CONTACT(S):

Morgan Graves, morgan.graves@rcdsandiego.org, 619-562-0096 www.firesafesdcounty.org/no-cost-chipping/

Defensible Space Assistance Program



DESCRIPTION:

The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County's Defensible Space Assistance Program is designed to assist homeowners that need to create defensible space, and are not able to do so because of physical, economic or other barriers. It is imperative that all homeowners maintain at least 100 feet of defensible space around their homes to aid in protecting themselves and their communities from the devastation of wildfire. Through this program, we provide services including, but not limited to, tree trimming, brush thinning, dead tree removal, etc.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

The population targeted for the DSAP program is those who are not able to do this work for themselves because of physical, economic, or other barriers. You must be the legal owner of the property and meet an income requirement which can be found on our website.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego in partnership with the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County has received grant funds from San Diego River Conservancy, San Diego Gas and Electric, and the United States Forest Service to administer the program. We service roughly 100 homes per quarter with these funds.

HOW TO APPLY:

The DSAP Program takes applications year-round as funding permits. Applicants are scheduled at a first-come, first-serve basis. The application can be found online at https://firesafesdcounty.org/no-cost-chipping/ or applicants may call our office at 619-562-0096 to fill out the application over the phone.

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

CONTACT(S):

Morgan Graves, morgan.graves@rcdsandiego.org, 619-562-0096 www.firesafesdcounty.org/no-cost-chipping/

Section 5Other Assistance Programs

Private Resource Management Plan Program Organic Materials Recycling Assistance Healthy Soils Program Assistance Become an Organic Grower Agricultural Water Quality Program Pest Exclusion and Pest Detection Programs **Integrated Pest Control Program** Taking Your Farm Organic Audubon Conservation Ranching 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) **UC Integrated Pest Management Emergency Conservation Program** Dairy Margin Coverage and Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage

Private Resource Managment 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

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 trouble-shooting.

CONTACT(S):

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

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

Diane Hazard, diane.hazard@solanacenter.org

WEBSITE: www.solanacenter.org/free-compost-workshops

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):

Monica Winters, Monica.Winters@sdcounty.ca.gov

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

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):

Kimberly Greene, Kimberly.Greene@sdcounty.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@sdcounty.ca.gov; Jason Schwartze, Jason.Schwartze@sdcounty.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):

Mark Martinez, Mark.Martinez@sdcounty.ca.gov

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

Taking Your Farm Organic

DESCRIPTION:

What does it mean to be organically certified, what steps to take to evaluate your potential and how to prepare the documents to apply for Organic Certification. Plus the USDA pandemic program to pay for Organic Certification costs from 2020, 2021, and 2022.

CONTACT(S):

Scott A. Murray - scottamurray@sbcglobal.net

WEBSITE: edgeofurbanfarm.com

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

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 February 27 to April 7, 2023

CONTACT(S):

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

WEBSITE: www.fsa.usda.gov/crp

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: ipm.ucanr.edu

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

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

Section 6 Hot Topics

Organic Farming
Integrated Pest Control
Sustainability in Your Home
Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice
SB1383 Food Waste
California FarmLink

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<u>www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/docs/CertifiersList.pdf</u>

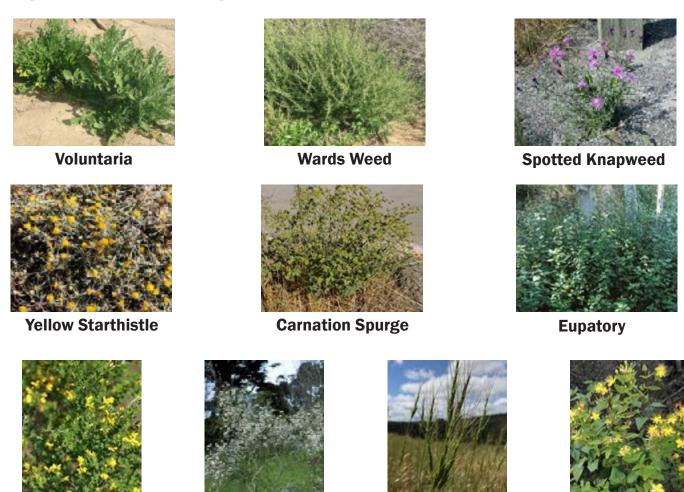
Integrated Pest Control

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:

Bridal Broom



Barbed Goat Grass

Canary Island St.

John's Wort

French Broom

Sustainability in Your Home

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

- Looking to recycle, repair, donate, or properly dispose of an item? Go to www.Waste-freesd.org for places near you
- Pet supply repair: www.ifixit.com/Device/Pet_Supply
- Pet Sustainability accredited companies list: https://petsustainability.org/psc-accred-itation/
- Provides buckets and mulch for your food scraps with only a \$5 fee per bucket: www. food2soil.net
- Non-profit that provides workshops with creative reuse to schools and community, helping students practice art: www.Artformsandiego.org
- Recycle all brands of writing instruments and packaging: www.terracycle.com/en-US/
 brigades/bic
- Accepts all no-longer-needed household clothes and textiles: Retold Recycling: www. retoldrecycling.com
- Buy and sell quality used sports and fitness gear: www.playitagainsports.com/home
- Take a book, share a book: Little Free Library: www.littlefreelibrary.org
- For more information on how to reduce waste in your home and in your community, visit <u>cleansd.org</u>



Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice

The County's new Office of Sustainability and Environmental Justice (OSEJ) advances equity and environmental justice in the communities that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental burdens and related health problems in the past. This regionally focused office focuses on environmental concerns inside the home and in neighborhoods, particularly factors that exacerbate the concentration of pollution such as stationary and mobile sources of air pollution, toxic hotspots, GHG emissions, the urban heat



island effect, substandard housing, a lack of access to healthy food, lack of transportation options, poor quality neighborhood infrastructure such as broadband and connectivity, and a historic deficiency in open space and recreational amenities.

OSEJ serves as a community advocate and liaison that collaborates with departments within the County, as well as other federal, State, and regional regulatory agencies to implement environmental protection and remedy environmental disparities and injustices.

Recognizing that climate change cannot be addressed in silos, and that we can achieve more if we all work together in the region, OSEJ is leading the development of the integrated Regional Decarbonization Framework (Framework), which is a science-based approach to collaboratively identify our region's opportunities for greater climate action. The goal is to reach zero carbon emissions through changes in the areas of transportation, electricity, buildings, and land use by mid-century. The topics of natural climate solutions, and food systems & circular economy represent relatively small regional emissions

but provide opportunities to reduce emissions through interconnected solutions. The Framework is separate from but complements ongoing climate action planning efforts by local governments. The Framework website includes links to the technical and workforce reports as well as past public engagement/workshop recordings: www.sandiegocounty.gov/rdf/.



OSEJ is also embarking on a new regional and collaborative effort to assess drought management and water sustainability actions to proactively address the increasing challenges of our region's reliance on water sources, as directed by the Board of Supervisors in September 2022.

Visit the OSEJ website www.sandiegocounty.gov/osej/ for more, including our Environmental Justice GIS StoryMap.

SB1383 Food Waste

GENERAL INFORMATION:

In 2016, California Senate Bill 1383 (SB1383) was passed to reduce environmental impacts caused by the release of methane emissions of short-lived climate pollutants. Beginning January 1, 2022, California began increasing statewide edible food recovery efforts.

SB1383 regulations require that jurisdictions conduct education and outreach on organics recycling to all residents, businesses haulers (including those that generate edible food that can be donated), solid waste facilities, and local food banks and other food recovery organizations. Effective January 1, 2022, SB 1383 applied to all single-family residential dwellings (less than five units), commercial businesses, and multi-family residential dwellings (five or more units) and are required to subscribe and participate in recycling and organics collection services.

TARGETS:

- Reduce organic waste disposal 75% by 2025.
- Rescue for people to eat at least 20% of currently disposed surplus food by 2025.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Starting in 2022, all jurisdictions are required to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses and recycle these organic materials using recycling facilities. For many San Diego County residents EDCO will provide each single family residential customer with a 32, 64, or 96 gallon green organics cart for weekly collection. Simply put all organics that one container. This includes food scraps, yard waste, food soiled paper, and natural fibers.

Visit CalRecycle at <u>calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp</u> for more information on SB1383.



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 <u>californiafarmlink.org</u> 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



Regenerator

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