

CENTRAL COAST
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
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Coordinator's Report
September 2007

1. \$3100 in additional funding was provided to the Guadalupe Dunes Center for their environmental education programs. Funds came from a NRCS outreach grant.
2. San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara County Permit Coordination Program update:
Determined the *Conservation Practices*
 - While working with the NRCS and RCD's (partners), defined 18 proposed conservation practices (types of restoration projects) to include in the SLO and SB programs, which detail the practices while illustrating the environmental benefits and general limitations of each practice.
 - Obtained consensus from the regulatory agencies (USFWS, NOAA, ACOE, CDFG, RWQCB, SLO County, SB County and CA Coastal Commission) on the conservation practices to include in the program.Created geographic scope, listed species and critical habitat maps
Defined the *Protection Measures*
 - Defined the protection measures that will be in place during project implementation.Established a *Tiered Approach*
 - Per the RWQCB's request, developed and integrated a tiered decision tool that incorporates the protection measures, which is benefiting permit coordination and improving the overall process that can be used as a model for other permit coordination programs.
 - Defined the tier criteria for the application of each program, which identifies the measures that will be in place during project implementation given the specific tier the practice/project falls under.Proposing *Size Limitations*
 - Determined size limitations for each practice.
 - Obtained consensus from the USFWS, RWQCB, DFG (for the SB program) and SLO County on size limitations for each practice. Submitted to other regulatory agencies and awaiting response.
 - Drafting *Biological Assessments* for USFWS and NOAAFurthermore, SLO County is fully on board and is planning to incorporate the program into their regulations that their renewing for next year by exempting projects that qualify for permit coordination.
3. The Pajaro River Watershed Council held a meeting July 12 in Watsonville. Updates were given for the Corps of Engineers Pajaro River Flood Control Project; a historical ecological study for southern Santa Clara County; highlights from the Santa Clara County HCP, specifically the Science Advisors' report; and funding opportunities for projects in the watershed.

4. RC&D continues to participate as an advisor to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan.
5. A project opportunity for the Coastal San Luis RCD came up in the form of a Conservation Innovation Grant for a large greenhouse operation. Rodriguez wrote a successful \$35,000 CIG grant proposal to fund the installation of 8000 square feet of potted plant bench space under heated sub-irrigation to reduce energy consumption, water use and eliminate runoff.
6. A community collaboration has been identified for the Sanborn Creek Restoration Project. The “Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project” at the Watershed Institute at CSUMB works in the traditionally underrepresented communities of East Salinas. They have expressed interest in this project. Their goal is to restore urban creeks through community-based education and participation. We have connected the property owner with this organization.
7. No progress has been made with the Lower Pajaro River debris removal project.
8. The Central Coast Ag Network grant with SLO County that RC&D is administering is 100% expended. CCAN has received another \$10,000 grant which RC&D will administer.
9. Rodriguez wrote a successful \$88,000 grant proposal to USDA Rural Development to develop the Central Coast Grown product distribution system and further refine the Mobile Livestock Processing Unit business model.
10. Rodriguez made an Ag Tourism presentation to the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce to revive the program in the Monterey Bay region. New contacts were established and there seems to be interest but no response as of yet.
11. An initial meeting with several small-scale Santa Maria Valley growers to discuss alternative marketing strategies took place in the fall of 2006. Those growers have indicated an interest in participating in the Product Distribution System that will be developed with the RD grant.
12. The grassed waterway project was successfully installed at ALBA’s Triple M Ranch in Monterey County.
13. A funding proposal was prepared for the Indian Canyon Roundhouse Construction site development plans. An \$1800 grant was received from the “Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development”. Funds went directly to the Indian Canyon Ranch.
14. The California Delta RC&D applicant area continues to meet as a council.
15. A program funding request was submitted to the Packard Foundation for the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD “Agricultural Water Quality Landowner Working Group Assistance Program”. The proposal requests \$225,000 over a three year period. Packard has responded and will not provide support at this time.