

KEEP IT LOCAL



- A community collaboration was identified for the Sanborn Creek Restoration Project. The “Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project” at the Watershed Institute at CSUMB will be working with the landowner to resorted a portion of the creek using community and university volunteers.
- CCRC&D managed a \$10,000 grant from San Luis Obispo County for the Central Coast Ag Network operations.
- The RC&D Council continues to participate as an advisor to the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan.
- The Council made an Ag Tourism presentation to the Salinas Valley Chamber of commerce to revive the program in the Monterey Bay Region.

The Dunes Center Environmental Outreach and Education Program: \$3100 in funding was provided to the Guadalupe Dunes Center for their environmental education programs. The Dunes Center is a non-profit organization located in the city of Guadalupe, in northern Santa Barbara County. The Center provides conservation education to over 17,000 visitors each year and 3,700 school children. This project provides information to under-served community members.

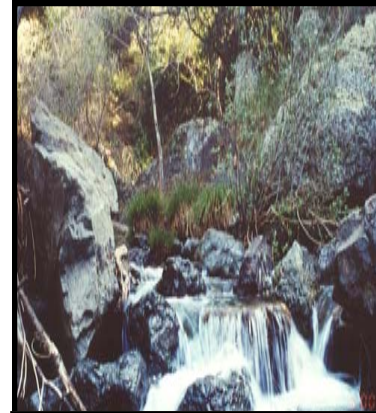
- The Central Coast RC&D Council continues to support the development of the CA Delta RC&D Council Applicant Area. This Council meets regularly, has an elected Board of Directors, is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit Corporation and has a draft Area Plan.

Contact for the RC&D Council:
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CENTRAL COAST RC&D COUNCIL 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Mission

To Develop Human Resources and Promote Long-term Sustainability of the Diverse Natural Resources of the Central Coast

Vision

Attention is focused on natural resource protection and community economic sustainability. Projects and programs are developed to address these issues.

Grant Received for Central Coast Grown Marketing Business

The Central Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council received funding from USDA Rural Development to develop a group based cooperative business for the processing, marketing and sale of locally grown produce and meat products. The project goal is to unite producers to plan for marketing and distribution opportunities of value-added agricultural products.

Project Objectives

- Create a business entity for member farmers to cooperatively market and distribute locally grown produce and meat products to local food buyers.
- Complete the mobile livestock harvest unit and create a model for secondary processing of member meat products.



Our council has two major goals: (1) enhance and sustain the good health of watersheds and (2) improve rural economic conditions consistent with a long-term sustainable economy.

The Council meets quarterly every year on the third Wednesday of February, May, September and November from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Rabobank Conference Room, 532 Broadway Street, King City, California, 93930. All meetings are open to the public. For more information visit our website: centralcoastrcandd.org

COUNCIL Members

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President, *Chuck Pritchard,*
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 Agricultural Land Based Association
Nicolas Papadakis
 Association of Monterey Bay Governments
Mary Ann Vasconcellos, CAFF



A 500 foot grassed waterway was successfully installed at ALBA's Triple M Ranch in Monterey County.

Mobile Livestock Processing Trailer

Livestock producers in Central California seek to expand on existing niche markets for meat products. This mobile processing unit will facilitate and increase the viability and number of meat producers in Central California who want to provide meat products to local consumers. Local harvest and processing of meat leads to value-added opportunities and local marketing options.



The trailer is a custom designed and built 26-foot long gooseneck unit which is completely self-contained. According to George Work, current president of the Central Coast Home Grown Meat Alliance, the unit allows producers to keep their animals on the ranch up until processing. Not needing to transport live animals lowers their stress, improves meat quality, and does not threaten a rancher's organic status. The unit is currently awaiting USDA and other regulatory approval. The Central Coast RC&D Council is providing organization, project and grant management assistance.

Conservation Innovation

The RC&D Council received one of the few Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) for California. Coastal San Luis RCD requested assistance to solve a water quality, water quantity and high energy consumption problem at the Clearwater Nursery. A product called Aquamat will be installed at the Nipomo nursery and data will be collected to help NRCS develop an agency standard for this practice. Hopefully we will be able to incorporate this practice into future cost-sharing options.

Aquamat, the watering mat consists of 5 main elements:

- Lower water proof polyethylene total containment layer
- Lower highly absorbent layer and is sectioned every 10ft by a capillary break
- Lower non-absorbent, resilient layer that prevents surface evaporation
- Top root proof layer protects lowers layers also from UV, algae, dirt contamination and wear
- Irrigation drip tubes every 2' of the width of the mat that run the length of the mat



- The Pajaro River Watershed Council continues to meet twice a year. Once in the upper watershed in Gilroy and once in the lower watershed in Watsonville. The current chair, Carol Presley with the Santa Clara Valley Water District brings a variety of subjects to the Council for discussion. This year the Council has been discussing the Santa Clara Valley HCP, the Corp of Engineers Pajaro River Flood Control Project, the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and the San Felipe Lake Fisheries Study.
- The San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties Permit Coordination Program is moving forward with determining conservation practices, protection measures, and size limitations.
- An initial meeting with several small-scale Santa Maria Valley growers to discuss alternative marketing strategies took place in the fall of 2006. We hope to bring them into the Central Coast Grown program.
- The RCD of Monterey County completed the "Ag Practice Handbook" Spanish Translation.
- An \$1800 grant was received for the site development plans for the Indian Canyon Roundhouse.