

Central Coastal Watersheds

Fostering farmland and open space stewardship in San Luis Obispo County

Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties; State Senate District 15, State Assembly District 33



COASTAL SAN LUIS RCD



The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) utilized their Watershed Coordinator to successfully engage the farming community in San Luis Obispo County. The Watershed Coordinator focused on providing extensive outreach, education and watershed planning opportunities to a variety of stakeholders. The Coordinator conducted 25 workshops and 11 watershed tours reaching over 300 participants and stakeholders. The Watershed Coordinator worked closely with landowners and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement whole farm approaches to land management. The Coordinator worked to develop numerous conservation plans, which provided landowners with a road map to better land stewardship. As a result of watershed coordination funding, the RCD was able to obtain additional funding in order to complete many conservation plans while implementing a significant number of conservation projects.

The Coordinator worked closely with the local district of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation to integrate park efforts into the community watershed approach. The Coordinator also worked alongside the local flood control district to seek and obtain funding to implement projects addressing creek flooding and other natural resource issues.

For more information visit the Coastal San Luis RCD website at <http://www.coastalrcd.org>

- An estimated 347 tons of manure, 4,721 pounds of nitrogen, 184 pounds of phosphorus and numerous bacteria colonies were kept out of local creeks and estuaries (through the implementation of cattle exclusion fencing)
- Irrigation efficiency was measured and increased by an average of 19% on 518.8 acres
- Installed 8,223 feet of riparian cattle exclusion fence in order to protect San Luisito Creek in the Morro Bay Watershed
- 92 Best Management Practices (BMPs) were implemented. BMPs were related to irrigation efficiency, water conservation, water quality, and flood reduction
- Developed 47 conservation plans for farms, ranches, and municipalities

“When one jurisdiction boundary or organization mission ends, another is not always waiting in the wings to carry conservation efforts forward. The Watershed Coordinators played an invaluable role in filling management and funding gaps to shepherd on-the-ground projects to completion”
- Nicole Smith, Conservation Programs Manager

PARTNERS INCLUDED: • USDA NRCS, Templeton Service Center • California Department of Parks and Recreation, Oceano Dunes District • Morro Bay National Estuary Program • County of San Luis Obispo • Central Coast Salmon Enhancement • City of Arroyo Grande • Los Osos Community Service District • Cachuma RCD • State Water Resource Control Board • Numerous individual landowners