



Bi-Annual News & Updates

2026 | Spring & Summer



Central Coast Lidar & Vegetation Mapping Project

Fire Resilience & Habitat Restoration Program Manager, Samantha Alvarez

Across Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and San Benito Counties, as well as other ecoregions, the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) is leading a multi-year effort to better understand and map the Central Coast's landscapes. Working with partners like...

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Oceano Dunes Habitat Restoration

Restoration Specialists, Samantha Vitt & Sarah Lopez

In 2018, California State Parks entered a legal agreement with the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to improve air quality downwind of the Oceano Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area (ODSVRA). Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) and State Parks have partnered together to...

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Increasing Resilience in the Chorro Creek Watershed

Executive Director, Hallie Richard

Driving west on Highway 1 towards Morro Bay this temperate winter, one could almost forget the flooding that occurred in early 2023 in the lower Chorro Creek watershed...

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FREE Irrigation Evaluations

Sustainable Agriculture Project Manager, Rhealynn Ravarra

The Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) is a service that provides free irrigation evaluations to local producers. Through this service, the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) has served over 50 growers, promoting collaborative approaches to long-term water conservation.

During these evaluations, our trained MIL technicians measure the Distribution Uniformity (DU) of individual irrigation systems, providing producers with valuable insights into how evenly water is applied across their fields or production landscape. Following an evaluation, growers receive practical recommendations for improving their DU, along with assistance in identifying and applying for grants that enhance the efficiency of their irrigation systems. Improving DU can result in several benefits including:

- Enhanced crop health
- Savings on water, energy, fertilizer, and pesticide costs
- Reductions in runoff and pollution potential
- Eligibility for incentive programs and regulatory compliance



Restoring Roads, Protecting Streams The Stenner Creek Watershed Enhancement Project

Conservation Program Manager, Hayley Barnes

Tucked in the rolling hills above campus, Cal Poly's Serrano and Peterson Ranches are used for grazing, research, education, and recreation. They also provide important habitat for fish, wildlife, and native plant communities, but road infrastructure has long contributed to erosion and sediment delivery to nearby streams. Many of these roads were built decades ago with...

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We will begin scheduling new MIL appointments in July 2026. Please fill out our interest form [HERE](#) to be added to the waitlist.

New to CSLRCD!



Next Phase Excitement

We are excited to announce the next phase of the Central Coast Soil Hub's regional rangeland conservation program. We have hired Grant Johnson as our new regional rangeland conservation planner. Grant will be based out of the Coastal San Luis RCD but he is available to provide technical assistance to ranchers and rangeland managers in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. He will also play a major role in continuing the development of the Central Coast Rancher-to-Rancher network, as well as organizing a variety of technical workshops focused on rangeland conservation.

If you'd like to get in contact with Grant, you can reach him at gjohnson@coastalrcd.org

CSLRCD now offers
Rangeland Planner Services!



Working rangelands are the backbone of the Central Coast's ecological health, agricultural economy, and rural heritage. The Rangeland Planner provides technical support, planning assistance, and on-the-ground guidance to help landowners steward their landscapes and reach their goals. This role bridges science, practical experience, and producer-driven goals to strengthen the long-term resilience of working lands. Through a collaborative approach that centers the landowner's goals and operational needs, you'll receive clear, actionable recommendations that fit the scale, capacity, and context of your operation.

Healthy rangelands support more than livestock—they sustain biodiversity, protect watersheds, store carbon, and maintain the open landscapes that define the Central Coast. By working alongside landowners, the Rangeland Planner helps ensure these lands and the people who steward them remain productive and resilient for generations to come.



For more information, please contact Regional Rangeland Planner Grant Johnson, gjohnson@coastalrcd.org

What a Rangeland Planner Does

- Whole-ranch planning and goal setting
- Grazing planning and forage management
- Ecological monitoring and field assessments
- Soil health and drought resilience strategies
- Funding and technical assistance for conservation programs
- Facilitating connections and resources



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*Fire Resilience & Habitat
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The Central Coast Soil Hub Updates

Regional Coordinator, Joshua Kouri

2026 has been a big year for the Central Coast Soil Hub so far! The Hub—a regional collaboration between CSLRCD and the other RCDs in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties—works to build capacity and strengthen partnerships across the region to deliver impactful resources to farmers, ranchers, and other land managers.

This year we've seen many of our initial investments start to bear fruit, leading to...

Samantha Vitt
Restoration Specialist I

Sarah Lopez
Restoration Technician

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Making a Meaningful Impact Through Charitable Giving

Support from our community allows Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) staff to restore more acres of coastal habitat, assist more farmers and ranchers adopt soil health and regenerative practices, protect more miles of stream channel for water quality and wildlife habitat, and plan for more resilient landscapes.

Your contributions are invested directly back into the community and its watersheds where you work, play, and grow.

More than 90% of our budget comes from Federal, State and local grants. Your contribution is critical in filling the gap that remains to help protect the vitality of our landscapes. Your tax-deductible donation goes a long way. Every dollar you contribute leverages over \$300 in grants!

[Donate Today!](#)

The CSLRCD can receive tax deductible donations under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 170 (b) and 170 (c) (1). This section says that contributions to a governmental entity are deductible. The RCD may accept all forms of contributions including, but not limited to, gifts, property, cash, stocks and securities.

Newsletter Creation Courtesy of A. Leigh





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