



Your Local Partner in Conservation & Agriculture

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District is committed to protecting and enhancing natural resources through education, restoration and collaboration with stakeholders.

FALL 2016

Ag Ponds Under Scrutiny



Six years ago the County of San Luis Obispo developed the Alternative Review Program (ARP) as an alternative to the formal grading permit process. The program allows for specific types of agricultural projects to be exempted from County grading permit requirements if granted a permit by a Resource Conservation District, which includes the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD). Agricultural ponds or reservoirs are one type of project that may be processed through ARP.

In January 2015, with the heightened awareness of the drought and county groundwater levels, the CSLRCD Board approved an internal *Policy on Approval of Permits for Agricultural Ponds*. The goal of this policy was to provide guidance to District staff for assessing potential impacts associated with proposed ponds. This policy was intended to direct District staff to inquire about specific details pertaining to resource issues associated with ponds in order to determine if the proposed pond project should be processed through ARP or processed through the traditional County Grading Permit process. Examples of this thoroughness are shown by the

Upcoming Events

September 23, 12:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
UCCE Auditorium, SLO

October 28, 12:30 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
UCCE Auditorium, SLO

2015 Annual Report
[Click here to download pdf](#)

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following questions:

- What is the distance from the supply well to the nearest property line?
- Are there any known hydrological studies indicating potential overdraft or degraded surface flow?
- Are others in the basin experiencing ground water quantity problems?
- Is the project in an area identified by California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) as high or medium priority?

As the result of an egregious grading violation that recently took place in the Adelaida area, the County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to extend a temporary urgency ordinance on agricultural ponds. This ordinance allows County staff time to develop permanent regulations to prevent these types of actions. The urgency ordinance states that *applications for reservoirs, ponds and basins are not eligible for processing under the Alternative Review Program.*

What does this mean to our District?

County staff has until May 2017 to present to the Board of Supervisors draft permanent regulations pertaining to the grading ordinance, including the ARP. In the meantime, all agricultural ponds will be processed through the County Grading Permit process. The CSLRCD will work with County staff in crafting a permanent ordinance allowing CSLRCD to continue processing agricultural ponds and reservoirs under the ARP.

For more information on ARP, click [here](#).

Biological Control of Cape-Ivy Now an Option



Anative of South Africa, Cape-ivy has recently become one of the most pervasive non-native plants to invade the coastal areas of the western United States, particularly in California and Oregon. San Luis Obispo County has its share.

Though this weedy vine prefers moist, partly-shaded environments along the Pacific Coast, there are increasing reports of infestations at inland riparian locations. The vine was imported as an ornamental in North America, and is the probable source of introduction and spread. Fragments of the plant easily root and this characteristic has facilitated its spread. The climbing vine causes serious environmental problems by overgrowing riparian and coastal vegetation, causing other plants to die. The picture to the left was taken at our Chorro Flats property in Morro Bay.

Existing management options for management of Cape-ivy are expensive, temporary and have non-target impacts. Options include chemical treatment for temporary control; however, Cape-ivy now infests many natural areas where some control measures such as herbicides are



restricted or even prohibited. Another control method is mechanical—such as manually removing goat grazing and prescribed fire.

Another type of control practice is using biological methods. Until recently there were no biological control methods for Cape-ivy. The USDA recently announced its proposal to issue permits for release of a gall-forming fly, *Parafreutreta regalis* (below). Galling of Cape-ivy caused by *P. regalis* greatly reduces growth of infested plants, which should reduce this vine's negative impacts. Another biological control agent for Cape-ivy is proposed for environmental release. The agent is a stem-boring moth, *Digitivalva delaireae*, also from South Africa.

To read more about the field release of the gall-forming fly, click [here](#) for a 40-page USDA report.

Out and About on the Central Coast



Many fish and frogs are observed throughout this project site. Prime relocation pools are identified.



Board of Directors

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Kelly Carter and Craig Strubler, Cal Poly, use a soil moisture monitor on ranch land.

Rob Rutherford

Expertise: holistic grazing management

Learn More About CSLRCD at

www.coastalcrd.org



Oak Woodland Management

by University of California

For more than 25 years, the University of California has collaborated with the California Department of Fish and Game, CalFire and other agencies to conduct research and outreach focused on conserving California's native oaks. In order to continue these efforts, UC has organized the Oak Woodland Conservation Workgroup (OWCW), which seeks to maintain, and where possible, increase acreage of California's hardwood range resources to provide wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, wood and livestock, high quality water supply, and aesthetic value.

To read more, click [here](#).



Staff

Jackie Crabb

District Manager

Jen Nix

Conservation Program Manager

G.W. Bates

District Engineer

Hallie Richard

Environmental Resource Specialist

Nicole Smith

Project Coordinator

Peter Rowland

Restoration Coordinator

Mark Skinner

Restoration Specialist II

Tim Pesce

Restoration Specialist I

Cindy Gonzales

Join the Team at CSLRCD-- Seeking Agriculture/Environmental/Civil Engineer

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District is looking for an experienced, licensed engineer that is entrepreneurial, self-sufficient, and ready on day one to develop and implement conservation projects that are community-supported and science-driven.

The ideal candidate is an expert in soil and water monitoring, stormwater modeling management, climate change adaptation, irrigation and nutrient management, riparian enhancement/restoration, agricultural conservation measures and practices AND can develop biddable/constructable plans, and write clear, concise reports.

We offer a flexible work environment and interesting work that truly makes a difference in our community. This is a grant-funded position with a salary range (\$80 - \$100K) that is commensurate with experience. The RCD offers a health stipend, retirement benefits and generous leave benefits.

To learn more about our agency, please visit our website at <http://www.coastalrcd.org/>.

This recruitment will remain open until filled. Please send an email with the position title in the subject line to <mailto:cheryl@lenhardtengineering.com>. Include a cover letter and a resume tailored towards this position.

Your cover letter must also include why you are interested in the position and elaborate on how your experience, skills and abilities make you an ideal candidate for the position.

CSLRCD IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Services

Call us today at (805) 772-4391 for help with all of the following:

- Irrigation Evaluations
- Engineer Design
- Alternative Agricultural Grading Review (ARP)
- Erosion & Stormwater Control
- Conservation Easements
- Conservation Planning
- Permit Coordination
- Watershed & Habitat Restoration

Sent by jcrabb@coastalrcd.org in collaboration with



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