



## 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.

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FALL 2017

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## Let CSLRCD Help You Control and Prevent Erosion This Winter



The rainy season is fast approaching. What may now be a small erosion issue has the potential to become a large and expensive problem. If left untreated, erosion can result in detrimental impacts to both land productivity and natural resources.

During and immediately following the 2016-2017 rainy season, CSLRCD fielded countless phone calls and coordinated numerous site visits as a

reaction to significant erosion triggered by last year's rain. We encourage landowners and managers to be progressive and prescriptive in advance of our pending rainy winter this year.

Start by contacting our office—we can brainstorm about how to prepare for rain and assist with a cost-effective plan for “winterization.” We also can identify whether resources (e.g., financial, people power, materials) are available to help reduce and/or eliminate erosion and instability before another rainy season arrives.

Check with us for additional references, recommendations, workshops, education opportunities, or to schedule a site visit. For more information, call CSLRCD at (805) 772-4391.



### Upcoming Events

October 27, 12:30 pm.  
Board of Directors Meeting  
SLO City/County Library, SLO

November  
No Board of Directors Meeting

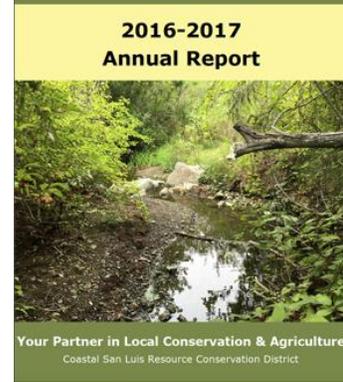
December (date TBD)  
Board of Directors Meeting  
UCCE Auditorium, SLO

[2016-2017 Annual Report Now Available](#)

[Support local conservation with a donation to the RCD.](#)



*Top—Stenner Road washout in March 2017. Above—Eroded bank.*



## Oso Flaco Watershed Projects

### Blackberry/Bioreactor Crop Ripens



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Expertise: water

Learn More About CSLRCD at  
[www.coastalcrd.org](http://www.coastalcrd.org)

The fruits of our labor have arrived! The first blackberry crop is ripening nicely as the bioreactor continues to remove pounds of nitrates from the Oso Flaco watershed.

The berries will be harvested and analyzed for weight, yield and sugar content. That blackberry/bioreactor data will be compared against berries harvested in a nearby commercial growing operation to determine if the berries grown on the bioreactor are competitive with commercial berries.

The project, funded by CDF A and supported by State Parks and SWRCB, demonstrates the versatility and efficacy of woodchip bioreactors, proving that on-farm water quality can be improved without losing arable land to a treatment structure.

Demonstrations and field tours are planned for later in 2017.



## Oso Flaco Lake Remediation Planning Now Underway

The CSLRCD and State Parks are working on a planning and assessment grant for Oso Flaco Lake, which will eventually be used to indicate how best to treat the contaminated sediment in both Oso Flaco and Little Oso Flaco lakes.

Oso Flaco Lake has the highest levels of DDT contaminated sediments in California lakes. The work completed to date includes an aerial survey of the lake, sampling and chemical analysis of sediment cores, and the

development of an Alternatives and Constraints report based on the results of the sediment analysis. Preliminary analysis of the cores verifies high DDT concentrations in sediment as deep as 4.5 feet below the lake bed.

The Alternatives and Constraints report outlines four remediation plans: 1) dredging both lakes to remove contaminated sediment, 2) capping the contaminated sediment under a layer of sand or fine material, 3) taking no action, or 4) a hybrid treatment of dredging hot spots and monitoring changes to ecosystem health.

All remediation plans will be assessed for benefits, impacts and feasibility. Based on these findings, one plan will be chosen in 2018 for implementation.

*Right – Sediment core samples are taken and analyzed at Oso Flaco Lake.*

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## Welcome New CSLRCD Team Members!

### Restoration Specialist I Alyssa Bucci

Alyssa Bucci came to CSLRCD last year as a member of the Watershed Stewards Program, an AmeriCorps program. She was mentored by our staff and worked on various projects from bank stabilization, map making and restoration to giving a presentation to the County Board of Supervisors.

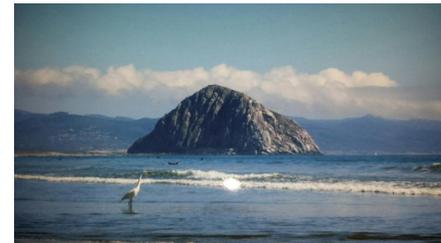
After 10 months, it was time for her to graduate from the AmeriCorps program, and we were fortunate that a position opened up in our office at the same time. Bucci now works as a Restoration Specialist I and has been assigned to the Oceano Dunes restoration/dust control project. We're glad to have her on the team!

### Board Member Jessica Crutchfield

Jessica Crutchfield is an environmental attorney that assists property owners, lenders and loan servicers with environmental due diligence, risk management and compliance. She provides pragmatic solutions catered to her clients' needs.

Crutchfield has written about the regulation of dust in rural areas and presented on the topic of urban agriculture. She focused on environmental law in law school, receiving a certificate in Environmental Law and Urban Planning and working as an extern at the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region VII.

She and her husband enjoy hiking and yard work. They live with their dog in Los Osos.



#### Staff

**Jackie Crabb**  
District Manager

**Jen Nix**  
Conservation Program Manager

**Hallie Richard**  
Conservation Project Manager

**William Arkfeld**  
District Engineer

**Micaela Mellein**  
Environmental Resource Specialist

**Tim Pesce**  
Restoration Coordinator

**Mark Skinner**  
Restoration Specialist II

**Alyssa Bucci**  
Restoration Specialist I

**Cindy Gonzales**  
Accounting Manager

**Della Barrett**  
Board Secretary

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Restoration Specialist I Alyssa Bucci



Board Member Jessica Crutchfield



**Conservation Clip List** is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts). This link discusses CDFA's Healthy Soils Program in all 10 California RCD regions:

<http://www.nacdnet.org/2017/06/15/california-rcds-cdfas-healthy-soils-program-leading-way-climate-smart-ag/>

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## Services

Call us today at [\(805\) 772-4391](tel:8057724391) 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