



COASTAL SAN LUIS
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

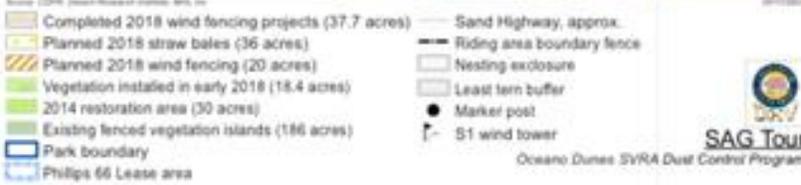
Your Local Partner
in Conservation & Agriculture



Winter 2019

CSLRCD Assists With Oceano Dunes Restoration Efforts for 2018–2019

by Seamus Land, Restoration Coordinator



The final abatement order map (above) shows the various new enclosures designated as dust reduction areas. The two sites showing yellow straw bales are this year's restoration sites (BBQ Flats to the North and North Eucalyptus Tree to the South).

In early summer 2018, the Oceano Dunes State Park and the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District came to an agreement that established a five-year plan to improve air quality on the Nipomo



Cardinal monkey flower at Chorro Flats summer 2018.

Upcoming Events

January 25, noon
Board of Directors Meeting
UCCE Auditorium, SLO

February 22, noon
Board of Directors Meeting
UCCE Auditorium, SLO

[2017-2018 Annual Report](#)
[Now Available](#)

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



Mesa. They hope to do this by reducing the emissions of fine-particle dust that is coming from the dunes. State Parks looked to its Resources department to carry this out, and the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) Dunes crew was there to help take up the challenge.

Of the 100-acre area, 60 acres were covered by wind rows of wind fencing (below). This method of dust prevention has been studied for several years by the the Desert Research Institute (DRI) with the assistance of the CSLRCD, and it has been shown to be a successful, albeit temporary means for dust prevention.



A 10-acre wind fencing site where CSLRCD carried out one of the DRI's sand movement studies during the 2018 windy season.

The remaining 40 acres were designated to be permanently re-vegetated. Beyond just expanding native habitat in the dunes, a well-established native plant ecosystem has been shown to be highly effective in reducing dust emissions. For the 2018-19 restoration season, a 30-acre and a 10-acre site were selected for restoration. These sites are called BBQ Flats and North Eucalyptus Tree respectively.

For a project of this scale we increased both our seed collection efforts and our greenhouse production. Staff made the best of a year of prolific seed, collecting more than 400 pounds from over 40 native plant species from areas all across the park. These seeds are critical for greenhouse production and for dispersal across the restoration sites. We also pushed to propagate and transplant 42,000 plants in our own greenhouse, while the Cal Poly Horticultural Unit and Greenheart Farms worked under contract to provide around 40,000 more each.



Board of Directors

Neil Havlik
President

Expertise: botany and natural resource management

Jean-Pierre Wolff
Vice President

Expertise: vineyard management and engineering

Dave Alford

Expertise: agricultural business

Linda Chipping

Expertise: community development

Jessica Crutchfield

Expertise: environmental law

Kevin L. Piper

Expertise: agricultural and natural resources management

Cheryl Lenhardt

Associate Director
Expertise: construction and civil engineering

Ron Munds

Associate Director
Expertise: water

Learn More About CSLRCD
at www.coastalcrd.org

Grant Johnson transplants some Dudleya lanceolata in the Parks greenhouse.

In late summer, working with the Parks Maintenance crew, the California Conservation Corps (CCC), and the American Conservation Experience (ACE), CSLRCD staff staged just more than 5,500 certified weed-free straw bales across the two sites (below left).

In the fall, we cut and shook all of the bales to serve as sand stabilization and as an organic input and mulch for the plants. After a few rains that renewed the soil moisture, crews began planting a dune scrub mix through the sites (below right).

Many of the plants are already established and are growing successfully (lower photo). We will continue planting through mid-February, and we look forward to a successful restoration season – with more to come!



These plants are growing from the 2017-2018 restoration season. The success at this site gives us hope for future bare-sand restoration efforts in the dunes.

TWO Technical Assistance Workshops to be Held in January **CDFA Now Accepting Grant Applications for** **Climate Smart Agriculture Incentive Programs**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is now accepting grant applications for climate smart agriculture incentives programs administered by its Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) and funded by SB 5 and California Climate Investments. Appropriations for these four grant programs total \$134 million.

To help our local farmers apply for these grants, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) has been awarded funding to assist farmers in applying for two of the CDFA's Climate Smart Agriculture incentive programs. The two programs the CSLRCD will assist with are the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) and the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). See details by clicking on links below.



HSP link <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oe/healthysoils/index.html>

SWEEP link <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oe/swEEP/>

CSLRCD plans to hold workshops in January at the SLO County Farm Bureau conference room. An announcement for these workshops will go out to our newsletter subscribers and anyone who makes a request to receive notice. Contact Hallie Richard at (707) 972-3315.

Invasive Species Update for Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes

by Mark Skinner, Restoration Specialist

The list of invasive species in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes includes European Beachgrass, Purple veldt grass, Ice plant, Pampas grass, Russian wheatgrass and Purple ragwort. Invasive species cover hundreds of acres in the Dunes and are a big headache in our efforts to restore the Dunes.

Today's featured invasive species, Purple ragwort (*Senecio elegans*), has a beautiful magenta daisy-like flower and is present mainly in the southern portion of the Dunes, just south of Oso Flaco Lake. Purple ragwort is an annual herb and is in the Sunflower family. It grows from a few inches to about one-foot high and six inches to two-feet wide. It produces a dandelion-like seed that is dispersed by wind, which means it can show up just about anywhere in our coastal Mediterranean climate. It is native to southern Africa.

Although Purple ragwort is attractive, it proliferates throughout landscapes and occupies space that is habitat for native plants such as beach evening primrose, beach morning glory and rare and endangered species like surf thistle and beach spectacle-pod. Purple ragwort is also an eyesore where rushes grow. Fortunately Purple ragwort is easy to remove manually; it is quite easy to pull out of the ground. If the Purple ragwort is in seed the removed plant must be bagged and taken away.



Purple ragwort — *Senecio elegans* — shown with flowers and seeds.



Staff

Jackie Crabb
District Manager

Larissa Clarke
Conservation Program Manager

Hallie Richard
Conservation Project Manager

Jen Nix
Grants & Development Coordinator

Joe Murphy
District Engineer

Seamus Land
Restoration Coordinator

Mark Skinner
Restoration Specialist II

Grant Johnson
Restoration Specialist I

Shelly Rachels
Bookkeeper

Della Barrett
Board Secretary



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/>

RCD 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

