Upper Salinas-Las Tablas
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Your partners in local, productive and sustainable land management since 1951

ISSUE 1 June2024

In This Issue:

- Willow Creek Conservancy
- Sustainable Land Initiative
- Grazing Land Management Workshop
- RCD Board Recruitment





RCD Announces New Office

The RCD recently relocated its office to 5855 Capistrano Avenue, Suite D, Atascadero, California. In 2020, the RCD left its co-located facility with Natural Resource Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency due to needing additional space for new employees. After over 40 years of sharing the same office, it was bittersweet but a much needed change. The new office is adjacent to the Atascadero Library, affording the RCD opportunities to hold community events and seminars seamlessly. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by and hear about some of the exciting programs, some of which will be covered in this article, or just come to see some of the new faces that are working on the RCD's mission.

Willow Creek Conservancy

The Upper Salinas Las-Tablas RCD was recently donated land within the Salinas River Watershed, within the Willow Creek subbasin. *"The Willow Creek Conservancy is a unique opportunity on the Central Coast of California to de velop aregenerative agricultural workspace and network. The Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resource Conservation Di s t r i c t is a local non-profit, non-regulatory organization whose vision for the property is to invest in the education and inspiration of the community of Northern San Luis Obispo County to help support a prosperous and regenerative agricultural economy. Willow Creek Conservancy will serve as a hub for the entire community including elementary schools and universities, local nonprofits, and land managers - providing opportunities for others to collaborate. Together we will learn*

<u>Conservation</u>

The property will become a beacon of hope, showcasing the power of regenerative ecological management.

<u>Regenerative Agriculture</u>

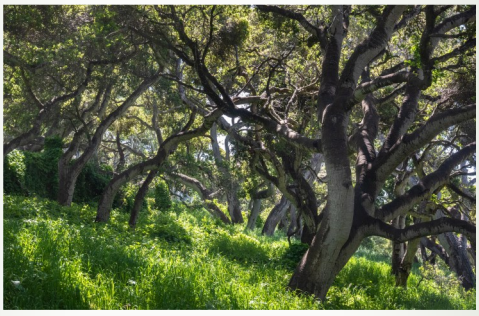
Intricately woven into our environment,

humans significantly impact ecosystem health. Historically, agriculture has been exploitative, leading to ecological degradation. Regenerative agriculture offers a solution, fostering a symbiotic relationship where both people and the land thrive. The WCC property will serve as a living example and laboratory for testing and showcasing these regenerative practices.

<u>Education and Recreation</u>

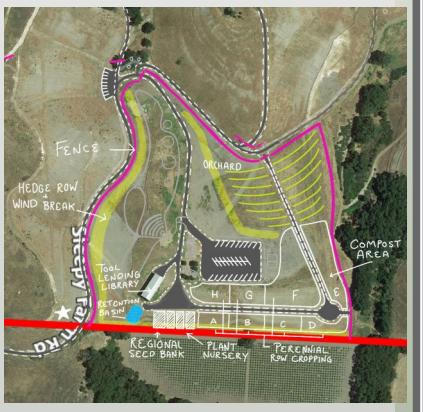
Sharing knowledge and immersing oneself in the ecosystem will foster a deeper connection with nature and inspire individual and collective action. Opportunities for learning, appreciation, and engagement can cultivate a generation of stewards who understand, value, and actively protect our environment. This collaborative approach paves the way for a more sustainable future f o r a l l .



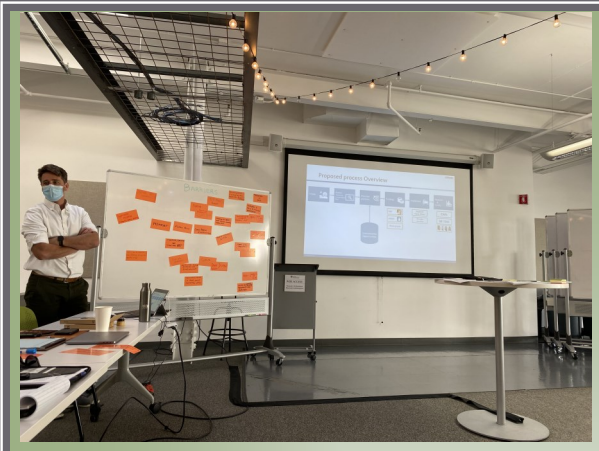


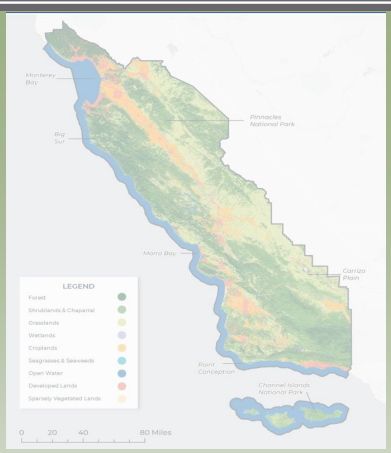


Willow Creek Conceptual Regenerative Agricultural Plan



The US-LT RCD, a local governmental agency, was formed by landowner initiative in 1951 under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code. Over 70 years later, the RCD now provides a full range of technical assistance to improve water quality, reduce erosion and restore wildlife habitat. The RCD works with willing landowners, farmers, groups and associations to implement conservation practices to address opportunities and concerns related to the use of natural resources.





The SLI program will increase the paces and scale of conservation to all community members

Sustainable Land Initiative (SLI)

Our vision is to create a regional ecosystem where landowners across the Central Coast

have the means of easily and rapidly adopting sustainable practices to achieve ourenviron-mental objectives and reduce climate impacts.

Success depends upon agencies transparently working together to increase and

accelerate funding as well as enable easy im-plementation.

Success will provide a blueprint for other regions to achieve their own environmen-talobjectives beyond the Central Coast.

In addition, successfully mitigating climate impacts locally may encourage environ-mental investment in the Central Coast by those who lack the ability to implement similar initiatives in their own jurisdictions.

At the same time presenting counties and cities with opportunities to integrate projects with their Climate Action Plans and legally required environmental action.

As such, the Central Coast will offer the state and nation with a menu of environmental initiatives in which to invest and the means to rapidly bring it to fruition.



Planning to Doing—the goal of SLI

To date, the SLI has delivered compost, cover crops, biochar, trees, pollinator plants, riparian trees and shrubs, filter strips, and hedgerows for several property owners within a few weeks of initial contact; a process usually taking months to years. Addi-tionally, the interest from outside partners has grown, diversifying funding sources, expediting planning to implementation, and reducing administrative overhead.

USLTRCD is seeking ongoing funding opportunities to expand the program to other RCDs on the Central Coast and throughout California, focusing on regional soil hubs as an initial focal point. Using templates in SLI, RCD staff can rapidly assess potential conservation and restoration projects and align those with current and near-future funding sources, reducing the lag time to implement and aggregating similar practices to distribute conservation funds at a broader scale.

SLI Conservation Practices

1. Compost
2. Critical Area Planting
3. Mulching
4. Nutrient Management
5. Irrigation Water Management
6. Groundwater Recharge
7. Roof Runoff Structure
8. Stormwater Runoff Control
9. Stream Habitat Improvement
10. Riparian Herbaceous Planting
11. Riparian Forest Buffer
12. Hedgerow
13. Conservation Cover
14. Structures for Wildlife
15. Vegetate Treatment Are
16. Tree/Shrub Establishment
17. Constructed Wetland
18. Streambank/Shoreline Im-provement
19. Early Successional Planting
20. Prescribed Grazing
21. And more...

Grazing for Soil Health Workshop



About the Event

Connect with fellow ranchers to better understand your soil and improve livestock management. Join us for a day of learning useful tools for growing healthy soils, a healthy herd, and a healthy business.

What You'll Learn

- Foundations of Holistic Management
- The 6 principles of soil health
- The 4 ecosystem processes
- Management planning and tools
- Experience sharing, discussion and questions

Logistics

Date: June 28,, 2024

Time: 9:00 am—2:00 pm

Location: Santa Rita Ranch, 3520 Old Creek Rd. Templeton, CA

Entry Fee: $20

UPPER SALINAS-LAS TABLAS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

5855 Capistrano Ave, Ste. D
Atascadero, CA 93422

805.460.7272

www.us-ltrcd.org

USLTRCD Board Members Needed!

USLTRCD is in need of some local community members interested in serving on the RCD Board. Board members play a vital role in the organization, providing oversight and guidance to programs, staff development, community awareness and engagement, and long-term vision for the Central Coast.

USLTRCD is composed of a five member board and is actively seeking new board members to join the organization in 2024.

If interested and want to know more, please contact our Executive Director, Devin Best.

Devin Best
Executive Director
5855 Capistrano Ave, Ste. D
Atascadero, CA 93422
(805) 460-7272 ex. 5
devin@us-ltrcd.org