



Photo by Michael "Mike" L. Baird bairdphotos.com

Summer 2021

## NRCS Invests \$22+ Million to Assist California Producers in Drought-Affected Areas—Application Deadline is **July 12**



The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is piloting a new program that offers conservation practices and 5- to 10-year conservation contracts to help producers recover from the impacts of drought while building resiliency. This program bridges the gap between EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Through this pilot program, NRCS California has \$22,774,000 for drought-related conservation practices. Practices include forest management plans, tree/shrub establishment, brush management, prescribed grazing, pasture and hay planting, wildlife habitat, livestock watering systems and cover crops.

The deadline for landowners to apply in this pilot year is **July 12**. Producers should apply through their local NRCS office at  
65 S Main Street Suite 106  
Templeton, CA 93465-8703  
(805) 434-0396

For more information, view the original NRCS news release [here](#).

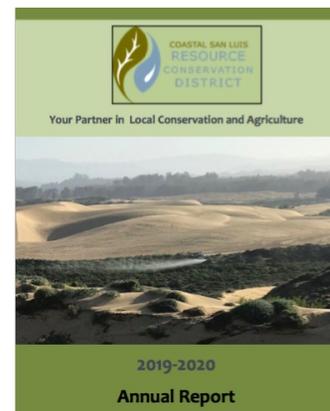


### Upcoming Events

Friday, July 23, noon  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Location TBD

Friday, August 27, noon  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Location TBD

[2019–2020 Annual Report](#)



## Volunteers Needed to Plant Habitat

# and Food Sources for Monarch Butterflies at Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos



The Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos, which is owned and operated by the Morro Coast Audubon Societies (MCAS), is home to a large diversity of plants and animals and is part of the Pacific Flyway, making it a stopover spot for many migrating bird species. This site is also a historic overwintering site for the Western population of monarch butterflies.

Monarchs spend the spring and summer scattered around the United States, and during this breeding season they may only live two to five weeks. Once fall comes around, they make their yearly migration to overwintering sites on the Central and Southern coasts of California (for the Western population) or to Central Mexico (for the Eastern population). This migratory generation of monarchs lives between six and nine months and can fly up to 3,000 miles between their breeding grounds and overwintering locations.

While there once were millions of monarchs that made their way to the West coast, last winter only 2,000 were counted in the overwintering sites—representing only 0.01 percent of the population in the 1980s (*Xerces Society*).

With the support of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP), the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD) has begun moving forward with a habitat enhancement project at Sweet Springs to support the monarch butterfly. Native trees and shrubs will be planted to restore the overwintering site and act as a windbreak, while native fall- or winter-blooming plants will be planted as a nectar sources to support the monarchs on their spring migration. We will be coordinating volunteer planting days with MCAS this summer and fall.

Please email [Grant Johnson](#) if you would like to participate or learn more.



## Board of Directors

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Expertise: botany and natural resource management

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**Cheryl Lenhardt**

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



## Staff

**Jackie Crabb**  
District Manager

**Hallie Richard**  
Conservation Programs Manager

**Grant Johnson**  
Conservation Projects Manager

**Joe Murphy**



*Sweet Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos.*

District Engineer

**Mark Skinner**  
Restoration Specialist II

**Lindsey Ringer**  
Restoration Specialist II

**Samantha Alvarez**  
Restoration Specialist I

**Aine Javier**  
Conservation Intern

**Shelly Rachels**  
Bookkeeper

**Della Barrett**  
Board Secretary

## CSLRCD Receives Grant Funding for Two New Watershed Management Projects



### **Morro Bay Estuary**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) awarded CSLRCD grant funds from the Clean Water Act 319(h) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Program to implement six on-farm water quality improvement projects across the Morro Bay watershed. Projects will include riparian fencing, cattle water infrastructure, headcut and gully repair, and irrigation system improvements in the upper Chorro, Los Osos and Warden Creek subwatersheds.

This project, anticipated to begin in mid-2022, builds on outreach and designs funded by the Resources Legacy Fund's Land-Sea Connection Program, with support from the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. CSLRCD will partner with Cal

Poly, Camp San Luis Obispo and with farmers, ranchers and other land managers to reduce upstream erosion and help protect the health of the Estuary.

The Morro Bay Estuary provides essential habitat and ecosystem functions to many sensitive species, as well as recreational opportunities. Accelerated rates of sedimentation resulting from upstream sources are currently impairing the health of the Estuary.

### **Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed**

The Bureau of Reclamation awarded CSLRCD grant funds from the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program for coordinated water and land planning in the Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed.

CSLRCD will work with longtime partners [Creek Lands Conservation](#) and [County Flood Control](#)

District Zone 1/1a to implement this project, including conducting outreach, updating the Arroyo Grande Watershed plan and collecting water quality data. CSLRCD looks forward to starting this project in early 2022.

The Arroyo Grande watershed is home to a diverse group of water users, including agriculture, municipal, recreational and fisheries. As we adapt to drought conditions and reduced water supplies, coordinated planning efforts will be essential to ensure equitable and sustainable use of water resources.

*Arroyo Grande Creek, Mason Street Bridge (right)*



## RCD 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

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

**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-rlds-cdfas-healthy-soils-program-leading-way-climate-smart-ag/>

