

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

VENTURA COUNTY

LONG RANGE PLAN

2012 – 2017



Mission

Our mission is to collaborate with landowners, government agencies, and other willing partners to facilitate the conservation and restoration of Ventura County's natural resources.

Vision

Provide leadership in the stewardship, protection, and perpetuation of the county's natural and agricultural resources

Foster stewardship of working landscapes to facilitate the economic viability of our unique agricultural and natural resources

Collaborate with landowners to create inventive methodologies for the protection and enhancement of agricultural and natural resources

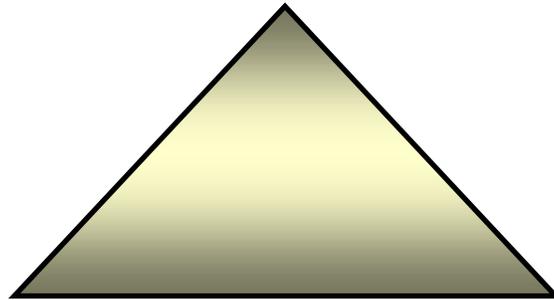
Engage the community in collaborative dialogue with agriculture and natural resource stakeholders in the resolution of diverse and impactful land use issues

Promote greater community involvement in developing policies and practices that protect our unique agricultural and natural resources.

Provide education and outreach to the community to improve understanding of natural and agricultural resource conservation

Goals & Strategies

Conservation & Stewardship



Community Engagement

Water Quality & Efficiency

➤ Goal 1. Conservation & Stewardship

The District will continue to work with land managers and stakeholders to implement conservation measures and promote resource stewardship to enhance natural habitat and reduce erosion.

1a. Develop a partnership with local agencies to facilitate non-native plant removal projects and/or implementation of off-site mitigation through the use of Programmatic Permits for Arundo removal in the Calleguas Creek and Upper Santa Clara River Watersheds.

1b. Continue implementing the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed Programmatic Permit Program to expedite Arundo removal projects initiated by third parties.

1c. Establish and continue partnerships with owners of public lands to assist in Arundo removal projects as well as conservation planning and recommendations for best management practices (BMP) and overall land management.

1d. Transition the Hillside and Erosion Control Ordinance Program into an Agricultural Grading Engineering Services Program that will provide technical review of agricultural grading permits for agencies with limited knowledge of agricultural operations.

➤ Goal 2. Community Engagement

The District will continue to educate the public about resource conservation practices and land stewardship and will assist the regulated community with compliance requirements.

- 2a. Continue to be an active stakeholder in the Calleguas, Santa Clara, and Ventura River Watershed planning processes and continue to expand awareness of the District as a resource for the community.*
- 2b. Continue to coordinate educational events with partner organizations in order to assist the agricultural community to conserve and enhance Ventura County's natural resources.*
- 2c. Continue to develop a relationship with the equestrian community in the Ventura River Watershed in order to expand education and outreach efforts regarding storm water BMPs.*

➤ Goal 3. Water Quality & Efficiency

The District will continue to work with the community to implement best management practices for water quality and nutrient management as well as erosion control.

3a. Establish and continue partnerships with landowners to assist in conservation planning recommendations for BMPs and erosion control.

3b. Continue to operate the District's Mobile Irrigation Laboratory (MIL) to provide evaluations of irrigation and nutrient management system efficiency and to work to systematically improve water quality at specific priority monitoring sites.

3c. Consider the development of a water quality monitoring program to assist livestock managers in potential non-point source pollution monitoring requirements and to assess the efficacy of BMP implementation.

3d. Work with the equestrian and livestock community to develop a demonstration site that can showcase various BMPs that improve water quality, drainage/erosion issues, and aesthetics of a property.

3e. Continue to provide critical support to the Ventura County Irrigated Lands Group (VCAILG) and the Ventura County Farm Bureau for compliance with waste discharge requirements for irrigated agricultural operations.

Board and Staff

Board of Directors

Mike Mobley, President

Vic Contreras, Secretary

Doug Nelson

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Chris DeVan

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Mike Richardson

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Staff

Marty Melvin, Executive Officer

Debra Gillis, Director of Finance

Vic Akundzadeh, Irrigation Specialist

Sonya Webb, District Engineer

Katie Haldeman, Environmental Scientist

Katrina Stotesbery, Administration

Jaime Whitford, BMP Specialist

Appendix A: District Facts

FORMATION

The Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD) is an independent legal subdivision of the State of California organized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code. The District's purview is limited to unincorporated areas of Ventura County. The VCRCD's Board of Directors includes representatives from the Ojai, Santa Clara Valley, and South Ventura County areas.

ANNUAL AND LONG RANGE PLAN REVIEW

The Annual Work Plan shall be updated as needed. The Long Range Conservation Program shall be subject to annual review. An Annual Report of accomplishments shall be prepared with the cooperation of assisting agencies.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

Ventura County is the 7th most important agricultural producing county in the state of California (2010). Two major factors responsible for these enviable statistics are the natural resources of Ventura County; its soil, climate, water and air, and the dedicated and knowledgeable farmers who operate within the county.

TOPOGRAPHY AND PHYSIOGRAPHY

A series of three coastal valley watersheds embrace the major drainage areas of the County. These coincide with the three resource divisions of the District.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Of the 1,174,400 acres in Ventura County, almost half are federally owned. The majority of these federal acres are in the Los Angeles Padres National Forest, which in general covers the north half of the County. There are 55,800 acres of private lands scattered throughout the National Forest. Other prominent federal holdings in Ventura County are Port Hueneme and Point Mugu.

CROPLAND

There are approximately 101,987* acres of cropland in Ventura County as of 2010.

Irrigated

The Oxnard Plain is intensively farmed and can grow up to four crop cycles per year. As crop production moves away from the ocean influence, the multi-cropping pattern diminishes.

Non-irrigated

Non-irrigated cropland is a relatively minor land use in the County. Crops include grain and dry land pasture.

GRAZING LAND

Grazing areas are located primarily in the hilly and mountainous regions of the County. The most important grazing areas are concentrated in the foothills above Ventura and Ojai. There are approximately 197,278* acres of grazing land in Ventura County as of 2010.

* 2010 Important Farmland Map, California Department of Conservation