



Ventura County Resource Conservation District

October 2020 Newsletter - Visit www.vcrccd.org for more information!

Welcome to VCRCD's monthly newsletter where we highlight some of the important resource conservation work going on throughout Ventura County.

We Collaborate with Landowners, Government Agencies, and Willing Partners to Facilitate the Conservation and Restoration of Ventura County's Natural Resources for Current and Future Generations.

In an effort to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to our staff and our constituents, our office is currently closed to the public. We are working remotely and are available to assist you! Please contact 805-764-5130 or email us for additional information. Field visits may be conducted but we will follow social distancing and other preventative measures.

Projects

We need help planting native plants into our landscape (the fun part of gardening), spreading mulch, and doing maintenance. We will provide the necessary tools, gloves, water, and extra face coverings.

If you are interested in spending some time outdoors, getting your hands dirty, learning a thing or two, socially distant of course, and want to make an impact on your community **contact the District Conservation Specialist Andy Spyrka at andyspyrka.vcrccd@gmail.com** to sign-up and ask additional questions.

NEW! VCRCD will be conducting a **pilot program to battle the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP)** which is a vector for Huanglongbing, a devastating disease of citrus trees. This bacterial disease is transmitted to healthy trees by the psyllid after it feeds on infected plant tissue. VCRCD is committed to reducing the threat to our local Citrus industry through treatment of residential citrus trees that surround at-risk Citrus farms.

If you are a resident (or know someone) who owns a citrus tree near a farm and are interested in exploring its removal and possible replacement please reach out to the District Resource Conservation Specialist Andy Spyrka at andyspyrka.vcrccd@gmail.com. We have funding to remove the tree and possibly offer a replacement.

VCRCD is actively looking for cooperating Citrus Farms in the Ojai Valley, please reach out if you'd like to be a part of this study.

REMINDER! Fire Recovery Funding Available! VCRCD is looking for landowners impacted by the 2018 (including Thomas Fire), 2019, and 2020 wildfires. If your property was burned during one of these wildfires and has resulted in environmental degradation, please **visit this announcement *Clickable Link*** and fill out the application, submit the app to the District Resource Conservation Specialist Andy Spyrka at andyspyrka.vcrccd@gmail.com. We may have funding to assist with restoration efforts.

Monarch butterflies, pollinators, and other beneficial insects need your help! VCRCD has received funding from the State to implement restoration of Monarch Overwintering Habitat. If you know of a site locally in Ventura or Santa Barbara County please reach out to the District Resource Conservation Specialist Andy Spyrka at andyspyrka.vcrccd@gmail.com

If you're farming in the lower Calleguas Creek Watershed and need help with irrigation, nutrient, and

sediment management, VCRCD has funding to help you! For more information, visit the [CCWAMMP](#) program page or contact Jamie Whiteford at jamiewhiteford.vcrcd@gmail.com or 805-764-5132.

Notables

NEW! The IIMRLN (Interactive Irrigation Management to Reduce the Leaching of Nitrogen) program will be conducting **Application Workshops via Zoom!** To attend a workshop, click the meeting date/time you'd like to attend: **October 19 (12-1PM)**, **October 22 (9-10AM)**, **October 23 (12-1PM)**, or **October 23 (1-2PM)**. You can save the webinar links to your calendar (right click date, copy link address, paste to calendar) **or** if you'd like to receive a webinar invite to add to your calendar, please send a webinar link request to Jamie Whiteford at 805-764-5132 or jamiewhiteford.vcrcd@gmail.com.

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NEW! VCRCD received funding to continue construction on the **fire-wise native garden at our office in Somis**. Once completed in 2021, **the garden will be open to the public and guide local landowners on the correct paths to safely implement defensible space around your home and actively prevent wildfires!** The program will also entail local homeowner evaluations with respect to defensible space effectiveness, announcements for signing up will occur next year.

UPDATE! VCRCD, Farm Bureau of Ventura County, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service have been funded to conduct a **watershed assessment for the Calleguas Creek watershed**. Funded by the **USDA National Water Quality Initiative**, the goal of the assessment is to identify resource concerns, establish goals and metrics, and prioritize the type and location of practices that can improve water quality and strengthen agricultural productivity. More information is available [here](#).

UPDATE! The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has released the **2021 solicitation for Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)** concept proposals. If you'd like to work with VCRCD on a concept proposal, please reach out to Jamie Whiteford at (805) 764-5132 or jamiewhiteford.vcrcd@gmail.com. For more information about SCBG, please visit the CDFA SCBG website [here](#).

Do you like to garden, conduct research or just want to help our local environment? The VCRCD is always looking for enthusiastic and passionate **volunteers** to join our team and assist in our wide-range of projects. Most notably the **new fire-wise garden**, we'd love some extra hands! [Please sign-up here](#) if you are interested in volunteering.

Would you like a **FREE NRCS Conservation Plan or Nutrient Management Plan?** Of course you would! Contact Dawn Afman, NRCS District Conservationist, at 805-984-2358, ext. 101, to get your plan.

Please consider donating to VCRCD! Your tax deductible donation will be **greatly** appreciated! Scroll to the bottom of this newsletter for our easy donation link. You can also donate via **Amazon!** We can accept donations through [AmazonSmile](#) under **Fund for Resource Conservation**. Be sure to shop via the link smile.amazon.com to make a donation.

Meetings

The next **Ventura River Watershed Council General Membership** meetings are planned to be held virtually via webinar software until further notice. The next meeting is tentatively planned for Thursday,

December 3rd from 9 am - 12 pm. Agendas will be sent out one week prior to the meetings, please contact Andy Spyrka at andyspyrka.vcrccd@gmail.com to be added to those announcements.

The next **VCRCD Board of Directors'** meeting will occur on October 21, 2020. Currently, meetings are held remotely. Agendas and the website will provide information on accessing the meetings via an application or on your telephone. Check www.vcrccd.org for more information.

NEW! The Farm Bureau of Ventura County will be conducting **Water Quality BMP webinars** in November to talk about VCAILG's updated Water Quality Management Plan. These meetings are scheduled for **November 5** (1:00-3:00 PM) and **November 13** (8:30-10:30 AM). For more information please email Jodi Switzer, Farm Bureau, at jodi@farmbureauvc.com .

UPDATE! The fourth Ventura River Instream Flow (VRIF) project "Framework" meeting was held October 7, 2020. Thanks to all of the "Framers" who attended. **If you'd like to review the VRIF program, please visit the VCRCD VRIF webpage [here](#).** To review the meeting material, please visit the VRIF program page [here](#). To view a recording of the meeting itself, please click [here](#) or [here](#).

Did you know VCRCD operates on grants and donations? Supporting VCRCD means supporting your local community and helping conserve soil, water, and wildlife.

Make a donation now by clicking the button below. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided.

Thank you for your support!

[Donate Here](#)

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please contact us before stopping by the office. VCRCD staff may be out doing field work and we'd hate to miss you!



Social Media



www.vcrccd.org



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