

# Grant Opportunities for Conservation Practice Implementation

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of Greater San Diego County



**RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**  
Greater San Diego County



# Resource Conservation District Carbon Farming Program

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PLANNING



TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE



IMPLEMENTATION



MONITORING &  
ANALYSES



# Regenerative Practices

- ▶ Goals include
  - ▶ Soil health
  - ▶ Water retention
  - ▶ Sequester carbon
  - ▶ Resilience to climate change



# Mulch Application

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- ▶ Abundant local sources, including pruned material
- ▶ Effects such as:
  - ▶ Reduce evaporation
  - ▶ Protect against heat stress
  - ▶ Improve water retention
  - ▶ Build Organic Matter





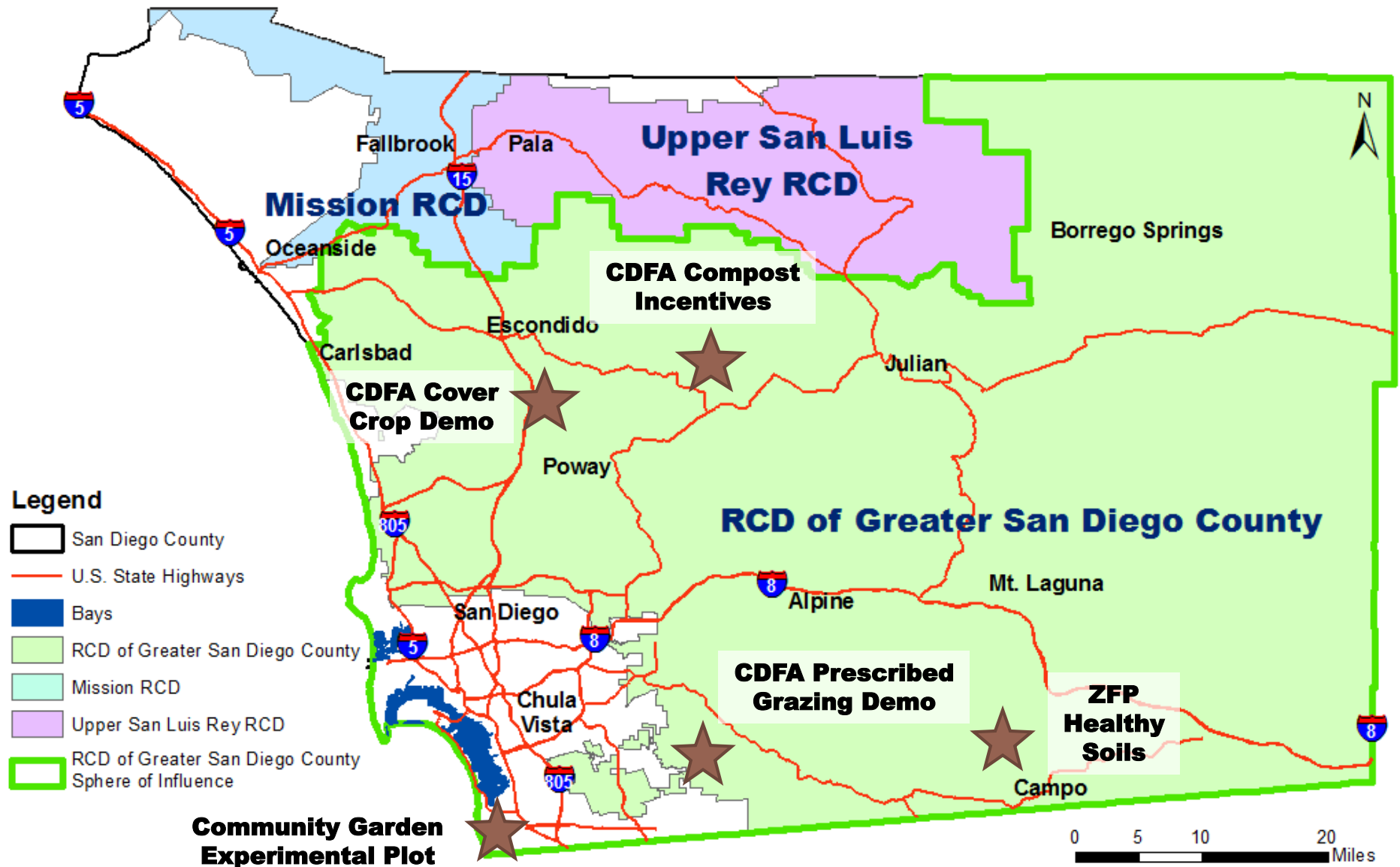
# Planting Cover Crops

- ▶ Demonstration site in Escondido avocado orchard
- ▶ Address issues such as:
  - ▶ Erosion
  - ▶ Weed control
  - ▶ Water retention
  - ▶ Fertility
  - ▶ Pollination
  - ▶ Soil temperature
- ▶ Challenges
  - ▶ Hilly terrain
  - ▶ Water costs



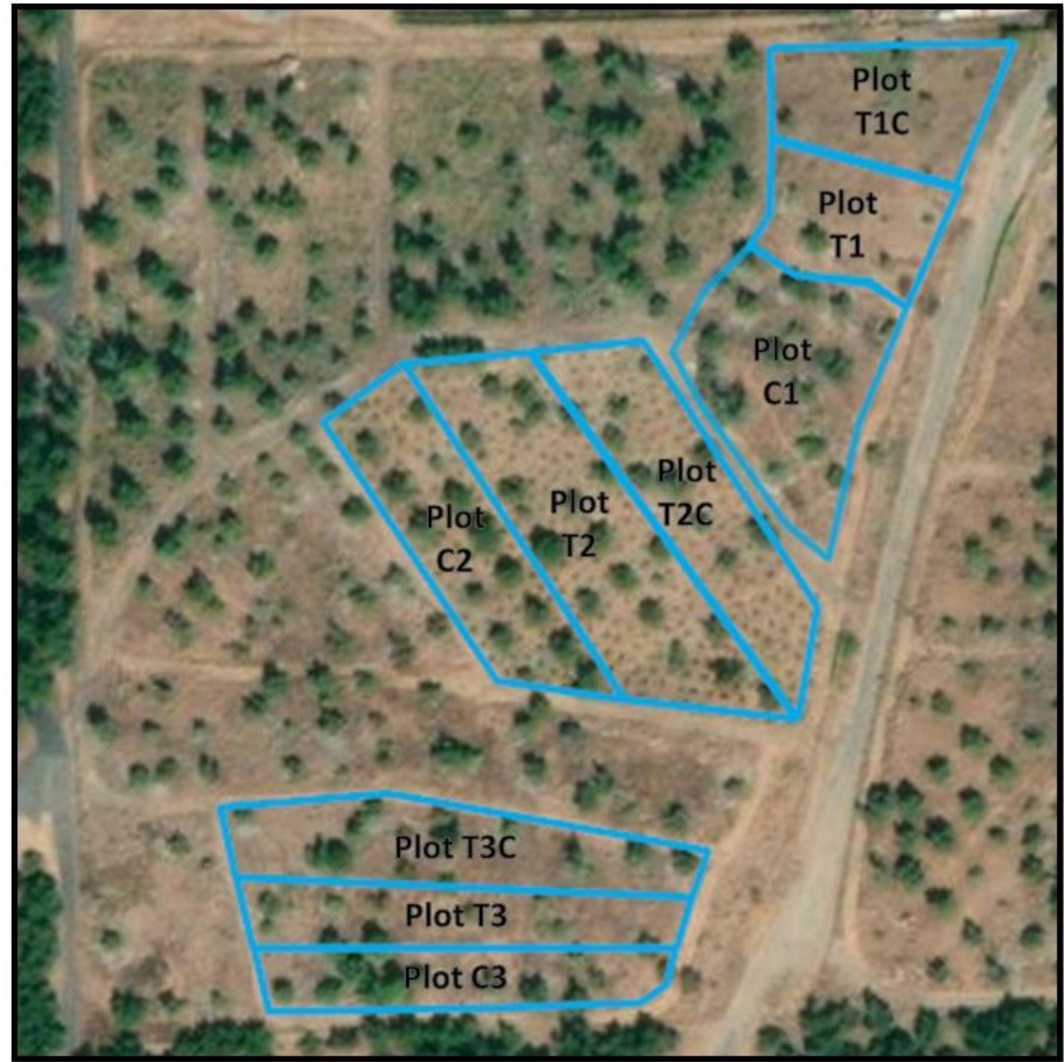
*Image Source:  
National Center for Appropriate Technology*

# Current RCD Carbon Farming Projects



# New Practices for a New Orchard

- Funded by CA Dept of Food and Ag as Demo site through 2023
- Planting cover crops on 3 acres for nitrogen fixation, pollination and erosion control
- Control sites for cover crops and compost
- Monitoring soil organic carbon, soil moisture, crop biomass, and costs

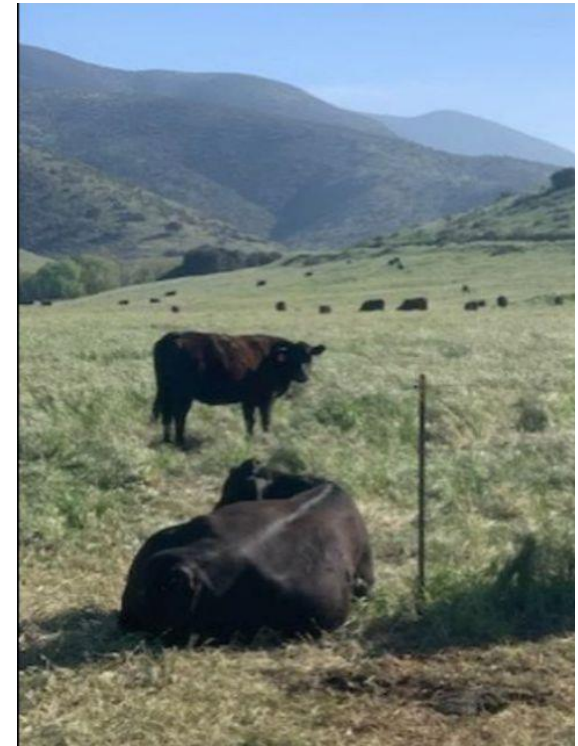




# Prescribed Grazing at Rancho Jamul

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- ▶ 1000 acres of fallow historic rangeland
- ▶ CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife leased to Rancher John Austel (4J Horse & Livestock)
- ▶ Grazing Plan published
- ▶ CDFA Healthy Soils Demo thru 2022
- ▶ Testing for soil carbon and moisture
- ▶ Baseline is 1.1-3.6% organic matter
- ▶ Bi-annual workshops and outreach
- ▶ Largest demonstration project in So. CA





# Funder: CA Dept of Food and Ag

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- ▶ Source: Cap-and-Trade proceeds
  - ▶ “CA Climate Investments”
- ▶ Dept: Office of Environmental Farming & Innovation
- ▶ Unprecedented: Funds this year exceed all past years
- ▶ Major programs: HSP and SWEEP
- ▶ Caution: Application periods vary
- ▶ <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/>



# Healthy Soils Incentives Program: Now Open!

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- ▶ Flat rate per practice by area/distance
- ▶ \$75 Million Available
- ▶ Max \$100,000
- ▶ Projects build soil health while sequestering carbon
  - ▶ Compost, mulch, hedgerows, prescribed grazing, etc.
- ▶ **Required for Prescribed Grazing:  
Completed Grazing Management Plan**



# State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program: Now Open!

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- ▶ Budget for materials and contract labor
- ▶ \$50 Million Available
- ▶ Max \$200,000
- ▶ **Required: Pump, pump test, 1 year of energy records**
- ▶ Scoring high is easy and it is not competitive but the clock is ticking
- ▶ Funds water and energy efficiency upgrades
  - ▶ Pressure, Pump Upgrade, Drip Irrig, Scheduling
- ▶ Excluded: No new wells, No expansion, No staff time
- ▶ Documents
  - ▶ GHG Budget, Water Efficiency Calcs, Site Plan





# Environmental Quality Incentives Program: Rolling Application

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- ▶ Funder: US Dept of Ag – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ▶ Benefits include air quality, water conservation, soil health, wildlife habitat, etc.
- ▶ Subsidized cost for practice implementation
- ▶ Competitive application process
- ▶ Consistent annual review period
- ▶ Advance available for underserved producers



# Zero Foodprint: Now Open!

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- ▶ Private funder based on restaurant sales
- ▶ Up to \$25,000 to build soil health
- ▶ Streamlined application process
- ▶ Minimal reporting required
- ▶ Competitive funding pool based on carbon sequestered
- ▶ San Diego recipient includes orchard in Campo



# Economic Relief: Ongoing

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- ▶ Was your farm impacted by COVID-19, wildfires or another hardships?
- ▶ Many funds have offered, ex:
- ▶ Bricmont Hardship Assistance Fund
  - ▶ CA Certified Organic Farmers
  - ▶ Open thru Nov 5
- ▶ Farmer & Land Steward Relief Fund
  - ▶ Mandela Partners
  - ▶ For CA Black, Indigenous, or Farmers of Color





# How to Learn More

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- ▶ Subscribe to our newsletter!
  - ▶ [rcdsandiego.org](http://rcdsandiego.org)
- ▶ Attend a Workshop
  - ▶ Oct 16 @ Farm Bureau
  - ▶ CDFA
- ▶ Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program
  - ▶ Agricultural Mapping
  - ▶ Producer Outreach
  - ▶ Policy Analysis



# We Are Here to Help You

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- ▶ Soil Sampling for Organic Carbon Content
- ▶ Irrigation Evaluation
- ▶ Conservation Grant Application Support
- ▶ Guidance on Conservation Practices
- ▶ Habitat Plant Selection
- ▶ Free Chipping for Defensible Space



# Questions?

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