

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S FARMER & RANCHER MAGAZINE



MARCH 2010



View and Print Your Soil Map

• Click on the "Soil Map" tab.

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
80	Butler silt loam, 0 to 2 percent organics	11.2	1.0%
01	Cherry silt loam, 0 to 2 percent organics	267.2	27.0%
06	Cherry silt loam, 0 to 2 percent organics	230.4	23.1%
04C2	Cherry silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent organics	267.0	27.1%



How Resource Conservation Districts Can Help YOU...page 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Richard Gonzales, President
SLO County Farm Bureau



Help Get the Word Out

Agricultural Grading ~ Conservation and Open Space Element ~ Events ~ Ag Cluster Ordinance ~ Irrigated Ag Discharge Renewal ~ Reduction of Residences from 2 to 1 on Ag Parcels

These are just some of the issues Farm Bureau is working on for you. Our staff is in high gear trying to keep up with them all. I am proud to say that we are getting great participation from the Cattlemen, CattleWomen, Wine Country Alliance, Grower-Shipper, COLAB, along with a lot of diverse volunteers. It shows how important these issues are to everyone in agriculture.

However, we need to let the general public know how important these issues are to us. We need to get the word out. This means I need your help. We've had great participation on these issues, but we need

all of you to step up. We need to get the media to tell our story. We can't afford to sit back and take what is being put on us. I am encouraging you to contact Farm Bureau for "talking points" related to each specific topic that affects you; and then I urge you to write a letter to the editor.

We are all involved from the front desk to the top, but for specific guidance on what you can do, please contact our Executive Director Jackie Crabb, our Legislative Analyst Joy Fitzhugh, or me to find out how you can help. Working together, we can make a difference.

—Richard Gonzales

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S FARMER FB & RANCHER MAGAZINE

March 2010
Volume 39, Issue 3
One Dollar Monthly

Official Publication of the
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau
651 Tank Farm Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7062

Phone: 805/543-3654
Fax: 805/543-3697
Website: www.slofarmbureau.org

SLO County Farm Bureau Executive Committee

President: Richard Gonzales
Vice President: Bernard Olsen
Corporate Secretary: Carlos Castañeda
Treasurer: Dan Sutton
Immediate Past President: Mark Moore

SLO County Farm Bureau Staff

Executive Director: Jackie Crabb
Office Manager: Mary Silveira
Legislative Analyst: Joy Fitzhugh
Outreach Coordinator: Annalisa Clarke
CFBF District Director: Benny Jefferson
Region II Field Rep: Elizabeth Giannini

Magazine photos by staff, unless credited.

San Luis Obispo County Farmer & Rancher is published monthly. The subscription price to San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau members is included in the membership dues (as of February 1, 2009) of \$400 for business members, \$400 for President's Club members, \$160 for voting members or \$72 for sustaining members; to non-members, \$1 per single copy.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, 651 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo CA 93401.

For advertising information, call the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, 805/543-3654; or Joni Hunt, 805/545-9547; jonihunt@att.net.

©2010 San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau retains all rights to text, photos and graphics. San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau does not assume responsibility for statements by advertisers or for products advertised in the SLO County Farmer & Rancher, nor does the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau assume responsibility for statements or expressions of opinion other than in editorials or in articles showing authorship by an officer, director or staff member of the SLO County Farm Bureau or its affiliates.



Don and son Robert Warden hammered down the Farm Bureau gutter after our recent storms. Wind and rain, hail and snow (snow?) couldn't keep the rancher from fixin' the Farm Bureau. Our thanks to Robert and Don, who is a Director on the Farm Bureau Board.



COVER PHOTO

Resource conservation solutions come in all shapes, sizes and materials, as this bridge illustrates.

Photo courtesy of Upper Salinas—Las Tablas Resource Conservation District.



SLO County Farm Bureau CALENDAR

MARCH

- 4 Edna Farm Center
- 6 Farm Bureau Women
- 17 Creston Farm Center
- 19 Adelaida Farm Center
- 23 Board of Directors' Meeting

APRIL

- 1 Edna Farm Center
- 12 Farm Bureau Women
- 16 Adelaida Farm Center
- 27 Board of Directors' Meeting

Every bit of strength Farm Bureau's political program possesses will be needed as we face 2010.

In the year ahead, farmers and ranchers will see game-changing elections that will determine whether California faces a continual decline or can recover to be the golden state it once was.

Statewide, more than 40 seats in the Assembly and Senate are open—either as a result of term limits, members retiring or moving on to pursue other opportunities. Additionally, the eight statewide constitutional offices, including governor, are up for grabs.

Each and every position will be important to ensuring the future viability of California's farms and ranches.

At stake in both houses of the state government is protecting the 2/3 vote margin needed to pass the budget or increase taxes, as we see the number of safe Republican seats continue to decline.

Farmer and ranchers cannot afford to have a single party hold all the power in state government.

In addition to electing candidates, voters will also see a large number of initiatives on their ballot. To date, more than 90 proposed measures are making their way through the initiative process.

While many will fail, there are two measures of interest that have already qualified. The first will appear on the June ballot and enacts an "open primary" where the top two vote getters will face each other in the general election, regardless of party affiliation.

The second measure of interest

will appear on the November ballot and will provide \$11.4 billion in funding for water supply and water-quality improvement projects.

However, elections won't be the only task for farmers and ranchers as we enter 2010 and the second of a two-year legislative cycle. Agriculture faces numerous challenges in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

In addition to normal legislative issues, the budget in Sacramento continues to provide challenges as California has racked up a \$21 billion shortfall entering 2010. For agriculture, funding for the Williamson Act continues to be at risk. All the while, new and continued efforts to increase fees and taxes loom.

Back in Washington, D.C., a number of top priority issues for the Obama administration have been pushed back a year, including estate tax reform, food safety regulations, climate change legislation, immigration reform and the H-2A program. Additionally, changes to the Clean Water Act will likely surface again.

The strength of Farm Bureau's political program and our ability to meet the challenges of 2010 are completely dependent on the activity of our members. Now, more than ever, is the time to be involved and help get California back on track.

There is no doubt that participating in the political process can be intimidating, however Farm Bureau makes it easy with our two political action programs—FARM TEAM and FARM PAC.

By signing up for FARM TEAM, you receive e-mail action alerts to notify you of important issues facing the agriculture community or ways

to support candidates who are committed to protecting the farming and ranching way of life. It only takes a click of a button to weigh in on important issues impacting your operation.

With regard to the election process, FARM PAC, the California Farm Bureau Federation Fund to Protect the Family Farm, has been the voice for agriculture in the political arena for more than 30 years.

Voluntary contributions, separate from your membership dues, are raised specifically for supporting farm and business friendly candidates. This helps candidates get their message out, giving them a better chance of getting elected.

Regardless of how you participate—whether it is writing letters to your elected officials, taking part in a press conference, checking the box on your membership renewal, responding to a fundraising letter or participating in a county fundraising event—you are helping to protect California's family farms and ranches.

For more information on how you can become involved in the political process, contact your county Farm Bureau at (805) 543-3654.

2010 CENSUS:



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Census Reaches Out to Migrant Farm Workers

Census officials have been meeting with community leaders who work with the migrant farm worker population throughout California in an effort to engage this community to participate in the 2010 Census.

A recent meeting in Coachella, attended by more than 30 people, shared information and ideas about how to best reach this important segment of our population. Farm workers need to be counted so their needs are taken into account and appropriately funded by the government money that is allocated for vital services and calculated based on census data.

Reasons why farm workers are considered hard to count include their high mobility, mistrust of government, fear of perceived negative repercussions, non-traditional housing, and literacy and language barriers.

Census population counts are conducted every 10 years, as mandated by the United States Constitution. The data are used to determine the proper distribution of Congressional representation and the allocation of more than \$400 billion in government funds each year for the subsequent 10 years.

The 2010 Census questionnaire has only 10 simple questions. There are no questions about legal status, and personal information is protected by law. All Census employees take a lifetime oath to protect the confidentiality of the information and any infraction is subject to five years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

AROUND SLO COUNTY

U.S. Census Arrives April 1

The countdown to the 2010 Census has begun, and the U.S. Census Bureau is looking to national, tribal, state and local officials, corporations and community leaders to ensure an accurate count.

The Census Day is a critical national effort that affects the apportionment of congressional seats as well as how the federal government annually allocates some \$435 billion in federal funds to state, local and tribal governments.

The 2010 Census has one of the shortest census questionnaires since the Census process began in the United States in 1790—asking for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether the householder owns or rents their home. The 10 questions will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and the answers will affect people's lives for the next 10 years. All personal information collected is protected by law and strictly confidential.

More than 11,000 state, local and tribal governments have registered for the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program to update the bureau's address information for their communities.

Also active are appointed members of local Complete Count Committees—teams of local government, business and community leaders chosen to reach large numbers of people within the communities they serve—who work to make sure their communities are counted. During Census 2000, more than 11,800 Complete Count Committees were formed to help develop and implement locally based outreach and recruitment campaigns.

Reasons for residents to be aware of the upcoming census and the need to participate include the following.

- The federal government uses Census numbers to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds annually for community programs and services, such as education, housing and community development, health care, services for the elderly, job training and more.
 - State, local and tribal governments use Census information for planning and allocating funds for new school construction, libraries and other public buildings, highway safety and public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, location of police and fire departments, and many other projects.
 - Community organizations use census information to develop social service programs, community action projects, senior lunch programs and child-care centers.
 - The numbers help businesses identify where to locate factories, shopping centers, movie theaters, banks and offices—activities that often lead to new jobs.
 - The Census totals are used to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, states use the numbers to allocate seats in their state legislatures.
- For more information about the 2010 Census, go to the website, www.census.gov/2010census; write United States Census Bureau Media Department, Los Angeles Regional Census Center, 9301 Corbin Avenue, Suite 1000, Northridge, CA 91324; call (818) 717-5880; or e-mail Los.Angeles.RCC.Media@census.gov.

FARM BUREAU NEWS

CA Field Crop Production Declines

California field crop production dropped sharply in 2009, according to a government report. There were a few exceptions—rice, oats and dry bean production all increased. But, production of cotton, corn, barley, hay, wheat, safflower and sugar beets all declined.

Analysts report lower prices

and lack of water as reasons for the drop. To see the report, go to <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1047> or go to www.cfbf.com under "California field crop production declines."

Farm Bureau News continued on page 13

Congressman McCarthy Visits Farm Bureau



Congressman Kevin McCarthy stopped at the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau office February 17 to listen to the concerns of farmers and ranchers.

Photo at left: Carlos Castenada (left), Richard Gonzales, Chris Darway, Congressman Kevin McCarthy and Dan Sutton.

CHECK THE FARM BUREAU WEBSITE FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION!

www.slofarmbureau.org

**FB Women Scholarship
Deadline—March 1, 2010**

**Cal. State Fair Scholarship
Friends of the California State
Fair Scholarship
Deadline—March 12, 2010**

**California Farm Bureau
Scholarship Foundation
Deadline—April 1, 2010**

**SLO YF&R & PYF&R Scholarship
Deadline—May 1, 2010**

**SLO Cattlewomen Scholarship
Deadline—April 15, 2010**

**CA Rural Crimes Prevention
Deadline—TBA**

**Foundation for Agriculture
Awareness and Mid-State Fair
Heritage Foundation Scholarship
Deadline—TBA**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Editorially speaking by Joy Fitzhugh, SLO County Farm Bureau Legislative Analyst

New Discharge Order to Replace Current Irrigated Ag Conditional Waiver Is Out! If this order goes unchanged...

General Information

The document that the Regional Water Board staff has produced is, as the Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. says, "...remarkably hostile to agriculture and gives scant reference to water quality improvements through our farm management practices implemented over the past five years."

With this new discharge order comes a new filing of the Notices of Intent and a whole new laundry list of Farm Plan and monitoring requirements.

With This in Mind

I must first make a disclaimer. This is an extremely complex order, and I am only hitting the highlights (lowlights) of the multitude of requirements in the order.

I suggest that you log onto the Regional Water Quality Control Board website and wade through the order yourself. Go to www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3 and under announcements click on 2/01/2010—Preliminary Draft Staff Recommendations for an Updated Agricultural Order. Pick number 3, the Preliminary Draft Agricultural Order.

To begin with, we need to understand what the Regional Water Board considers as a "discharger." He or she is "the owner and operator of irrigated lands that discharge or *have the potential to discharge* waste that could directly or *indirectly reach waters* of the State and affect the quality of any surface water or groundwater."

Components of the New Order

NEW AND EXPANDED FARM PLANS

Begin your updated Farm Plan with sections on the following.

- Irrigation Management
- Pesticide Management
- Nutrient Management
- Salinity Management
- Sediment and Erosion Control
- Aquatic Habitat Protection

There must be a schedule to effectively implement the management practices to eliminate or minimize the discharges and achieve the requirements (listed below). In addition to the above categories, sections include (but this is definitely not a complete list) these requirements.

- Detailed mapping
- Logging of all water applied
- Crop water demand
- Irrigation schedules and duration
- Evaluation of potential runoff
- Evaluation of potential percolation
- Details of the irrigation system
- Photo documentation of wetlands
- Erosion control measures
- Photo documentation of all surface waters
- Photos of minimum buffer widths
- Evaluation of the progress to compliance
- Measures to protect and restore aquatic habitat
- Schedule of meeting compliance

SCHEDULE FOR COMPLIANCE NO IRRIGATION WATER RUN-OFF WITHIN TWO YEARS

Eliminate it all within two years or submit data proving that the water meets all required water-quality standards, including aquatic standards that are higher than drinking water standards.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT WITHIN FOUR YEARS; PLAN CERTIFICATION WITHIN SIX YEARS

Within four years all dischargers within 1000 feet of any surface water

must implement practices to eliminate nutrients and salts or have the discharge meet aquatic standards. A Crop Advisor, appropriately certified, must certify your nutrient management element of your Farm Plan within six years.

ELIMINATION OF TOXICITY WITHIN TWO YEARS

The Farm Plan includes 11 minimum requirements for pesticide use and management. Within two years everyone in irrigated ag. within 1,000 feet of *any* surface water must eliminate all runoff or give detailed information on the crop and pests, method of counting the pests and natural enemies in a monitoring program, the treatment thresholds, an annual IPM checklist, ID of the pesticides used in the operations, the time, date and amount proving that the water meets aquatic habitat standards.

ELIMINATION OF SEDIMENTATION AND TURBIDITY WITHIN THREE YEARS

Dischargers within 1,000 feet of any waterway must implement practices to stop sediment and turbidity (cloudy water) above water quality in irrigation runoff.

VEGETATION BUFFERS WITHIN FOUR YEARS AND NO CLEARING OF VEGETATION FOR FOOD SAFETY

Install 50- to 100-foot vegetated buffers within four years, and no clearing of beneficial vegetation will be allowed for food safety reasons. A new aquatic habitat regulation includes no channel clearing except for agricultural ditches, the establishment and maintaining of mixed native vegetation and stream shading.

Continued on page 7

NEW NURSERY REGULATION

This new regulation will require nurseries with pervious floors to develop a farm management plan and follow all the regulations required of other irrigation agricultural producers.

Additionally, nurserymen who grow crops in pots and/or containers must implement management practices that keep rainwater and/or stormwater separated from wastewater and irrigation runoff, and prevent rainwater from coming into contact with containerized plants.

NEW GROUNDWATER REQUIREMENTS

Within six months, all dischargers must report groundwater well location and construction information regarding groundwater wells in a format approved by the Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer. Included will be the well construction information, well logs, use of fertigation and chemigation, back-flow prevention devices with photos, monitoring and reporting of quarterly well depths.

ELIMINATE NITRATES AND SALT IN GROUNDWATER DISCHARGES WITHIN SIX YEARS

Dischargers that use leaching for salts must not let the salts or nitrates get into the groundwater

NEW AQUATIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Through this new section, dischargers must protect existing aquatic habitat, which includes perennial, intermittent or ephemeral streams, and riparian and wetland area habitat. These aquatic requirements are higher standards than for drinking water and include water temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, etc.

There is a lengthy list of requirements relating to these standards including the buffers, vegetation protection, streambank stabilization, including limiting agricultural activities, such as equipment operation, in and near aquatic habitat.

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION OF RIPARIAN BUFFERS WITHIN FOUR YEARS

Dischargers must document with

photo documentation in the Farm Plan, plus annual photo verification, the presence of minimum riparian buffers to perennial and intermittent streams.

In Conclusion

If this article bothers you, then you need to respond to the Regional Water Quality Control Board by **April 1, 2010**.

Send your comments to

Angela Schroeter, Manager
Agricultural Regulatory Program
Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Or e-mail
aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov
or
Howard Kolb, Agricultural Order Project Lead Staff, at
hkolb@waterboards.ca.gov.



WHAT'S ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER?

To be successful in agriculture today you've got to have both feet firmly planted on the ground. We know that because for more than 60 years we've stood side-by-side with California's farmers. And, by partnering with State Fund, we've been able to offer farmers the most stable and secure workers' compensation coverage in the state. To see why the Farm Bureau's group plan is such a good fit, talk to your broker or call 1-800-773-7667.

[A LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP SINCE 1943.]



State Compensation Insurance Fund is not a branch of the State of California.

How Resource Conservation Districts Can Help YOU

by Mary Silveira

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation District and the Resource Conservation Districts of San Luis Obispo County Offer a wide variety of services for the landowner.

Last year we made you aware that the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) had launched the Web Soil Survey that provides soil information and assistance, including maps, properties and interpretation online at www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/ (see sidebar on page 9).

But what is the NRCS and who are its staff who serve San Luis Obispo County? Located in Templeton, NRCS is committed to assisting landowners with conservation of natural resources on private land, which translates into what they call "SWAPA+H"—Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animals and Humans.

Margy Lindquist, District Conservationist for the NRCS local office, says that staff meets with a landowner when the latter requests help developing conservation plans. Along with the landowner, NRCS identifies resource issues, formulates alternative treatments and helps create and implement a conservation plan. NRCS can help landowners with solutions, implementation and cost-sharing for implementation.

Celebrating 75 years of the Soil Conservation Act on April 27, 2010, NRCS had its beginning under the title of Soil Conservation Service, a movement led by Hugh Hammond Bennett. As a soil surveyor for USDA conducting crop yields, Bennett became convinced that soil erosion was a problem not just for farmers but for rural economies as well.

Following Bennett's example, NRCS works with farmers to find solutions that benefit the land and fulfill the landowner's aspirations.

To do this, NRCS draws on their heritage of principles:

1. Assess the resources on the land, the conservation problems and opportunities.
2. Draw on various sciences and disciplines and integrate all their contributions into a plan for the whole property.
3. Work closely with land users so that the plans for conservation mesh with their objectives.
4. Through implementing conservation on individual properties, contribute to the overall quality of the life in the watershed or region.

"Implementing the BMPs (Best Management Practices) is the goal," says Lindquist. "NRCS can help landowners reach that goal most

effectively if we're involved on the ground level—identifying issues and coming up with solutions to resolve them."

It is possible with cost-sharing options offered to prioritize projects and implement them over time, a process that often takes several years.

"You can look back and see that five years ago the issues then are not the same ones we see today," according to Lindquist. "This is an ever-evolving process and is unique for each situation. This is true in all counties, and especially in our diverse San Luis Obispo County. Some sections of the county may get 50 inches of rain in a really raining year, while others such as Carrisa will get 8 inches. Each area requires soil-specific planning as well because of our diversity in soil types."



NRCS staff in Templeton assists landowners with conservation of natural resources on private land. From left, Soil Conservationist Cheryl Zelus, Engineer Mark Barnett, Engineer Susan Litteral and District Conservationist Margy Lindquist.

Lindquist emphasizes NRCS planners' use of "eFOTG" (online at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>). This Electronic Field Office Technical Guide contains "technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air and related plant and animal resources. Technical guides used in each field office are localized so that they apply specifically to the geographic area for which they are prepared."

NRCS Web Soil Survey Now Available

Web Soil Survey 2.1 was recently launched by NRCS. This web-based program provides a wealth of soils information including soil maps, properties and interpretations aimed at helping visitors with land-use decisions.

Some of the enhancements to version 2.1 include a search feature, the capability to download raw soil data clipped to the area of interest, multi-sheet printable maps, a distance measuring tool and performance improvements.

NRCS District Conservationist Margy Lindquist says, "The Web Soil Survey is a great tool for landowners who want to inventory and learn about their soil. This information is very useful to landowners when developing water quality and resource conservation plans for farms and ranches or investigating the suitability of their soil for various types of production. It puts the NRCS soils information traditionally available in the paper copy at landowner's fingertips. It is easy to use—all that you need to know to get started is your location. If you need assistance, the Templeton NRCS staff is available to help."

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

Natural Resource Conservation Service
Templeton Service Center
65 S. Main Street, Suite 106
Templeton, CA 93465-8703
(805) 434-0396; (805) 434-0284 fax

“Critical resource issues and land-use pressures face our county: from water scarcity to preserving prime ag lands, from stream and habitat protection to sustaining agricultural productivity, and from urban development to retaining the beauty of the Central Coast.

The CSLRCD is working to enhance soil, land and water stewardship. I am pleased to introduce their mission. It outlines the goals, actions and projects that I believe are needed to tackle these challenges.”

*—James W. Brabeck, General Manager
Farm Supply Company, San Luis Obispo*

What Are Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)?

Adjacent to the NRCS office in Templeton is the Upper Salinas–Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) office. Like a water district or a cemetery district, their purpose is to provide a local focus.

Throughout the state, RCD boards are created by local farmers and ranchers, essentially local units of government organized by local residents under state law and considered a legal subdivision of California.

San Luis Obispo County has two districts: US-LT RCD and the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSL RCD). Under state law, each is responsible for soil and water conservation work within its boundaries.

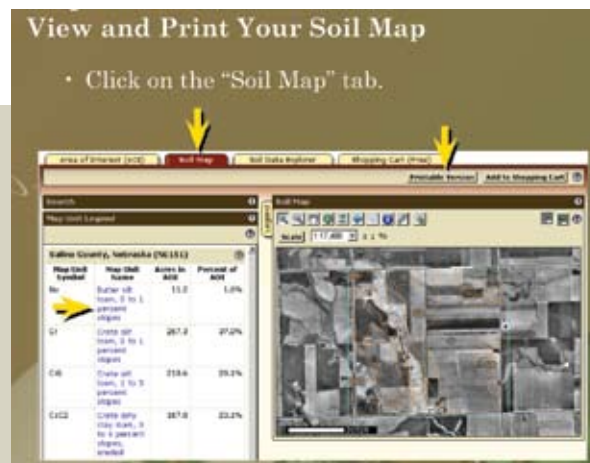
RCD directors are elected by district voters or appointed by the county board of supervisors, and they are not compensated for their work. Directors can make legal

agreements with county, state and federal governments for work in the district. Associate directors may be appointed to assist in special areas of interest. Consultants and other individuals with special expertise may be called upon to achieve conservation goals. A characteristic unique to RCDs is their ability to work directly with landowners on private lands.

RCDs...

- Are special districts funded entirely by grants and contracts
- Help landowners to conserve soil, water, and natural resources on a sustainable basis
- Are local organizations
- Before RCDs there was no organized method for distributing resource conservation information. Farmers and ranchers had no one to turn to for assistance.

continued on page 10



Soil maps and interpretations for your property are at your fingertips online with NRCS Web Soil Survey—<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

How RCDs Can Help continued from page 9

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSL RCD)

545 Main Street, Suite B-1, Morro Bay 93442;
(805) 772-4391

Staff members include Watershed Coordinator Julie Thomas, Financial Manager Shawn Meara and Board Assistant Della Barrett.

Coastal San Luis RCD Goals

- Coordinate efforts to protect soil and water resources
- Preserve and protect prime agricultural lands
- Promote the conservation and protection of important natural habitats and ecosystems
- Help secure grants for the protection of prime farmlands and valuable habitat

Dave Alford, a Farm Bureau member and a volunteer director on the Coastal San Luis RCD, says he is pleased to be a board member and to give back to the RCD as he has participated as a farmer in the RCD and NRCS practices and cost-sharing programs.

Speaking about CSL RCD, Alford says, "We have also done lots of work with the NRCS, the federal organization, and we work well with them. Our standards are set by the NRCS, but we, as locals, have a little better contact with landowners on private or publicly held lands. We can suggest to the landowner that the NRCS may help in a program, and the NRCS may do the same referring the landowner to the RCD. It is a wonderful working relationship.

"Our board has diversity, which contributes in very significant ways to our soil and water resources and their conservation. We have been very fortunate that we still have our doors open; in other words, we are working on a shoestring but our doors have not been closed like some of the state districts have been. A lot of the RCDs have been struggling. We are in a better position because of the variety of funding sources that has allowed us to work various projects and work hand in hand with NRCS. Our board has a common goal, and we are able to achieve that goal because of the capable board members and their broad range of experience.

"Our clients are not only individual landowners. Projects come to us from the state parks, as well, and we can take a look and give their people a different angle with our expertise.

"Our staff is dedicated and has recently produced a new brochure that expands upon our mission here. What I like about the RCD is there are many soil-saving conservation projects that have helped our region."



CSL RCD 1952 Charter Board of Directors: Manuel F. Silva (left), Ed Campodonico, Keith A. Rapp (Secretary), Edwin M. Taylor (President), Lester C. Sullivan.



CSL RCD 2010 Board of Directors: Dave Alford (left), Jean-Pierre Wolff (Vice President), Linda Chippng, Neil Havlik (President), Cheryl Lenhardt. Not pictured is Kathie Matsuyama.

Upper Salinas–Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US–LT RCD)

65 S. Main Street, Suite 107
Templeton 93465;
(805) 434-0396, ext. 5

US–LT RCD consists of more than 1.1 million acres of agriculture, of which about 700,000 acres are grazing lands and 400,000 are cropland.

Farm Bureau member Chuck Pritchard says the RCD operates under Division 9 of the Resource Code of the State of California.

“We have a partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, a federal agency. We are a non-regulatory arm of the state of California. We are like a clearing house as to whether it needs to go to the Planning Department or not. We partner with the county to help streamline the permit process.”

US–LT RCD Long Range Plan The Role of the RCD

The Soil Conservation Act of 1935 was signed into law in response to national concern over mounting erosion, floods and the sky-blackening dust storms that swept across the U.S.

The Act stated a national policy to provide a permanent program for the prevention and control of erosion. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (then Soil Conservation Service) was established to implement this policy. The Act also provided for a cooperative agreement between the USDA and state governments for the formation of local conservation districts to enlist the cooperation of landowners in carrying out the programs authorized by the Act and safeguard their results.

RCDs are organized as non-regulatory special districts charged with assisting public agencies and individuals with resource management. Currently 108 RCDs serve more than 80% of California’s land area. Their enabling legislation is derived from California Public Resources Code #9001: <http://us-ltrcd.org/index.html>.

Staff members: Donald J. Funk, CPESC, Executive Director/Chief Designer; Shayna Bailey, Conservation Planner; Breanne Ventura, Office & Conservation Assistant. **Board members:** Chuck Pritchard, President; Jeff Pipes, Vice President; Directors Bill Bianchi, Mike Bonnheim, John DeRosier, Tom Mora, Robert Sparling, Ben Work; associate board members Gidi Pullen, Ray Allen.

US–LT RCD Technical Assistance Program

Are you a landowner or someone working with a landowner to solve erosion problems? Do you need help designing or implementing streambank stabilization plans, restoring riparian and wildlife habitat, or improving water quality on your land?

The US–LT RCD can help with a variety of services aimed to help landowners solve environmental issues on their property.



Assistance Available With the Following

- Prepare Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
- Stream restoration, channel stabilization, stream habitat management, debris removal and vegetation management, critical area planting, restoration and management of declining habitat, stream crossings
- Water-quality monitoring, water-control structures
- Engineering and hydrology
- Ag management plans
- Ag roads
- Grade stabilization structures
- Beneficial Ag Management Practices (BAMPs)
- Alternative Review Program (ag grading permit)
- Watershed studies and planning
- Environmental studies and reports, including erosion control and biological review
- Permit assistance for DFG 1602, Army Corps 404, CA Regional Water Quality 401, etc.
- Grant assistance for programs
- Irrigation audits: Mobile Irrigation Lab
- Watershed Landowner Working Groups
- Conservation and Education
- Riparian and Wildlife Restoration Planning
- Filter Strips, Grassed Waterways
- Many additional services

For assistance to make any kind of improvements on your property—whether selecting appropriate seed mix or addressing erosion-caused gullies—call the RCD office.

Construction of Rock Weir Structure



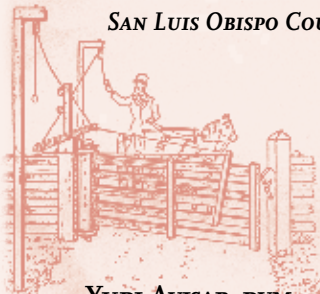
New ATV & Farm Utility Vehicle Safety DVD Available

A new safety DVD from State Fund Compensation Insurance is now available at Farm Bureau—free. The DVD discusses safety topics and key operating techniques for ATVs and Farm Utility Vehicles.

- Basic riding tips on normal and rough terrain (hill conditions, curves and stream crossings)
- Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Pre-ride inspections
- Transporting liquids
- Emergency Preparations
- Towing, backing up and parking
- Center of gravity
- Crossing public roads

AVISAR VETERINARY SERVICES

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY & SURROUNDINGS



- Bull Fertility Tests, Pregnancy Checks
- Equine Podiatry and Dentistry
- Small Ruminants' Medicine

YUDI AVISAR, DVM (805) 541-2821

All Types of Electrical Work

Licensed
Insured
CA State Certified

Check out the Electrical Page on our Website at www.PBAndBinc.com



PB&B Electrical
State Lic. # 375854
(805) 481-0457

Pole Barns

PB&B Inc. offers sturdy, attractive and low-cost agricultural pole barns. Many qualify for the agriculture building permit exemption in San Luis Obispo County.

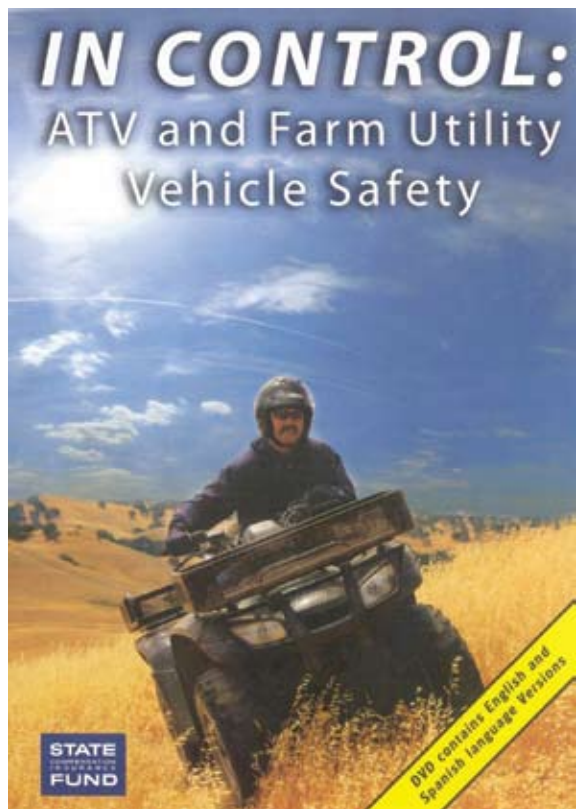
The complete package includes plans, permits and construction.

Member — Farm Bureau and SLO County and Santa Maria Valley Builder's Exchanges.



PB&B Inc. — Noel Allan, owner
State Lic. # 375854 • A Licensed Contractor Since 1979

(805) 481-0457 • www.pbandbinc.com



STATE FUND

DVD contains English and Spanish Language Versions

COLAB

San Luis Obispo County

FIRST ANNUAL DINNER & FUNDRAISER

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Featured Speaker



Brooks Firestone

No Host Cocktails - 5:30 PM

Filet Mignon Dinner - Wine Included! - 6:30 PM

Reserved Seating for Tables of Ten!

RSVP Early for Best Seats

\$100 per person / \$1,000 per Table of 10

The Alex Madonna Expo Center

For Tickets mail your check to

COLAB

P.O. Box 6048 Atascadero, CA 93423

For more Information Call - 805-929-3148

Paid Ad

Congratulations to Olivia Gonzales!

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau sends warm congratulations to Olivia Gonzales, Young Farmer & Rancher Chair, who won the 2010 National Collegiate Discussion Meet at the American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Olivia is the daughter of SLO County Farm Bureau President Richard Gonzales and Deanne Gonzales.



A student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo studying ag communications, Gonzales competed against 37 other college students or recent graduates at the February 21 event to win a \$2,500 scholarship from the CHS Foundation. The topic of the final discussion was, "How can we continue to bridge the gap between farmers/ranchers and lawmakers in

order to have an influence in the changing political environment?"

Finalists Isaac Blue of Illinois, Alena Ogg of Montana and Becky Berkebile of West Virginia were each awarded \$1,000, and every competitor was awarded \$250 from the CHS Foundation.

"It is important for Farm Bureau members to be able to have in-depth discussions about the wide variety of issues facing agriculture today," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. "It's encouraging to see people at the collegiate level successfully analyzing and developing thoughtful solutions to these issues. Seeing these individuals compete makes me optimistic that American agriculture has a very bright future."

PG&E OFFERS BILL ASSISTANCE & ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAMS

Help for Small Businesses to Manage Energy Costs

Pacific Gas and Electric Company offers the following programs and services to help small businesses.

- **Payment Arrangements**
Flexible payment arrangements to extend the bill due date and help avoid possible disconnection:
www.pge.com/paymentarrangement

- **Balanced Payment Plan**
Averages out a company's monthly bill, making payment about the same every month. Eliminates big swings during extreme weather and helps forecast manage operating expenses:
www.pge.com/bpp

- **Automatic Payment Service**
Payments drawn directly from company's bank account, eliminating check writing and stamps. Business can review bill before payment and request a printed statement. Security deposit waived with 12-month sign up:
www.pge.com/aps

- **Deposit Options**
If your account requires a deposit to maintain service, choose from cash and non-cash options: www.pge.com/mybusiness — "Brochures & Forms"

- **Energy-Efficient Rebates**
Rebates and incentives to help small businesses gain control of energy costs and reduce greenhouse gases:
www.pge.com/businessrebates

For more information or assistance with the above, call Business Customer Service Center, (800) 468-4743.

Central Coast Greenhouse Growers Association
Food For The Body and Food For the Soul

CCGGA's 9th ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, April 17, 2010

AT PARTICIPATING GREENHOUSE LOCATIONS:
Plant Sales ☺ Nursery Tours

NEW THIS YEAR!
CCGGA Education Center
At the Edward's Barn in Nipomo where you will find:

Nipomo 4-H Breakfast Food To Go	CCGGA Information Booth
Nipomo Rotary BBQ	More Grower Member Plant Sales & Displays
Associate Member Demonstration Booths	Local High School & College Plant Sales
Community Group Displays	...And More!

For upcoming maps, visit: www.ccgga.com

FARM BUREAU CLASSIFIEDS

Get the word out!

— FOR SALE OR LEASE —

Farm & Ranch

LIVESTOCK SQUEEZE CHUTE. Older, good condition. Self-catch head. 37" wide x 80" long. \$600. 805/391-2208.

HYDROPONIC GROW LIGHTING SYSTEMS. Two Sun Systems with reflectors, ballast and fan. One HP400 – \$300; one MH400 – \$350. 805/610-3373.

RENTAL: VICTORIAN BUNGALOW. 3 bdrms, 2 baths, partly furnished w/bed/dinette/chairs and appliances. Fenced and gated. Amenities. Near Food4Less. \$1,650. Sec. Deposit: \$900. 805/544-7621; 704-0945 (cell).

ALL-AROUND STOCKDOG TRAINING. For cattle, sheep or goats. Training for you and your dog to become a successful working team! 805/475-2383

BLACK ANGUS/DEXTER CROSS; SMALLER BREED. Cows, calf, bull, steer. Starting at \$450. Discount for multiple. Call Greg, 805/712-8454.

HEAVY GLASS 6' x 6' WINDOW PANE. Make offer. 805/489-2592.

HORSE BOARDING AVAILABLE. 12x24-foot covered, matted stalls. North County near Lake Nacimiento. Call 805/441-4894 for details.

MONTEZUMA OAT HAY. Large quantity available. Barn stored. Discount for truckload quantities. \$7/bale. 805/543-0708.

FIATALLIS 14-C Dozer. Larger than CAT D6. 90% UC stored for years. 700 hours, \$37,000. Call Alvin, 805/438-3278.

IRISH DEXTER CATTLE. Bulls, cows, calves. Some registered with Purebred I.D. Cattle Assn. Call Tom, 805/226-9489.

JARDINE RANCH SEASONAL FIREWOOD – You pick up or we deliver. No order too small. Credit card accepted. 805/238-2365.

WATER SOFTENER. Model Elite 420 Series, Sears Best. Used 60 days only; like new. Best offer. 805/472-9432.

HORSE-QUALITY FORAGE MIX. \$8/bale, barn-stored heavy bales. Red Oak firewood to \$125/half cord or \$240/full cord (128 cu. ft.). You load/you haul. 805/239-2989.

HIGH-QUALITY BARLEY HAY. Large quantity available. Clean, smooth bearded. Good for cattle or horses. Paso Robles. Delivery available. \$6/bale. 805/674-8577.

QUALITY FORAGE MIX HAY. \$8/bale, Edna Valley. Delivery or pick up. 559/920-1991.

AKC BLACK/YELLOW LABS. Born 5/22/09, ofa, excellent, shots and wormed. Top hunting bloodlines, both parents point. Call Jim Batson at 805/463-2487.

ROUND HARROW. Strathmore 12', 3 pt. hitch. Good condition. \$750. 805/467-3389.

1968 JD 4020. Powershift, 3 remotes, duals. Loader w/bucket, forks, rear box scraper w/ hyd rippers. 6000 hrs. Asking \$13,900. Call Nick at 805/431-9532.

LONGHORN CATTLE. Heifers, steers, cow/calfs, bull. All ages, gentle with various colors. A magnificent breed with unique heritage. 805/801-8080.

USED STEEL PIPE for fences, corrals, owl houses, flag poles, etc. Joints, posts, rods, wire, cable—everything for pipe projects. Panels. Competitive prices & delivery. 805/235-0133.

BOER GOATS. Bucks, young does and wethers \$65–\$80 each. 805/489-5402 or 805/235-2770 cell.

WANTED

LOCATE PERSONS – Jamie Macabee and Clemmey Parvin. Farm inheritance. Call Russee Parve, 805/234-1050. Important.

MILL & GRAIN HANDLING EQUIPMENT – Stone or impact mill for flouring. Small grain bins and elevators. Call Jenn at 805/473-3827.

ESTABLISHED COASTAL & VALLEY VINEYARDS – For 2010 growing season, short- or long-term leases; any size is acceptable. Excellent lease rates, professionally farmed. Will consider lease/purchase. Contact Lakhy Sran, 559/970-0125, Lakhy@diamondwestfarming.com.

GRAZING LAND TO RENT – Cal Poly senior project doing a stocker cattle business plan. Call Tim at 805/801-4847 or Jeff at 805/458-8051.

FREE CLASSIFIED LISTINGS

for

ALL Farm Bureau Members!

Have something to sell, a job to fill or in need of a service? Advertise in *Farmer & Rancher* classifieds.

CLASSIFIED RATES

Farm Bureau membership includes one free 20-word listing per month. Additional words are \$5 per group of 10 words. Each additional 10-word listing is \$5 per month for members.

CLASSIFIED SUBMISSIONS

Call (805) 543-3654, fax (805) 543-3697, e-mail advertisement@slofarmbureau.org, or bring to San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau, 651 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

**YOUR DEADLINE
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH.**

CONTINUING YOUR LISTING

Your listing runs for three months. To cancel sooner, contact the SLO Farm Bureau office. At the end of three months you may resubmit your listing or consider a display ad.

LISTING AVAILABILITY

Listings are on a first-come, first-served basis. Farm Bureau retains the right to refuse or edit any classified listing and is not responsible for errors in text.



San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau

Welcome New Members!

Brad Haley

Shannon Martin

David Olmstead

Joseph Rocha

Claire Vollmer

San Luis Obispo Downtown Association

"The mission of the SLO County Farm Bureau is to lead San Luis Obispo County in the protection, promotion and advocacy of agriculture for the benefit of our members and community."

For membership information, please call
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau at 805/543-3654.

FARM BUREAU BUSINESS MEMBER DIRECTORY

Advanced Agricultural Services – Crop Services: IPM Specialists, Grape Bud Analysis
Donald Thomas Cell: **559/309-3866**

Ag Box Company – Produce Containers
1400 Railroad Avenue, Oceano **489-0377**
Fax: 489-1497 Warehouse – **473-1160**
1260 W. Main Street, Santa Maria **922-9883**

Byars Thompson Buchanan Insurance
935 Riverside Avenue, Suite 7A, Paso Robles
Phone: 238-5212 Fax: 238-5215

California Meridian Insurance Services
9700 El Camino Real, Atascadero
ted@californiameridian.com
Phone: 466-3400 Fax: 466-6148

Central Coast Propane
Local Source for Agricultural & Commercial Propane
6260 Monterey Road, Paso Robles
Phone: 237-1001 Fax: 467-2423

C&M Nursery
195 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo **929-1941**

C&N Tractors
2690 Ramada Drive, Paso Robles **805/237-3855**
496 Salinas Road, Watsonville **831/722-2733**

Coast National Bank
500 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo **541-0400**
1199 Grand Avenue, Arroyo Grande **473-6560**
898 Morro Bay Boulevard, Morro Bay **772-6800**
1193 Los Osos Valley Road, Los Osos **528-6700**
2138 Spring Street, Suite A, Paso Robles
239-9520

Days Inn
2050 Garfield Street, San Luis Obispo **549-9911**

Donovan & Donovan, Inc.
Construction, Designs, Interior
2230 Weaver Lane, Paso Robles **239-0848**

Eagle Energy, Inc. DBA Henderson Petroleum
22515 El Camino Real, Santa Margarita
543-7090
2400 Golden Hill Road, Paso Robles **239-2190**
1260 W. Main Street, Santa Maria **922-2168**
631 Avenue of the Flags, Buellton **688-1920**
719 Laurel Lane, Lompoc **736-7588**

Electricraft, Inc. Electrical Contractors
Service, Repair, Maintenance & Trouble-shooting, Installation & Connection of Motors, Pumps, Solar, Generators and Electrical Controls; 24-hour Emergency Response.
205 South Street, San Luis Obispo **544-8224**

Farm Supply Company
224 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo **543-3751**
SLO Pump Division: 224 Tank Farm Rd.
543-4355
1108 Paso Robles Street, Paso Robles **238-1177**
1079 El Camino Real, Arroyo Grande **489-5514**
1920 N. Broadway, Santa Maria **922-2737**

Filipponi & Thompson Drilling Co.
Water Well Drilling, Pumps (Ag. & Domestic)
3250 El Camino Real, Atascadero **466-1271**

Heritage Oaks Bank
545 12th Street, Paso Robles **369-5203**

InWest Insurance Services
TWIIW Insurance Services
1525 E. Main Street, Santa Maria
922-7301 Fax: 925-2370

J.B. Dewar Inc. Petroleum Products
Corporate: 75 Prado Rd., San Luis Obispo
543-0180
Sales/Warehouse: 75 Prado Road **781-3578**
2403 Golden Hill Road, Paso Robles **238-0634**
1049 Riverside Avenue, Paso Robles **238-0634**
1131 El Camino Real, Arroyo Grande **543-0180**
933 Huber Street, Grover Beach **543-0180**
612 W. Boone Street, Santa Maria **925-4061**
2310 S. Meredith Lane, Santa Maria **925-4061**
1400 W. Laurel Avenue, Lompoc **736-8262**
Technical Services: Central Coast **440-8585**

Kronick Moskovitz Tiedemann & Girard
Law services include real estate, land use, water and environmental law, including Williamson Act and conservation easements.
Contacts: Kenneth Bornholdt, Jon Goetz
1432 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo
Phone: 786-4302 Fax: 786-4319

Kimbell & Brown Construction, Inc.
P.O. Box 650, Summerland **441-4050**

E. C. Loomis & Son Insurance Associates
220 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande
Phone: 489-5594 Fax: 489-4183

Madonna Inn
100 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo **543-3000**

Mission Community Bank
1226 Park Street, Paso Robles **237-4200**
581 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo **782-5000**
154 W. Branch Street, Arroyo Grande **994-9000**

Nick's Telecom
Home & Business Communications **441-3135**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 8592, San Luis Obispo 93406
595-6340

Pacific Sun Growers, Inc.
1198 Mesa Road, Nipomo **929-1986**

Pat Phelan Construction – *House & Barn Pads; Septic Systems; Road, Reservoir and Vineyard Work.*
235 Phelan Ranch Way, Arroyo Grande **929-1739**

Rabobank
2276 Broad Street, San Luis Obispo **541-5500**

Roadrunner Construction – *Finish Grading, Driveway Materials Delivered & Applied. House Pads, Horse Arenas, Bulldozing & Clearing.*
7210 Vineyard Drive, Paso Robles **238-2500**
207 N. Main Street, Templeton **434-3816**

Roto-Rooter Plumbing, Sewer & Drain
Arroyo Grande: **489-4488** Cambria: **927-3100**
Cayucos: **995-0120** Los Osos: **528-2898**
Morro Bay: **772-3044** Nipomo: **929-1080**
Paso Robles: **239-1451** Pismo Beach: **773-1177**
San Luis Obispo: **543-9288**

San Luis Obispo Downtown Association
1108 Garden Street, San Luis Obispo 541-0286

Shimmin Canyon Vineyard – *Producer of Premium Wine Grapes.*
11000 E. Highway 46, Paso Robles **238-2562**

South County Realty
102 Bridge Street, Arroyo Grande **481-4297**

Business members listed here show support for the local agricultural industry and the SLO County Farm Bureau.

Please show your appreciation by supporting them; let them know that you're a Farm Bureau member when you do business with them.

YOUR BUSINESS SHOULD BE LISTED HERE, TOO!

**FOR DETAILS,
CALL ANNALISA CLARKE
AT 805/543-3654.**

San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau



651 Tank Farm Road
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7062
(805) 543-3654

Presorted Standard

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #410

San Dimas, CA

The San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen's Association presents
**CATTLEMEN'S WESTERN ART
SHOW & SALE**
20th ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 26, 27 & 28, 2010



BOB CORONATO
— FEATURED ARTIST —
www.pasoairport.com or www.pasojet.com
PASO ROBLES EVENT CENTER • PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA
www.cattlemenswesternartshow.com
For additional information: Dee Pellandini 805.472.9100 or JoAnn Switzer 805.462.2810
MAJOR SPONSORS: Rabobank • Pacific Gas & Electric • Adelaide Inn

Because we care about your valuables.

Switch to a credit union.



**We believe people
are worth more
than money.**

At SESLOC, our rates
are better and
our fees are lower.


Our service and advice
have only your interest
at heart.

**Why not make
the switch?**

*SESLOC is the longest established
credit union in San Luis Obispo County.*

**Branches in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Atascadero,
Cal Poly and Arroyo Grande**

Federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration

 **Paperless and Free**
Online Account Access • Bill Pay • eStatement



543-1816 • 227-1030

www.sesloc.org