

# Farmer & Rancher Climate Leaders Healthy Soils Program Participants

*The Healthy Soils Program, administered by the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA), provides grants to farmers and ranchers who adopt management practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration in soil and plants.*

*More info is available on CDFA's website: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthysouils/>*

## PAUMA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS

Pauma Valley, San Diego County  
Award Amount: \$100,000



"It's all in the title.  
Healthier soils grow  
healthier food for our  
communities to eat."

- Miguel Hernandez

In addition to growing 160 acres of avocados and citrus, the Pauma Band have a 40-acre vegetable operation that they will convert to a no-till olive orchard. Miguel Hernandez, Pauma Band Water Master and Agricultural Manager, credits the Healthy Soils grant with providing them resources to prioritize carbon sequestration and climate benefits in the transition. By practicing no-till agriculture, they will minimize carbon released when soil is disturbed and will use less diesel fuel by eliminating tillage-related tractor use. To prepare the soil, they will plant cover crops for three consecutive years to outcompete invasive weeds and bolster soil health. Funded as a demonstration project to conduct outreach, they will bring together farmers, tribal representatives and other stakeholders to learn from their experiences with climate smart practices.

The California Climate & Agriculture Network (CalCAN) is a statewide coalition that advances state and federal policy to realize the powerful climate solutions offered by sustainable and organic agriculture.



**CalCAN**  
CALIFORNIA CLIMATE &  
AGRICULTURE NETWORK