

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/healthysoils/>

RCD OF GREATER SAN DIEGO COUNTY & TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN

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



Gregg Cady, Farm Manager and Andy Williamson, Farming Program Coordinator

"We want to demonstrate that, even in a short time, soil management practices can produce high crop yields."

-Dr. Chandra Richards
RCD of Greater San Diego County
Conservation Ecologist

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCD) has managed the Tijuana River Valley Community Garden for over two decades, providing 210 plots for community members and 10 quarter-acre plots for urban farmers. In addition to growing their own produce, local gardeners can now also learn from a quarter-acre demonstration plot.

With the support of a Healthy Soils Program demonstration grant, the RCD established an educational plot for farmers—big and small—to learn about the benefits of compost application, mulching, and cover crops. The primary goals of the demonstration grant are to sequester carbon and improve the site's soil health and moisture retention amidst an arid ecosystem. Since adopting these practices, the RCD has seen slight increases in soil organic matter.

They have specifically explored impacts of the three incentivized practices on yields of broccoli, Daikon radish, romaine lettuce, bok choy, tomato, bell pepper, zucchini, and cucumber. They also organize regular outreach events to share their findings with community garden members on site and farmers around the County.

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.



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