

# Alternative Review Process

## Agricultural Grading in San Luis Obispo County

### Do you own a farm, ranch, or are you a grading contractor for agricultural lands?

You may qualify for the Resource Conservation District's Alternative Review Program (ARP). ARP is a unique Agricultural Grading Review Program where the CSLRCD and US-LT RCD has partnered with the County to provide landowners an alternative agricultural grading permit process through the RCDs in lieu of filing a standard grading permit through the County.

We recognize the importance of agriculture, the need for protection and conservation of agricultural activities and the use, education, and development of safe and environmentally responsible grading, earth work, and erosion control practices.

If you want more information, contact  
Coastal San Luis  
Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD)  
805-772-4391  
[nsmith@coastalrcd.org](mailto:nsmith@coastalrcd.org)

Upper Salinas Las Tablas  
Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD)  
805-434-0396 ext. 5



[www.coastalrcd.org](http://www.coastalrcd.org)



[www.us-ltrcd.org](http://www.us-ltrcd.org)



### How does the ARP benefit you?

It provides an alternative to obtaining a County Grading permit. This alternative offers a low cost engineering review from agriculturally experienced professionals.

#### ARP related services provided by the RCDs include:

- Engineering design\*  
\*(only available through CSLRCD)
- Environmental review
- Permit assistance with regulatory agencies
- Funding assistance
- Erosion control training



### Am I eligible for ARP?

The ARP process applies to agricultural grading projects as defined by County Grading Ordinance Section 22.52. Additional information can be found on the County's website. Eligible projects may include but are not limited to:

1. Grading for new orchards/vineyards on slopes of 30% or more
2. Grading or vegetation removal for new rangeland on slopes of 30% or more
3. Agricultural Roads
4. Ponds, dams and reservoirs
5. Streambank restoration or conservation projects
6. Recreational trails
7. Waste management systems

## Steps in the Alternative Review Process

Cooperator Actions	RCD Actions
<b>Step 1: Determine Eligibility</b>	
Use the County's Guide to Agricultural Grading ( <a href="http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/drainage/grad_storm_mgmt.htm">http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/drainage/grad_storm_mgmt.htm</a> ) to determine eligibility.  Call your local RCD or County staff for additional direction.	Respond to questions.
<b>Step 2: Schedule Initial Site Visit</b>	
Discuss conceptual plans and alternatives with RCD and your engineers, planners or other professionals.	Schedule a pre-project site visit.
<b>Step 3: Apply to Alternative Review Process</b>	
<b>If you have a road or pond project</b> , contact County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (805) 781-5910. <b>For all other projects</b> , contact County Planning at (805) 788-2009 or your local RCD.	None.
Apply to Alternative Review Program*. Provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed County Alternative Review form (online)</li> <li>• Completed RCD supplement</li> <li>• Engineering plans</li> <li>• \$2,000 fee for review process</li> </ul>	Provide estimated budget and schedule.  Send County ARP form to County Planning Dept.
<b>Step 4: Complete Engineering &amp; Environmental Review</b>	
Have engineer complete engineering plans to meet RCD recommendations and NRCS standards for agricultural practices. Mail to RCD for final engineering review**.	Complete engineering plan review.
Provide relevant information to RCD to complete environmental review.	Complete environmental review of project impacts.
Mail payment for RCD services monthly.	Invoice applicant for services monthly.
<b>Step 5: Implement Project</b>	
Construction can begin in accordance with conditions of the approved engineering plan.	Provide engineering plan approval to applicant.
Post permit notification in visible location at project site.	Provide permit notification with plan approval.
<b>Step 6: Final Construction Inspection</b>	
Notify RCD upon project completion and schedule final inspection.	Complete post-project inspection and send letter of approval/denial to applicant, and County.
Pay final invoice within 30 days.	Send final invoice to applicant.

Notes: \*Landowner is responsible for obtaining all other applicable permits.

\*\* Ensure additional requirement like erosion & sedimentation control plans, drainage plans and stormwater pollution prevention plans are completed.