



## Job Announcement

**Title:** Regional Coordinator- South Central Coast Carbon Farming Hub

**Supervisor:** Jennifer Szeliga, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

**Location:** Hybrid with weekly site visits in San Luis Obispo, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties. The candidate should be located within the tri-county region.

**Affiliations:** Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD), Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD, Ventura County RCD, Cachuma RCD.

The South Central Coast Carbon Farming Program covers San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and is represented by four regional RCDs: the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD, Coastal San Luis RCD, Cachuma RCD, and Ventura County RCD. The region includes nearly 2 million acres of working lands that serve as a primary economic driver and that are at risk due to drought and climate change. Carbon farming practices have been identified and utilized across the region as an important tool to help achieve CO<sup>2</sup> emission reduction goals as well as improve on-farm productivity and viability, enhance ecosystem and landscape function, and mitigate climate change.

California's Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) play a critical role in achieving California's ever-evolving goals to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance natural resources and to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. RCDs in California are also essential partners to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS), California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), directly engaging and supporting farmers, ranchers and land managers by leveraging state grant dollars for project implementation, targeted conservation activities, technical assistance, and demonstration projects.



RCDs across the state are actively supported by the [Carbon Cycle Institute](#) (CCI) and [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#) (CARCD) in establishing carbon farming and soil health programs and seven (7) Regional Carbon Farming Hubs through training and education, fund development, regional planning, and other capacity building efforts.

### **Position Summary**

The Regional Coordinator will accelerate adoption of carbon farming practices in the region through stakeholder engagement and coordination, education and outreach, regional needs assessments, fund development and policy advocacy. The position comes with a strong focus on helping build the technical capacity of RCDs in the region and expanding the Carbon Farming Network.

The Regional Coordinator will be an employee of the Coastal San Luis RCD but will coordinate equally with each RCD in the region. The position is hybrid and the Coordinator must reside within the tri-county region. This position requires frequent (40%) travel within the region, and quarterly travel to Sacramento and/or the San Francisco Bay Area, which may include overnight stays. The Regional Coordinator and representatives from each of the four RCDs will meet quarterly to establish and assess strategic long-term goals and short-term objectives for the Coordinator and the Program.

### **Principle Roles**

1. *Carbon Farming Program Coordination* – The Regional Coordinator will serve as the main organizer for the Program and, in collaboration with other Regional Program Coordinators, help build the network of [RCD Regional Carbon Farming Hubs](#) across the state.
  - Help coordinate and build RCD conservation technical assistance and planning capacity within the Hub.
  - Regularly communicate with CARCD, CCI, and six other regional coordinators across California.



2. *Ongoing Climate Mitigation Planning & Needs Assessment for Agricultural Lands* – The Regional Coordinator will work closely with all RCDs within the Region, other agricultural conservation organizations (e.g., NRCS and UCCE), and the agricultural community to understand the regional potential for carbon sequestration and barriers to adoption of climate-beneficial agricultural conservation practices.
  - Oversee execution of a landscape-scale carbon sequestration assessment for each RCD district.
  - Routinely check in with local partners and stakeholders, coordinating local and regional meetings to determine the specific needs of agricultural producers and technical assistance providers in the region.
  - Lead a steering committee in developing a regional needs assessment.
  - Oversee development of a partnership-based climate mitigation implementation plan.
  
3. *Outreach and Technical Support* – The Regional Coordinator will facilitate peer-to-peer learning and resource sharing among program partners to support the mission of the Program.
  - Organize and support education and outreach activities, including workshops, field days, and webinars, for farmers, ranchers, agricultural conservation partners, and other stakeholders.
  - Manage media and communications platforms and networks.
  - Support Hub-based grant proposal coordination, writing, and execution.
  - Build partnerships and coalitions that support agricultural climate solutions by streamlining communication and collaboration among regional partners.
  
4. *Awareness and Advocacy* – The Regional Coordinator will work closely with CCI and CARCD to build understanding about the role of agricultural climate solutions regionally and statewide.
  - Build understanding among a variety of stakeholders and policymakers about the potential for agricultural climate solutions and the support



needed to implement these solutions.

- Organize and attend relevant local, regional, and statewide meetings with elected officials, state and federal agency representatives, agricultural industry groups, and other conservation partners.

### **Physical Requirements**

Ability to work effectively as a part of a virtual team and to sit for prolonged periods at a computer. Ability to travel throughout the region and to spend full days in the field (on farms and ranches) in varying weather conditions.

### **Skills and Qualifications**

This position requires the following skills. If you do not meet the job requirements listed, please tell us why you might be a good fit anyway:

- B.S./B.A., and/or M.S. degree in Soil Science, Biological, Natural or Applied Sciences (e.g., Food/Agriculture Science, Watershed Management, etc.) or equivalent education and experience.
- At least five (5) years' experience working in the natural resources conservation field, with a minimum of two (2) years' experience working closely with agricultural communities.
- In-depth knowledge of the intersection of climate science, agriculture, and ecological systems.
- Demonstrated experience with supporting multi-stakeholder or multi-organization groups, including group or member facilitation, coordination, co-learning and/or organizing; needs assessments.
- Demonstrated experience building partnership in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, skilled at conflict resolution and group facilitation.
- A cooperative, professional, and entrepreneurial disposition, with an ability to navigate ambiguity in building new and efficient processes and systems.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills; particularly technical writing skills. Provide writing samples upon request.
- Strong communications and project and event (often virtual) management skills.



- Demonstrated skill to communicate with agricultural stakeholders, government agencies, policy makers and elected officials.
- Proficient in analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing a variety of data.
- Proficiency or fluency in Spanish desired.
- Proficient at using technology (Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, ArcGIS, etc.)
- Valid California driver's license.

### **Salary and Benefits**

Salary Range: \$75,000–\$80,000 per year depending on experience. This is a full-time position. CSLRCD’s compensation package includes a \$3.00/hour health stipend, generous paid time off (in lieu of paid holidays), 3% contribution to a Simple IRA, sick leave (accrued at the rate of one day per month), and professional development hours. This position is subject to a 90-day probationary period.

### **Application Information**

Please submit a cover letter and resume to [Jennifer Szeliga](mailto:jszeliga@coastalrcd.org), jszeliga@coastalrcd.org, with “Regional Coordinator” in the subject line. This position will remain open until filled. To be considered with the first round of applications, please submit materials no later than 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time on Friday, August 25th, 2023. Qualified applicants may be asked to submit additional information during the interview process.