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The following application tracking information was generated by the system:

<b>Grants.gov Tracking Number:</b>	GRANT14111282
<b>UEI:</b>	X3FFNK6GWE83
<b>Submitter's Name:</b>	Stephanie Moreno
<b>CFDA Number:</b>	10.902
<b>CFDA Description:</b>	Soil and Water Conservation
<b>Funding Opportunity Number:</b>	USDA-NRCS-CA-MULTI-24-NOFO0001334
<b>Funding Opportunity Description:</b>	USDA NRCS California - Conservation Cooperative Agreements
<b>Agency Name:</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>Application Name of this Submission:</b>	Farm and Ranch Resilience Program
<b>Date/Time of Receipt:</b>	Apr 03, 2024 08:35:47 PM EDT

TRACK MY APPLICATION – To check the status of this application, please click the link below:

[https://www.grants.gov/applicants/grant-applications/track-my-application?tracking\\_num=GRANT14111282](https://www.grants.gov/applicants/grant-applications/track-my-application?tracking_num=GRANT14111282)

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## PROJECT NARRATIVE

### Project: Farm and Ranch Resilience Program

#### **i. Project Abstract**

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) will extend its Farm and Ranch Resilience Program, a multilingual program offering technical assistance and educational opportunities to historically underserved farmers and ranchers in the USDA Hollister Service Center area.

#### **ii. Institutional Background.**

The mission of the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) is to provide education and technical assistance to constituents and watershed stakeholders to sustainably manage soil, water and wildlife with the best available science. It is an independent special district of the state of California dedicated to the conservation of natural resources in Santa Clara County, and is regulated by Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code (PRC). RCDs are leaders in locally led conservation work, and implement on-the-ground projects, provide technical assistance, and help educate the public to improve their local communities.

#### **iii. Problem Statement/Needs Assessment.**

California agricultural producers are experiencing increased conservation challenges due to extreme natural events, including but not limited to drought, floods, catastrophic fires and high wind events, and are looking to integrate climate smart agricultural practices to address specific resource concerns. Additionally, farmers and ranchers who are just starting out in agriculture within Santa Clara County, particularly those from historically underserved populations, can experience financial, technical and/or cultural challenges that inhibit their ability to obtain technical assistance, negotiate leases, integrate into established agricultural networks, and understand and access USDA Farm Bill conservation programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and other programs. To address these conservation and accessibility challenges, GCRCD has taken the lead to implement a multilingual technical assistance and education program within the USDA Hollister Service Center area designed to: 1) provide culturally appropriate technical assistance and education to agricultural producers regarding conservation practices and climate adaptation strategies, with targeted outreach to beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers; and 2) provide direct technical assistance to NRCS staff in the implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs.

#### **iv. Program Goals and Objectives.**

Funding from NRCS will be used to retain a part-time bilingual (Mandarin and Cantonese) conservation program coordinator who will continue to conduct outreach, offer educational opportunities, and provide technical assistance to these historically underserved farmers and ranchers. Recipients of these services will be better able to complete and submit applications to NRCS and FSA for a variety of services and financial assistance.

Goal: The goal of this project to continue to provide multilingual farm and ranch outreach, public education, and technical assistance program for historically underserved

agricultural producers wishing to implement climate smart conservation practices and Farm Bill conservation programs.

Objectives:

- Objective 1: Provide technical assistance to agricultural producers facing conservation challenges from climate change and extreme weather events to help them integrate climate smart conservation practices into their operations.
- Objective 2: Conduct culturally appropriate regional outreach to historically underserved agricultural producers in at least two languages other than English.
- Objective 3: Provide direct technical assistance to assist NRCS staff in the implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), on eligible lands within the approved project area.

**v. Methods/Implementation.**

Planned Activities:

- Continue employment for the 30-hour per week bilingual conservation program coordinator who currently is providing public education, outreach and technical assistance services within the project area.
- Host a series of educational workshops focusing on the protection of agricultural health (such as integrated pest management, managing wildlife conflicts, and nutrient management) for up to thirty (30) participants in a language other than English.
- Provide technical assistance to help identify and address resource concerns for up to an additional twelve (12) agricultural producers.
- Provide direct technical assistance to USDA staff in the implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), on eligible lands within the project area.

Term

The project will be one year in duration. Project activities, objectives and outcomes should be completed within the 12-month time frame. 50% of work completed by March 31, 2025 and 100% of work completed by August 31, 2025.

Task and Timeline

- Begin second year of project and grant administration: September 1, 2024
- Continue provision of direct services to assist USDA staff: September 1, 2024
- Continue agricultural producer outreach: September 1, 2024
- Begin offering educational workshop series for bilingual farmers: February 29, 2025
- Complete an additional twelve site visits to provide technical assistance: July 30, 2025
- Provide final report: August 31, 2025

**vi. Evaluation Plan.**

GCRCD will evaluate accomplishments and outcomes by tracking and preparing quarterly reporting on the products completed; the hours of service; the number of agricultural producers

contacted through the agricultural producer engagement plan; the number of attendees at the workshop; and the number of site visits completed. Additionally, USDA will be able to separately gauge increased access to its programs as a result of the project. GCRCD will use the reports to evaluate the success of the program and to determine the viability of continuing the program past the expiration of the grant using District and/or other revenue streams.

**vii. Project History.**

GCRCD executed cooperative agreement NR239104XXXXC014 with USDA-NRCS in 2023 to develop and implement this program. The project has been highly successful in connecting with and offering opportunities to historically underserved populations, particularly within the Asian farming community located within Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. GCRCD is requesting the agreement be continued for another year, with new funding for the second year.

**viii. Conservation Activity Location.**

Santa Clara County lies in the southern watersheds of the San Francisco Bay. GCRCD encompasses approximately 583 square miles and has an estimated service population of 300,577 in the northwestern, northeastern and central portions of the county, including urbanized areas within the City of San Jose and portions of the historic Coyote Valley. District offices are located in San Jose, which is home to a diverse population of 1.94 million people. Primary languages spoken at home are English (43.2%), Asian/Pacific Islander (25.6%) and Spanish (23.5%). An estimated 8.7% of residents are in poverty. Through memorandum of understandings (MOU) with the Loma Prieta RCD and the San Benito RCD, the three RCDs coordinate producer outreach, public education, and technical assistance through a broad area within Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. The project is offered throughout the geographical area served by the Hollister service area.

**NRCS FARM AND RANCH RESILIENCE GRANT Federal FY 24-25 (Continuation Request)**

<b>GCRCD Personnel Salaries:</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Conservation Program Coordinator (Bilingual)	40.00	1536	61,440.00	0.74
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>61,440.00</b>	
<b>GCRCD Personnel Fringe Benefits:</b>				
Conservation Program Coordinator (Bilingual)	7.24	1536	11,120.64	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>11,120.64</b>	
<b>Travel:</b>				
Mileage	0.67	1100	737.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>737.00</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>				
Supplies (technical assistance & workshops)			182.36	
Venue			200.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>382.36</b>	
<b>Contractual Services:</b>				
Partner RCD Support	82.50	16	1,320.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>1,320.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>75,000.00</b>	

## **BUDGET NARRATIVE**

### **Project: Farm and Ranch Resilience Program**

#### **PERSONNEL** (only employees of applicant organization)

Bilingual Conservation Program Coordinator. The coordinator will provide technical assistance, conduct outreach, and deliver educational workshops to historically underserved farmers and ranchers. Their expertise and language skills will ensure effective communication and culturally appropriate support.

- Salary: \$83,200
- FTE: 74%
- Duration: 1536 hours @ \$40.00 hours (approximately 32 hours/week for 11 months)
- Funds requested: \$61,440.00

#### **FRINGE BENEFITS** (only employees of applicant organization)

Fringe benefits include, but are not limited, to the costs of employee insurance, payroll taxes, and unemployment benefits.

- Bilingual Conservation Program Coordinator: 18.1% of salaries and wages (\$61,440.00 @ 18.1%). Amount requested is \$11,120.64.

#### **TRAVEL**

Funds will be allocated to cover travel expenses associated with field visits, attending meetings, and conducting outreach activities.

- Local travel for project employees is calculated at 0.67 per miles throughout program service area x 100 miles/month x 11 months = \$737.00.

#### **SUPPLIES**

Supplies: Funds will be allocated to provide a series of bilingual educational workshops for historically underserved agricultural producers. The workshops will provide opportunities for farmers and ranchers to learn about conservation practices, receive technical assistance, and engage in knowledge-sharing with experts and peers.

- Supplies \$182.36
- Venue cost \$200.00

#### **CONTRACTUAL**

Partner RCD Support. This budget will support coordination time expended by the partner RCD staff in furtherance of meeting project objectives.

- \$82.50 per hour x 8 hours x 2 RCDs = \$1,320.00

# Applicant Contact(s) Information (to be completed by the applicant)

1. Applicant Organization Name
2. Unique Official Project Title
3. Applicant Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)

Individuals who will be designated as person(s) responsible on behalf of the applicant's organization. See instructions for descriptions of these roles.

Complete boxes 4 - 7. To ensure adequate internal controls, a minimum of two different people must be identified.

## 4. Administrative Contact

Name	Phone
Title	Email

## 5. Program Contact

Name	Phone
Title	Email

## 6. Program Director

Name	Phone
Title	Email

## 7. Signatory Official

Name	Phone
Title	Email

## 8. Key Personnel:

This section must list key personnel by name, title, role, and responsibilities, including specific tasks and subtasks designated to them in the project proposal. If none, enter "NONE" below.

**Changes in key personnel will require prior approval. Direct questions about key personnel to your agency contact.**





## **Declaration Of Ongoing Project**

We currently are implementing NRCS Agreement NR239104XXXXC014. This application is for a continuance, which would allow us to continue providing much needed services to historically underserved farmers and ranchers.

**Project Title/Description:** GCRCDC will implement the Farm and Ranch Resilience Program, a multilingual technical assistance and education program for farmers and ranchers in the NRCS Hollister Service Center area.

**Agreement Number:** NRCS Agreement NR239104XXXXC014

**Award Amount:** \$75,000.00

**Year of Award Expiration:** Federal FY 2024

### **Anticipated Outcomes:**

1. Complete agricultural producer engagement plan. (SEPTEMBER 2023)
2. Hire a 30-hour per week multilingual conservation program coordinator to provide public education, outreach, and technical assistance services within the project area. (OCTOBER 2023)
3. Complete multilingual outreach materials. (NOVEMBER 2023)
4. Host an educational workshop for up to thirty (30) participants in a language other than English. (FEBRUARY 2024)
5. Provide technical assistance to help identify and address resource concerns for up to twelve (12) agricultural producers. (Ongoing through JULY 2024)
6. Provide at least four (4) hours per week of direct technical assistance to NRCS staff in the implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), on eligible lands within the approved project area. (Ongoing through AUGUST 2024)

**GCRCD - Areas Affected by the Project:**

The project will be implemented within the geographical limits of Santa Clara County and San Benito County.