

Santa Clara County Local Work Group

Meeting hosted by the Guadalupe-Coyote and Loma Prieta Resource Conservation Districts, in collaboration with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The locally led conservation effort is the foundation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) conservation program delivery process. The local work group supports the locally led conservation effort by coordinating USDA programs with other Federal, State, tribal, and local conservation programs to provide an integrated solution to addressing natural resource concerns.

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

In response to COVID-19, we will be holding this meeting via Zoom only.

To join the online meeting from your computer or mobile device:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88947306591?pwd=S3FwNTZxZEwrSVdYRFRoVEF0bWhOUT09>

To join the meeting using phone audio only: 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 889 4730 6591 **Passcode:** 724069

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keo5XblkTn>

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of the Local Work Group
3. Overview of current NRCS and RCD services:
 - James Booth, District Conservationist, Hollister Service Center
 - Dina Iden, Executive Director, Loma Prieta RCD
 - Stephanie Moreno, Executive Director, Guadalupe-Coyote RCD
4. Local Work Group Discussion (see attached questions for discussion and online polling)
5. Next Steps

Santa Clara County 2021 Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting

Discussion Questions

NRCS and the RCDs are committed to developing service priorities from a local perspective. The local work group helps us coordinate with the communities we serve to develop natural resource priorities specific to local needs and focus areas. The following questions will be asked during the meeting to help inform development of NRCS resource priorities for the coming year.

LWG participants will be asked to discuss the following questions during the meeting. If you prefer, you are welcome to submit written answers to these questions in lieu of public participation by completing this form and submitting it electronically to gcrccd@gcrccd.org by Friday, March 26, 2021.

1. Please rank the following resource concerns or focus areas according to priority (high, medium, low):

Resource Concern or Focus Area	Related Agricultural Practices	High	Medium	Low
Air quality	Particulate emissions (such as dust from ag production and rural road usage; smoke from controlled burns and brush piles); greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (such as inefficient combustion equipment; chemical applications).			
Biodiversity	Enhancing native habitat and natural biomes; improving crop diversity.			
Fire prevention and recovery	Thinning and brush management; rangeland planting (pre- and post-fire).			
Livestock water, fencing, and grazing	Livestock water source development and distribution; cross-fencing; grazing management.			
Organic transition and support	Cost and technical support to transition from conventional to organic farming.			
Pesticide and herbicide management	Integrated pest management practices to reduce chemical applications.			
Soil health and carbon sequestration	Soil amendments (gypsum, mulch, compost); increased soil organic matter; improve water infiltration and retention; climate change mitigations.			
Water quality	Reduction in runoff, sediment and chemicals.			
Water quantity	Increased access and outlets for agricultural uses; increasing efficiencies.			
Weed management	Control of herbaceous and woody noxious weeds.			
Wildlife habitat and natural area Improvement	Enhancement of riparian areas, oak tree protection and mitigation, install and maintain pollinator habitat; install practices to protect aquatic and terrestrial vertebrates.			

