

Presentation for Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

September 22, 2009

Santa Maria, CA



The Conservation Partnership: USDA/RCD History



- In the late 1920s, Hugh Hammond Bennett, a soil scientist in the USDA, became convinced that soil erosion was a national menace. He believed that its solution lay in tailoring conservation practices to fit the capability of the land and the desires of landowners.
- In 1933, President Roosevelt established the Soil Erosion Service to correct land management practices that caused the Dust Bowl of the 1930's.
- The first Soil Conservation Act established the Soil Conservation Service as a permanent agency in 1935.
- Recognition of the first conservation district in 1937 established a method for the Service to assist farmers in the conservation districts. Locally elected citizens established priorities and plans for the district's work.



Natural Resources Conservation Service-Who we are

- The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a non-regulatory, federal agency that provides voluntary conservation planning and technical assistance on private lands.
- Our mission statement is
“Helping People Help the Land.”

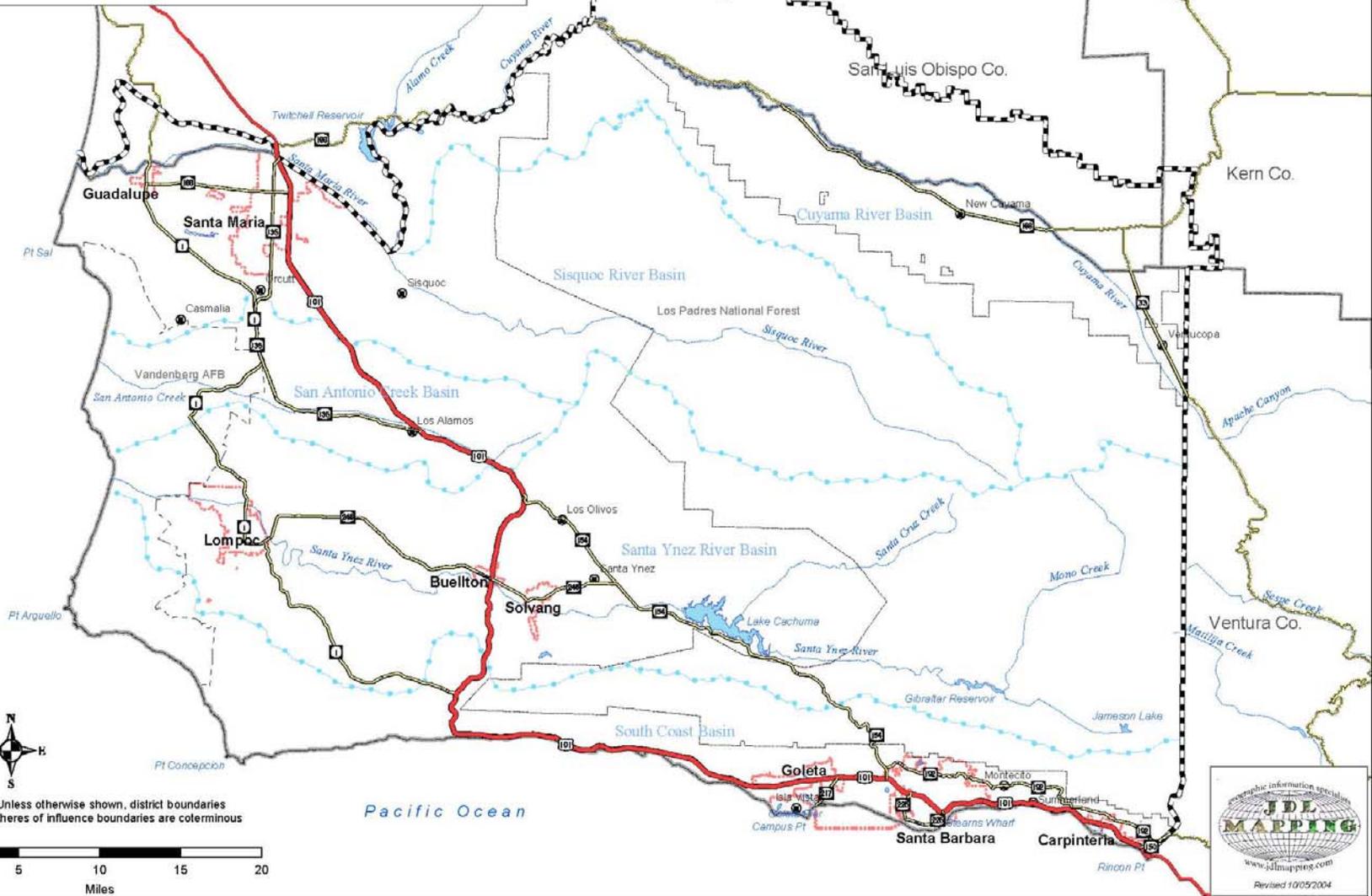
NRCS



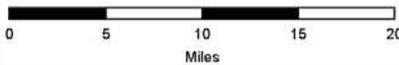
Cachuma Resource Conservation District (Cachuma RCD)

- Is a local special district, like a school district, governed by a voluntary board of directors.
- The Santa Barbara RCD was first formed in 1944 by the SB County Board of Supervisors.
- Our mission is to protect & enhance natural resources while maintaining productivity of the land, by providing technical services concerning natural resource management to landowners and land managers.
- We are technical partners with the NRCS.

Cachuma Resource Conservation District



Note: Unless otherwise shown, district boundaries and spheres of influence boundaries are coterminous



Cachuma RCD

Geographic Area of Service

- 1,775,360 Acres in Santa Barbara County
- 157,380 Acres in San Luis Obispo County
 - Oso Flaco Creek Watershed
 - Parts of the Cuyama River Watershed north of the river.
- 8,960 Acres in Kern County
- 1,941,700 Acres Total



Cachuma RCD-Directors

- Lon Fletcher (President) Santa Maria
- Gary Cavaletto Vice-president Goleta
- Richard Russell (Sec/Treasurer) Cuyama
- James Wegis Cuyama
- Ernest Righetti Santa Maria
- Lee Bettencourt Santa Ynez
- LeRoy Scolari Lompoc
- William Pata Lompoc
- Timothy O'Keefe SLO County

- David Giorgi (associate) Goleta
- David Wineman (associate) Santa Maria
- Henry Van Wingerden (associate) Carpinteria
- Anthony Brown (associate) Carpinteria
- Jerry Czarnecki (associate) Santa Maria

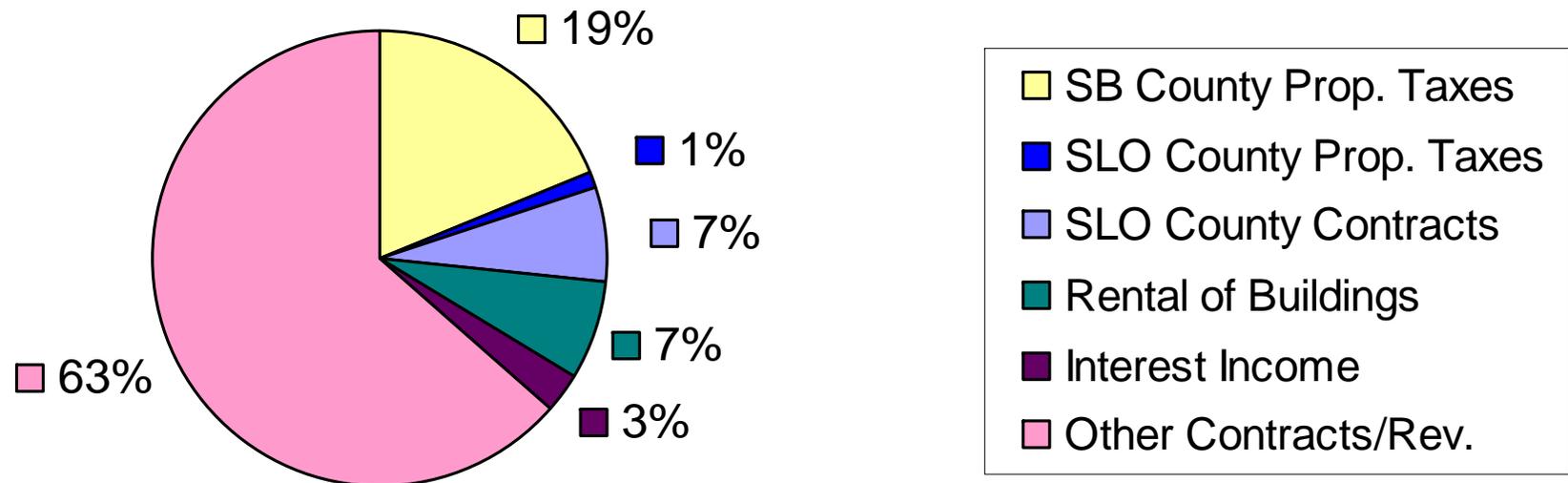
Cachuma RCD Process of Accepting Applications for Serving on Board of Directors

- Accept all applications received.
- Recommend that applicants serve as an associate for two years prior to applying for appointment.
- Encourage directors to serve multiple terms.
- Encourage directors to solicit associates from their region.
- Advertise in the newspaper and word of mouth when one of the nine seats is vacant.

Cachuma RCD Qualifications Desired for Directors

- A genuine love for agriculture
- Ability to discuss agricultural projects at length
- A high degree of respect and credibility in the agricultural community
- A high degree of respect for the local government body and process

Cachuma Resource Conservation District Revenue Detail by Percentage of Budget 2009/10



Cachuma RCD Revenue Sources	2009/2010 Budgeted Amount	Percentage of Total Revenues
SB County Property Taxes	79,700	19%
SLO & Kern Property Taxes	4,800	1%
SLO County Contracts	28,000	7%
Rental of Buildings	29,000	7%
Interest Income	12,000	3%
Grants and Other Revenue	268,625	63%
Total Revenues	422,125	100%

NRCS Programs

- **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**
 - technical assistance for conservation practices on private land
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
 - technical & financial assistance for conservation practices on private land, provides average of \$300K to SB County/year
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**
 - technical & financial assistance for enhancing or creating wildlife habitat on private land, provides average of \$100K to SB County/year
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)**
 - emergency funds to install practices to reduce erosion to protect life & property in watersheds affected by natural disaster

2009 NRCS Fire Related Assistance Provided

- **Gap Fire**
 - \$3.5 million to SB County in EWP funds
 - 23 site visits with summary reports
- **Jesusita Fire**
 - \$5 million in EWP funds to SB County
 - 104 site visits, with 86 reports, 2 public meetings
- **Other Fires**
 - Painted Cave Fire in 1990 \$4.6M in EWP funds
 - Marre Wildfire in 1993 \$100k in EWP funds

Flood Control Projects

- Carpinteria Valley Watershed Project: \$20,000,000.
- EWP 1999: \$1,600,000.
- EWP 1994: Buellton \$65,000.
- San Miguelito Watershed Project 1989: \$22,000,000.
- EWP 1978-79: \$10,000,000.
- Between 1954 and 1974 valued at \$100M current values
 - Cemetery Canyon Project
 - Rodeo/San Pasqual Project
 - Hoag/Santa Rita Project
 - Purisma/Cebada Project

