

From: Barbara Wishingrad <barbara@regen.coop>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 1:20 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: June 16 Budget Hearing- Support for Land Stewardship and Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Specialists
Attachments: 230615_Letter_Board_Supervisors_2_positions.pdf

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June 15, 2023

To the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

I am an educator, designer, and installer of regenerative landscapes and water wise solutions for properties located in the County of Santa Barbara. Today I am writing to ask you to include both the Land Stewardship and Carbon Farming position and the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Specialist positions in Santa Barbara County's Fiscal 2023/2024 budget, ongoing. These positions will benefit our County in many ways going forward.

Here are descriptions of the positions:

- Land Stewardship and Carbon Farming Specialist – Support the agricultural community with implementing carbon farm plans and sustainable agricultural practices and applying for Federal and State funding for carbon sequestration projects
- Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Specialist – Coordinate across departments to maintain an active database of programs and projects, develop a process by which to prioritize projects and then identify and secure funding for implementation in coordination with Departments.

The Regenerative Landscape Alliance, LLC, ReGen.coop, is a full-service landscape contracting company. We provide a full range of services including: consultation, design, installation, maintenance, and management. Our team has a high degree of specialization in rainwater harvesting earthworks and rain tank systems, greywater systems of all types, irrigation systems, water management, and waterwise, native, and Mediterranean landscapes. With a deep background in Permaculture, we love to include edible plants in landscapes that are climate appropriate, regenerative of soil carbon, productive, and aesthetically pleasing.

A member owned cooperative, we are dedicated to a collaborative process that leverages the diversity of perspective, expertise, and strength that our team brings to bear. We are six member-owners who have worked together in our current business model for the last seven years, and in other entities for years before that. Our landscape contractor, Fred Hunter, has over thirty years' experience in the landscape industry, and I have been a water wise educator through the nonprofit Sweetwater Collaborative for more than ten years.

We are a part of a larger community of Central Coast Landowner/Stewards, Community Stakeholders/NGOs and Policy/Regulatory representatives that **want to be active participants in sustainably recharging our watersheds and groundwater resources, managing climate change and supporting the food growing working lands of Santa Barbara and the greater South Central Coast Region.**

The existing process for implementing nature-based solutions on private lands through county and state policy channels is essentially an opaque wall that acts to shut down progressive land management, not support it. We spend months navigating permitting processes instead of doing the work that would make a difference in our community.

I, and many others like me, need help and we need funding if we are expected to get through these processes. Having these two positions filled would help us to help you to contribute to a better Santa Barbara, a better Central Coast and a better world.

I have also attached this letter in pdf form on our company letterhead.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wishingrad
she/her/ella
Client Liaison, Systems Designer, and Office Manager, ReGen coop
Regenerative Landscape Alliance, LLC
barbara@regen.coop
[805-403-4566](tel:805-403-4566)
regen.coop



regenerative
landscape alliance

regen.coop

PO Box 1014, Santa Barbara, CA 93102

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