



Antelope
Valley
RCD

FACT SHEET

Projects

August 2006

Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District

Current Projects:

- In the early 1990s, the AVRCD launched **Dustbusters**, a multi-organization effort to address increasing problems with **soil erosion and wind-blown sand in the Antelope Valley**. We are currently actively involved in seeking funding to publish the results of ongoing research in prevention techniques.
- The AVRCD has entered into a Joint Powers Authority agreement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to form the **Desert & Mountain Conservation Authority**. The purpose of the **regional conservancy** is to **acquire and manage open space lands** within the boundaries of the two agencies for long-term conservation efforts. This entity provides a resource mitigation management program for development efforts needing off-site mitigation to provide specific habitat for species such as burrowing owls, alkali mariposa lilies, Joshua-juniper woodlands, and so forth.
- We support the regional **Envirothon** competition, an **outdoor natural resource education program for high school students**. In the field, students are challenged to work as a team to answer written questions and conduct hands-on projects focusing on environmental issues in five disciplines: forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils and a current environmental issue. This year the AVRCD sponsored El Camino Real High School (Woodland Hills); the team won first place at the State level and fourth place at the National level.
- A **cooperative weed abatement effort**, Santa Clara Arundo Removal Plan (SCARP), is led by the Ventura County RCD to address the spread of exotic vegetation such as Arundo ("giant reed") and Tamarix ("salt cedar") in the Santa Clara watershed. It has resulted so far in both an inventory of the area and a programmatic environmental analysis to facilitate removal efforts.



- The District owns and operates a **Conservation Nursery** on the west side of the Antelope Valley which provides drought-tolerant, desert-adapted plants and trees to the public, government agencies, and private organizations. Efforts are currently underway to increase the Nursery's contract growing base.

Future Projects: The AVRCD has four general areas of programmatic development. Here are some developing projects related to them.

1. Soil and Water Conservation

- ✓ We are in discussions with the Ventura County RCD to build on the SCARP effort (see current projects above) and create a joint Santa Clara Watershed Coordinator position to **help local landowners with invasive weed abatement efforts**. This partnership would provide a mechanism to seek both State and Federal funding to assist with these tasks.
- ✓ We have proposed to the Palmdale Water District that we coordinate our educational efforts on the value of low-water-use landscaping by using our plant materials in their efforts to develop a **water conservation garden** adjacent to their headquarters. This would provide real world examples to the public and insure that there is a ready source of plants available at a reasonable cost.

2. Air Quality Improvements

- ✓ Publication of the Antelope Valley **Dustbusters Handbook** will provide programmatic implementation opportunities in cooperation with local land-owners and managers and our NRCS partners. See current projects above.

3. Open Space/Agriculture Lands Conservation

- ✓ A substantial parcel of land adjacent to the Joshua Ranch development in Palmdale is slated for **donation to the DMCA** (Desert & Mountain Conservation Authority) (see current projects above).
- ✓ We are also entering into a partnership with Edwards Air Force Base to acquire and manage a **habitat conservation zone** along its southeast boundary using an Air Force program which will provide funding on a matching basis for the effort.

4. Desert/Rural Living Education

- ✓ We will be managing an ongoing program developed by the Mojave Desert RCD to **teach a unit on wastewater management to local high school classes**.
- ✓ Our staff will receive Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) training this summer on **providing water resource educational programs and materials to local school teachers**.

Where We Are: The District encompasses approximately **1.65 million acres** bounded on the east by the San Bernardino County Line; the north by southeast Kern County; the west by the Ventura County line; and the south by the urban Los Angeles/Santa Clarita area and Angeles Crest Highway.

Contact Information:

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