

Southern California Hub

RCD of Greater San Diego County, Mission RCD, Inland Empire RCD, Coachella Valley RCD

Agricultural Summary

Source: 2018 and 2019 County Crop Reports

Rangeland/Pasture **1,549,248 acres**

Fruit & Nut Crops **56,249 acres**

Truck Crops **163,957 acres**



Agricultural Demographics – 2017 Census of Agriculture

White 79%	Latinx 12%	American Indian 1%	Asian 5%	Black 1%	Multi-Race 2%
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Important Characteristics of the Hub

Agriculture in Southern California faces many challenges, particularly around rising costs of water and land. RCDs in the region provide critical conservation assistance helping to ensure that working lands can remain in production instead of conversion to non-irrigated uses or urbanization. Given the region’s shallow soils and limited rainfall, regenerative practices are rapidly gaining interest. The region already has a large and growing percentage of Certified Organic growers.

Despite resource scarcity and rising costs, San Diego County is the 19th largest farm economy and the second-leading producer of avocado and nursery crops in the nation. The region also has the second highest number of women-operated farms in the nation, in addition to a large Latinx and Asian grower populations.

Ag Sector Partnerships

The RCDs work with associations of winegrape growers, date farmers, strawberry and citrus farmers, and the California Avocado Society, in addition to the Cattleman’s Association, the California Cattlewomen’s Association, and county Farm Bureaus. The RCDs are members of the San Diego Carbon Farming Task Force, a working group of over 40 multi-sector organizations and stakeholders, including the County of San Diego, the City of San Diego, San Diego County Farm Bureau, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and UC Cooperative Extensions (UCCE) of San Diego County and Imperial County.

Carbon Farming Success Stories

There are currently two (2) trained RCD carbon planners in the Hub, with seven (7) carbon farm plans completed or in progress encompassing 4,687 acres of agricultural land.

The RCD of Greater San Diego, Mission RCD, and the Pauma Tribe of Luiseño Indians co-hosted the **Carbon Sink Convergence at Solidarity Farms** in Pauma Valley bringing together a diverse group of farmers & stakeholders to discuss barriers and opportunities for small and BIPOC farmers to engage in carbon farming.

The **RCD of Greater San Diego** completed San Diego’s first carbon farm plan in 2018 at **Montando Farms** and has since completed three more plans.

Mission RCD is working with the *Pauma Tribe of Luiseño Indians* to develop a carbon farm plan for Solidarity Farm. Mission RCD received funding for a CDFRA Demonstration Project to implement cover crops, compost application, and mulching on an 80-acre vineyard in Bonsall to showcase carbon farm practices.

Coachella Valley RCD with assistance from the **RCD of Greater San Diego** are helping small Latinx date farmers in the Coachella Valley implement carbon farming practices and monitoring soil health.