

SUMMARY OF EXPANSION REQUEST
Central Coast
Resource Conservation & Development Area
California

Date Submitted: June 1997

Counties:

Present: (5) Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz (5,720,860 acres)

Revised: (6) Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara (7,477,977 acres)

Sponsors:

Present: (8) 6 Resource Conservation Districts
1 Association of Area Governments
1 Rural Development Center

Revised: (9) 7 Resource Conservation Districts
1 Association of Area Governments
1 Rural Development Center

General Description of Area:

The Central Coast RC&D Area includes four Pacific coastal counties and two inland counties. The northern boundary is approximately 50 miles south of San Francisco. The southern boundary is the Santa Barbara County line approximately 100 miles north of Los Angeles. The area has a combined population of approximately 1,366,840. About one-third live in the major cities of Santa Cruz, Monterey, Watsonville, Salinas, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Hollister, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara. According to recent demographic data, the race and ethnic composition of farm operators in the area is 2% American Indian, 2% African American, 22% Anglo, 30% Asian and 44% Hispanic.

The economy in the area is broad-based. It includes high technology research and development, industrial manufacturing, agriculture, food processing, services, wholesale/retail trade, oil and gas production and tourism. Local vineyards and wineries contribute substantially to the economic vitality of the area. Irrigated row crops keep Central Coast counties among the Nation's top for total value of agricultural production. Area counties also contribute about 30% to California commercial fish landings. Top values for domestic markets are rockfish and salmon.

Issues of water quality plague the area. Increased use by residents, water mining, seawater intrusion and increased nitrate levels in groundwater contribute to inadequate water supplies. Hardwood (oak) rangelands comprise 70% of the total land area. Oak woodlands are used in livestock operations with recreational purposes on the rise.

Congressional Delegation:

Senators:	Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	Representatives:	Tom Campbell (R-CA-15) Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-16) Sam Farr (D-CA-17) Walter Capps (D-CA-22)
-----------	---	------------------	---