



August 6, 2019

CALIFORNIA BULLETIN CA 360-19-09

SUBJECT: PER – Excellence in Conservation Planning Awards

Purpose: To solicit nominations for Excellence in Conservation Planning Awards

Expiration Date: September 30, 2019.

**ACTION REQUESTED BY AUGUST 23, 2019**

**Nominations for Excellence in Conservation Planning Awards**

I am pleased to announce the Excellence in Conservation Planning Awards to distinguish California NRCS and RCD employees and contractors who have exemplified outstanding service to landowners with conservation planning assistance. All California NRCS and RCD employees and contractors who perform conservation planning assistance are eligible.

Conservation planning is the foundation for NRCS technical and financial assistance to our State's farmers, ranchers and non-industrial timber landowners and operators. Working with landowners one on one or with technical teams to identify landowner objectives, inventory natural resources, develop and select alternatives, make decisions and implement the plan is important work.

In addition, the working relationship and trust that is built between the conservation planner and the client is crucial and allows conservation practices to be selected, designed and implemented to get conservation on the ground. Resource issues are often complex in California requiring collaboration with various partners and agencies. From what I have seen in the field NRCS and RCD employees do this better than anyone else.

There are three Excellence in Conservation Planning Award categories:

1. Planner of the Year
2. Innovation Award
3. Outstand Team or Partnership

I hope you will consider sending in a nomination. Nomination packets should be submitted to [Hue.Dang@usda.gov](mailto:Hue.Dang@usda.gov), State Conservation Planning Leader, and [Steve.Hill@usda.gov](mailto:Steve.Hill@usda.gov), Awards Committee Chair, no later than by **August 23, 2019**. See attachments for award guidelines.

These recipients will be recognized at the California Resource Conservation District Annual Meeting.

I am proud of all the quality conservation planning that is occurring throughout California.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CARLOS SUAREZ', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke underneath.

CARLOS SUAREZ  
State Conservationist

Attachment 1 – Planner of the Year Award Guidelines

Attachment 2 – Innovation Award Guidelines

Attachment 3 – Outstanding Team-Partnership Award Guidelines

DIST: AE