



IRCAD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

## PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTHY SOILS

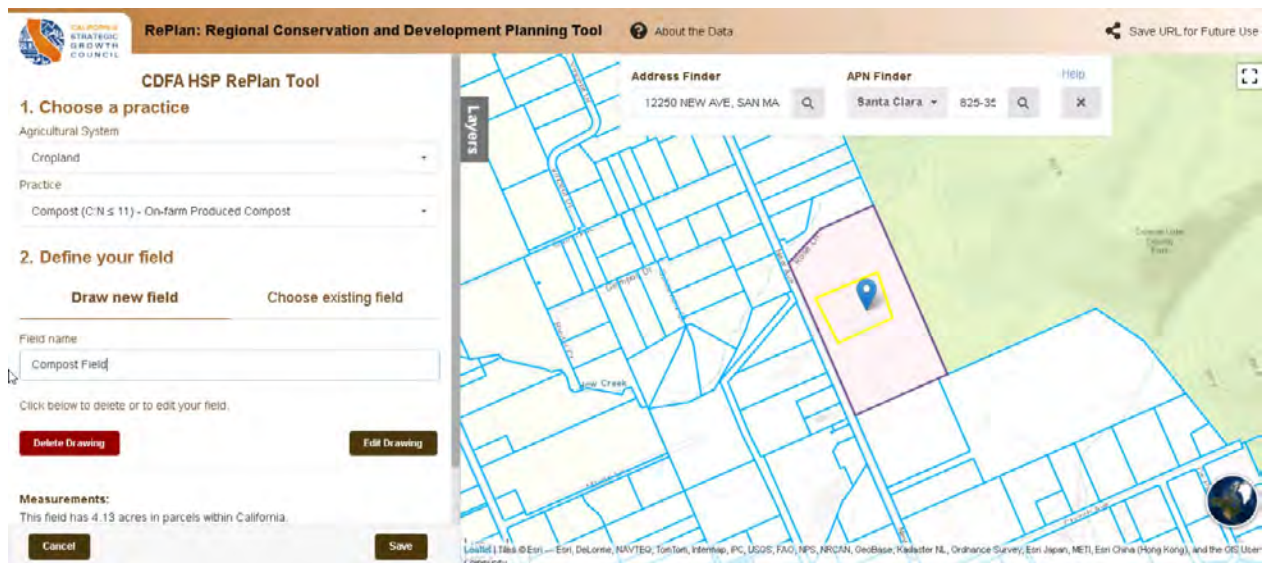
---

Photo Credit: CDFA  
Healthy Soils Program

*“SGC built us a mapping tool to support our most recent \$28 million Healthy Soils Incentive Program solicitation. The tool made the whole application process more user-friendly for California farmers and ranchers. This SGC RePlan tool is invaluable.”*

*—Dr. Amrith Gunasekara, Senior Health Soils Program Advisory Panel Liaison*

---



Screenshot of CDFA-HSP RePlan Tool showing field mapping with identified agricultural system and practice

Under the leadership of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) brings together a variety of State agencies and departments to collaborate on initiatives that promote the development of healthy soils on California’s farm and rangelands. One of these initiatives, the HSP Incentives Program, provides financial assistance to implement conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Seeking to improve the efficiency and consistency of the HSP Incentives Program’s funding proposal process, CDFA’s HSP team recently collaborated with SGC.

The Healthy Soils Incentives Program grant proposal submission process is complex. In order to characterize their proposed soil health practices, applicants must access multiple websites to locate information, interpret this information, and generate spatial data. The CDFA team realized this process was both inefficient for users and resulted inconsistent proposals that often lacked the information CDFA needs to process and evaluate them.

To address these issues, SGC worked with the CDFA-HSP team to develop an extension to SGC’s Regional Conservation and Development planning tool (RePlan) that links seamlessly to the existing CDFA proposal submission portal. The tool consolidates

information and analytical tools into a single online platform that includes a broad set of regional planning datasets to enable HSP applicants to simultaneously address the broad suite of State conservation and resource management goals.

RePlan also provides an online user-friendly platform that gives applicants access to the required datasets, functionality to map fields and practices, spatial links to key data (addresses, parcels), filters that flag when a proposed practice is incompatible with field conditions, and a link to species recommended for planting by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. Then the tool creates a detailed proposal report the applicant submits directly to CDFA for processing and evaluation by the HSP team.

SGC trained the HSP proposal evaluation team to use the CDFA-HSP RePlan tool, and they applied it successfully for the most recent round of HSP Incentives Program proposals. Based on this experience, CDFA and SGC are optimistic that using RePlan will continue to streamline applicants’ experiences preparing and submitting proposals, improve the quality of the proposals, and increase evaluation efficiency – which will ultimately enable evaluators to select the best proposed HSP Incentives Program projects for funding.



IRCAD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

---

Photo Credit:  
Denny Grossman

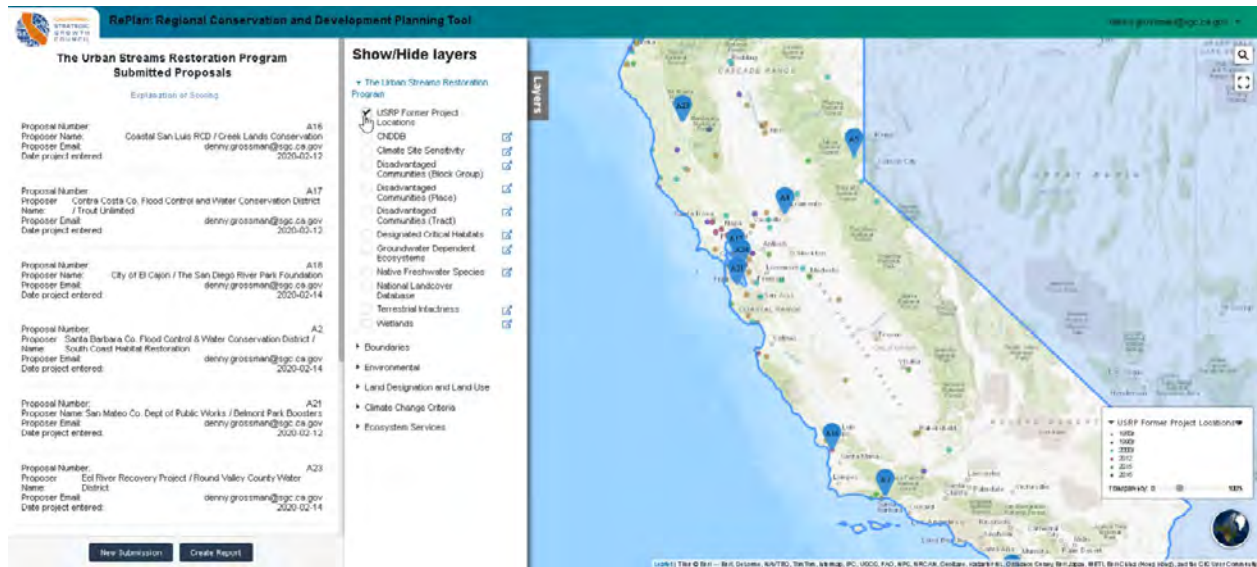
## REPLAN SUPPORTS DWR'S RIVERINE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

---

*“RePlan augments our scientists’ ability to conduct evaluations knowing they are using the best available data and science to assess project benefits equitably, and ultimately help select projects that will have the best ecological and public benefit outcomes.”*

*—Fred Frink, Environmental Program Manager, Department of Water Resources*

---



DWR Riverine Restoration – Urban Restoration Program Home Page with evaluation matrix for new proposal

The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Riverine Stewardship Program (RSP) provides funding and technical assistance to help plan and implement projects that restore streams, creeks, and rivers in order to enhance the environment for fish, wildlife, and people. In 2020, DWR began partnering with SGC in order to maximize the impact its RSP Investments. By expanding its Regional Conservation and Development Planning Tool (RePlan), SGC is helping DWR ensure that its evaluation and selection of RSP projects both addresses the program's specific objectives and advance State conservation resource management goals.

The RSP protects listed fish species while reducing flood risk and enhancing the ecosystems of urban streams. This work focuses on designing, constructing, managing, and monitoring projects based on complex priorities set by a variety of stakeholders including federal, State, and regional entities, along with non-governmental organizations. Analyzing the priorities of multiple stakeholders is a common challenge faced by planning agencies like DWR – a challenge compounded by the reality that stakeholders use a wide array of datasets and metrics that often don't agree. RePlan addresses this challenge by integrating a vast array of scientific and planning information from multiple stakeholders and sources on single accessible information platform.

For DWR, SGC extended RePlan's functionality to fully integrate the conservation data relevant to RSP, making it easy and efficient for DWR to access and use it to review and evaluate project proposals. This RePlan tool extension provides broader planning information to ensure grant decisions also account for additional State priorities including resource conservation, GHG reduction, and climate change resilience. SGC and DWR expect that the partnership will increase DWR's effectiveness in advancing multi-stakeholder priorities for the conservation of California's rivers. Although the partnership is still in its early stages, SGC has already used RePlan to integrate foundational datasets from a variety of sectors for DWR and developed a weighted project evaluation matrix that helps RSP program managers identify priority projects.

Efficient access to clear information increases the effectiveness of investments like those made by the Riverine Stewardship Program. The SGC and DWR partnership demonstrates that the customizable RePlan tool is invaluable ensuring that grants and decision-making processes strike a sustainable balance of conservation and development across California.