

# HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM SUCCESS STORIES

## TWO SAN DIEGO COUNTY GROWERS BENEFIT FROM THE HEALTHY SOILS PROGRAM INCENTIVES GRANT



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Case studies researched and written by Solana Center for  
Environmental Innovation, a certified Technical Assistance Provider  
for the Healthy Soils Program Incentives Grant

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## SAN PASQUAL VALLEY SOILS

Located in Escondido in northeast San Diego County, San Pasqual Valley Soils (SPVS) is a highly reputable source of compost, mulch, and soil amendments in the San Diego region. The operations at SPVS play a role in benefitting the community in a sustainable closed loop fashion; over 1,000 tons of local discarded brewery grains, food scraps, and bakery materials are repurposed each month as livestock feed for the adjoining Frank Konyn dairy, and manure from this dairy is then composted on-site at SPVS.

Through their Healthy Soils Program Incentives Grant award, SPVS implemented compost, cover crop, and alfalfa planting practices, which contributed to an increase in soil organic matter, soil tilth, and water retention, leading to more nutrient-rich soil and lower water demands. In approximately one year, the soil organic matter increased from 0.88% to 1.84%, the nitrogen from 0.037% to 0.089%, and carbon from 0.441% to 0.921%, demonstrating the significant positive impact of these practices on agricultural lands.

HSP Practices Implemented: compost application, cover crop, and forage and biomass planting.



**Learn more about  
San Pasqual Valley Soils Here:**



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## ORCHARD REVITALIZATION:

Jayd Kowitt, located in Vista, CA, began the Healthy Soils Program, as many San Diego farmers do, with thick clay-heavy soil. Her planting attempts failed repeatedly and her avocado orchard rotted, went dormant, and would not produce. Thanks to her awarded practices through the Healthy Soils Program Incentives Grant, the trees came back to life within months after compost application, and went on to produce ample and high-quality avocados.

Jayd has observed an increase in soil biodiversity, soil organic matter, more earthworms present in the soil, and a decrease in watering needs. In addition to her HSP implementations, Jayd also added native pollinator plants, such as yarrow, blue curls, California poppy, and monkey flower; as a result her land is now home to a variety of butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees.

HSP Practices Implemented: Compost and mulch application.



**Questions about how to implement your current HSP Incentives Grant, or curious about how to apply for a future cycle?**

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