

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 5-6, 2020

Prepared on February 13, 2020

ITEM NUMBER: 2

SUBJECT: Educational Field Visit to Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch, Davenport, Santa Cruz County

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ACTION: Information/Discussion

SUMMARY

The Central Coast Water Board will participate in an educational field visit to California Polytechnic State University's (Cal Poly's) Swanton Pacific Ranch, located a few miles north of Davenport in coastal Santa Cruz County, on Thursday, March 5th. The purpose of the field trip is to provide the Board with information on the ranch's abundant resources and the valuable opportunities it provides to study resource conservation methods that can be applied through sustainable management techniques. Cal Poly staff will also provide information on climate change adaptation strategies in practice, as these pertain to timber cultivation, harvesting, and sustainable certification for forestry, fire and fuel management practices, farm carbon plans, stormwater capture and farming, riparian corridor enhancement research, healthy soils practices (carbon sequestration), and grazing management.

The public is invited to attend the field trip; however, space is very limited, and transportation will not be provided. Persons interested in participating in the field trip must RSVP by March 2, 2020 at Noon by emailing the Clerk to the Board at Tammie.Olson@waterboards.ca.gov.

DISCUSSION

Swanton Pacific Ranch is an educational and research facility, owned by the Cal Poly Corporation and managed by Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. The 3,200-acre ranch was donated to the university in 1993 by the late Al Smith, a Cal Poly graduate and founder of Orchard Supply Hardware. The ranch provides Cal Poly students, faculty, staff and the public with an ecologically rich and diverse environment in which to foster Cal Poly's "Learn by Doing" philosophy. Swanton Pacific Ranch is a working ranch with three distinct operations: Forest Stewardship Council-certified selective forestry, natural grass-fed beef, and certified organic crops. Students have completed a broad array of research studies at the facility including more than 100 senior projects, graduate theses, and ranch-based internship projects. The

ranch also supports cooperative research projects external to Cal Poly that are conducted on-site. For more information about Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch, go to <https://spranch.calpoly.edu/>