



Kris O'Connor
Executive Director
Central Coast Vineyard Team
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Kris O'Connor developed her love for agriculture as a student at Cal Poly and eventually received her Master's Degree specializing in soil and water. She worked at the Irrigation Training and Research Center and conducted irrigation research, lectured in Cal Poly's Ag Engineering Department, and co-authored a textbook.

Kris joined the Central Coast Vineyard Team (CCVT) in 1998 and helped transform what had been a small, grower led effort into a nationally recognized organization centered around the concept and practice of sustainable winegrowing. The organization is now supported by 300 members representing 80,000 acres on the Central Coast. Through grower-to-grower education, field research, and Spanish speaking programs, CCVT continues to serve as a model for other regions and crop industries.

At national conferences, Kris regularly presents project results and shares how growers protect both the natural and human resources on the farm and in their communities. Through Kris's dedicated leadership, CCVT was one of five organizations to receive the US Environmental Protection Agency's Sustained Excellence award and is also the only organization to receive CalEPA's Innovator award twice. In addition to educating government and environmental representatives of Central Coast growers' commitment to sustainable farming, Kris connects farmers with consumers through the Earth Day Food & Wine Festival and Sustainability in Practice Certification program.