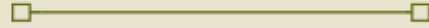
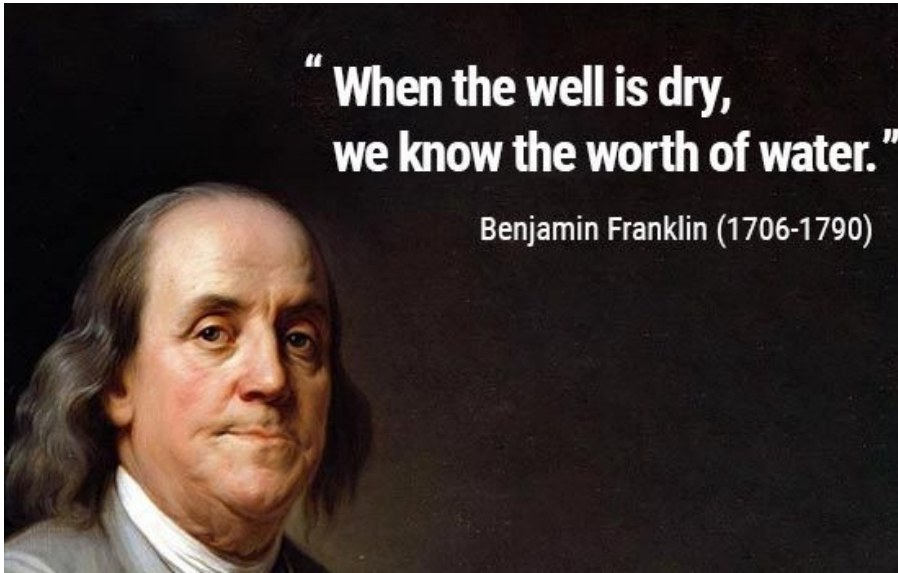




SERRANO CREEK RANCH EQUESTRIAN CENTER



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**"When the well is dry,
we know the worth of water."**

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

I have a habit of watching YouTube videos at night to relax. Specifically, I look for those with a positive outlook in engineering and environmental science. Occasionally, these two passions will marry when it comes to all things water.

One night, the YouTube algorithm took me to rural India. FYI, just under 1 billion people in India live in rural villages. Their water comes from local sources that are tied to annual rainfall. And like southern California, most of India gets its rain during a three-month season. Yet without the vast network of reservoirs that we have, one poor rainy season promises severe drought for the local farmers and villagers.

For decades, flood and then droughts have ravaged villages in India, leading to thirst, hunger, debt, forced migration, and withered crops. Erratic weather patterns,

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JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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- Trench Update
- SCR Holiday Workers Fund 2023 - Thank you!
- A Few Words From Brave Grace

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abusive agricultural practices, and excessive groundwater depletion threaten the very existence of these rural villages. Yet hope is on the horizon.



Rajendra Singh, popularly known as ‘The Water Man of India,’ has been widely recognized for his water restoration efforts in rural India. Over the decades, he has worked with villagers to build numerous water collection features such as small dams, collection ponds, and trenches. All to prevent the rain from washing away, allowing it time to soak into the ground.

Long story short, aquifer levels are rising due to his and the villager’s work. In these villages, the people now have year-round access to water for drinking and raising crops

to feed themselves. In the last 20 years, over 1,000 villages have become self-sufficient from Rajendra Singh’s efforts.

So, what does it have to do with SCR? The image of the villagers digging their trenches was eerily similar to something in my distant past – LOL. While the paths begun from different needs, the solution is the same.

This year, SCR will be completing the final phase of the stall infiltration trenches. Once done, SCR will be capturing more than 200,000 gallons each year.

To offset the hot summer days, SCR has so far planted 30 additional trees to provide more cooling shade. These trees have been strategically planted in locations to take advantage of the captured stormwater from the infiltration trenches. Since we don’t need to irrigate these trees, we are not using scarce imported water to provide shade in the summer. Instead, we are using our own local “water reclamation facility.”

Using the latest carbon capture calculators, we estimate that these trees will capture 94 tons of carbon dioxide over the next 20 years. Again, we use just the “free” captured rainfall and sun.





Thank You

SCR Boarders!!!

The SCR Workers Holiday fundraiser was a success! On Tuesday December 19th 2023 we ended the collection for the workers with a total of \$5895!

On December 21st 2023 we gave \$650 to each of the 9 SCR Workers. We presented the signed holiday cards and read your wonderful messages to them.

It was heartwarming to read your kind words to them and to see your generosity. They do a lot for our horses each year. This was a lovely way to come together as a barn family to let them know how grateful we are for them.

Thank you to those of you who signed up to help us this year. We appreciated the goodies you baked. We enjoyed getting to know you better as you volunteered your time on the collection days. You were a huge help and it was a joy working with you!

With Love,

Jan, Shannon, & Melissa



A few words from Brave Grace-

Happy New Year! 2024 is already bringing us new opportunities! As you may notice, Journey, Eli and Mateo have moved from Serrano to a lovely private property in the Canyon. This space is allowing us a more intimate setting to continue our therapeutic work with individuals, couples and families. After 10 years of being such a part of the Serrano community we love, it seemed like a growth opportunity! The other part of this exciting news is we will continue serving groups and a handful of others at Serrano! Thru the generosity of Serrano management and horse owners at SCR, we continue to get to help humans partner with horses as horses continue their healing work!

We will miss seeing you all as regularly, but remain grateful for all that has been and all the opportunities ahead!

Thank you!

Sue + April



Journey



Eli



Mateo