



Lori Maughan	Chair
Jamie Harvey	Vice-Chair
Silvia Stubbs	Commissioner
Mack McDonald	Administrator

March 3, 2026

Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSI)
Grant Review Panel

Subject: Letter of Support for CSI Grant Proposal

San Juan County supports the application submitted by ProgramEarth to the Climate Smart Community Initiative (CSCI) Funding Program for a proposed 12-month pilot project evaluating biochar applications for soil health, water retention, and agricultural resilience in portions of the Lower San Juan Basin. The project is proposed in partnership with Utah State University (USU) Extension.

Our county faces ongoing challenges related to drought conditions, soil moisture retention, and long-term land stewardship in both agricultural and rural settings. Efforts that responsibly explore tools to improve soil structure, increase water infiltration, and support local agricultural productivity are of interest to our community when conducted in a careful, science-based, and locally coordinated manner.

We understand this proposal is structured as a pilot and comparative testing initiative, including baseline sampling, monitoring, and controlled evaluation prior to broader application. We appreciate the stated intent to include laboratory validation, measured field monitoring, and clear decision points before any expanded use, particularly in areas where legacy environmental concerns may exist.

San Juan County's support is limited to acknowledging the potential value of responsible soil and water improvement research conducted in partnership with local stakeholders. This letter does not constitute a financial commitment, regulatory endorsement, or technical certification of outcomes. Any implementation within the county would remain subject to applicable permits, landowner approvals, and environmental compliance requirements.

We appreciate efforts that prioritize practical land stewardship, agricultural viability, and workforce development in San Juan County. We look forward to continued dialogue to ensure that any work undertaken aligns with community values, responsible land management, and long-term local benefits.

Sincerely,

Lori Maughan
Commission Chair