

New year — new recycling columnist

Filling Alan Styles' shoes is no easy task, but the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority was lucky to have several qualified applicants within the organization. Mandy Brooks is the new recycling columnist for The Salinas Californian and SVSWA's recycling coordinator.

Brooks has been working with SVSWA since 2009 as the contracts and grants analyst and was responsible for successfully garnering grant support to fund the biodiesel conversion project for SVSWA and city of Salinas vehicles, as well as land-



Mandy Brooks

ing grants for the solar energy feasibility project for Crazy Horse Canyon Landfill and the annual tire amnesty recycling events.

By expanding SVSWA's and the Salinas Valley's resources for reducing pollution, Brooks has already had a positive impact on the community.

Prior to joining the SVSWA team, Brooks gained more than 10 years of experience in waste reduction and recycling, most

recently working with Ecology Action of Santa Cruz and with Monterey County. Her abilities to recognize potential for increased waste diversion to keep resources out of the landfill, and to help provide the community with more ways to improve recycling, will help us all to work together to make a better future for the Salinas Valley.

Brooks' goal is to continue to expand recycling options and opportunities into more businesses, schools and homes, making it easier to reduce waste and recycle more; the basic prin-

ciples that have helped the Salinas Valley, Monterey County and the state of California lead the way for our nation to improve the economy and environment through recovering useful materials by recycling.

Brooks looks forward to bringing you news and answering all of your burning questions about how to reduce, reuse and recycle in the Salinas Valley. Send her your questions, suggestions and concerns, and she'll do her best to help make this year one big leap toward a future without landfills.