

## SBALT NEWS

# Michael Panitchpakdi joins SBALT staff

By Emily Renzel

**S**BALT extends a warm welcome to Michael Panitchpakdi, our new Projects Assistant. Michael will be assisting our Executive Director, Lynn Overtree, with two grant-funded programs that will expand our protected lands and represent our rural landowners' needs in a Countywide fire plan.

Michael received his B.S. in Environmental Earth and Soil Sciences from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo in June 2023. He worked as a GIS intern with Raks Thai Foundation, helping underrepresented forest villagers be recognized by the government. He has had a lifelong interest in preserving agricultural land.

Michael will assist ranchers and farmers identify, fund, and develop land conservation projects and assist in their initiation, management, and completion. He will manage



Michael Panitchpakdi, our new Projects Assistant.

SBALT's land transactions from acquisition to stewardship.

Michael will also represent SBALT on the core team implementing a State Coastal Conservancy grant to develop a countywide wildfire resiliency plan and help organize community workshops and provide administrative support for the wildfire resiliency



San Benito Agricultural Land Trust

plan.

When asked what he looks forward to most working with SBALT, Michael responded, "I am looking forward to working with an organization that deeply cares about the local community that we work for. San Benito County is beautiful, and I am excited to contribute to maintaining what is a beloved home to many."

In his free time, Michael enjoys playing baseball, going to the gym, and trying new foods.

We welcome landowners who are considering ways to conserve their land to contact Michael to learn more on how SBALT can help. Email SBALT at [info@sanbenitolandtrust.org](mailto:info@sanbenitolandtrust.org) for more information or visit our website at [sanbenitolandtrust.org](http://sanbenitolandtrust.org). ■