

2013 Annual Report

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT *of Santa Cruz County*



local solutions. real results.





Our Mission:

Help people protect, conserve and restore natural resources through information, education and technical assistance programs

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2012-2013: Graham Wesolowski and Jessica Missaghian
 2013-2014: John Drips and Chris Loomis

2013 FISCAL YEAR FUNDING SOURCES

- American Rivers
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- California Department of Conservation
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Fire Safe Council
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California State Coastal Conservancy
- California State Parks
- Community Foundation of Santa Cruz
- County of Santa Cruz
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- James Irvine Foundation
- Moore Family Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Sempervirens Fund
- State Water Resources Control Board
- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Coastal Program
- US Department of Agriculture

RCD Fiscal Year 2013 Budget**			
July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013			
Income Sources		Expenses	
Interest	\$1,936.00	Professional Services & Project Implementation	\$ 2,121,736.00
Local & Private Sources	\$25,002.00	Salaries	\$1,015,103.00
Augmentation Funds	\$28,902.00	Operating Expenses	\$192,729.00
Other Revenue Grants	\$3,107,470.00		
Donations	\$1,455.00		
Total	*\$3,164,765.00	Total	*\$ 3,329,568.00

*The difference between income and expenses represents grant money spent but not yet received by the RCD.

** The 2013 Fiscal Year budget has NOT been finalized and audited



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This year has been an exciting one for the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County. The RCD's mission of achieving local solutions with real results has had an increasing impact at the statewide level. In January, I was honored by the James Irvine Foundation, whose mission and goals include engaging a broad cross section of Californians in the civic and cultural life of their communities and the state, as one of their 2013 Leadership Award recipients. This award was particularly meaningful for the Foundation's recognition of the RCD of Santa Cruz's ability to make impacts at the statewide level, as well as raising the profile of all of California's RCDs as instruments of change statewide.

Some examples of the work we are doing that have a statewide impact include our Ecosystem Services project, in which we are producing an economic valuation of services and the benefits from natural resources, which will help guide restoration and conservation activities in Santa Cruz County. We have also been leading the county and the state in developing new incentives and incentive frameworks for conservation in agriculture with our Performance-based Incentives for Conservation in Agriculture (PICA) project. We are excited to spread our model of voluntary partnerships between private landowners and public agencies through projects like the Community Water Dialogue. We are proud to be leading and participating in non-traditional partnerships such as our work with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

On top of these new innovations, we are continuing to provide services for soil, water, and species conservation throughout Santa Cruz County. Every day, we are restoring and improving habitat, assisting growers one on one to improve their water and nitrogen efficiency, and helping landowners, residents, and policy makers make informed decisions about land and water use. In 2013, we completed an assessment of the San Vicente Watershed, following which we will develop a salmonid recovery plan for the watershed. We removed a dam in the San Lorenzo watershed to improve passage for steelhead. We continued conducting hydrologic assessments of Watsonville's College Lake and Watsonville Slough in order to study the hydrologic conditions of various possible planning scenarios. We completed the first phase of developing a recovery plan for native amphibians in the Larkin Valley area. Our MANA program delivered advice and technical assistance to Spanish speaking farmers in the Pajaro Valley.

We are enthusiastic about the work we have been able to accomplish in 2013 and are eagerly awaiting the new challenges and accomplishments that lie ahead. We believe that through partnership and cooperative approaches, great things are possible.

Karen Christensen

Executive Director, January 2014



RCD PARTNERS WITH LOCAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO DEVELOP A SALMONID RECOVERY PLAN IN DAVENPORT

Through the RCD's Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP), the RCD has partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) since 2005 to improve a variety of projects and efforts on the north coast, particularly to increase habitat complexity in San Vicente Creek. The goal is improving survival rates of coho salmon and steelhead at all life stages. Efforts to date have included enhancement and restoration of two backwater ponds that were built on footprints of historic agricultural ponds within the San Vicente's floodplain for the purpose of creating winter high-flow refugia and installation of eight large woody debris structures to increase instream habitat complexity and encourage floodplain connectivity. In addition, limited cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) removal has occurred to encourage the presence of more robust and diverse floral communities and to facilitate natural scour and deposition in floodplains.

In 2012, the RCD, with funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), partnered with local technical experts to develop a watershed assessment project that will culminate in a single regional repository of existing data on priority resources (biological, physical, and socio-economic) and a comprehensive Restoration Plan for Salmonid Recovery within the watershed. This planning effort includes the following components: a summary of existing data on watershed conditions related to salmonid recovery; four new assessments focus on known data gaps and potential limiting factors; and a final Restoration Plan with specific recommendations based on the existing data and new assessments. The Restoration Plan will be informed by various assessments (including a geomorphic, fisheries, large woody debris and invasive species assessments) conducted by technical experts and guided by a Local Watershed Steering Committee (a group of interested local stakeholders, large land-holders and local technical experts that will provide existing resource information, technical review, outreach and liaison with the larger community). The Restoration Plan for Salmonid Recovery will be completed and shared with the Davenport community and interested parties in 2014 and will be implemented over the next 10 years.

PACHECO RESERVOIR HYDROLOGIC STUDY UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE STEELHEAD HABITAT AND WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

Through grant funding awarded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the RCD is working in collaboration with a technical team, state and federal resource agencies, and stakeholders on a two-year project to explore alternative operating strategies for the Pacheco Reservoir, located on Pacheco Creek in the upper Pajaro River Watershed. Pacheco Creek supports habitat for federally listed steelhead trout as well as downstream water supply operations for the Pacheco Water District. The goals of this project are to develop a comprehensive strategy and specific guidelines for reservoir releases that will improve aquatic habitat downstream of the reservoir while at the same time providing for adequate water supply. Balancing water supply and habitat needs can often be difficult and contentious but according to lead consultant, Jeff Micko, preliminary results indicate that alternative operation strategies can be developed that will be favorable to all parties' interests. The project started in summer 2013 and will continue through spring of 2015. The beginning phase of the project included the technical team completing field work and analysis to begin characterizing and understanding the Pacheco Creek watershed and associated hydrology, habitat and water supply systems. Stakeholder outreach will continue through the process while the technical team works on developing a technical guide for timing and management of reservoir releases into Pacheco Creek. A management plan will be used for the long term management of reservoir releases to provide critical instream flows for steelhead trout while also providing water supply for downstream uses.



Habitat evaluation work being completed on Pacheco Creek

2013 Permit Coordination Project Highlights

RESTORED5.86 acres of rare or declining habitats

IMPROVED270 linear feet of salmonid streams

REDUCED1.5 miles of haul road sediment from entering impaired water bodies from

LARKIN VALLEY PLANNING EFFORT IN PROGRESS TO REDUCE LOCALIZED FLOODING AND ASSIST IN NATIVE AMPHIBIAN RECOVERY

Over the last decade, the RCD has worked with landowners and residents in the Larkin Valley community to address flooding, property access and safety, habitat enhancement, sediment management, and fuel load reduction, particularly after the Trabing Fire. Because Larkin Valley is home to two native amphibian species, the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (SCLTS) and the California red-legged frog (CRLF), the RCD has also assisted landowners with working in these sensitive habitat areas. This area is especially important habitat for SCLTS as this species is endemic to the coastal areas of Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, which means they exist nowhere else in the world! The Santa Cruz population has continued to decline due to several factors, including a lack of breeding ponds and a reduction in upland habitat where the species spend most of their life. Through past and present collaboration with Larkin Valley property

owners, residents and the resource agencies, the RCD has heard a need to look more closely these various resource interests and concerns about regulatory uncertainty, the cost and time to obtain permits for activities such as sediment removal that has accumulated in the channel or to cut down Eucalyptus trees. As such, the RCD secured funds through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to conduct a preliminary hydrologic and biological assessment to look at the resource interests and permitting challenges in Larkin Valley. Particularly focused around flooding issues, which can limit access to homes and limit emergency vehicle access during winter storms, the RCD is working in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies, to identify measures that could be installed by local residents to help address resource management concerns while also enhancing habitat for both amphibian species. This initial assessment will be finalized in 2013 but is just the first phase of a long term effort in Larkin Valley.



Future pond sites were identified in Larkin Valley Recovery Plan to benefit native amphibian species and reduce localized flooding.

CALTRANS MITIGATION MONIES HELP FUND FINAL PHASE OF THE MANABE WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT

In 2012, the City of Watsonville, with support from the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCD), the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Authority (RTC) and Caltrans, completed the final phase of the Manabe Wetland Restoration Project in Watsonville. Completion of this project represents the success of a groundbreaking pilot program spearheaded by the RCD that links transportation mitigation funds to implementation of high priority restoration projects here in the County—a major accomplishment for all of the partners involved.

The Manabe project is part of the county wide Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP). Since 2003, this program has brought together local partners and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of state, federal, and local resource protection agencies to identify, prioritize, and implement the most beneficial restoration projects across the County. Under the auspices of IWRP, the City of Watsonville was able to work directly with the RCD, RTC and Caltrans to ensure that mitigation dollars from the current Highway 1 widening project were kept within the County and used to complete an already vetted local project. “This represents a great model for ensuring that mitigation funds from local projects are used to support the local economy and natural resources,” explains Karen Christensen, executive Director of the RCD. “Being able to utilize the existing IWRP TAC to work with the partners was a significant component in facilitating this project in a timely manner.” This collaboration not only will result in completion of a key restoration effort in the local Sloughs, but will save the taxpayers money. By having a pre-identified restoration project, the required mitigation process for the Highway 1 project was expedited, reducing the potential for costly delays. Regional Transportation Commission Executive Director George Dondero noted “This project represents a win-win for the community; a heavily traveled section of our major

transportation corridor was improved that will help keep traffic out of neighborhoods, and the Regional Transportation Commission was able to dedicate mitigation funds to a local project to restore critical wildlife habitat in south Santa Cruz County.”

The City of Watsonville committed to restoring 25 acres of wetlands on the Manabe property as part of the Manabe-Burgstrom annexation agreement. With the first 17 acres of wetland restoration and adjacent trails completed in 2007 and 2008, the final phase was completed in November of 2012. The overall purpose of the restoration activities was to create additional high quality wetland habitat and to provide passive recreation opportunities, such as nature trails, in the restored upland areas. The project also greatly increases the flood detention capacity within the Watsonville Slough upstream of the Highway 1 site, providing additional flood-protection benefits to the City of Watsonville and downstream agricultural enterprises. “This is the kind of project we can be proud of,” explains Steve Palmisano, Director of Public Works and Utilities at the City of Watsonville. “It brings such a great value to our community, providing both critical wetland habitat and an opportunity for our residents to easily access that habitat through the trails. We have had so much positive feedback on our wetlands; the community seems to love them. It is important to note that we could have never completed this project without the financial resources provided by the partnership. We are grateful for this opportunity.”

This project represents the fruits of a long-term relationship between the City and the RCD as the two agencies have worked together since 2003 to fund the engineering designs, obtain required permits, and develop funding sources for the construction of the project. The bulk of the design and permit work was funded through the RCD’s IWRP with a generous planning grant from the California Coastal Conservancy and initial construction was funded by Prop 13 and Prop 40 grants obtained jointly by the City and the RCD. This final portion was funded through the agreement with Caltrans and the RTC as well as additional Prop 50 funds through the RCD.

“This project represents a win-win for the community; a heavily traveled section of our major transportation corridor was improved which will help keep traffic out of neighborhoods, and the Regional Transportation Commission was able to dedicate mitigation funds to a local project to restore critical wildlife habitat in south Santa Cruz County.”

- George Dondero, Regional Transportation Commission Executive Director





before

Overview of project looking east-west toward Ohlone Parkway.



during

Both ditch line banks were excavated and graded to widen the channel.



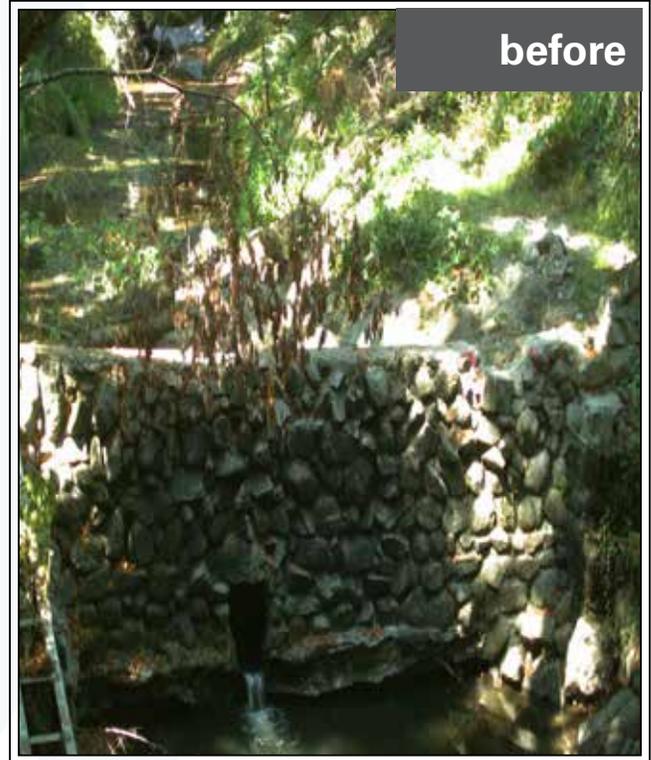
after

Banks have been revegetated with native plants to enhance upland habitat and function as a water quality buffer.

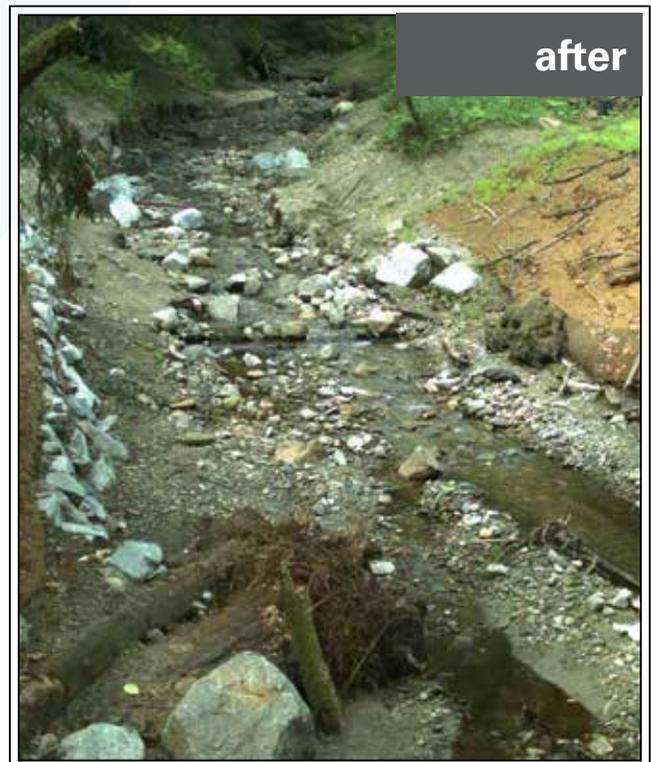
SAN LORENZO RIVER WATERSHED IMPROVED FOR STEELHEAD PASSAGE BY REMOVAL OF DAM

This fall, the RCD worked in collaboration with local, state and federal partners, technical consultants and two landowners on the removal of a dam in the San Lorenzo River Watershed to improve passage and access for steelhead trout to three miles of upstream rearing and spawning habitat. The dam was originally constructed in 1931 for water supply and recreation. This project is a decade long effort by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the County of Santa Cruz to remove a known fish passage barrier in the watershed. As this project was a high priority for resource agencies, the project was selected and developed through the RCD's Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP), which is a collaborative program that brings together federal, state and local resource and funding agencies to select and oversee the design and implementation of high priority projects to restore watersheds and improve water quality. The State Coastal Conservancy played a pivotal role in the development of this project, by providing critical funding for designs and permits, technical assistance to develop projects with the resource agency guidance, and helping leverage funding for implementation.

The goals of the project were to: a) remove the dam to improve passage to three miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat; b) improve in-stream habitat conditions by allowing deposited sediment, on the upstream side of the dam, to transport downstream and allow buried substrates to re-surface where it can be utilized by spawning salmonids, and; c) improve habitat complexity within the stream reach through the installation of a large woody debris structure. The goals were accomplished and several adjustments to the channel and bank morphology will continue over the long term that the RCD will continue to monitor for the next 3-5 years. The project was permitted through the RCD and NRCS' streamlined Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program. Project implementation was funded through the American Rivers/NOAA's Community-Based Restoration Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Fish Passage Forum and the County of Santa Cruz.



An 8 foot tall dam limited access to upstream habitat for steelhead.



After removal over 3 miles of upstream habitat is available for steelhead.

WATSONVILLE SLOUGHS STUDY COMPLETED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND SLOUGH HYDROLOGY

The Watsonville Sloughs are a highly valued and unique freshwater wetland resource on the Central Coast. The Slough wetland complex has been modified significantly over the last 100 years, both in size and function. Agriculture and urban uses have encroached on wetland boundaries, portions of the system have been drained to allow farming, and urban development encircles the upper watersheds of three principle sloughs in the six slough system. There are significant draws of deep groundwater to support these activities and there are subsurface drainage structures that discharge shallow groundwater back to the sloughs. Many hydrologic control structures have been installed on surface waters throughout the watershed, including pumps, gates, culverts, bridges, and road crossings. Many of these structures modify the rate at which water flows through various portions of the system, dewatering habitat in some areas while contributing flooding in others. In addition to these control structures and extensive upstream/upland development, recent conversion of highly erodible rangelands to strawberry production has led to further modifications of the hydrologic system with elevated erosion rates resulting in deposition of fine sediments into the sloughs and drainage systems.

With these changes, and because of the system's hydrologic complexity, local planners, policymakers, and conservationists have been seeking a means to better understand the hydrologic function and the potential effects of possible future modifications in and around the sloughs. Funded by grants from the California Department of Water Resources and the State Coastal Conservancy, the RCD and its partners recently completed an extensive hydrologic study of the Sloughs, with technical and oversight support from a steering team composed of local stakeholders and academics with a history of engagement in resource management and data collection in the Watsonville Sloughs watershed.

RCD consultant Balance Hydrologics used existing monitoring equipment and historic measurement records, and installed 11 new measurement gauges in the Sloughs and monitored how the Sloughs responded to rainfall and other movement of water over two water years (2011-2012 and 2012-2013) to develop extensive hydraulic and hydrologic models of the entire slough system. The models provide a means to better understand many questions, including:

- » Understanding the overall function of the Sloughs;
- » Providing data to support restoration and conservation planning and permitting of restoration projects;
- » Understanding how the system might be better managed for water supply and recharge;
- » Determining whether land is subsiding in sloughs and if so, by how much; and
- » Understanding how water moving through the sloughs may provide opportunities to enhance habitat, water supply and quality, and flood management.

The complete final report, which includes the results and conclusions from the study, as well as recommendations for future work to refine the models and better understand the functioning of the Sloughs, can be found on the RCD website. Both the RCD and the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency will retain electronic copies of the model for future use by local agencies, partners, and planners for projects including enhancement of water supply, flood management, ecosystem restoration, water quality, and recreational opportunities.



“The Watsonville Sloughs Study was the product of extensive data collection, wide collaboration between stakeholders throughout the lower Pajaro Valley and expert scientists and engineers. The resulting hydraulic and hydrologic models will be important tools for local water resource planners for years to come.”

- Brian Lockwood, PVWMA

COMMUNITY WATER DIALOGUE HAS ANOTHER ACTION PACKED YEAR IN 2013

Founded in July 2010, the Pajaro Valley Community Water Dialogue (CWD) is a group of local stakeholders who have gathered to address the issue of groundwater overdraft through local solutions. In 2013, the CWD made great strides towards local solutions that will begin to bring the basin into balance. We strengthened our organizational structure to expand our ability to execute on solutions and reach more people. Members of the CWD are moving ideas forward through Action Teams focused on Land Management and Irrigation Best Practices, Managed Aquifer Recharge, Big Projects, Communications, and (coming soon!) Money and Metrics. Advisory groups of Landowners and Ag Industry representatives help further inform these activities. A Guidance Team made up of diverse community members provides ongoing leadership to keep the momentum going. The RCD provides coordination and funding administration to support and elevate action. A few examples of accomplishments from 2013 include:

- » Thanks to 11 landowners who are hosting communications towers on their lands, the Wireless Irrigation Network is in place, providing coverage to nearly all of the Pajaro Valley. 35 ranches are currently using the system to access real-time data on soil moisture tension, improving their irrigation management and reducing water use by up to 30%.

- » Data from the Bokariza Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) site show that the fraction of precipitation that became runoff from areas that drain into the infiltration basin was much higher in Water Year 2013 (WY13) than in WY12. Projecting to conditions that are more typical of the long-term average, the Bokariza MAR system should capture and infiltrate 80-100 ac-ft/yr of runoff, which meets a key goal for the project. Identification and evaluation of priority sites for future MAR projects continues.
- » The Community Water Dialogue has connected with agencies at the regional, state, and national levels who support the collaborative, solutions-oriented approach of the CWD. Over the last several months the RCDSCC and CWD partners hosted a field tour for the Regional Water Quality Control Board and State Water Quality Control Board liaison, and hosted the Chief of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. These tours have been powerful opportunities to positively influence agencies' understanding of agriculture, what it takes to address complex issues around water, and some of the proactive strategies being implemented in the Pajaro Valley.



CWD hosts the Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss the local solutions being pursued in the Pajaro Valley to address water issues.

HEALTH LANDS AND HEALTHY ECONOMIES: NATURE'S VALUE IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

There are three main types of capital - built (such as pipes, buildings and the like), human, and natural (such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, etc). While the first two types of capital are well captured by traditional accounting, natural capital is usually not captured in any economic accounting. As such, Demonstrating the Economic Value of Natural Areas and Working Landscapes is a regional collaboration intended to document and articulate the economic value of natural capital and the foundational role it plays in maintaining sustainable local economies and communities in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Sonoma Counties. This initiative is the first-ever comprehensive economic valuation of natural capital and ecosystem services completed in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. This effort is funded by generous grants from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation, and the State Coastal Conservancy, and is being led by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and the RCD with technical support from Earth Economics and Alnus Ecological.

This collaborate group is evaluating the multiple benefits of protecting and restoring natural capital assets in each county, and has documented that these assets provide substantial value to local economies. According to the Santa Cruz study, natural capital in our County provides a stream of ecosystem services, such as reduction of peak flood flows downstream and clean water supply, valued at \$800 million to \$2.2 billion to the local and regional economy every year. Based on this annual flow of value, over a 100-year period, the estimated Net Present Value (or Asset Value) of Santa Cruz County's natural capital ranges from:

- » \$22 billion to \$61 billion at a discount rate of 3.5%, which treats natural capital like a short lived built capital asset, or
- » \$81 billion to \$220 billion at a discount rate of 0%, which assumes 100 years from now people will enjoy the same level of benefits from this natural capital as we enjoy today

Taking the long view, the sustainability of the greater San Francisco Bay Region will increasingly depend on integrating our planning decisions, collaborating across sectors, developing new conservation tools and incentives, and implementing new metrics that measure our region's economic health by the condition of our natural capital.

PERFORMANCE-BASED INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION IN AGRICULTURE (PICA) TRACKS PROGRESS IN WATER MANAGEMENT

In the context of over-drafted aquifers and strong regulatory scrutiny around surface and groundwater quality, specialty crop growers on California's Central Coast are increasingly compelled to find ways to demonstrate good environmental performance while protecting privacy and profitability of their operations. Through a public-private partnership, the RCD is working to address this need by developing Performance-based Incentives for Conservation in Agriculture (PICA). PICA is a voluntary program assisting growers to confidentially track and report annual water use and nitrogen movement (via surface runoff and leaching below the root zone) on their farms. Participating growers can use this information to adjust management decisions, demonstrate environmental performance, and qualify for potential incentives, which are currently being developed. To date, project partnerships and field work have focused exclusively on berry growers in the Pajaro valley, but the RCD intends to expand the program to vegetable crops that rotate fields with berry crops, and to a broader geographic region within the CA central coast.

PICA is helping participating growers to keep track of and assess irrigation water applied, fertilizer applied, plant uptake and available nitrate in the soil throughout the season to calculate a nutrient budget and inform management decisions; quantify water savings due to management actions and estimate the potential loss of nutrients due to leaching below the root zone (if any); and identify causes of any potential nitrate loss from their farm, and identify management actions to reduce losses.



RCD staff working collaboratively with growers to measure soil nitrate, part of evaluating potential nitrate leaching below the root zone in the PICA program.

RCD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KAREN CHRISTENSEN WINS JAMES IRVINE FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP AWARD

Every year, the James Irvine Foundation recognizes a small group of Californians who are implementing effective solutions to significant state issues. The awards are designed to:

- » Advance innovative, proven and replicable solutions to critical issues facing California
- » Contribute to better public policies and practices in the field

Leadership Award winners are selected based upon factors such as significance, effectiveness, innovation, inclusiveness, timing of recognition, and field leadership.

This year, Karen Christensen was one of six recipients of the James Irvine Leadership Award, for “her dedication and commitment to demonstrating the power of diverse alliances to protect water quality and supply on public and private lands.” The Foundation was particularly inspired by Karen’s work shaping the Pajaro Valley Community Water Dialogue, and her innovative work creating and building IWRP, the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program.

The James Irvine Foundation honored Karen and her fellow Leadership Award winners at a luncheon in Sacramento. Following that event, Karen was honored on the floor of the California State Legislature, and was presented with a resolution honoring her for her service and accomplishments. Back in Santa Cruz, Karen’s partners and colleagues gathered for a celebration at the Seymour Center Long Marine Lab, sponsored by the RCD Board of Directors and the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County.



Karen Christensen being honored for her James Irvine Foundation award.

RCD TEAMS UP WITH THE SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS TO SAVE SOQUEL CREEK AND THE FROGS

This year was the inaugural season for the Santa Cruz Warriors, an NBA Development League (“D League”) team affiliated with the Golden State Warriors. For the NBA’s “Green Week” in April, several local environmental groups, including the RCD, were invited to participate in events and activities with the team to raise environmental awareness in the community.

In partnership with the Santa Cruz Warriors and Volunteers to Save Soquel Creek, the RCD held a special volunteer restoration event where volunteers cleared multiple truckloads of invasive weeds from the banks of Soquel Creek, in order to restore and improve riparian habitat and improve water quality in the creek. Mav’Rik the Sea Turtle, the Warriors mascot, came out to support the effort and meet the volunteers. Volunteers entered a raffle where one lucky person won a free pair of tickets to a Warriors game.

The RCD also was invited to attend a Warriors game during Green Week and help provide information and entertainment to the fans. The RCD joined with partners Friends of State Parks, the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum, and the Coastal Watershed Council to feature an evening around the theme “What’s Your Nature Lifestyle?” The partners put together a slide show featuring information about all four organizations, featuring Mav’Rik the Sea Turtle. The RCD created a fun time out game, called “Save the Frogs,” where four local kids raced to collect as many rubber frogs as they could, and carry them to safety. The staff and board of the RCD and more than 100 friends and partners attended the game and cheered on the home team.



Mav’Rik supporting a volunteer creek clean up effort with the RCD.



RCD of Santa Cruz County
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Capitola, CA 95010

 www.rcdsantacruz.org

Put Your Money to Work for Local Resource Conservation

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County is primarily funded by grants and contracts with public and non-public entities. Private donations help to further the mission of the District and can be targeted toward your area of interest.

The RCD can receive tax deductible donations under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 170 (b) and 170 (c) (1). This section says that contributions to a governmental entity are deductible (up to 50% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income). The RCD may accept all forms of contributions including, but not limited to, gifts, property, cash, stocks and securities. Feel free to contact us with any questions at [831.464.2950](tel:831.464.2950) or info@rcdsantacruz.org.

The RCD offers outreach and education, on-site technical help, permitting assistance, and costshare in each of the program areas. For a detailed description of each program, please visit our web site at www.rcdsantacruz.org. All services are dependant on available funding.

Programs include:

- Species Recovery and Riparian Health
- Livestock and Equine Assistance
- Rural Roads
- Residential and Commercial Stormwater
- Agricultural Programs
- Fire Prevention
- Special Programs
- Other _____

Your contribution can be mailed to 820 Bay Ave, Suite 136, Capitola, CA 95010



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY