

## our mission

The mission of the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County is to help people protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through information, education and technical assistance programs.

## what is the RCD?

The RCD of Santa Cruz is a special district organized under state law and a public resource agency with no enforcement or regulatory functions. We work closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in responding to soil and water management needs of Santa Cruz County land users.

### PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Agriculture  
Livestock (including horses)  
Rural Roads  
Habitat Restoration  
Permitting Assistance  
Watershed Education



## our funding

Operating funds are drawn from local taxes, county programs, grants, partnerships and fundraising activities. The RCD has been very successful in leveraging minimal local tax funds to bring in financing for natural resource projects from sources such as the State Water Resources Control Board, the Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Bureau of Land Management, The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and others.

## board of directors

The RCD is managed by seven, non-salaried directors who reside in the district and know local problems. They are landowners and working people like you who volunteer their time for the benefit of all. The RCD works closely with groups and individuals to provide practical solutions for the soil and water management problems of Santa Cruz County.

## join the cause

I believe in the work of the Resource Conservation District and want to help the continuing efforts to promote conservation and environmental enhancement in Santa Cruz County.

\_\_ \$25    \_\_ \$50    \_\_ \$100    \_\_ Other

Please make your check payable to the "Resource Conservation District" and mail to 820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, CA 95010.



# RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

protect • conserve • restore  
our county's natural resources

## contact us

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## why the RCD

We can provide information to keep you informed so you can make the best possible resource decisions. If you are a landowner or farmer you can increase profitability, decrease waste, maintain or increase the value of your land, reduce potential for liability, sustain production of your land, streamline the permit process and decrease costs, and identify individual site-specific resource issues. The conservation of our natural resources is fundamental to our wellbeing now and absolutely essential for the survival of our children and generations to come.

## our services

We offer a variety of services tailored to address local natural resource issues while balancing the environmental and economic needs of our community. Our work includes assistance to farmers, ranchers (including horse owners) and others who own, operate, live on or make land-use decisions affecting farms, ranches, and other rural landowner properties in Santa Cruz County.

Examples of our services include the following:

- Natural resource management
- General resource conservation
- Workshops and hands-on education
- Site analysis
- Cost-share funding
- Project permitting assistance



The RCD works with willing landowners, farmers, organizations and associations to implement conservation practices on their properties and roads.

Assistance is available specific to our services:

- Erosion control measures
- Drainage and runoff improvements
- Soil conservation
- Fire safety and prevention
- Manure management
- Riparian area restoration and more

In most cases these projects not only benefit the environment but enhance aesthetics and safety, improve efficiency and operations, decrease maintenance costs, and promote community involvement and good neighborhood relationships.

## get involved

sign up for an internship

use our reference library

volunteer for projects

practice resource conservation

## join the blue circle

The motto of the Santa Cruz County Blue Circle is "People Having Fun with Watersheds." The Blue Circle recognizes that social values and perspectives are very much a part of watershed stewardship. That is why there is a social "mixer" at every Blue Circle event along with interesting presentations on a variety of watershed topics.

Organized by the RCD of Santa Cruz County and NRCS, Blue Circle meetings are a way for concerned citizens, local agencies, units of government, and special interest groups to exchange views on natural resource issues affecting residents living in the county's watersheds.



# Landowners Helping Landowners