



## **DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Thursday, March 20, 2025**

**Location: 80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 100, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 and via Zoom**

Directors: Barbara Kossy, Adrienne Etherton, Michelle Weil, Steve Stielstra, Troy Guy

Associate Directors: Zahra Kassam, Helen Wolter, Denise Phillips (virtual) (Absent: John Wade)

RCD staff: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Kati McHugh, Amy Kaeser (virtual)

NRCS staff: Jim Howard, Allen Curry (virtual)

Guests (all virtual): Krystle Reneer (Brush Hog Tree Care)

### **1. Call to Order**

Kossy called the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Item 5.3 (Grading Exemption for Pescadero Creekside Garden Project) was tabled, to be held during a Special Meeting, at a date to be determined prior to the next Regular Meeting in April.

**ACTION:** Etherton motioned to approve agenda as amended, Stielstra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Introductions of Guests and Staff**

All in attendance introduced themselves.

### **4. Public Comment**

Reneer expressed appreciation for the opportunity to interact with staff and board members and learn more about the RCD. Ensuing discussion included projects Brush Hog has done for the RCD; that the RCD's Conservation Hero Award was given to one of their crew, supported by awards from Senator Becker and Assemblymember Berman; and that Brush Hog Tree Care is one of the few Certified Green Businesses in Half Moon Bay.

### **5. Consent Agenda**

The Board of Directors approves:

- 5.1. February 2025 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes
- 5.2. Fiscal Year 2025 Second Quarter Draft Financial Statements
- 5.3. *Grading Exemption for Pescadero Creekside Garden Project- deferred to Special Meeting to be scheduled*

The Board of Directors receives into record:

- 5.4. February 28, 2025 Daily Democrat article, "Purge of federal support jolts ag."
- 5.5. March 1, 2025 Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency

**ACTION:** Etherton motioned to approve the revised consent agenda without item 5.3. Weil seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Regular Agenda

### 6.1. Board will consider extending the RCD's Strategic Plan

- Discussion included:
  - Current Strategic Plan was adopted in 2021 and expired on December 31, 2024; has not yet been updated due to conflicting priorities; Nelson doesn't believe any urgent changes are needed and suggested extending the end date of the current plan through the end of 2025 to allow time to update it
  - The ideal timeline for an extension; an alternating quarterly schedule for the Board to discuss the Strategic Plan and financial statements; the potential for strategic planning software
  - Goals for the new plan to be more operable, e.g. metrics that can be implemented and tracked across the organization; integration into work plans, budgeting, performance evaluation, reporting to the board, advancement, development and fundraising; etc
  - Preference for a simpler, cost-effective, relatively low-key planning process this time, primarily an administrative exercise focused on operationalizing and updating the goals and priorities of previous plan, relying on staff and directors instead of consultants
  - Staff desire to incorporate a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) organizational threats; have a strategic plan that is practical and action-oriented- the current plan is already strong in the aspirational aspects
  - Nelson asked directors to let her know if they would be interested in participating at any level

**ACTION:** Etherton motioned to extend the existing Strategic Plan through the end of June 2026, Weil seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6.2. Board will Board will consider amendments to the RCD's Procurement and Subaward Policy**

- The current Procurement Policy, adopted in May 2024, included specific dollar thresholds based on the California Public Contracting Code. By including those exact numbers, the policy became outdated whenever state thresholds were changed, either due to inflation or legislation.
- The proposed amendments remove the static numbers and instead reference consistency with the Public Contracting Code, which allows automatic alignment with future changes to the Code; improve clarity for staff by reorganizing some sections based on workflow rather than dollar amounts that are being removed; Section 4.2.1 is not legally required but was included to enhance transparency
- Discussion included:
  - that staff already track updates to the Code but the proposed amendments would eliminate the need to also update RCD policy; how the proposed updates would help ensure compliance, accuracy, and efficiency; that there was no increased burden to track updates to the Code, as the RCD is already obligated to that under a different policy that requires us to maintain compliance with Uniform Cost Accounting; current limits for procurement; and some differences between State and federal requirements
- Nelson and Stielstra commended RCD staff for their high level of competence and compliance with prevailing wage and government contracting standards. Nelson noted that compliance with these complex requirements can be overwhelming, and that RCD staff are often more knowledgeable than other local governmental entities, including cities.

**ACTION:** Etherton moved to amend the Procurement Policy, Stielstra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **6.3. 2024 Year in Review presentation by Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director**

- Nelson presented the attached presentation and will present the second half of the 2024 Year in Review at a future meeting.
- Discussion included:
  - How community engagement hours are tracked or estimated; what technical assistance entails (e.g. property visits; responding to calls and emails for help; workshops; technical presentations; cross-agency referrals, especially from the County; outreach, flyers, and community meetings sometimes result in requests for assistance)

- Partnership with Coastside Land Trust to host webinars is mutually beneficial to both organizations- valuable content and venue; Stielstra noted that seeing flyers in town and hearing about the reach they had on people he knew made him proud of the RCD;
- The importance of sourcing high-quality compost; the risks of contaminated compost, particularly with plastics; how the RCD ensures quality (including nutrient balance) in sourcing; how providing low quality compost to farms can lead to lasting distrust and undermine future conservation efforts beyond the compost program; the market pressures that came out of SB 1383, which increased demand for compost and catalyzed cities to divert green waste, but also led to a price-driven market, which in turn led to lower quality compost; a countywide and regional marketing effort that would soon be launched to keep plastic out of compost
- Howard shared that testing protocols are evolving; NRCS requires testing of compost and farm soils to evaluate carbon-nitrogen ratio as well as moisture content and nutrient balances; farmer feedback has been vital to improving the programs, and impacted which providers are used and helped apply pressure to provide quality compost.
- Phillips said that the Year in Review presentation highlighted a lot of good work being done and that she was impressed by the RCD's impact.

#### **6.4. USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) report**

- Howard appreciated the February meeting discussion about federal policy changes. NRCS staff continues to try to stay up to date with changes, understand what is happening, and identify how they can respond.
- Carlos Suarez, the State Conservationist, had announced the closure of several NRCS offices, including Salinas, which were set for lease termination. The RCDs housed within those offices, Farm Service Agencies, and Rural Development offices would potentially be impacted, depending on each office's sublessors. Most of these terminations were rescinded.
- Suarez visited Howard and his colleague, Dillon Beatty, in our Half Moon Bay office. Howard regarded the visit as positive and appreciated the chance to get Suarez's perspective on things that were happening at the State level, as well as the chance to have a lot of their questions answered.
- Information flow continues to feel chaotic within the agency.
- He was informed of a change in how they were expected to handle National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. For projects with federal funding, environmental justice was no longer considered a "special environmental concern" and had been removed from the NEPA checklist.



- Program Ranking deadline was on Friday, March 14. Howard sent in applications for seventeen different funding pools, the results of which are pending for award.
- NRCS expected 2025 to be the peak year for Inflation Reduction Act funds, which were estimated to be between \$90 and \$100 million statewide to address priority programs including carbon sequestration and the reduction of greenhouse gasses, but outcomes are uncertain due to funding holds.
- One project is confirmed: a contract for the National Water Quality Initiative in the Pescadero-Butano watershed was finalized following the \$50,000 assessment completed by the RCD. Implementation is moving forward. The project at Little Butano Creek to remediate sediment and aquatic habitat issues was the only application in the funding pool and received no competition because of the special geographic focus of the program.
  - Nelson: The RCD and NRCS worked together to create a special funding allocation for this watershed not subject to national competition.
  - Howard: The partnership between agencies dovetailed to leverage resources and coordinate funding for regional program-scale projects.
- Nelson asked Curry about the continuity plan after Howard's retirement in April. Curry stated that he will take a lead role in coordinating support using a community-based approach, and would lean on nearby staff, including Beatty and their Capitola office, to maintain continuity. He emphasized that it would be a collective effort across the area to support the offices.
- Curry discussed how field and office staff were pushed to accept early retirement, there is an ongoing hiring freeze, and reorganization to manage the workload is underway. He did not anticipate a slow-down in the support this RCD would receive.
- Nelson asked Curry if there was any risk that Howard's position would not be backfilled because of San Mateo County's small farms, Farm Bill contracts, and acres. Curry was not able to answer this but stated that the position was one he valued as a priority, and had been submitted to the State conservationists as a priority to be filled. Due to the holds placed on hiring, he was awaiting the chance to provide reevaluation and get feedback from the State on moving forward.
- Nelson asked how the RCD anticipate announcements and contribute to decisions being made regarding NRCS resources in this county. Curry suggested writing a letter to the state office outline the RCD's partnerships with the NRCS, but he was unsure what weight it would hold, though he values the position as a priority.

- Nelson inquired about how the RCD can contribute to the hiring process for Howard's successor. Curry responded that he can commit to providing information to the hiring committee on what type of candidate the RCD hopes to have in a partnering conservationist, and that those qualities might be given a high level of consideration during the hiring process.
- Curry reiterated Howard's statements that the employee terminations had surprised him and had not followed the typical chain of command, and he felt this was true for the leasing agreements as well, which included his station office in Salinas. He was still unaware of whether the lease would be continued and that the situation was unknown, but he anticipated that there was a real chance that it might not have been until the actual lease end date of August 31 before he would know if they will continue to report to the same building, or if Suarez or another state representative would have worked on a relocation strategy for GSA prior to the lease termination.
- His approach was to wait for more instruction on all fronts and recognized that the commitment he held to Area 2 meant they had to tighten up to be successful. The administration team was going to stick to the plan and because it seemed to be working, and that through continuing through with the plan they could explore the continued mission of the NRCS and practices they determined were most beneficial.
- Stielstra asked about their ability to influence or expand on how the hiring freeze would affect projects underway, whether existing projects have an expiration date, and how they will allocate priorities in the future for the developing backlog of projects.
  - Howard said that Suarez and Curry were considering these and that there was precedent for needing to make timely decisions under changing circumstances because the funding allocations provided by the federal budgets tended to have pulses of extra money to allocate and other times when funding was not readily available.
  - Curry added that they were looking to maximize funding that was currently available in order to reach participants through the best avenues to serve their customer needs and make the best out of the planning. He confirmed that their office was ready to allocate IRA funding if it were to become available and that their current aim was to actively manage and train staff, and address the needs of their team so that they would be ready for increased or decreased capital and staff/infrastructure resources.
  - Howard commented that when NRCS funding requirements were not a good fit for projects or were not available, he worked with the RCD's Agricultural Stewardship team to provide resources such as forest management plans, roads assessments, and compost deliveries, to support customers until NRCS funding and timing was appropriate. He reiterated that the RCD's ability to provide confidential, non-regulatory technical assistance was a valuable resource to the partnering agencies' shared customer base across San Mateo County.

- Curry seconded the value of the partnership between Howard and the RCD to cultivate a relationship he classified as “amazing work,” which he considered an homage to Howard’s leadership. Howard was regularly asked by Curry to train new NRCS conservationists to voice the value of relationship building with the RCDs and customers they would go on to work with. He voiced his appreciation and respect for Howard and understood him to be a voice of reason and wisdom, and that he appreciated the work of the RCD team for their part in developing the strong partnership to the benefit of the County’s customers.
- Nelson expressed her understanding that Curry was spread thin and covered a broad region, but still took the time and energy to attend the meeting, and thanked him for doing so.
- Curry thanked the Board and meeting participants for their work and his regret that he had not been able to attend in person due to the constraints of time and the distance between his office in Salinas and the RCD.

#### **6.5. Executive Director’s report**

- The RCD continues to navigate sometimes minute-to-minute federal changes
- This is compounded by the Governor’s Emergency Proclamation (Consent Agenda Item 5.4).
  - The proclamation waives permits but requires approval from agency Secretaries, which requires new systems and requirements that have not yet been created and will differ from the existing workflow of the permitting process. A requirement of the exemption in the proclamation is that projects have been initiated in 2025 but it is unclear what that means. Most projects that are initiating this year have already completed permitting.
  - Some environmental groups have expressed concerns that the proclamation will result in environmental harm and want more oversight, while some community groups or property owners have the opposite view and perceive no limits to work, expecting the RCD and others to be able to take immediate action on a large amount of work.
- During this time of uncertainty and rapid change, Nelson is prioritizing taking care of staff first, minimizing the number of “fire drills” that change their work plans, increase their workload, or make their work experience chaotic.
- San Mateo County lost Vehicle Licensing Fee revenue from the State. This amounts to about \$110 million per year, in addition to potential losses in federal funding. This could make them less able or inclined to support the RCD.

- The EPA released an interpretation of the Sackett decision which limited how the Army Corps of Engineers took jurisdiction over wetlands. A new interpretation, which had not undergone a judicial process, further restricted it. Implications to the RCD are that many of our projects require a federal nexus to secure permissions under the Endangered Species Act. For many of these projects, the Army Corps jurisdiction provided the federal nexus to get that authorization. Staff is determining next steps.
  - NRCS used to serve as RCDs' federal nexus, but they scaled back to focus only on Farm Bill-funded projects and are unlikely to be a viable alternative to the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Some upcoming events:
  - March 22 "Wildfire and the Coast" webinar by Timothy Federal (RCD), in partnership with Coastside Land Trust
  - March 27 30x30 statewide webinar on Cutting the Green Tape facilitated by Nelson, also highlighting a San Mateo RCD project that innovated the use of new permitting tools
  - April 26 panel discussion with and Ramaytush Ohlone at the Exploratorium during their annual celebration of Indigenous culture bearers. The discussion will focus on Indigenous water healing and the RCD's work to restore water and water processes in the Ramaytush Ohlone's ancestral territory, and how the RCD and ARO work in partnership. The event is free to the public.
  - April 29 to May 2 Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference in Santa Cruz. Staff are presenting, leading a tour in Pescadero ("Gold Standard vs. Pragmatism: Threading the Needle to Accomplish Restoration at Scale through the Pescadero watershed"), and Nelson is a plenary speaker ("The Humanity of Fisheries Restoration")
  - May 10 "Healthy Waters, Thriving Coast: Community Science and Conservation in Action" webinar by Nelson and Clifton Hermann (RCD), in partnership with Coastside Land Trust.
  - May 14 TOGETHER Bay Area annual conference- San Mateo RCD coordinated eight RCDs to table together
- Over the next week, staff will find a time for a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors to consider the grading permit exemption.
- Nelson encouraged Board members to follow and like San Mateo RCD on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn. A second video short in the *Doug's Soiled Shorts* series had been posted.
- Nelson updated the Board on her upcoming schedule

## **6.6. Directors' connection and report**

- Barbara Kossy
  - Expressed her appreciation for being able to be able to support the RCD and the partners and customers to get projects done.
  - She understood that aspects of environmentalism had become increasingly confusing and believed that the RCD is well-positioned to get work done and appreciated the staff's efforts to serve the community and environment.
  - She expressed appreciation for Howard's integrated vision that benefited the community and RCD staff.
  - She reminded directors that Annual Form 700 (to complete online) was coming due in April and is not required for associate directors.
- Troy Guy
  - He is excited for the chance to attend the SRF Conference.
  - He expressed regret for missing the last Board meeting but benefited from the minutes. At the time, he had the chance to visit the Klamath Dam removal site and received a behind-the-scenes tour of the restoration work that had been completed which included a discussion with a biologist who had used sonar to monitor the fish migrations, as well as a dam and lake restoration. He found it to be an amazing project.
  - The dam removal visit was a side-trip, as he was in Northern California to search for endemic species of salamander.
  - Kossy suggested that Guy give a presentation on salamanders, and there was excited discussion about salamanders and how much excitement they generated for small children.
- Adrienne Etherton
  - She attended a Brisbane City Council Meeting following the February Board meeting, at which her pool electrification project was approved. PG&E was already scheduling for the vegetation removal required to set a new pole and allow construction to move forward "full steam ahead." She was excited that the project was finally moving forward.
- Michelle Weil
  - Provided an update on the website project, which had been delayed after the designer brought in was out for a couple of months, and had recently returned to continue the project work. They met to discuss the new designs. Weil was happy with the new designs and believed the project was on the right path. She noted that the redesign is not a huge change but provides structural, organizational, and usability updates.
- Steve Stielstra

- CARCD board meetings are still a lot of new information, but he is learning more with every occurrence. They are looking to build new committees and refresh some committees, which he felt is an improvement to the energy of the Board. Personalities are beginning to align and move forward with the work associated, which was becoming forward-oriented.
- The CARCD Executive Director, Nancy Wahl-Scheurich, is addressing the federal changes and protecting her staff with strong leadership. He gave her kudos for the hard work.
- On April 29, the Central Coast Regional meeting will be hosted by the Cachuma RCD, who has a new Executive Director that Stielstra commended for taking on the task of hosting this event and keeping regional RCD meetings on track, facilitating continued discussion between agencies.
- He gave an update on a conference call between the RCD Finance Committee and a representative from the California CLASS Investment Management Company. He felt that they had a good conversation and felt that his questions were answered. He was happy to help complete the required forms to move the process forward and was appreciative of the responsive team at California CLASS and looked forward to offline discussions.
- The Finance Committee met two days prior to the Regular Meeting and included TJ Glauthier (the former RCD Board President) and the RCD's accountant. He shared that it was a robust conversation around the topics of day-to-day accounting and ledger keeping as well as broader long-term planning. He felt that there had been a lot of progress made in the past few years and that the current work to be done to iterate the progress further.
- Kossy thanked Stielstra for his work on the Finance Committee.
  - Phillips and Wolter had nothing to report

## **7. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting adjourned by Kossy at 6:02 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on April 17, 2025.

**SAN MATEO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**San Mateo Resource Conservation District**  
**Financial Budget**  
As of December 31, 2024

	FY 25	12.31.24	
	Budget		%
<b>REVENUE</b>			
<u>Program Revenue</u>			
Agricultural Ombudsman	166,234.00	60,528.69	36%
Agricultural Stewardship	932,340.00	630,090.54	68%
Conservation Technical Assistance	467,054.00	57,095.65	12%
Cutting Green Tape	75,000.00	3,872.98	5%
Erosion and Sediment Management	578,390.00	470,391.13	81%
Forest Health & Fire	3,627,290.00	2,223,483.69	61%
Habitat Enhancement	5,143,896.00	753,237.60	15%
Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network	243,706.00	97,179.11	40%
Water Quality	997,152.00	233,055.52	23%
Water for Farms, Fish & People	4,563,463.00	2,734,167.36	60%
<b>Subtotal Program Revenue</b>	<b>16,794,525.00</b>	<b>7,263,102.27</b>	<b>43%</b>
<u>Other Revenue</u>			
County Contributions	NA	-	NA
Donations	100,000.00	111,283.66	111%
Interest Income	2,000.00	514.67	26%
Misc. Income	NA	4,467.32	NA
Property Tax	90,000.00	54,649.14	61%
<b>Subtotal Other Revenue</b>	<b>192,000.00</b>	<b>170,914.79</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>16,986,525.00</b>	<b>7,434,017.06</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<u>Operating Expenses</u>			
Personnel (Salaries & Fringe)	3,856,464.00	1,300,793.20	34%
Other	523,034.00	214,843.49	41%
<b>Subtotal Operating Expenses</b>	<b>4,379,498.00</b>	<b>1,515,636.69</b>	<b>35%</b>
<u>Program Expenses</u>			
Agricultural Ombudsman	69,495.00	46,078.72	66%
Agricultural Stewardship	567,613.00	438,576.32	77%
Conservation Technical Assistance	77,137.00	11,340.31	15%
Cutting Green Tape	50,000.00	-	0%
Erosion and Sediment Management	565,000.00	417,034.16	74%
Forest Health & Fire	2,714,066.00	1,586,772.39	58%
Habitat Enhancement	3,823,732.00	331,111.72	9%
Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network	117,698.00	22,346.09	19%
Water Quality	551,500.00	519,519.19	94%
Water for Farms, Fish & People	3,897,251.00	1,983,136.56	51%
<b>Subtotal Program Expenses</b>	<b>12,433,492.00</b>	<b>5,355,915.46</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>16,812,990.00</b>	<b>6,871,552.15</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>173,535.00</b>	<b>562,464.91</b>	
<b>Operating Reserve Allocation</b>	<b>350,000.00</b>	<b>350,000.00</b>	

These financial statements have not been subjected to an audit, review or compilation engagement, and no assurance is provided on them



**San Mateo Resource Conservation District**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2024

Dec 31, 24

**ASSETS****Current Assets****Checking/Savings**

1030 · Checking Account (5269)	1,052,365.90
1031 · Checking Account #2 (5012) (Butano Channel)	2,998.40
1032 · Operating Reserve (0202)	1,450,685.83

<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>2,506,050.13</b>
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**Accounts Receivable**

1200 · Accounts Receivable	10,315,284.61
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<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>10,315,284.61</b>
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<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>12,821,334.74</b>
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**Fixed Assets**

1500 · Ford Truck	46,136.73
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<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>46,136.73</b>
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<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>12,867,471.47</b>
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**LIABILITIES & EQUITY****Liabilities****Current Liabilities****Accounts Payable**

2000 · Accounts Payable	655,868.90
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<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>655,868.90</b>
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**Credit Cards**

2025 · Visa - Nelson - 2778	4,739.73
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2035 · Visa - Issel - 0129	107.47
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<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>4,847.20</b>
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**Other Current Liabilities**

2045 · Accrued Payroll	30,208.24
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2060 · Accrued Time Off	86,525.92
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2400 · Deferred Revenue	
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2401 · NFWF - San Bruno Mtn Butterfly	429,966.81
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2405 · NFWF - Bonde Weir	3,263.86
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2406 · CARCD - Pesc. Water Monitoring	1,921.74
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2408 · Cutting Green Tape	75,000.00
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2410 · Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship	292,120.58
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2411 · SCMSN - Atlas Project	8,423.99
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2412 · SCMSN-Spotlight Stewardship	3,226.93
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2414 · SCMSN - Veg Gen	23,411.87
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2416 · SCMSN - COVID	23.74
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2419 · Sempervirens - Gazos Watershed	12,557.13
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2420 · MROSD - Driscoll Ranch	60.35
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2421 · MROSD - Apple Orchard	14.97
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2425 · Randtron Antenna	2,607.48
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2426 · Water Resources Fund	1,560,377.90
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2427 · Rose Foundation First Flush	20,000.00
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2429 · PG&E - Apple Orchard	194,165.36
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## San Mateo Resource Conservation District

## Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024

	<u>Dec 31, 24</u>
2430 · PG&E - Butano Mitigation Proj.	118,855.86
2431 · PG&E - Project Development	33,668.57
2432 · PG&E Foundation - Hedge Rows	3,014.54
2433 · PG&E - Tree Planting	43,991.11
2434 · PG&E - San Bruno Mountain	1,994.49
2435 · Cloverdale Ponds	75,132.38
2446 · SMC - Ag Plastics Recycling	789.13
2447 · STATE - North Marsh Pond	3,582,469.00
2448 · STATE - Portola/Peter's Creek	720,000.00
2449 · STATE - Evan's Creek Fish Pass.	752,083.69
2465 · NACD - Urban Farming TA	19,663.24
2466 · NACD - Conservation TA	50,064.52
2468 · SVCF - Water Farm, Fish, People	91,796.18
2470 · SVCF - Carbon Farm Planning	-61.34
2471 · SVCF - Mobile Laundry Grant	7,568.25
2473 · RLF - TMDL Pescadero Butano	3.76
2475 · SAM - First Flush	42,013.49
2477 · COP - First Flush	-1,099.90
2478 · COP - San Pedro Creek FP	59.19
2481 · Local Carbon Farming Fund Pilot	39,135.00
2488 · POST - Back 40 Grant Writing	5,000.00
2489 · PAR - Carbon Farm Planning	12,027.98
2491 · POST - Rangeland Compost	2,772.76
2492 · Ag Stewardship Food Hub	11,149.71
2493 · POST - Potrero Nuevo Pond	40,000.00
2495 · POST - Backfield	75,000.00
2497 · Climate & Agriculture	4,134.00
2498 · Barranca-Knolls/Cougar Ridge	4,094.30
2499 · Streamgages	
2499.1 · Pilarcitos Streamgage	13,696.92
2499.3 · San Gregorio&Butano Streamgages	77,861.06
<b>Total 2499 · Streamgages</b>	<u>91,557.98</u>
<b>Total 2400 · Deferred Revenue</b>	<u>8,454,020.60</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>8,570,754.76</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>9,231,470.86</u>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
2530 · Moore Foundation	2,000,000.00
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<u>2,000,000.00</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>11,231,470.86</u>
<b>Equity</b>	
3500 · Net Assets	1,073,535.70
Net Income	562,464.91
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>1,636,000.61</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>12,867,471.47</u></u>

San Mateo Resource Conservation District

Profit & Loss

July through December 2024

Jul - Dec 24

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4010 · Contracts	7,263,102.27
4020 · Donations	111,283.66
4040 · Interest	514.67
4055 · Property Tax	54,649.14
4080 · Stipend	3,700.00
4090 · Other Income	767.32
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,434,017.06</b>
Gross Profit	7,434,017.06
Expense	
5100 · Personnel	
5110 · Salary	1,217,628.10
5120 · Benefits	83,165.10
<b>Total 5100 · Personnel</b>	<b>1,300,793.20</b>
5200 · Operating Expense	
5205 · Bank Fees	109.24
5206 · RCD Vehicle	64.49
5210 · Communications	2,540.14
5215 · Dues-Membership-Subscriptions	19,269.45
5220 · Equipment	5,001.67
5223 · Travel	83.75
5225 · Information Technology	27,267.84
5230 · Insurance	27,985.11
5235 · Office Supplies	1,514.99
5240 · Rent	57,639.70
5245 · Accounting Services	14,202.25
5250 · Legal Services	469.30
5255 · Misc. Consulting Services	15,685.00
5260 · Development & Fundraising	11,598.96
5265 · Discretionary	8,023.62
5270 · Prof. Development & Meetings	23,387.98
<b>Total 5200 · Operating Expense</b>	<b>214,843.49</b>
5300 · Program Expenses	
5310 · Project Implementation	5,355,915.46
<b>Total 5300 · Program Expenses</b>	<b>5,355,915.46</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>6,871,552.15</b>
Net Ordinary Income	562,464.91
Net Income	<b>562,464.91</b>

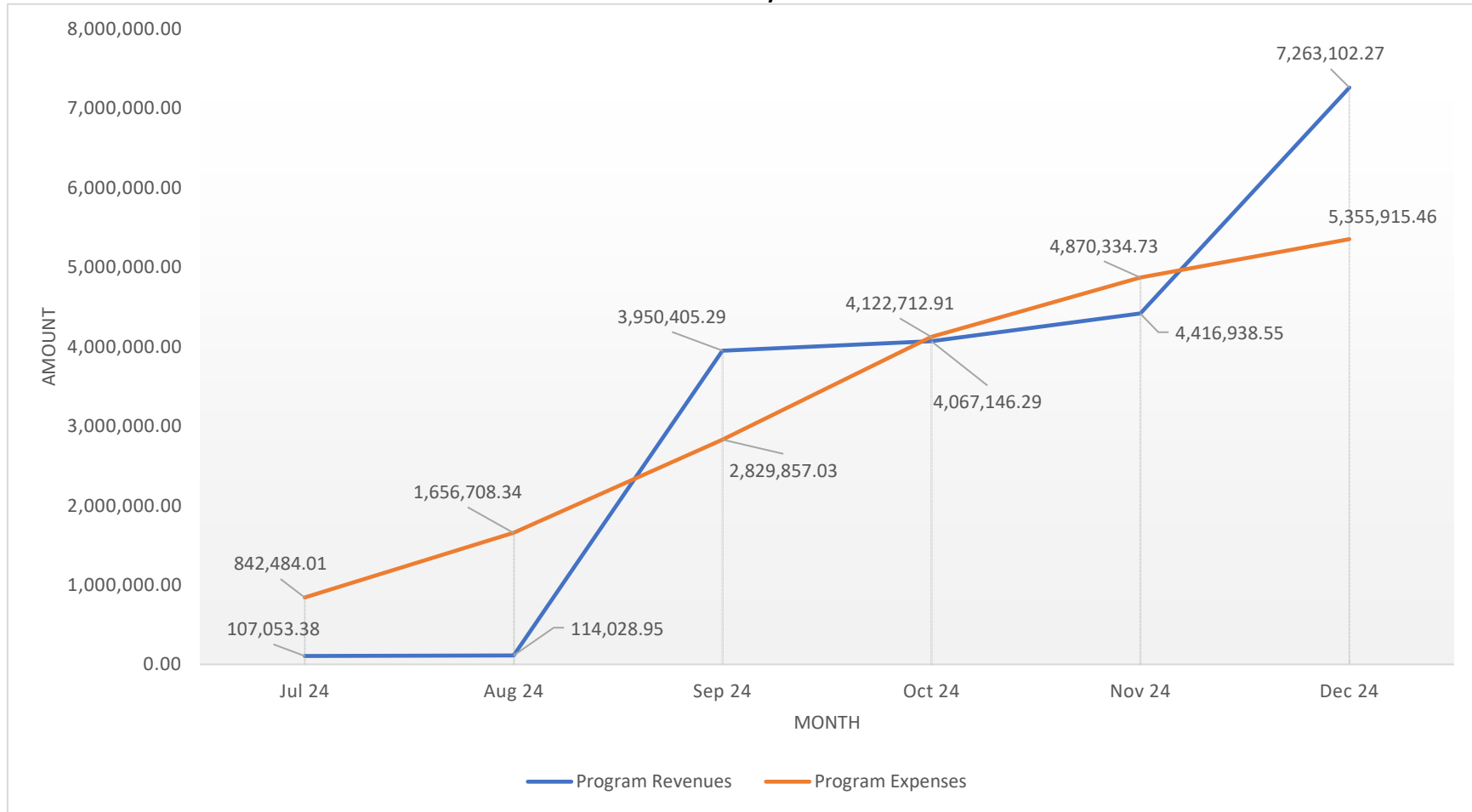
San Mateo Resource Conservation District

Profit & Loss

July through December 2024

	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>							
<b>Income</b>							
<b>4010 · Contracts</b>	107,053.38	6,975.57	3,836,376.34	116,741.00	349,792.26	2,846,163.72	7,263,102.27
<b>4020 · Donations</b>	919.17	25,416.17	11,299.00	66,673.50	2,421.16	4,554.66	111,283.66
<b>4040 · Interest</b>	96.69	85.75	72.44	89.43	56.69	113.67	514.67
<b>4055 · Property Tax</b>	1,276.47	4,566.61	12.45	3,217.60	4,094.48	41,481.53	54,649.14
<b>4080 · Stipend</b>	0.00	100.00	3,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,700.00
<b>4090 · Other Income</b>	464.20	0.00	0.00	303.12	0.00	0.00	767.32
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>109,809.91</u>	<u>37,144.10</u>	<u>3,851,360.23</u>	<u>187,024.65</u>	<u>356,364.59</u>	<u>2,892,313.58</u>	<u>7,434,017.06</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	109,809.91	37,144.10	3,851,360.23	187,024.65	356,364.59	2,892,313.58	7,434,017.06
<b>Expense</b>							
<b>5100 · Personnel</b>							
<b>5110 · Salary</b>	-11,332.68	275,088.17	269,528.56	260,805.95	465,955.85	-42,417.75	1,217,628.10
<b>5120 · Benefits</b>	14,218.47	12,901.56	12,413.04	13,167.23	10,200.76	20,264.04	83,165.10
<b>Total 5100 · Personnel</b>	<u>2,885.79</u>	<u>287,989.73</u>	<u>281,941.60</u>	<u>273,973.18</u>	<u>476,156.61</u>	<u>-22,153.71</u>	<u>1,300,793.20</u>
<b>5200 · Operating Expense</b>							
<b>5205 · Bank Fees</b>	30.00	20.00	20.36	23.68	15.20	0.00	109.24
<b>5206 · RCD Vehicle</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.49	0.00	0.00	64.49
<b>5210 · Communications</b>	443.00	443.00	393.05	325.80	92.00	843.29	2,540.14
<b>5215 · Dues-Membership-Subscriptions</b>	1,018.47	14,555.92	554.83	917.30	1,003.44	1,219.49	19,269.45
<b>5220 · Equipment</b>	123.07	179.90	2,565.82	1,242.88	890.00	0.00	5,001.67
<b>5223 · Travel</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.32	0.00	19.43	83.75
<b>5225 · Information Technology</b>	1,047.26	3,001.55	6,013.16	8,713.13	4,121.95	4,370.79	27,267.84
<b>5230 · Insurance</b>	24,177.60	0.00	3,565.73	241.78	0.00	0.00	27,985.11
<b>5235 · Office Supplies</b>	213.54	58.29	116.99	106.89	933.69	85.59	1,514.99
<b>5240 · Rent</b>	8,072.40	8,414.98	24,217.20	685.16	0.00	16,249.96	57,639.70
<b>5245 · Accounting Services</b>	1,121.25	4,772.50	3,756.50	1,806.50	1,545.25	1,200.25	14,202.25
<b>5250 · Legal Services</b>	469.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	469.30
<b>5255 · Misc. Consulting Services</b>	1,975.00	540.00	150.00	1,125.00	11,500.00	395.00	15,685.00
<b>5260 · Development &amp; Fundraising</b>	0.00	1,060.00	312.42	10,110.31	0.00	116.23	11,598.96
<b>5265 · Discretionary</b>	85.40	2,941.90	481.62	1,475.60	74.47	2,964.63	8,023.62
<b>5270 · Prof. Development &amp; Meetings</b>	693.12	441.88	841.05	12,964.28	1,584.99	6,862.66	23,387.98
<b>Total 5200 · Operating Expense</b>	<u>39,469.41</u>	<u>36,429.92</u>	<u>42,988.73</u>	<u>39,867.12</u>	<u>21,760.99</u>	<u>34,327.32</u>	<u>214,843.49</u>
<b>5300 · Program Expenses</b>							
<b>5310 · Project Implementation</b>	842,484.01	814,224.33	1,173,148.69	1,292,855.88	747,621.82	485,580.73	5,355,915.46
<b>Total 5300 · Program Expenses</b>	<u>842,484.01</u>	<u>814,224.33</u>	<u>1,173,148.69</u>	<u>1,292,855.88</u>	<u>747,621.82</u>	<u>485,580.73</u>	<u>5,355,915.46</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>884,839.21</u>	<u>1,138,643.98</u>	<u>1,498,079.02</u>	<u>1,606,696.18</u>	<u>1,245,539.42</u>	<u>497,754.34</u>	<u>6,871,552.15</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-775,029.30</u>	<u>-1,101,499.88</u>	<u>2,353,281.21</u>	<u>-1,419,671.53</u>	<u>-889,174.83</u>	<u>2,394,559.24</u>	<u>562,464.91</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-775,029.30</u></u>	<u><u>-1,101,499.88</u></u>	<u><u>2,353,281.21</u></u>	<u><u>-1,419,671.53</u></u>	<u><u>-889,174.83</u></u>	<u><u>2,394,559.24</u></u>	<u><u>562,464.91</u></u>

# San Mateo Resource Conservation District Profit Loss by Month Chart



These financial statements have not been subjected to an audit, review or compilation engagement, and no assurance is provided on them

AGRICULTURE

# Purge of federal support jolts ag



Arran Rumbaugh, former research chemist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, handles grapevines last week outside her former lab at the UC, Davis. Rumbaugh, who was one of USDA's only smoke taint researchers in California, was fired Feb. 13. PHOTO — CALEB HAMPTON

**By Caleb Hampton**

## Ag Alert

The Trump administration's mass firing of federal employees and its withholding of federal funds during the past month have impacted farmers who for decades have partnered with the federal government for conservation, infrastructure and equipment upgrades, research and other work critical to agriculture.

"We have been constantly assessing the impacts because these actions touch so many areas of the federal government that

farmers and ranchers interact with,” said Erin Huston, natural resources and land consultant for the California Farm Bureau. “We are concerned about the impacts to both agriculture and the rural communities agriculture serves.”

Among those affected were farmers expecting repayment under federal conservation contracts, such as those funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and its Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities grants.

The programs provide financial and technical support so that farmers can upgrade equipment or implement farming practices that aid their operations while providing a public conservation benefit such as improving air quality or conserving habitat.

Steven Cardoza, an organic raisin grape grower in Fresno County, is awaiting disbursement of \$60,000 in federal grants after spending tens of thousands of dollars on soil sensors to improve his water efficiency, labor for hand weeding to minimize soil disturbance and retain topsoil, and other investments on his farm.

“It’s not ideal,” Cardoza said, adding that program staff told him the money was frozen.

Steve Fukagawa, an organic stone fruit and raisin grape grower in Kings County, is owed \$7,000 under an NRCS contract to share the cost of applying compost and planting cover crops, practices that improve soil health and fertility and create habitat.

“That’s on hold,” Fukagawa said he was told.

He said he also worried an NRCS program that helps with the cost of replacing old tractors with new models may be canceled. Fukagawa applied for two tractors. He used the program before, he said, and was “very pleased with the new tractors,” which during some tasks burned diesel at half the rate his old tractors did. “They’re much more efficient,” he said.

Fukagawa said he was “dubious” the program would be maintained due to its connection to environmental concerns and because his other NRCS payment was held up. “This is the first

time the feds have fallen through on their promise to release a contract,” he said.

#### **‘A make-or-break situation’**

Helen McGrath, board president of the Southside Improvement Co., a mutual water company in Ventura County that serves more than 60 shareholder farms, including McGrath’s citrus and avocado farm, has even more at stake. “In our case, and in many other operations’ cases, it’s a make-or-break situation,” she said.

The water company was awarded a multiyear grant from NRCS worth \$255,000 to line its reservoirs and install more efficient pumping systems that would conserve water and save energy. After decades of deferred maintenance, the company cannot afford to make the upgrades without the grant money, nor can the farms continue paying such high water and energy costs, McGrath said.

“It won’t pencil out,” she added.

With roughly half the shareholder farms lacking their own wells and the other half pulling up low-quality water during dry years, she said, the future of dozens of family farms may depend on the grant.

As a result of the funding freeze, “We’ve been in purgatory for the last few weeks,” she said. Last week, NRCS staff advised the company to proceed with plans to begin work. But President Donald Trump’s interference with funds appropriated by Congress and the whiplash of contradictory court rulings, government statements and reports of still-frozen accounts have given the company pause.

“We worry that six months from now we will not be reimbursed for the work,” McGrath said. “It’s very frustrating.”

#### **Honoring contracts**

Last Thursday, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said USDA will release roughly \$20 million in NRCS contracts held up during a review of funding appropriated through the Biden administration’s Inflation Reduction Act.



“Secretary Rollins will honor contracts that were already made directly to farmers,” USDA said in a press release. The department said it was releasing “the first tranche” of funds as it continues to review IRA funding to ensure it is being used to support farmers and not to promote diversity or “far-left climate programs.”

The release of \$20 million in contracts is a small portion of federal grant funding promised to farmers. In October, USDA announced \$7.7 billion in funding for farmers to implement conservation practices this year, with \$5.7 billion coming from the IRA and \$2 billion from the Farm Bill. The two pots of money are largely used to fund the same programs, with IRA funds extending access to Farm Bill programs.

Federal agencies are generally required to spend funds appropriated by Congress. The Trump administration rescinded its memo directing agencies to freeze funding after it was blocked in court, but there have been widespread reports that funds remain inaccessible. On Feb. 10, U.S. District Court Judge John McConnell said the Trump administration had violated his order blocking the freeze.

Fukagawa said NRCS staff called him last Friday to sign paperwork for his \$7,000 payment to be processed, though as of Monday neither he nor Cardoza had received their money.

### **Staffing shortages**

Meanwhile, in mid-February, the Trump administration fired tens of thousands of federal employees, including many at USDA and other agencies that interact with farmers, while encouraging other employees to resign. Those fired were primarily probationary employees who had held their position for less than 1 to 3 years and lacked job protections.

Federal workers said the layoffs could derail conservation programs, research and other services that support agriculture.

A worker at one federal agency, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak on behalf of the agency, said a program that partners with ranchers on conservation lost its only biologist serving part of the Central Valley.

“Without biologists in place, we are unable to put money on the ground,” the employee said, referring to conservation work that may halt due to the firing of key staff.

Employees at many NRCS field offices were also fired, according to a person with knowledge of personnel at more than a dozen offices, causing “massive staffing shortages,” and raising concerns about field office capacity to authorize contracts.

### **Agricultural research**

The mass firing of federal workers has also disrupted scientific research conducted to benefit farmers.

Arran Rumbaugh, former research chemist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service, was hired to research smoke taint in winegrapes after wildfire smoke caused roughly \$4 billion in losses for California’s wine industry in 2020.

“I was trying to develop tools for risk assessment and how we can create a screening method so grape growers can understand if they have smoke impact or if they don’t,” said Rumbaugh, who was based at a lab at the University of California, Davis.

In 2020, when many growers were impacted at once, testing backlogs at labs that analyze grape samples led to wait times of three to seven weeks, providing results too late for farmers to make the all-important decision of whether to harvest their crop.

Rumbaugh was working to develop an absorbent tube growers could place in their vineyards that would passively collect air and could be tested—quickly and cheaply—for specific compounds after a smoke event. The aim was to provide results “within a day, if not an hour or minutes,” she said, “so growers can make those decisions.”

On Feb. 13, Rumbaugh was among thousands of federal employees fired by email, bringing her research to a halt. She was one of USDA’s only dedicated smoke taint researchers in California.

USDA scientists researching dozens of other specialty crops were also laid off this month, according to various news reports, a blow that could be especially painful for California’s heavily diversified agriculture sector. A study by the USDA Economic Research

Service found that for every \$1 spent on crop research, about \$20 is generated for the U.S. economy.

### **‘Just the beginning’**

The consequences of the sweeping cuts for agricultural research and conservation are a sliver of the overall impact. Mass layoffs of U.S. Forest Service staff working to mitigate wildfire risks made national headlines, as did the firing of air traffic controllers, tax auditors and personnel working on the government’s bird flu response and its nuclear weapons management—some of whom the administration quickly rehired.

Other impacts are still being identified. “California Farm Bureau members have most definitely been affected,” said Huston, adding that the organization had heard from members awaiting reimbursement of large sums from rural development contracts for conservation practices, solar panel installation and other projects.

On Saturday, Trump called for a “more aggressive” purge of federal workers. Rollins, the agriculture secretary, has welcomed the cuts and said more are coming.

“USDA is pursuing an aggressive plan to optimize its workforce,” the department said in a statement. “This is just the beginning.”

UPDATE: Arran Rumbaugh was rehired this week to her former position as a research chemist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service. She will resume her work at USDA researching smoke taint in winegrapes at a lab at the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science at the University of California, Davis. Many other researchers remain laid off. “It’s been a rollercoaster,” Rumbaugh said.

(Caleb Hampton is an assistant editor of Ag Alert. He may be contacted at [champton@cfbf.com](mailto:champton@cfbf.com).)

# EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS** in October 2015, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to a vast tree die-off throughout the state, which increased the risk of wildfires; and

**WHEREAS** this tree die-off has continued to worsen forest conditions, creating extremely dangerous fire risk; and

**WHEREAS** in March 2019, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to catastrophic wildfire risks created by forest conditions, facilitating the completion of high-priority forest management projects through suspensions of various permitting and environmental review provisions; and

**WHEREAS** wildfires in California have grown in size, duration, and destructiveness because increasing whiplash between periods of extreme rain and extreme drought has caused accumulation of fuels in the State's forests, the majority of which are owned and managed by the federal government; and

**WHEREAS** several of the most costly fires have occurred in the Wildland Urban Interface, including most recently the January 2025 firestorms in Los Angeles County; and

**WHEREAS** there are millions of housing units in the Wildland Urban Interface, and the majority of these structures reside in high or very high fire hazard severity zones, and immediate action is needed to prevent similar wildfires in the imminent future; and

**WHEREAS** because of these conditions, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection developed the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) in 2019, to streamline environmental review of vegetation management projects through reliance on a programmatic environmental impact report covering 20 million acres of the State; and

**WHEREAS** 106 projects have been approved to date under CalVTP, including prescribed burns, mechanical treatment, manual treatment, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory projects; and

**WHEREAS** even with the success of CalVTP, more is needed to expedite critical fuels reduction projects in more areas of the State, including those not yet covered by CalVTP, to protect the lives and property of Californians; and

**WHEREAS** certain statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements, including, but not limited to, studies, publication periods, and season-specific surveys, significantly impede State and local agencies' ability to immediately permit and implement necessary projects to protect the lives and property of Californians; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the circumstances of the catastrophic wildfire risks created by forest

conditions across the state, by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist within the State of California due to these conditions; and

**WHEREAS** under the provision of Government Code section 8625, I find that local authorities lack the resources needed to cope with the emergency; and

**WHEREAS** under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the catastrophic wildfire risks created by forest conditions across the state.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist within the State of California due to these conditions.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
2. State statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency are hereby suspended to the extent necessary for expediting critical fuels reduction projects, as defined in Paragraph 4, are initiated this calendar year, and that the suspension is approved by the appropriate Agency secretary as provided in Paragraph 3, and subject to Paragraph 5. Laws suspended by this paragraph include, but are not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division) and the California Coastal Act (Division 20 of the Public Resources Code, commencing with section 30000, and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division).
3. Individuals or entities who desire to conduct activities under the suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 2 shall first request that the appropriate Agency Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under the suspension. The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency shall use sound discretion in applying this authority to ensure that the suspension serves

the purpose of accelerating critical fuels reduction projects, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment. Each Agency shall maintain on its website a list of all suspensions approved under this Paragraph.

4. Critical fuels reduction projects eligible for suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 2, shall include as a primary objective at least one of the following activities:
  - a. Removal of hazardous, dead, and/or dying trees;
  - b. Removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans;
  - c. Removal of vegetation for community defensible space;
  - d. Removal of vegetation along roadways, highways, and freeways for the creation of safer ingress and egress routes for the public and responders and to reduce roadside ignitions;
  - e. Removal of vegetation using cultural traditional ecological knowledge for cultural burning and/or prescribed fire treatments for fuels reduction; or
  - f. Maintenance of previously-established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects.
5. Any activities performed under the suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 2 shall be in accordance with the State Environmental Protection Plan, or a comparable plan describing how such actions will balance expeditious fuels reduction and environmental protection.
6. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection shall take immediate steps to update the California Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP EIR), in consultation with the California Natural Resources Agency and others as appropriate, to increase CalVTP's efficiency and utilization, in order to continue promoting rapid environmental review for large wildfire risk reduction treatments. In addition to accessing expertise from all appropriate state agencies, this process should also include public workshops with practitioners to solicit feedback on experiences during implementation in the first five years of the CalVTP and suggested improvements.
7. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services, including housing for hand crews and required pre-work environmental surveys, to quickly assist with the response to this emergency and to achieve the purposes of this Proclamation. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent

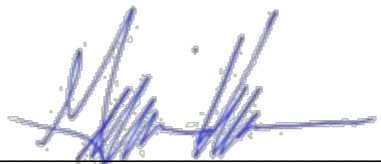
necessary to address the effects of this emergency and to carry out the purposes of this Proclamation.

8. The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency shall confer with subject matter experts, including those within their respective Agencies, and provide to me, within 60 days, their consolidated recommendations for increasing the pace and scale of beneficial fire in California. These may include recommendations to ensure more consistency among local air pollution control districts and increasing allowable burn days.
9. The restrictions set forth in Penal Code section 396, which are automatically triggered upon proclamation of a state of emergency, are suspended, and no such restrictions are imposed, with respect to this State of Emergency.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 1st day of March 2025.



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GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH. D  
Secretary of State



## Memorandum

**Date:** March 20, 2025  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Kellyx Nelson  
**Re:** Recommendation to approve updated language to the Procurement and Subaward Policy

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Staff recommends the board of directors approve the proposed amendments delineated below to the Procurement and Subaward Policy that was adopted May 18, 2024.

The adopted policy establishes the RCD's requirements for subawards and the procurement of services, construction contracts and materials and supplies. It was developed to be consistent with the California Public Contracting Code (§1100-22355) by incorporating thresholds and procedures outlined in the statute. However, when threshold amounts for contracts are updated in the code, the RCD's policy becomes outdated and inconsistent, as our current policy defines numerical threshold values.

The proposed amendments state that the RCD will follow the thresholds set in the contracting code, enabling updates to the code to be automatically incorporated into RCD policy. This ensures that RCD policy is always consistent with the code and avoids having to change our policy whenever there are minor changes to the code.



### 3.1 Procurement and Subaward Policy

Adopted by Board of Directors May 18, 2023; amended by Board of Directors October 22, 2024; amended by Board of Directors March 20, 2025.

1. Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to establish the District's requirements for subawards and the procurement of services, construction contracts and materials and supplies.
2. Definitions.
  - 2.1. Procurement. Process for an organization to purchase products and services from external parties.
  - 2.2. Contract. A legally binding agreement between two or more parties that creates an obligation to perform a particular duty or set of tasks, e.g., contracting with an engineering firm to design a road. That entity is legally bound to complete a specific performance requirement, often defined by a scope of work contained in the contract and with the goods or services delivered by agreed upon date, with specific consideration for compensation, and other guidelines set forth in the contract language.
  - 2.3. Agreement. Formal or informal understanding of mutually agreed upon terms, e.g. an agreement with a landowner to access their property. These agreements may not always be legally binding. An agreement can also be used to set forth the terms and conditions of multiple contracts. A contract is an agreement, but an agreement is not always a contract. Agreements and contracts can be verbal or written, but a contract will always be legally enforceable.
  - 2.4. Purchase Order. Document(s) indicating terms, types, quantities, and agreed prices for products and/or services.
  - 2.5. Construction. Physical implementation of a project such as earth moving for habitat restoration, tree removal and mastication, hedgerow planting and compost application.
  - 2.6. Consulting. Professional services provided by any business, department, or individual whose procured services are not a manufactured or built product, e.g., engineering, grant writing, or IT support.
  - 2.7. Subaward and Subrecipient. When the District serves as a pass-through entity for funding to a partnering entity to carry out specific tasks, the partnering entity is a subrecipient and the funding they receive to carry out their responsibilities is the subaward. A subaward may be provided through any form of legally enforceable agreement, including an agreement that the subrecipient considers a contract.
3. Conflicts of Law or Policy. Procurement processes and procedures in the policy are not applicable where superseded by local, state, or federal law; where the terms of grant funding provide for the use of other procurement procedures; or where the District is otherwise obligated to use different procedures, such as due to the requirements of an insurance or self-insurance program.
4. Procurement. The following procurement process is used when the District acquires goods or services. The entity providing the goods or services is a contractor or vendor. In May 2023, the District elected under Public Contract Code (PCC) §22030 to become subject to uniform public construction cost accounting procedures set forth in the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act and to the Commission's policies and procedures manual and cost

accounting review procedures, as they may each from time to time be amended, and notified the State Controller of this election. It allows for public project work of a cost at or below a lower limit to be performed by a public agency's force account using the public agency's own resources, or by negotiated contract, or by purchase order (PCC Section 22032(a)). Public projects of a cost at or below the upper limit set forth in Section 22032(b) or (c) of the Act may use the informal procurement process. Public projects of a cost greater than the upper limit set forth in Section 22032(b) or (c) of the Act must use the formal procurement process. Limits are subject to change and are incorporated into the PCC.

- 4.1. Procurement Authority. The District has three levels of approval authority for procurement: approval by the Board of Directors; approval delegated to the Executive Director by the Board of Directors; and approval delegated to a designee by the Executive Director which, depending on circumstances, may or may not require prior approval of the Board of Directors. Where referenced, maximum procurement authority amounts refer to the total price of an agreement, contract, or purchase order, including all anticipated likely associated costs.
- 4.2. Procurement of Consulting Services. Except as otherwise provided herein, the following selection procedures shall be followed when procuring consulting services.
  - 4.2.1. Basis of Award for Consulting Services. Consulting services are often of a technical and professional nature, and, due to the nature of the services to be provided, do not typically lend themselves to "lowest cost" as the primary selection criteria. Selection of the successful consultant may be based on a variety of criteria or considerations. Considerations include, but are not limited to: quality, dependability, warranty, demonstrated experience and competence, insurability, understanding of the scope of work, financial ability, resources to perform the work, willingness to cooperate with District and technical staff, and proposed methods to ensure timely and acceptable performance and management of the work.

In addition, State law requires that selection of professional consultants in the categories of architects, landscape architects, engineers, surveyors, construction managers, and environmental consulting be made on the basis of demonstrated competence and the professional qualifications necessary for the satisfactory performance of the required services (California Government Code §4526). Professional consultants should be individually selected for a specific project or problem with the objective of selecting the most qualified consultant at a price that is fair and reasonable and consistent with industry practice. While not required by California Public Contracting Code (§22032), the procurement process cost thresholds for consulting services align with those set forth in Section 22032(b) and (c) of the Act for the sake of consistency throughout this policy.

~~4.2.2.0-4.2.1.1.~~ 4.2.1.1. Consulting Services Equal to or Less Than \$200,000 Non-Competitive Procurement of Consulting Services. If the cost for furnishing consulting services to the District will not exceed ~~\$200,000~~ the limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032(c)) for a formal procurement process, the District may obtain competitive cost information while also considering the qualifications of contractors providing services and document the basis for contract award, whenever reasonably feasible. The Executive Director may approve the contract without seeking the approval of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director-approved contract shall be signed by the Executive Director, or in the Executive Director's absence, his or her designee, unless the Board has directed that the Board President sign on behalf of the District.

~~4.2.3.0-4.2.1.2.~~ ~~Consulting Services in Excess of \$200,000~~ Competitive Procurement of Consulting Services. If the cost for furnishing consulting services to the District will exceed ~~\$200,000~~ the limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032(c)) for a formal procurement process, procurement shall be performed by the competitive procurement process for consulting services set forth in this policy, and approval from the Board of Directors shall be required prior to entering into contract. Contracts which have been approved by the Board shall be signed by the Executive Director, or in the Executive Director's absence, his or her designee, unless the Board has directed that the Board President sign on behalf of the District.

~~4.2.4.0-4.2.1.2.1.~~ Competitive Procurement of Consulting Services ~~Process~~. To establish a basis for award of the contract, the District shall: prepare a project-specific Request for Proposal (RFP) that outlines the terms, conditions and specifications of the services required by the District; and/or prepare a new or utilize an active Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that has relevant professional qualifications, experience, staffing and support and hourly rates as a basis for selecting a consultant and negotiating a contract for the project. To the extent reasonably possible a minimum of three (3) qualified firms or individuals shall be invited to submit proposals for an RFP or RFQ. District staff will determine appropriate posting of the RFP or RFQ announcement for generating interest. District staff and/or District directors and/or partners selected by District staff will review the proposals/qualifications received, will identify and review references for the most qualified consultants, and will rank the consultants based upon appropriate criteria developed for the project or required services. These criteria shall be included in the RFP or RFQ (if applicable). The criteria and rankings shall be documented in the recommendation for award of the contract to the Board of Directors during the approval process.

~~4.2.5-4.2.2.~~ Renewal of Contracts for Consulting Services. The District may enter into agreements for consulting services that contain provisions authorizing a specific time extension or renewal of a contract. Any decision to extend or renew an existing contract should consider an evaluation of the work performed by the consultant. If the total amount of the original and renewed contract in any one fiscal year does not exceed ~~\$200,000~~ the limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032) for a formal procurement process, the Executive Director may approve the contract without seeking approval of the Board of Directors. If the total amount exceeds ~~\$200,000~~ the limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032) for a formal procurement process, the contract must be approved by the Board. In either case, the approved contract shall be signed by the Executive Director, or in the Executive Director's absence, his or her designee, unless the Board has directed that the Board President sign on behalf of the District.

4.3. Procurement of Construction Contracts. Except as otherwise provided herein, the following selection procedures shall be followed when the procurement involves a construction contract.

4.3.1. Projects on Private Land. Competitive procurement is not required for construction projects located on private land and involving no publicly owned, leased, or operated facility, as these are not public projects under California Public Contracting Code (§22002), and agreements for these projects are not considered public works contracts under this code (§1101). Procurement of ~~private project~~ construction contracts for these types of projects on private land will follow ~~s~~ the process set forth in California Public Contracting

~~Code (§22032) for non-competitive procurement for public project construction services procurement equal to or less than \$60,000, and the same cost thresholds for approval authority as public projects.~~ The Executive Director may approve the contract without seeking the approval of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director-approved contract shall be signed by the Executive Director, or in the Executive Director's absence, his or hers designee, unless the Board has directed that the President sign on behalf of the District.

4.3.2. Projects on Public Land. ~~Competitive procurement is required for p~~Projects located on public land and involving publicly owned, leased, or operated facilities. ~~These~~ are public projects under California Public Contracting Code (§22002), and agreements for these projects are considered public works contracts under this code (§1101). These projects shall follow thresholds and procedures set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032. The Code sets forth threshold amounts for employees of a public agency to secure services through force account, by negotiated contract, or by purchase order; let to contract by informal competitive procedure; or let to contract by formal competitive bidding procedure.

~~4.3.3.0-4.3.2.1.~~ Public Project Non-Competitive Procurement of Construction Services on Public Lands. Procurement Equal To or Less Than \$60,000. For construction projects where the estimated amount of the public works construction contract does not exceed ~~\$60,000~~ the lower limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032(a)) per individual contractor per year, a competitive procurement process is not required. The District may obtain bids without advertisement or published notice inviting bids and may authorize and execute contracts for payment for services, supplies, material, labor, or other valuable consideration for any purpose, including the new construction of any building, structure, or improvement. The Executive Director may approve the contract without seeking the approval of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director-approved contract shall be signed by the Executive Director, or in the Executive Director's absence, his or hers designee, unless the Board has directed that the President sign on behalf of the District.

~~4.3.4. Public Project Construction Services Procurement in Excess of \$60,000.~~ For construction projects where the estimated amount of the construction contract is greater than \$60,000 and less than or equal to \$200,000, the procurement shall be performed by the competitive formal or informal procurement (bid) processes for construction contracts set forth in this policy. For construction projects where the estimated amount of the construction contract is greater than \$200,000, the procurement shall be performed by the competitive formal procurement (bid) process for construction contracts set forth in this policy. The competitive formal bid process requires approval from the Board of Directors prior to entering into contract. Contracts which have been approved by the Board shall be signed by the Executive Director, or in the Executive Director's absence, his or her designee, unless the Board has directed that the Board President sign on behalf of the District. For contractors selected through a competitive informal bid process, the Executive Director may approve the contract without seeking the approval of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director-approved contract shall be signed by the Executive Director, or in the Executive Director's absence, his or her designee, unless the Board has directed that the President sign on behalf of the District.

~~4.3.5. Competitive Formal Bid Process.~~ The District shall invite formal bids as provided in California Public Contracting Code (§22037). Notice to contractors inviting formal bids shall state the time and place which may be a virtual meeting space for the opening of

~~sealed bids received either by mail or electronically and distinctly describe the project. This description typically includes plans and/or specifications describing the goods or services to be provided and the requirements for submission of complete bids. The notice shall be sent electronically at least 15 calendar days before the date of opening the bids. Distribution of the notice must include the construction trade journals as specified for San Mateo County by the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission as provided in California Public Contracting Code (§22036). Notice shall be published at least 14 calendar days before the date of opening the bids in a general circulation newspaper. Notice may also be distributed through digital distribution networks, the District web site, other construction trade journals, and other means the District deems appropriate.~~

~~The District reserves the right to waive irregularities relative to the responsiveness of any bid, so long as they do not give competitive advantage.~~

~~The District may reject any bids presented because bids exceed available funding, the bids are non-responsive and/or deemed not responsible. In such cases, the District shall have the option of pursuing any the following: select an alternate bidder under the same procurement, abandon the project, revise the scope of work and/or specifications or readvertising for bids in the manner described by this policy.~~

~~If a construction contract is awarded, it shall be awarded to the lowest cost, responsive and responsible bidder, except as otherwise provided herein.~~

~~If no bids are received through the formal bid procedure, the project may be performed by negotiated contract without further complying with this policy.~~

4.3.6.4.3.3. Competitive Informal Bid Process. The District shall invite informal bids as provided in California Public Contracting Code (§22034). Notice to contractors inviting informal bids shall describe the project in general terms and how to obtain more detailed information about the project and state the time and place for the submission of bids electronically or by mail. Distribution of the notice to contractors inviting informal bids shall be provided in accordance with either or both of the following methods:

- a) The notice inviting informal bids shall be sent electronically at least 15 calendar days before the bids are due. Distribution of the notice must include the construction trade journals as specified for San Mateo County by the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission as provided in California Public Contracting Code (§22036).
- b) If the District develops and maintains a list of qualified contractors identified according to categories of work as set forth in this policy, all contractors on the list for the category of work being bid shall be mailed, faxed, or emailed a notice inviting informal bids unless the product or service is proprietary. All mailing of notices to contractors pursuant to this subdivision shall be completed not less than 10 calendar days before bids are due.

To develop and maintain a list of qualified contractors identified according to categories of work, the District must at least once per calendar year establish a new or update the existing list by mailing, faxing, or emailing written notice to all construction trade journals designated for San Mateo County by the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission as provided in California Public Contracting Code (§22036). The notice shall invite all licensed contractors to submit the name of their firm to the District for inclusion on the District's list of qualified bidders. The notice shall require that the contractor provide: name and address to which a notice to contractors or proposal should be mailed, faxed, or emailed; phone number at which the contractor may be reached; type of work in which the contractor is interested and currently licensed to do (earthwork, pipelines, electrical,

painting, general building, etc.); class of contractor's license(s) held; and contractor license number(s). The District may include any contractor names so desire on the lists, but lists must include, at minimum, all contractors who have properly provided the District with the information required in response to the notice.

If all bids received are in excess of ~~\$200,000~~ the upper limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032(c)), the Board may, by adoption of a resolution by a four-fifths vote, award the contract, at ~~\$212,500 or less or below the threshold limit set forth in~~ California Public Contracting Code (§22034) for this scenario, to the lowest responsible bidder, if it determines the cost estimate of the District was reasonable.

The District reserves the right to waive irregularities relative to the responsiveness of any bid, so long as they do not give competitive advantage.

The District may reject any bids presented because bids exceed available funding, the bids are non-responsive and/or deemed not responsible. In such cases, the District shall have the option of pursuing any the following: select an alternate bidder under the same procurement, abandon the project, revise the scope of work and/or specifications or readvertising for bids in the manner described by this policy.

If a construction contract is awarded, it shall be awarded to the lowest-cost, responsive and responsible bidder, except as otherwise provided herein.

If no bids are received through the formal bid procedure, the project may be performed by negotiated contract without further complying with this policy.

4.3.4. Competitive Formal Bid Process. The District shall invite formal bids as provided in California Public Contracting Code (§22037). Notice to contractors inviting formal bids shall state the time and place which may be a virtual meeting space for the opening of sealed bids received either by mail or electronically and distinctly describe the project. This description typically includes plans and/or specifications describing the goods or services to be provided and the requirements for submission of complete bids. The notice shall be sent electronically at least 15 calendar days before the date of opening the bids. Distribution of the notice must include the construction trade journals as specified for San Mateo County by the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission as provided in California Public Contracting Code (§22036). Notice shall be published at least 14 calendar days before the date of opening the bids in a general circulation newspaper. Notice may also be distributed through digital distribution networks, the District web site, other construction trade journals, and other means the District deems appropriate.

The District reserves the right to waive irregularities relative to the responsiveness of any bid, so long as they do not give competitive advantage.

The District may reject any bids presented because bids exceed available funding, the bids are non-responsive and/or deemed not responsible. In such cases, the District shall have the option of pursuing any the following: select an alternate bidder under the same procurement, abandon the project, revise the scope of work and/or specifications or readvertising for bids in the manner described by this policy.

If a construction contract is awarded, it shall be awarded to the lowest-cost, responsive and responsible bidder, except as otherwise provided herein.

If no bids are received through the formal bid procedure, the project may be performed by negotiated contract without further complying with this policy.



4.4. Procurement of Equipment, Supplies and Non-Consulting Services. Except as otherwise provided herein, the following selection procedures shall be followed when the procurement involves equipment, supplies or non-consulting services.

4.4.1. Equipment, Supplies or Non-Consulting Services ~~Equal To or Less Than \$200,000 That Do Not Require Approval From the Board of Directors.~~ If the cost for furnishing equipment, supplies or non-consulting services to the District will not exceed ~~\$200,000~~ the upper limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032), the Executive Director may approve the contract or purchase order without seeking approval of the Board of Directors.

4.4.2. Equipment, Supplies or Non-Consulting Services ~~in Excess of \$200,000 That Require Approval From the Board of Directors.~~ If the cost for furnishing equipment, supplies or non-consulting services to the District will exceed ~~\$200,000~~ the upper limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032), approval from the Board of Directors is required prior to purchase. Purchase orders which have been approved by the Board shall be signed by the Executive Director, or in the Executive Director's absence, his or her designee, unless the Board has directed that the Board President sign on behalf of the District.

4.4.3. Open Purchase Orders for Routine and Repetitive Supplies and Services for RCD Operations. Open purchase orders may be entered into with vendors who are expected to supply routine services, supplies, materials, or labor to the District on a regular basis. Vendors of repetitive supplies and services shall be selected through a competitive procurement process as set out in Section 4.2.4, based upon the anticipated or budgeted cumulative cost of the supply or service. Multi-year contracts should be used only when appropriate and necessary to secure the best pricing, best service, or assure continuity of service. Whenever feasible, multi-year contracts for service or supplies shall provide that the option to renew or extend the contract is at the District's sole discretion.

5. Exceptions to Competitive Procurement Requirements. Exceptions to the competitive procurement requirements in this policy are applicable under certain conditions.

5.1. Documentation of Exception. In the event any of the exceptions to the competitive procurement process are used, an explanation of the applicable exception(s) shall be documented in writing and approved prior to entering into contract, by the Executive Director for procurements within the authority of Executive Director approval and by the Board of Directors for procurements requiring Board approval.

5.2. Competitive Procurement Exceptions.

5.2.1. Limited Availability/ Sole Source. Competitive procurement is not required when the work, materials or services are either: (a) available from only one source, or (b) unique due to the specialized skill or experience of the contractor, consultant, or supplier so as to be available from only one source, or (c) proprietary in nature.

5.2.2. Compatibility and Continuity. Competitive procurement is not required when work, materials or services needed are required to match, integrate or be compatible, or to maintain cost effect consistency with an existing project or program and the work, materials or services are from a contractor, consultant, or vendor who previously satisfactorily performed/provided work, materials or services for the District for that

project.

5.2.3. Emergencies. The Board of Directors hereby delegates to the Executive Director the authority to declare an emergency and to award contracts without a competitive bidding process. The Executive Director shall document in writing that the emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation process, and that immediate action is necessary to respond to the emergency. In the case of an emergency requiring an immediate purchase, the Executive Director may authorize his or her designee to secure in the open market any services, supplies, material, or labor required to respond to the emergency, regardless of the amount of the expenditure. The Executive Director shall report the status of the emergency to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting, and at every regularly scheduled meeting thereafter, until the emergency is resolved.

5.2.4. Cooperative Procurements; Piggyback. The District shall have the authority to join with other public jurisdictions or their umbrella organizations (e.g., California Association of Resource Conservation Districts) in cooperative purchasing plans, programs or pricing agreements. The District may also buy directly from a vendor at a price established by competitive bidding by another public jurisdiction in substantial compliance with a competitive procurement process even if the District had not joined with that public agency in a cooperative purchase. The District may also purchase from the United States of America or any state, municipality or other public corporation or agency. Board approval is required prior to purchases that exceed the maximum Executive Director approval amounts described in this policy.

6. Subaward. The District may fund a program or project or enter into a contract without a competitive selection process through a subaward of financial assistance to an eligible organization. Subawards are defined in the Federal Procurement Requirements (Federal Code of Regulations 200.317-200.327). Contracts or transactions between the District and government agencies, institutions of higher education, and non-profit organizations are often considered subawards regardless of whether the instrument is referred to as a contract. Where the subaward involves the pass-through of awarded funding, all applicable terms and conditions that are part of the primary award must be included in the subaward document. Some characteristics that support the classification of an entity as a subrecipient rather than a contractor include when the entity:

- has responsibility for programmatic decision-making;
- requires considerable discretionary judgment in the performance of the work;
- contributes to the conduct of the project as described in the statement of work for the prime award;
- uses the funding to carry out a program for the entity's public purpose as specified in their mission statement or authorizing statute;
- would be considered as a co-author of publications resulting from the work performed under the award.

In determining whether the District classifies an entity as a subrecipient or a contractor, the substance of the relationship is more important than the form of the agreement. All of the characteristics listed above may not be present in all cases, and the District must use judgment in classifying each agreement as a subaward or a procurement contract. The Executive Director shall notify the Board of Directors of signed subaward agreements exceeding ~~\$60,000~~ the lower limit set forth in California Public Contracting Code (§22032).

Subawards are distinct from the purchasing of goods and services that constitutes a procurement relationship. Therefore, subawards do not function as exceptions to procurement requirements. While not required by California Public Contracting Code (§22032), the cost

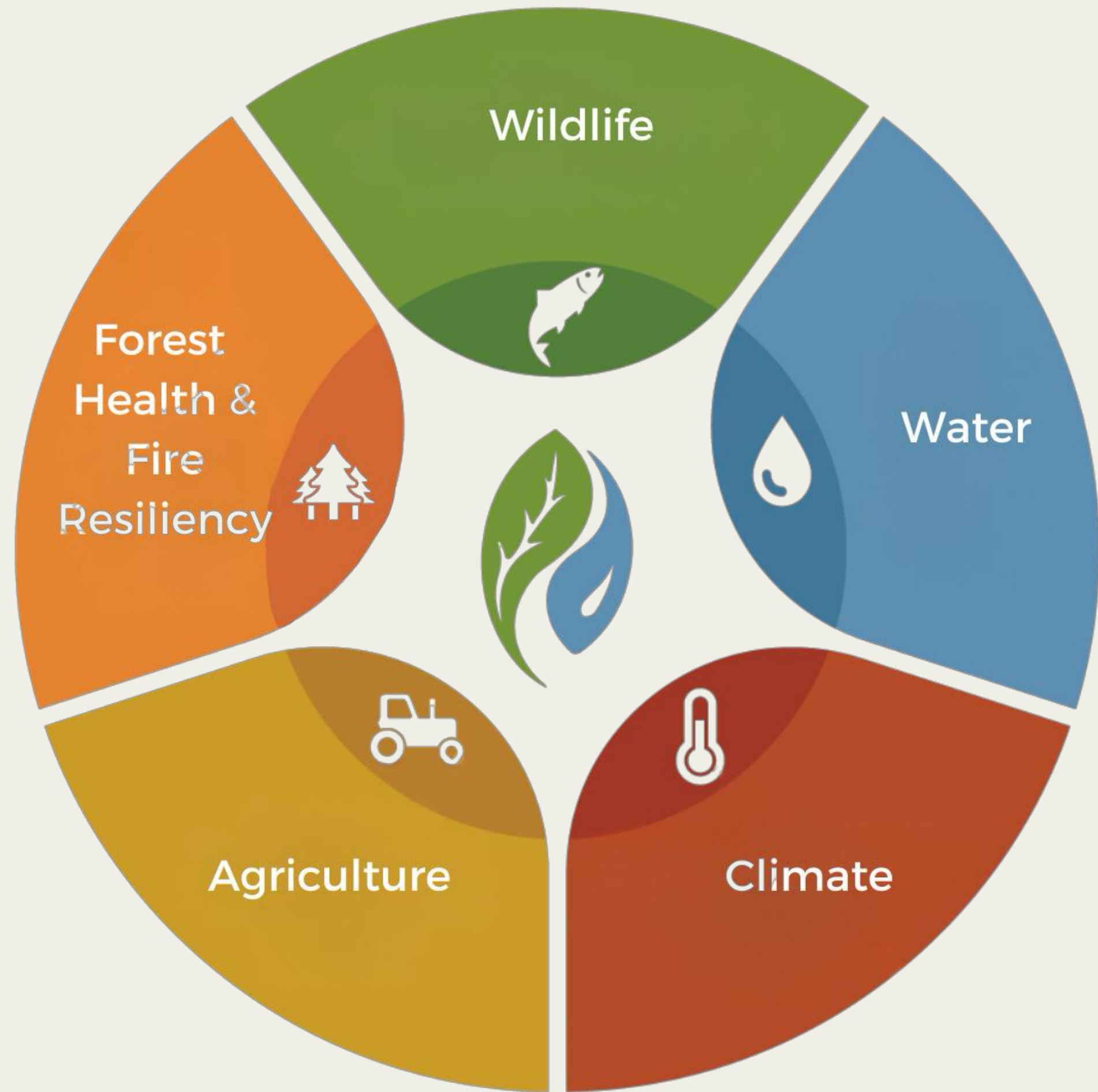


thresholds for a subaward align with those set forth in Section 22032(b) and (c) of the Act for the sake of consistency throughout this policy.

7. Conflict of Interest. All procurement must comply with the District's Conflict of Interest Policy which generally ensures that no District employee or official has a financial interest in any transaction to which the District is a party and which comes before said official or employee for recommendation or action.

# 2024 Year in Review

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Wildlife

Water



Climate



Agriculture

Forest  
Health &  
Fire  
Resiliency



# AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP

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- Compost
- Improving soil health
- Increasing biodiversity
- Sequestering carbon
- On-farm waste reduction
- Agricultural Ombudsman
- Agricultural viability

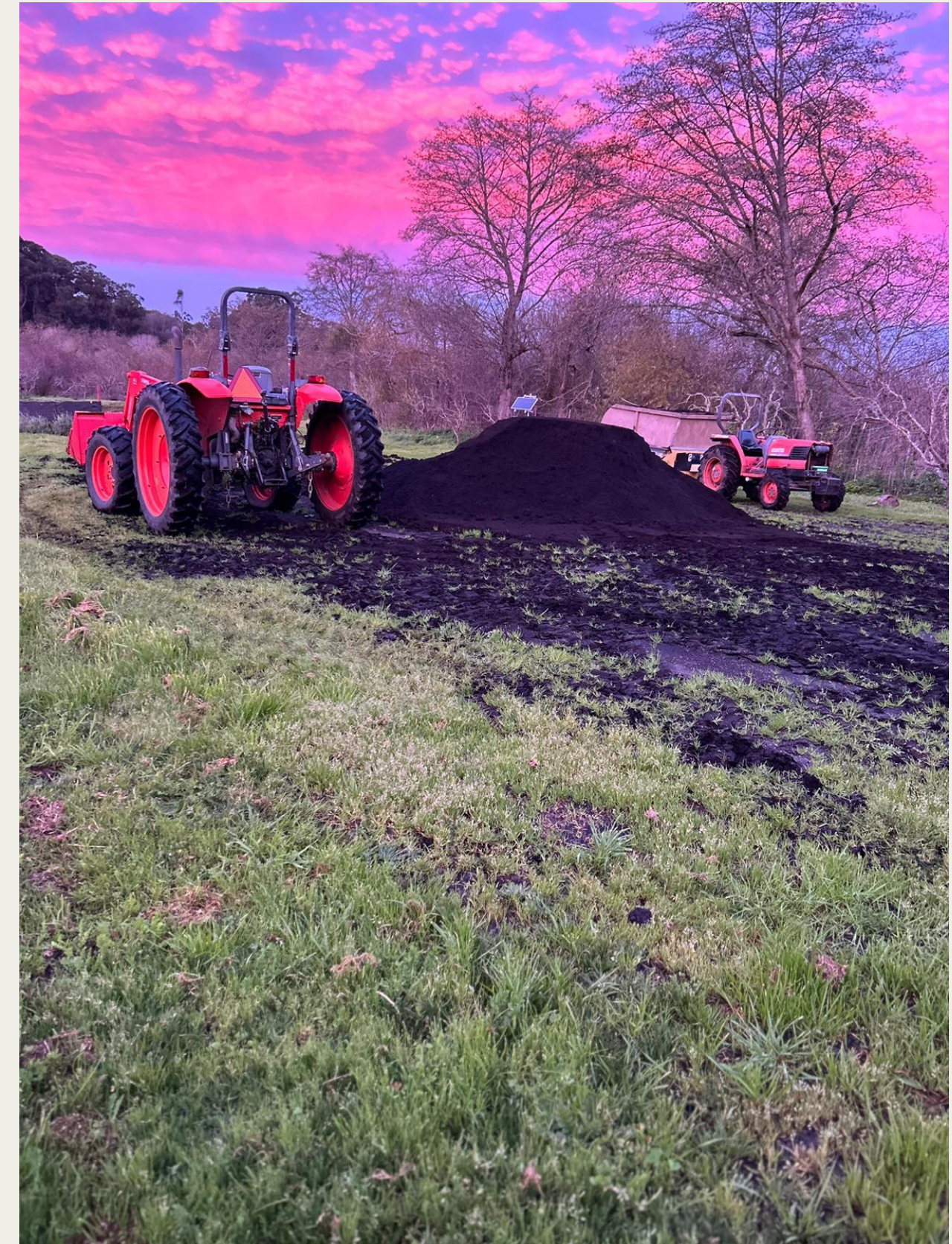




# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- Completed 3 conservation plans and initiated an additional 3
- Tested soil at 15 gardens and farming operations.
- Responded to 72 requests for Technical assistance for 60 producers or landowners on a wide range of topics including soil health, irrigation, equipment sharing, plant health, pollinators, conservation planning, etc.
- Facilitated the delivery and spreading of 10,351 tons of compost on 45 farms.
- Conducted irrigation efficiency evaluations at 3 farms.
- Helped 20 jurisdictions (cities and County) as compost broker to meet targets for waste reduction and comply with SB 1383.
- Conducted Regenerative Grazing 101 monthly series, beginning in August, with 37 participants from around the Bay Area on 4 ranches.
- Ag Ombudsman assisted County and 22 ag producers and landowners with permitting-related questions.
- Advanced collaborative planning process for regional food hub.





## PARTNERS

- NRCS
- TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation
- Point Blue Conservation Science
- San Mateo County:
  - Sustainability Department
  - Planning Department
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Environmental Health
  - Supervisor Mueller
- Santa Cruz RCD
- RCD of Monterey County
- Carbon Cycle Institute
- San Mateo County Farm Bureau
- Kitchen Table Advisors
- CA Association of RCDs
- Farms and ranches

## FUNDERS

- San Mateo County
- All cities in San Mateo County
- Western SARE
- Zero Food Print
- CDFA
- USDA
- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Peninsula Open Space Trust
- NRCS
- National Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- Wildlife Conservation Board
- CalRecycle
- UC ANR
- South Bay Municipal Waste Authority

## NETWORKS

- Food System Alliance
- CARCD Ag TA Task Force
- California Climate and Agriculture Network
- California Carbon Farm Planners
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- CA Ag Ombudsmen
- Farmworker Advisory Commission
- CARCD Regional Ag & Climate Hubs

# WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

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- Fish migration
- Habitat
  - Creeks
  - Grasslands
  - Floodplains
  - Wetlands
- Wildlife reintroduction
- Species recovery planning

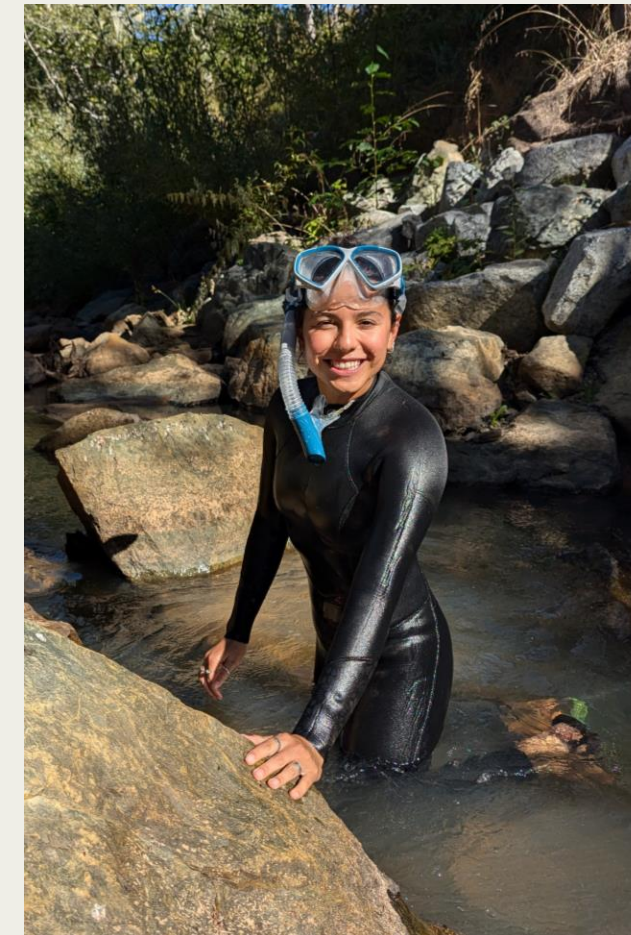




# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- Enhanced and restored 57 acres of grassland habitat
- Improved 3 acres of riparian habitat
- Restored and protected 1 acre of coastal prairie habitat
- Hosted 1 workshop, 3 presentations, 3 field tours
- Responded to 8 requests for technical assistance
- Launched San Francisco Garter Snake Recovery Working Group
- Supported 13 salmonid monitoring events, 2 coho releases
- Advanced 21 projects in planning and design
- Monitored 5+ previously completed projects





## **PARTNERS**

- SPHERE
- City of Pacifica
- San Pedro Creek Watershed Coalition
- San Mateo County – Parks, Public Works
- MROSD
- POST
- RCD of Santa Cruz County
- State Parks
- Potrero Nuevo Farm
- CDFW
- NOAA
- USFWS
- Granada Community Services District
- San Bruno Mountain Watch / Mission Blue Nursery
- Pacifica Land Trust
- Girl Scouts
- Coastside Land Trust
- Sempervirens Fund
- Fifth Crow Farm

## **FUNDERS**

- EPA
- Wildlife Conservation Board
- MROSD
- POST
- GCSD
- PG&E
- State Parks
- Coastal Conservancy
- San Mateo County
- NOAA Restoration Center
- USFWS Partners Program
- USFWS Coastal Program
- National Fish and Wildlife Federation

## **NETWORKS**

- Integrated Watershed Restoration Program
- Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network
- Pescadero Technical Roundtable
- SFGS Recovery Working Group
- San Mateo Weed Management Area
- California Invasive Plant Council
- CalFora (Weed Manager)
- CARCD Monarch group
- Process-Based Restoration Network
- Salmonid Restoration Federation

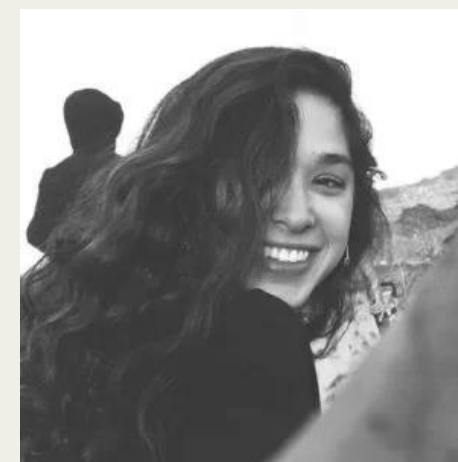
# FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCY

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- Technical assistance\*
- Fuel load reduction
- Forest restoration\*
- Regional coordination



\* Includes continuing post-fire recovery





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- Improved ecological health and wildfire resilience over 328 acres of forest in Butano State Park (323 acres) and Quarry Park (5 acres)
- Completed 127 acres (54%) the 19 mile La Honda Fuel Break
- Helped create defensible space around 832 homes in 31 communities via the Neighborhood Chipper Program
- Conducted hazard tree mitigation on 3 properties
- Gave 12 presentations and site tours
- Provided technical assistance to 79 public and private properties, including wildfire resilience planning, forest management, helping improve emergency access, and assistance with permitting removals for hazard trees
- Co-led development of a Regional Prioritization Plan for forest management projects in the Santa Cruz Mountains





## **PARTNERS**

- NRCS
- CARCD
- CAL FIRE
- RCD of Santa Cruz
- San Mateo County
- California Fire Safe Council
- Fire Safe San Mateo County
- South Skyline Fire Safe Council
- California State Parks
- Girl Scouts of Northern California
- MROSD
- POST
- Sempervirens Fund
- Save the Redwoods League
- YMCA of Greater San Francisco
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- Peninsula Open Space Trust
- Coastside Land Trust

## **FUNDERS**

- San Mateo County
- CAL FIRE
- CARCD
- Coastal Conservancy
- California Fire Safe Council
- NRCS
- California Natural Resources Agency
- California State Parks

## **NETWORKS**

- Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network working groups
- CARCD
  - Joint Forestry Committee
  - Forest & Fire Working Group
- San Mateo County Fire Steering Committee
- Forested Lands Alliance
- Together Bay Area Forest and Fire Working Group
- Fire-Resilient Lands Alliance for the Management of Everything (FLAME)
- Coastal Prairie Fire Working Group

# Outreach & Workshops (a few highlights)

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## Youth Engagement

Pescadero High School field trip  
Half Moon Bay High School presentations,  
field trip  
UCANR Range Camp field trip  
Forestry Challenge

## Interpretive Hikes/ Field Trips

Sierra Club Forest Protection Committee  
Latino Conservation Week  
Spotlight Stewardship (SCMSN)

## Workshops

Regional Forest Prioritization Plan  
Regenerative Grazing Series

## Tabling Events

Pescadero Arts and Fun Festival  
SMC Climate Justice Summit  
La Honda Fair  
Emergency Community Preparedness Day  
Wildfire Preparedness Day  
SMC Regional Operations Center Emergency  
Response Event  
Coastal Wildflower Day

# Presentations & Webinars (some highlights)

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CARCD conference (uses for biomass, DEIJ plan, workshop on RCD resource sharing)

California Council of Land Trusts

Coastside Land Trust (webinars about migratory fish and soil health)

Coastside Horse Council and horse boarding facilities

Community of La Honda

Cutting Green Tape (statewide webinar series with CLSN, CNRA)

National Association of Conservation Districts

Regionally Integrated Climate Action Planning Support Program (RICAPS)

San Mateo County Agricultural Advisory Committee

Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network

UCCE Master Gardeners

US Compost Council Conference

# STAFF TRANSITIONS

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## Hired:

1. Mia Riddle (Mar)
2. Carolyn Kriso (Apr)
3. Colleen McNally-Murphy (Apr)
4. Clifton Herrmann (Jun)
5. Helen Christianson (Jun)
  - Temporary, P/T
6. Clarissa Maciel (Nov)

## Changed:


1. Timothy Federal (Senior Program Manager)
2. Amy Kaeser (Program Director)
3. Sara Polgar

## Departed:

1. Erica Harris
2. Stephanie MacDonald
3. Adria Arko
4. Andrew Hall
5. David Cowman



Next Month

- Water Quality
  - Water for Farms Fish and People
  - Sediment and Erosion
  - Diversity Equity Inclusion and Justice
  - Cutting Green Tape
  - Collaboratives & Networks
- 





The A Team