

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject **Grant Opportunity for Specialty Crop Technical Assistance Hubs**
From Karen Buhr <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
Sender <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <karen-buhr@carcd.org>
Date 2020-07-06 13:28



- Specialty Crop Technical Assistance Hubs Grant Opportunity.pdf (~142 KB)



Dear partners,

We are excited to announce that the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts' (CARCD) Specialty Crop Technical Assistance Hubs Grant is now open. We are inviting applications from collections of regional technical assistance providers to form or grow a cohesive agricultural technical support hub and convene at least five farm demonstration events in partnership with specialty crop farms.

The grant period will be September 2020 through February 2022. CARCD will grant four awards to any technical assistance provider in the amount of \$35,000 each. In addition, each project will include \$5,000 in farmer stipends to compensate for time spent coordinating with the provider(s)/hubs and hosting the demonstrations.

This opportunity is open to resource conservation districts, California farm bureaus, University of California Cooperative Extension, commodity groups, and other technical assistance providers.

[The full solicitation can be found here](#) and is also attached. Applications should be submitted through [the application portal](#) by 5pm on August 7, 2020. Please see our website [for the press release](#).

Two Q&A Zoom webinars will be held and later posted [on the CARCD website](#).

- Wednesday July 8, 10am - 11am. [Register for the July 8 webinar here](#).
- Tuesday July 28 11:30am - 12:30pm. [Register for the July 28 webinar here](#).

Please contact Sara Letton with any questions at (530) 303-8880 or sara-letton@carcd.org.

Thank you,

Karen Buhr, Executive Director

Sara Letton, Project Coordinator



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Subject **2020 CARCD Virtual Conference - Call for Presentation Proposals**

From Karen Buhr <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>

Sender <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <info@carcd.org>

Date 2020-07-06 16:03



- 2020 CARCD Conference Call for Presentation Proposals.pdf (~3.8 MB)



We are thrilled to announce that we are accepting presentation proposals for the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) Virtual Conference!

Dear partners,

From **November 12 – 24, 2020**, CARCD will be continuing the tradition of bringing together representatives from federal and state agencies, non-profits, private industries, farming communities, and resource conservation districts to **share knowledge, build partnerships, and address urgent natural resource challenges** including climate-smart agriculture, the tree mortality crisis, community fire resilience, sustainable groundwater management, watershed health, social equity in conservation, and wildlife preservation.

This year for the first time, our conference will be **fully online**, and we are excited to leverage technology to make this the most accessible and versatile conference yet! To take advantage of the flexibility of a virtual event, not only will we be accepting proposals for traditional **presentations** and **panels**, but for **field tours, live demonstrations, pre-recorded videos**, and other **creative alternatives** that will **engage, teach, and inspire**. As always, we encourage you to **partner with others** to help tell your story.

We are looking for presentations which relate to one or more of topics below:

- Forest, soil, and/or watershed health
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation

- Collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement
- Fire prevention and post-fire restoration
- Conservation on working lands
- Capacity building and management for resource conservation districts
- Community and partner engagement during the health crisis

You can find more information on CARCD's website. Please submit your abstract online at bit.ly/carcd by **Friday, July 31, 2020**. If you have any questions, our conference coordinator Kiko Barr will be happy to help and can be reached at kiko-barr@carcd.org.

Our presenters are truly what make our conference special, and we look forward to hearing your ideas!

Thank you,



Karen Buhr, Executive Director



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Subject **Notes from the Field // \$5.5M for Water Resilience • Grassland RCD • CARCD Conference**

From CARCD <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>

Sender <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <info@carcd.org>

Date 2020-07-13 10:02



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

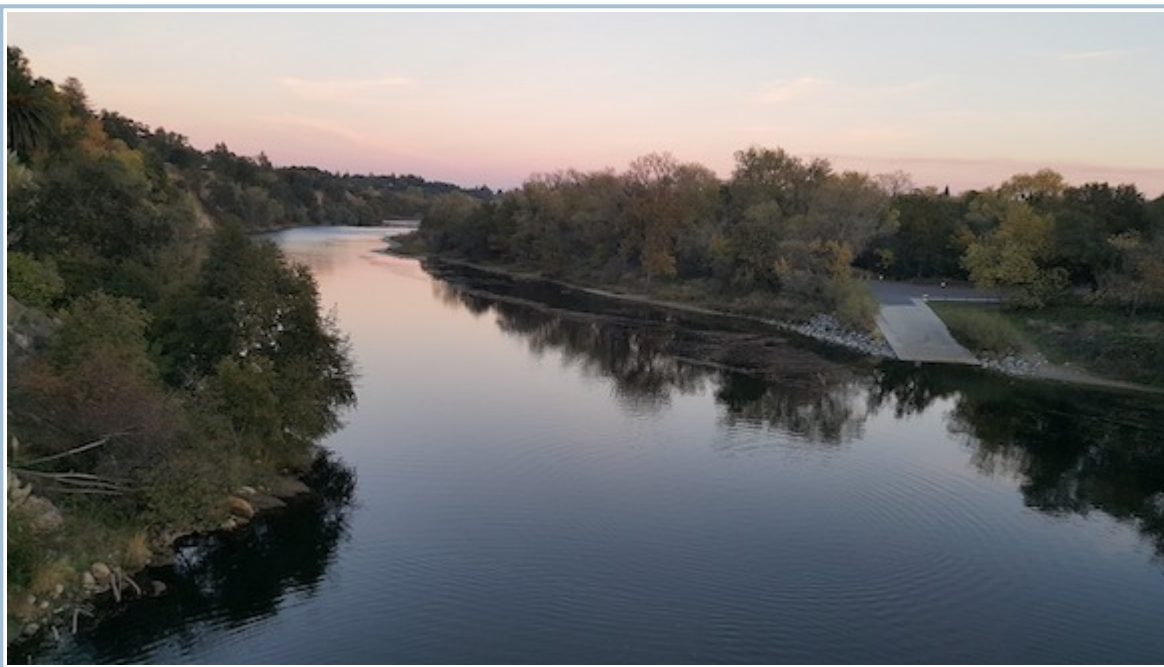


Notes from the Field // June 2020

In This Issue:

1. [Featured: RCDs Awarded \\$5.5M for Community Water Resilience Projects](#)
2. [Get to Know the Grassland RCD](#)
3. [Conservation Updates](#)
4. [Partner Spotlight: Partners for Fish and Wildlife](#)

**Resource conservation districts awarded \$5.5 million
for community water resilience projects**



As climate change reduces the reliability of California's water supply, one way that communities can adapt is to take a collaborative, regional, planned approach to water management. Through the California Department of Water Resources' Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant, resource conservation districts (RCDs) are doing just that. In summer 2020, eight RCDs were collectively awarded \$5.5 million in funding to implement projects which will improve regional water self-reliance security and adapt to the effects on water supply arising out of climate change. These solutions range from restoring watershed habitat, working with landowners to

conserve water, testing drinking water quality, preparing for flood, and helping farmers conserve water.

Read about what [the Gold Ridge RCD Sonoma RCD](#), [Napa County RCD](#), [Antelope Valley RCD](#), [Sierra RCD](#), [Mariposa County RCD](#), [RCD of Monterey County](#), [RCD of Santa Cruz County](#), and their partners are doing to make their communities more resilient.

[Read more](#)

GET TO KNOW AN RCD



The Grassland Environmental Education Center, or GEECe (pronounced "geese") for short, is a no-fee field trip facility that was established in 1995 by [the Grassland Water District and the Grassland RCD](#). Candace Sigmond, the Grassland Environmental Education Center's education coordinator, can get a class of thirty students and ten parents outfitted in thick, chest-high, waterproof waders in 15 minutes flat. Her goal is to minimize the amount of time spent getting into the protective gear so that kids can maximize time spent experiencing and learning about the wetlands of the San Joaquin Valley's Grassland Ecological Area. Most have never been this up close and personal with a wetland marsh, and are delighted to find out how "sticky" the bottom is.

[Read more](#)

Conservation Updates

Inland Empire RCD Awards Scholarships

The Inland Empire RCD recently awarded \$10,000 (five scholarships totaling \$2,000 each) to Inland Empire students looking to pursue higher education in environmental sciences, natural resources management, agriculture, and related fields.

[Read more](#)

Carbon Farming in Wine Country

A Wired article explored the rise of carbon farming, a conservation practice used to sequester carbon from the atmosphere in the soil. They interviewed a winegrape farmer who has been working with the Napa County RCD in the hopes of becoming carbon neutral.

[Read more](#)

CARCD Conference Call for Presentation Proposals

We are excited to announce that [the CARCD Virtual Conference](#) will be on November 12 - 24, 2020 and will be fully online. Our Call for Presentation Proposals will be open until Friday, July 31. Prospective presenters can join us for an **informational webinar** on Wednesday, July 15 at 11am.

[Read more](#)

Forestry Degree at Lake Tahoe Community College

In an effort to increase the number of qualified forestry professionals and shift the economy towards a diversified regional workforce, the Lake Tahoe Community College is developing a forestry degree with a focus on forest restoration and resiliency. The degree will be developed in consultation with the Tahoe RCD, the US Forest Service, and the California Tahoe Conservancy.

[Read more](#)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is one of the habitat restoration and enhancement programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The program supports voluntary conservation projects on private lands in order to restore or enhance habitat for wildlife. Like resource conservation districts, they work on the

ground with local organizations and landowners. The Partners Program has successfully worked with RCDs throughout California for the past 30 years, with numerous active projects throughout the state.

[Read more](#)



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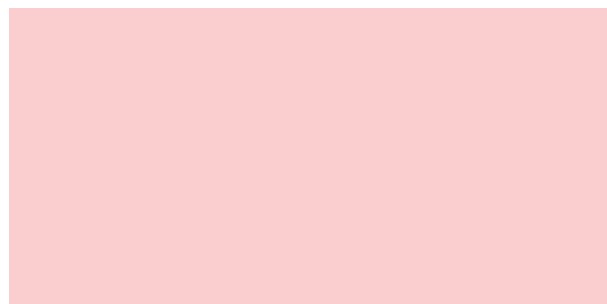
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Subject **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Dialogue**
From Karen Buhr <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
Sender <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
To <manager@teamrkd.org>
Reply-To <karen-buhr@carcd.org>
Date 2020-07-15 09:33



Hello everyone,

Earlier this week we sent a letter to the RCD community titled "A Call to Action" where we wrote about why diversity, equity, and inclusion is important to us and what we can do as an RCD community around these important efforts. As we said in the letter, we intend the document as a way to further our ongoing conversation. We hope you will join us for a dialogue about the letter and more on **Wednesday, July 22 at 4pm - 6pm** (Zoom information below).

As a reminder, today we are also hosting an informational webinar for prospective presenters to the CARCD Virtual Conference. The virtual conference format will be new for presenters and we are here to answer any questions. The webinar will be today, Wednesday, July 15, from 11am to 12pm. [You can register with this link.](#)

We are looking forward to connecting with you. Please reach out if you have any questions. Thank you.

Karen Buhr
Executive Director

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86845796846>

Meeting ID: **868 4579 6846**

+16699006833,,86845796846# US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kjiEihWtQ>



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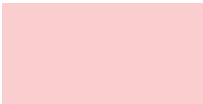
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Subject **CARCD Weekly Digest, July 13 - 17**
From Kiko Barr <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
Sender <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <kiko-barr@carcd.org>
Date 2020-07-20 08:19



Dear Colleagues,

In service to all RCDs throughout the state, the CARCD team is always on the lookout for events, news, funding opportunities, and any other resources that could be relevant to the important work that you do in your communities. Please see below for this week's digest of announcements.

Throughout the COVID-19 health crisis we have been providing the Weekly Digest for free to all RCDs, regardless of membership status. We hope that these resources will be helpful in maintaining a resilient RCD network.

If you were forwarded this email, but are not subscribed, then simply [fill out this form](#) to create an account with CARCD and receive this email in the future. If you have questions about any of the content listed below, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you!

Sincerely,

The CARCD Team

In This Issue:

1. [CARCD Updates](#)
2. [COVID-19 Resource](#)
3. [RCD News](#)

4. [Conservation Announcements](#)
 5. [Funding Announcements](#)
-

CARCD Updates

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dialogue

Earlier this week we sent a letter to the RCD community titled "A Call to Action" where we wrote about why diversity, equity, and inclusion is important to us and what we can do as an RCD community around these efforts. As we said in the letter, the document is intended as a way to further our ongoing conversation. We hope you will join us for a dialogue about the letter and more on Wednesday, July 22 at 4pm - 6pm.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86845796846>

Meeting ID: **868 4579 6846**

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+1 669 900 6833 US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kjiEihWtQ>

CARCD Annual Conference Updates

[The CARCD Annual Conference](#) is going virtual! Join us from November 12 - 24, 2020 for a completely online event. We are excited that this will be the most affordable and accessible conference ever.

- **Call for Presentation Proposals:** The Call for Presentation Proposals will be open until July 31. To take advantage of the flexibility of the virtual event, not only will we be accepting proposals for traditional presentations and panels, but also for field tours, live demonstrations, pre-recorded videos, and other creative alternatives that will engage, teach, and inspire. As always, we encourage you to partner with others to help tell your story. [Click here to learn more.](#)
- **RCD Pre-Conference Survey:** CARCD is working hard to make sure that the conference will be a valuable event for RCDs. To do that, we want to hear your ideas about how it can best meet your needs, including information about ideal registration pricing, the agenda, and scheduling. Please help us make this conference relevant and excellent for RCDs by filling out [this brief pre-conference survey](#) by 5pm on Monday, July 20.

Holding Space for Black, Indigenous, People of Color

Kiko and Kristen will be holding space for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) within the RCD community next Friday, July 24, from 11am - 12:30pm. We intend to create a safe and open space for BIPOC to come together, share, and connect. Rather than assuming how someone might identify, we recommend forwarding this announcement your whole team so anyone who identifies as BIPOC can choose to attend. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions at kristen-murphy@carcd.org or kiko-barr@carcd.org. [You can register with this link.](#)

Resources for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: CDFA Farmer Equity Report & July's Latino Conservation Week

The California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) has just published their [2020 Farmer Equity Report](#). This annual report is now required by law under [the Farmer Equity Act, passed in 2017](#). Familiarize yourself with the report's findings (and it's not too long as reports go!). As you digest it and discuss it with your team, we encourage you to review [the California Farmer Justice Collaborative's response](#) to the report which highlights shortcomings of the report and recommended actions for CDFA and partners (which includes all RCDs!) to advance the Farmer Equity Act right here and now.

Next week, [July 18 - 26](#), is [Latino Conservation Week \(#LCW2020\)](#)! Organized by the Hispanic Access Foundation, this now annual week "provid[es] an opportunity for Latinos to come together and to demonstrate their passion for the outdoors -- both its enjoyment and preservation." There are [virtual events happening](#) across California. Many are virtual and can be tuned in from across the state. If your RCD has an event happening to celebrate and connect, make sure it gets on their list!

CARCD-Xerces Monarch Webinar for RCDs

CARCD is partnering with The Xerces Society on a webinar series focused on monarch conservation, tailored for RCDs. Feel free to invite key partners and landowners you're working with to the webinars.

2020 Monarch Webinar Series:

- **July 29 at 11am: Monarch Waystations** — Tom Landis will go over how to create monarch waystations, small-scale habitats that support monarchs. Tom is a forester who retired after 30 years of working as a nursery specialist for the US Forest Service. Using his nursery experience, Tom has been creating pollinator habitat by growing and planting native milkweeds and other nectar plants in monarch waystations. As a founding member of the Western Monarch Advocates, Tom has given over 115 monarchs and milkweeds workshops in recent years. [Register for the webinar here](#).
- **August 26 at 11am: NRCS Conservation Practices for Monarchs**
- **September 16 at 11am: Protecting Monarch Habitat from Pesticides**
- **October TBD at 11am: Monarch Overwintering**

COVID-19 Resources & Updates

This new section of the Weekly Digest will feature new tools, resources, and updates to help RCDs adapt and respond to the new landscape brought by the current public health crisis. Resources will be added [to the COVID-19 Resources Page](#) on CARCD's website.

Bi-Weekly COVID-19 District Manager Calls

CARCD has been hosting COVID-19 discussion calls for district managers and presidents to share stories and best practices. The recurring call is [every other Monday at 9am](#) and is open to members and non-members. Please contact Kiko at kiko-barr@carcd.org if you are a DM or board president and would like to attend the call.

RCD News

Sonoma RCD's Virtual Vineyard Demo Workshop

At Sonoma RCD's Virtual Vineyard Demo Workshop on Thursday, July 30 at 9am - 11am, attendees will explore connections between vineyard floor management, soil health, and carbon retention. Dr. Josh Beniston will give soil health data highlights, Jackson Family Wine's vineyard team will talk about practice adoption, and Dr. Cristina Lozano (assistant professor in soil ecology and plant nutrition at UC Davis) will highlight her ongoing research about influence of no-till and compost application on soil health and greenhouse gas emissions in winegrape production. [Register at this link](#).

Solano RCD's Clean Boating Happy Hour

The Solano RCD will be hosting its first Clean Boating Happy Hour on July 30 at 5pm. The one-hour virtual event will be presented by Vivian Matuk, environmental boating program manager with California State Parks and California Coastal Commission. She will go over tips and resources to help keep local waterways safe from boat pollution. Participants who have not received their free 2020 California boating kit will learn how to obtain one, and participants who live in the county will be entered to win one of several "happy hour"-themed prizes. [Register using this link](#).

RCDs in the News: RCD of Tehama County in CDFA Profile

The RCD of Tehama County was mentioned in CDFA's profile of dairy farmers Michael and Betsy Stapleton. "The couple traveled to the Tehama County Resource Conservation District office, a CDFA-supported technical assistance provider, to review and prepare their [State Water Enhancement and Efficiency Program] project application." [Read the story here](#).

Inland Empire RCD Celebrating Latino Conservation Week

Inland Empire RCD will be hosting a socially distanced event as part of Latino Conservation Week. On Saturday, July 25, at 10am - 2pm participants that have RSVPed for a timeslot can come by the Mary Vagle Nature Center (11501 Cypress Avenue E., Fontana, CA 92337) for a native plant seed kit pick up and car parade. [Click here for the Eventbrite page](#); [click here for the flier](#).

RCDs in the News: RCD of Monterey County Developing PBA

With funding from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and in partnership with the UC Cooperative Extension, the RCD of Monterey County is developing a prescribed burn association. The article also explores the potential for grazing as a way to manage hazardous fuels. [Read the article in Morning Ag Clips here](#).

If your RCD has job openings, community events, or announcements that you would like to share with the RCD network and beyond, please e-mail me at kiko-barr@carcd.org with the details so that we can include them in an upcoming Weekly Digest and in a monthly blog post at the end of the month.

Conservation Announcements

PPIC Post on Cutting Green Tape

The Public Policy Institute of California published a short post "How Permitting Slows Ecosystem Recovery and Climate Resilience Projects", a Q&A with PPIC fellow Letitia Grenier. She talks about making environmental permitting more efficient so that it can better serve the purpose to protect ecosystems. [Read more here.](#)

AFT Women for the Land Virtual Learning Circle

The American Farmland Trust's Women for the Land Virtual Learning Circle will be on August 5 & 12 from 2pm - 4pm on Zoom. The event is for people who identify as women and are stewards of agricultural land (either as a landowner, producer, or aspiring farmer) in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and/or Ventura Counties. Speakers include Emma Chow, (NRCS Santa Barbara County), Anna Olsen (Cachuma RCD), and Lauren Parker (USDA Climate Hubs). [Learn more and register here.](#)

CSDA Webinar on Brown Act for Virtual Board Meetings

The California Special Districts Association is hosting a webinar on July 23 from 10am - 11am on how the Brown Act relates to virtual board meetings. Attendees will learn how to ensure that public participation and due process are protected when using videoconferencing. The event is free to CSDA members and \$95 for non-members. [Click here to register.](#)

California State Grants Portal Launch

The California State Library has launched the California Grants Portal, a way to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a competitive basis. [Visit the site here.](#)

Funding Opportunities

PLEASE READ: RCD Grant Collaboration Calls

On May 27, 2020 over 50 RCD staff and board joined CARCD for the first Grant Collaboration Call. During the call, we discussed how CARCD can best serve RCDs in its role as a liaison for grants, as an occasional lead applicant on collaborative grants, and how RCDs would like to coordinate grant collaboration. Through comments and discussion, monthly calls by resource area and a [RCD Grant Collaboration spreadsheet](#) emerged as the best way for RCDs to indicate their interest in collaboration for open grants. Each natural resource area will have its own call. Please check [this section](#) to understand how to use the grant collaboration spreadsheet. We are always open to feedback and would be glad to hear more thoughts on these calls, topic division, and spreadsheets. Contact Kristen or Kiko for questions or suggestions at kristen-murphy@carcd.org or kiko-barr@carcd.org.

Mark the date! On **Friday, July 31 from 1pm - 4:30pm**, we will have a series of Grant Collaboration Calls:

- Capacity Building/Org Development: Friday, July 31 at 1pm
- Soil Health/ Regenerative Ag: Friday, July 31 at 1:30pm
- Forest Health/Fire: Friday, July 31 at 2pm
- Education/Communication: Friday, July 31 at 2:30pm
- Pollinator/Wildlife/Habitat: Friday, July 31 at 3pm

- Water/ Irrigation and Groundwater: Friday, July 31 at 3:30pm
- Fish/Rivers: Friday, July 31 at 4pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83601715526?pwd=cE5GNW9VaW5PUVZOOHJjS2NoN1d4QT09>

Meeting ID: **836 0171 5526**

Password: **RCDGrants**

Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 Grant Solicitation for Central and South Coast Projects (July 31)

[click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Coastal Conservancy announced a solicitation to fund projects in Central California (San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties) and Southern California (Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties). Most funded projects are typically between \$50,000 and \$1,000,000. Priority project types include: water sustainability improvements, anadromous fish habitat enhancement, wetland restoration and urban greening. The deadline for applications is July 31, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

CARCD Specialty Crop Technical Assistance Hubs Grant (August 7)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

CARCD is accepting proposals for regional technical assistance hubs to develop partnerships and coordinate farm demonstration field day events toward a goal of increasing the adoption of climate beneficial on-farm conservation practices. Applications will be accepted until 5pm on August 7, 2020. The Q&A webinar from July 8 has been posted and there will be a second webinar on Tuesday, July 28 at 11:30am. [Click here for more information.](#)

DWR Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction (August 7) ****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Department of Water Resource's Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Program will implement flood risk reduction projects with fish and wildlife habitat enhancements in coastal watersheds (excluding the legal Delta). Priority points will be given to projects in Federal Emergency Management Agency Coastal zones, but eligible projects also include those in upper coastal watersheds on rivers. Projects must include a capital asset acquisition or construction component that must not yet be under construction or acquisition to be eligible. Applications are due August 7, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program (August 7)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant Program is a newly created, nationally competitive grant program designed to support projects that address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas within determined estuaries of national significance. Grant amounts will range from \$75,000 to \$250,000. Non-federal matching funds are required, a Letter of Intent is due by 5pm on Friday, August 7.

[Click here for the RFP.](#)

Rose Foundation's California Watershed Protection Fund (August 14)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Rose Foundation California Watershed Protection Fund supports projects designed to benefit the water quality of California's watersheds and their ecosystems. Projects do not necessarily need to have an explicit water quality focus to be eligible, but need to be able to address the impacts as they relate to water quality. The spring deadline for Letters of Inquiry is in February. The fall deadline for Letters of Inquiry is August 14, 2020. They anticipate that this funding process will be very competitive and most grants awarded will be in the \$7,500 – \$25,000 range. [Check the list of currently eligible watersheds](#); [follow this link for the program page](#).

Campbell Foundation Grants (August 31)

The Campbell Foundation's Pacific Initiative funds scientifically-based and strategically focused programs related to water quality, land-sea connections, and protection of special places. They accept funding requests from RCDs. They accept applications continuously, with the cut-off dates in August and February. [Click here for their application guidelines](#).

Patagonia Grant (August 31)

Patagonia supports environmental organizations with bold, direct-action agendas and a commitment to long-term change. They support innovative work that addresses the root causes of the environmental crisis and seeks to protect both the environment and affected communities. They accept applications continuously, with the cut-off dates on April 30 and August 31. Eligibility is restricted to 501c3 non-profits, so this would be appropriate for RCDs with a non-profit arm. [Click here for the program page](#).

Coastal Conservancy's Sea Otter Recovery Grant (September 1)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet](#)

The Coastal Conservancy's Sea Otter Recovery Grant Solicitation funds research, science, protection, or projects related to the Federal Sea Otter Recovery Plan or improving the nearshore ocean ecosystem. Applications are due September 1, 2020. [Click here for more information](#).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Recovery Implementation Grant (September 4)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Implementation funding opportunity is intended for projects that will contribute to the recovery of FWS-managed endangered and threatened species in the United States. The funding is limited to projects carrying out actions described in a species-approved recovery document, for example: securing scientific information about endangered or threatened species, implementing restoration actions that will lead to delisting of a species, help prevent extinction of a species, or aid in the recovery of a species. Applications are due by September 4, 2020. However, you may submit applications throughout the year. [Follow this link for the grants.gov page](#).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Candidate Conservation Action Funds (September 4)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet](#).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Candidate Conservation funding opportunity is based on cooperative relationships with states, non-profit organizations, private landowners and those interested in habitat restoration or

undertaking candidate and at-risk species research, surveys and monitoring, or educational outreach efforts. Work may be done via cooperative agreement and project grants. Applications are due by September 4, 2020. However, you may submit applications throughout the year. [Follow this link for the grants.gov page.](#)

WCB Stream Flow Enhancement Program (September 10)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Board's 2020 Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) for the Stream Flow Enhancement Program is now available. Proposals for multi-benefit projects that result in enhanced stream flow are encouraged. The primary focus is on enhancing flow in streams that support anadromous fish; support special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; and/or provide resilience to climate change. Proposals must be received by 5pm on September 10, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

DOC SGMA Watershed Coordinator (September 15)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Department of Conservation Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) Watershed Coordinator Grant will fund watershed coordinators in parts of the state impacted by implementation of SGMA. These watershed coordinators will work with local groundwater sustainability agencies, landowners, and local governments to identify and implement projects to help develop landowner driven solutions to increase groundwater sustainability and meet broader statewide goals of biodiversity and climate resiliency. The public solicitation notice is now available. [Click here for the program page.](#)

Resources Agency's Youth Community Access Grant Program (September 15) ****UPDATED****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The California Natural Resources Agency's Youth Community Access Program will fund small capital projects, program projects, or a combination of capital and program projects that provide youth access to natural and cultural resources with a focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities. The application will be due on September 15, 2020. [Learn more here.](#)

USFW Partners for Fish and Wildlife (September 30)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The US Fish and Wildlife's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative and grant agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Applications are due by September 30, 2020. [Click here to view the grant.gov page;](#) [CARCD recently covered them in a story on our website.](#)

Western SARE Professional Development Program Grants (November 12)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education's Professional Development Grants focus on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. Awards are limited to \$100,000. Grants can run for up to three years, with the final year to be focused on project evaluation. Applications are due on November 12. [Find more information here.](#)

WCB Pacific Flyway Conservation Grant (November 15) ****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Board is inviting grant proposals for multi-benefit climate adaptation and resiliency projects that protect, restore or enhance migratory bird habitat associated with the Pacific Flyway. Projects should be consistent with and seek to implement habitat and/or species conservation objectives of one of the five North American Migratory Bird Joint Ventures in California. Funding can be used for implementation, planning, or acquisition. The grant is not yet open; the expected deadline is November 15, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

USDA/USDOI Joint Fire Science Program (TBA)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The USDA and the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management's Joint Fire Science Program funds research and studies pertaining to wildland fire and resource management, to enhance decision-making ability of fire, fuels, natural resource, and land managers and others to meet management objectives. The interagency Joint Fire Science Program intends to request proposals through one or more formal Funding Opportunity Announcements beginning approximately July 2020 and remaining open 60 days. [Follow this link for more information.](#)

One Tree Planted Funding (No Due Date)

One Tree Planted is a non-profit organization that provides funding for reforestation projects. They have partnered with several RCDs, and would like to continue partnering. If your RCD is seeking funding for a project, please fill out the following information for One Tree Planted to evaluate. If you have specific questions, please call (800) 408-7850. [Follow this link for their website;](#) [follow this link for the funding application form.](#)

NFWF In-Lieu Fee Program (No Due Date)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

Applications are currently being accepted for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sacramento District California In-Lieu Fee Program. Funding can be used to create, enhance, and restore wetland resources in the designated priority Service Area, which includes headwaters, tributaries, and floodplains of rivers that flow through the Sacramento basin. [Follow this link for the program page.](#)

Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program (No Due Date)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has announced the opening of their new Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program. The program focuses on increasing public access to recreational opportunities in order to promote a robust Delta economy. Other program priorities include recreation and tourism, historic and cultural preservation, and environmental education. They will be accepting concept proposals on a rolling basis. [Follow this link for the program webpage.](#)

WCB Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Projects (No Due Date)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Board's has updated the Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) for their Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Projects (RCIS). The RCIS program encourages public agencies to develop regional conservation planning documents using the best available science to identify regional conservation priorities and other actions to help California's species populations that may be vulnerable or declining by protecting, restoring, creating, and reconnecting their habitats. An RCIS is a voluntary, non-regulatory document that provides guidance on actions that, if implemented, would result in effective regional conservation. Any public agency may propose an RCIS that is developed in consultation with local agencies that have land use authority within the RCIS area. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for the PSN.](#)

WCB Riparian Habitat Conservation Program (No Due Date)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The California Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Riparian Habitat Conservation Program aims to protect and restore California's riparian ecosystems. Typical riparian projects include, but are not limited to: restoration of riparian vegetation and re-establishing floodplain connectivity; removal and control of non-native invasive plant species to restore (actively or passively) native riparian vegetation; installation of fencing along the riparian corridor to manage livestock or wildlife and reduce impacts to streams or riparian vegetation; reconfigure degraded, incised, or undefined streams to restore natural hydrology and encourage reestablishment of native riparian habitat. Prospective applicants should first discuss their project with the WCB program manager. A brief concept paper may be requested for an initial evaluation. If appropriate, WCB staff will request the applicant to complete a full application. [Click here for the program page.](#)



California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Your partner in local conservation and sustainable agriculture

www.carcd.org

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Subject **10 More Days Left to Submit a Presentation Proposal!**
From Karen Buhr <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
Sender <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <info@carcd.org>
Date 2020-07-21 14:27



- 2020 CARCD Conference Call for Presentation Proposals.pdf (~3.8 MB)



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

CARCD Annual Conference November 12 – 24, 2020

Call for Presentation Proposals

Open until July 31, 2020

Fully Online

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is accepting proposals for traditional **presentations** and **panels**, **field tours**, **live demonstrations**, **pre-recorded videos**, and other **creative alternatives** that will **engage**, **teach**, and **inspire** at our virtual conference.

Submit your abstract online at bit.ly/carcd

Contact Kiko Barr with any questions at kiko-barr@carcd.org

The banner features the CARCD logo at the top left, which consists of a stylized leaf and water drop. To the right of the logo, the text "CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS" is displayed. Below this, the main title "CARCD Virtual Conference" is written in a large, bold, dark blue font, followed by "Call for Presentation Proposals" in a slightly smaller, bold, dark blue font. Underneath the title, it says "Fully Online" and "November 12th – 24th, 2020". The background of the banner is a photograph of a group of people standing in a field, looking towards a line of trees in the distance.

CARCD Virtual Conference
Call for Presentation Proposals
Fully Online
November 12th – 24th, 2020

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is accepting presentation proposals for our virtual conference!

This year for the first time, our conference will be **fully online**. We are excited to leverage technology to make this the most **accessible and versatile conference** yet. To take advantage of the flexibility of the virtual event, not only will we be accepting proposals for traditional **presentations** and **panels**, but also for **field tours, live demonstrations, pre-recorded videos**, and other **creative alternatives** that will **engage, teach, and inspire**. As always, we encourage you to **partner with others** to help tell your story.

We are looking for innovative presentations which relate to one or more topics:

- ❖ Forest, soil, and/or watershed health
- ❖ Diversity, equity, and inclusion in conservation
- ❖ Collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement
- ❖ Fire prevention and post-fire restoration
- ❖ Conservation on working lands
- ❖ Resource conservation district management
- ❖ Engagement with communities during the health crisis

For more information, visit carcd.org
Submit your abstract online at bit.ly/carcd by **Friday, July 31, 2020**
Contact Kiko Barr with questions at kiko-barr@carcd.org

Sponsor the Conference

Interested in sponsoring the conference? The conference's reach will be statewide and we have plenty of ways to raise your visibility!

Please [fill out this survey](#) so we can create the best benefits package for you. Contact Kiko with any questions at kiko-barr@carcd.org.



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United States • (916) 457-7904

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Subject **TOMORROW at 1pm - Grant Collaboration Calls**
From Karen Buhr <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
Sender <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <info@carcd.org>
Date 2020-07-30 12:53



Hello everyone,

We are excited to bring the second Grant Collaboration Call to the RCD network! The call will be *tomorrow, Friday, July 31 from 1pm - 4:30pm*. The schedule is below. Please feel free to join us for the whole period, or for the section of interest.

- **1pm:** Capacity Building/Org Development
- **1:30pm:** Soil Health/ Regenerative Ag
- **2pm:** Forest Health/Fire
- **2:30pm:** Education/Communication
- **3pm:** Pollinator/Wildlife/Habitat
- **3:30pm:** Water/ Irrigation and Groundwater
- **4pm:** Fish/Rivers

On May 27, 2020 over 50 RCD staff and board joined CARCD for the first Grant Collaboration Call. During the call, we discussed how CARCD can best serve RCDs in its role as a liaison for grants, as an occasional lead applicant on collaborative grants, and how RCDs would like to coordinate grant collaboration. Monthly calls by resource area and a shared spreadsheet emerged as the best way for RCDs to indicate their interest in collaboration for open grants.

We will be heavily referencing [the Grant Collaboration Calls spreadsheet](#) and the CARCD Weekly Digest. We encourage you to **fill out this spreadsheet** and have both documents open during the call. Please check [this section](#) to understand how to use the grant collaboration spreadsheet.

We are always open to feedback and would be glad to hear more thoughts on these calls, topic division, and spreadsheets. Contact Kristen or Kiko for questions or suggestions at kristen-murphy@carcd.org or kiko-barr@carcd.org.

Thank you!

The CARCD Team

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83601715526?pwd=cE5GNW9VaW5PUVZOOHJjS2NoN1d4QT09>

Meeting ID: **836 0171 5526**

Password: **RCDGrants**

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,831031754# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aeGgpKt1NZ>



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“... for the Black and brown members of the RCD family: we see you. We hurt alongside you. You are members of our community. You are members of us. We are all together. We are here for you.”

The racially disparate effects of COVID-19 and the on-going protests for the human rights of Black Americans have forced white America into an uncomfortable reckoning with its racism. As an organization, CARCD and its Board would be remiss not to acknowledge the history of

systematic racism, and the coalescence of current events that has formed this unique moment in time for the Black and brown members of the RCD family: we see you. We hurt alongside you. You are members of our community. You are members of us. We are all together. We are here for you.

We recognize that this statement may offend some of you. We understand that a certain part of the population simply does not believe in the value of brown and Black people. If this is you, we see you, too; we get it; we aren't going to change your mind, and therefore have no intention to try.

But if you believe, fundamentally, that the brown and Black people in your RCD family have value; if you believe that your friends and family that happen to be brown or Black have value; and if you believe that the people of color in your community have value, then please continue to read. Even if you think that “it” (the protests) has gone too far, and that “they” (the protesters) are expressing themselves in ways in which you don't approve. Even if their politics aren't yours. Even if (especially if), what is occurring today makes you feel uncomfortable, then let's talk about what this moment means to us as an RCD community.

CARCD is a proud part of the RCD community, and we believe in that community's values and mission. We believe in the RCDs ability to provide the type of strong, locally-led action that has accomplished amazing feats through the tried-and-true formulation of recognizing a need, developing an idea, and putting in a whole lot of hard work. We have witnessed it happen time and time again in stream restoration projects, community gardens, irrigation programs, healthy soils projects, and fuel breaks. The work you do for your communities is tremendous. You are true servant-leaders to your communities.

Yet now, as a community, we need to turn our time and talents towards

another type of restoration. While we have been focused on building better communities, we are simultaneously confronted by the images of pain, frustration and resolve from our brown

“CARCD is a proud part of the RCD community, and we believe in that community's values and mission. We believe in the RCDs ability to provide the type of strong, locally-led action that has accomplished amazing feats through the tried-and-true formulation of recognizing a need, developing an idea, and a whole lot of hard work.”

and Black members. In this historic moment, we are seeing the veil pulled back from our illusions. We are witnessing the inadequate bandage of polite discourse ripping off the deep, long, dark wounds of racism and inequity, exposing those still bleeding inflictions to the air of public acknowledgement. We are seeing, and becoming aware of on a visceral level, the inequality, the suffering, and the outrage at how members of our community--our family--have been treated for decades, for centuries, for lifetimes. While these exposed wounds may make us squeamish, we are also feeling the need to prevent further infection to this wound--our wounds--and to begin the process of healing.

However, as a board and staff, we have struggled with our sense of identity and purpose in this type of restoration project. If we love our communities, how can we admit that there is racial injustice and inequality in them? We feel embarrassed; even if we don't know exactly how (because it is easier to dismiss than to ask), we know that we are part of the problem. We feel confused and overwhelmed; we know that historically, our families have profited from racism and social injustice, and that we were born with privilege, but we can't always explain how this privilege played out specifically in our lives. We feel guilty; implanted with the seed of doubt that perhaps maybe we aren't really as good as we thought. We feel ashamed; we know that at times we personally have said and done things that we know were steeped in racism, even if we can't remember what we said or did. We feel the pain of the brown and Black members of our community, and we feel overwhelmed and powerless, guilty and heavy. We are awash with emotions.

What is the easiest answer? Tune it all out. Lash out with anger, fear, and more than just a pinch of shame. Say and do anything, everything, just to make it go away: turn the channel, look at something else, not deal with it. Of course, as we already know, this will just make it worse. Maybe that's the point.

Fortunately, we also know our RCD family has never shied away from a challenge. We know that each of you overcomes huge obstacles every day to make difficult conservation happen, to make the impossibility of agriculture happen, and to build a stronger community of which you can be proud. Let's not shy away from our role in our community now because this

we also know our RCD family has never shied away from a challenge. We know that each of you overcomes huge obstacles every day to make difficult conservation happen, to make the impossibility of agriculture happen, and to build a stronger community of which you can be proud

challenge is supposedly and conveniently outside our wheelhouse. That has never stopped us before. We have always found a way, and this type of restoration is far more crucial than that of a stream bed.

In this light, the answer to the question embedded in this moment is relatively simple: we approach this as we have always approached our mission. We start by saying, "We can figure this out; we have to," and as a community, as a family, we do just that. We pull everyone to the

table, and have the necessary, unpleasant conversations, because we value each other and the work to be done more than we value our own need for ease and comfort. We scour for every dime, nickel, and penny; we fall back on our gumption, and we make it happen, sometimes through sheer force of will. For us, that will to action starts here, and it starts now.

“... that will to action starts here, and it starts now.”

- First, we have to admit that we contribute to the problem and that we contribute to it every day. We do. Each of us does. We all do. Our desire to not feel embarrassed, not to feel ashamed, cannot be greater than how we value our Black and brown family. We can't hide from the embarrassment; we just need to admit it.
- Second, we have to commit to wanting to solve the problem. Not in the future, not in the abstract, but right here and right now we need to ask ourselves how can we (how can I), do a little bit better? Not as an initiative, as a short term fix, or part of a to-do list, but as a philosophy, as a way of being, as an embodiment of change we commit to making every day. Where we are today was centuries in the making; we will have to slow-walk our way out with a sense of purpose and intention.
- Third, and perhaps most importantly right now, we have to listen and be okay with the discomfort that arises from listening. In listening, we have to open up our hearts and minds to the pain of the brown and Black members of our family and community. When listening feels uncomfortable and unpleasant, we have to be okay with that and listen anyway. When it hurts to hear their suffering (somehow it can even make us feel offended and aggrieved personally), we have to be okay with that and listen anyway. When we want to run, we have to stop ourselves and listen.

If we commit to sit and stay in the uncomfortable tension that this historic moment has framed, caught between our personal dis-ease and our love for the Black and brown members of our RCD family, then we will find a way to do a little better, be a little better, and take the first steps in changing our role within our community.

CARCD stands with the brown and Black members of our communities and families. We call you to do the same. Don't look to them for answers, but listen to their experiences. Don't try to solve their problems, but hear their pain, their hope and their suffering. Don't project your sense of uneasiness onto them as their pathology, but look to that discomfort within yourself to see where you add to their dis-ease. From the friction of this tension, an awakening, an awareness and an insight will flicker, flutter and alight as a flame of justice, of equity, of

restoration; the same flame of passion that burns in our work to build communities in other ways every day.

Of course, this is just the beginning of the long road ahead. While we as a board and staff are working on this, we are struggling to find our voice. This is the reason why it has taken so long for us to formally speak. We are a predominantly white organization. We are steeped in a 75 year history of a mostly white membership with all the limitations that includes. What we have built over the years has been based, to a large degree, on our whiteness. We are mostly white leaders trying to reconcile our worldview with what is needed by the Black and brown members of our community (as invisible as they are to us sometimes). Despite our awkwardness, we are trying to take steps forward. We hope that you will join us in this effort. We hope that you will join us for the love of your entire community, for the love of your entire family, and for the hope that no brown or Black person will ever be crushed under the heel of an unjust system again.

“... this is just the beginning of the long road ahead.” ‘... we are offering a space to grow as a community. Please join us in a series of conversations ...”

While the CARCD board and staff is learning and growing, we are offering a space to grow as a community. Please join us in a series of conversations in addition to tools and resources that we are unrolling in order to create the spaces for our community to recognize, to heal, and to restore. It is a monumental, and difficult task; it is a good thing that a little hard work has never bothered RCDs before, and it shouldn't now.

Subject **CARCD Weekly Digest, July 20 - 30**
From Kiko Barr <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
Sender <carcd@memberclicks-mail.net>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <kiko-barr@carcd.org>
Date 2020-07-30 14:07



Dear Colleagues,

In service to all RCDs throughout the state, the CARCD team is always on the lookout for events, news, funding opportunities, and any other resources that could be relevant to the important work that you do in your communities. Please see below for this week's digest of announcements.

Throughout the COVID-19 health crisis we have been providing the Weekly Digest for free to all RCDs, regardless of membership status. We hope that these resources will be helpful in maintaining a resilient RCD network.

If you were forwarded this email, but are not subscribed, then simply [fill out this form](#) to create an account with CARCD and receive this email in the future. If you have questions about any of the content listed below, please don't hesitate to contact us. Thank you!

Sincerely,

The CARCD Team

In This Issue:

1. [CARCD Updates](#)
2. [COVID-19 Resource](#)
3. [RCD News](#)
4. [Conservation Announcements](#)
5. [Funding Announcements](#)

CARCD Updates

Resources for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Mindfulness Goes a Long Way

This week, we wanted to offer a restorative practice which was strongly recommended to us by our partner, [the Center for Diversity and the Environment](#): **loving-kindness meditation**. Tune into a [15 minute version here](#) and a [45 minute version here](#) (And many more on the internet! Find the one that suits you.) Back in 2015, this meditation practice made waves when a study demonstrated that even brief loving-kindness meditation could decrease unconscious racial and age bias which was followed directly by another study that those practices could result in changed anti-discriminatory behavior, not only attitudes. Loving-kindness practices come with very old cultural roots, notably within Buddhist traditions of [mettā bhāvanā](#). This article from [the Greater Good Science Center](#) (great resource for much in life) details the current, Western research to draw out [the major pathways that mindfulness practices can change us](#) into more loving and kind people. Enjoy, and share with us here at CARCD your experiences! We're practicing together too.

Education Committee Meeting in August

CARCD's next Education Committee meeting will feature Brian Brown with Project WET who will do a virtual activity demonstration. Afterwards we will have a roundtable discussion on virtual learning strategies. Please fill out [this Doodle poll](#) by Thursday at 5pm so we can find a time in August that works best for everyone.

On another note, CARCD is currently applying for funding for RCDs to be able to go through Project WET teacher trainings. In order to understand the need for the training, we would love for you to [fill out this survey](#) (will take less than a minute) by August 10. It would be helpful if you could fill it out even if you are already trained on Project WET. Thank you! Please contact Kiko at kiko-barr@carcd.org with any questions.

CARCD Annual Conference Updates

[The CARCD Annual Conference](#) is going virtual! Join us from November 12 - 24, 2020 for a completely online event. We are excited that this will be the most affordable and accessible conference ever.

- **Call for Presentation Proposals:** The Call for Presentation Proposals will be open until July 31. To take advantage of the flexibility of the virtual event, not only will we be accepting proposals for traditional presentations and panels, but also for field tours, live demonstrations, pre-recorded videos, and other creative alternatives that will engage, teach, and inspire. As always, we encourage you to partner with others to help tell your story. [Click here to learn more](#).
- **Your input:** Thank you to those who submitted a response to the RCD pre-conference survey. We want this conference to be valuable to all RCDs! Please let us know if you have suggestions for speakers, sponsors, or any other ideas to make this conference relevant, excellent, and visible. Please email Kiko at kiko-barr@carcd.org.

CARCD-Xerces Monarch Webinar for RCDs

CARCD is partnering with The Xerces Society on a webinar series focused on monarch conservation, tailored for RCDs. Feel free to invite key partners and landowners you're working with to the webinars. Please contact hillary-sardinas@carcd.org with any questions.

2020 Monarch Webinar Series:

- **August 26 at 1pm: NRCS Conservation Practices for Monarchs** — Jennifer Kubelis is the Monarch Conservation Planner and NRCS Partner Biologist for the The Xerces Society. She is stationed out of the Hollister, CA Field Office. She provides technical assistance for monarch and pollinator habitat along the coast from Sonoma to Santa Barbara. Jennifer has a B.S. in Plant Science from Cal Poly and was an NRCS Soil Conservation Planner for three years in Washington state. [Click here to register](#); [click here for the flyer](#).
 - **September 16 at 11am: Protecting Monarch Habitat from Pesticides** — Sarah Hoyle (The Xerces Society) supports invertebrate conservation by evaluating the risks that pesticides pose to ecosystems. She works to promote ecologically-sound pest management strategies and protect habitat from pesticides in both agricultural and residential areas. Sarah holds a master's in environmental management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where she focused on sustainable agriculture policy. She joined Xerces in 2016 and is based in Truckee, California. [This topic is relevant to many different stakeholders, so please share with your partners!](#) [Click here to register](#); [click here for the flyer](#).
 - **October TBD at 11am: Monarch Overwintering**
-

COVID-19 Resources & Updates

This new section of the Weekly Digest will feature new tools, resources, and updates to help RCDs adapt and respond to the new landscape brought by the current public health crisis. Resources will be added [to the COVID-19 Resources Page](#) on CARCD's website.

Bi-Weekly COVID-19 District Manager Calls

CARCD has been hosting COVID-19 discussion calls for district managers and presidents to share stories and best practices. The recurring call is [every other Monday at 9am](#) and is open to members and non-members. Please contact Kiko at kiko-barr@carcd.org if you are a DM or board president and would like to attend the call.

RCD News

Contra Costa RCD and Alameda County RCD Hiring Fire Resource Conservationist

The Contra Costa RCD and the Alameda County RCD are hiring a part-time fire resource conservationist (32 hours/week). The fire resource conservationist will work with both RCDs to develop fire mitigation plans for the San Francisco East Bay area. The application deadline is August 3, 2020. [Click here for the posting](#).

Contra Costa Hiring Two EcoStewards Conservation Technicians

The Contra Costa RCD is hiring two part-time EcoStewards conservation technicians (32 hours/week). The EcoStewards conservation technicians will provide maintenance and monitoring on RCD and partner conservation projects throughout Contra Costa County. The first review of applications will be on August 10, 2020 and the position is open until filled. [Click here for the posting.](#)

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD Groundwater Meeting

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is coordinating with the US Geological Survey and the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD to conduct a groundwater survey in the Adelaida Area west of the City of Paso Robles. The RCD will be hosting an online community meeting on Thursday, August 6 at 4pm. All members of the public who can provide current or historical groundwater conditions in the Adelaida area are encouraged to attend. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Humboldt County RCD Hiring Forest Health Coordinator

The Humboldt County RCD's forest health coordinator will work throughout the watersheds in the North Coast region, including Big Navarro Garcia; Upper Cache; Gualala-Salmon; Lower, South Fork, Middle Fork, and Upper Eel River; Mattole; Russian River; Tomales-Drake; Putah; and San Pablo Bay to expand and improve forest management and enhance forest health and resilience. Application review will begin on August 12, 2020. [Click here for the announcement.](#)

Inland Empire RCD Hiring Forestry PM

The Inland Empire RCD's forestry project manager is responsible for spearheading and developing a Regional Priority Plan for the San Bernardino Mountains and surrounding communities in collaboration with the IERCD Programs Manager and regional partners in support of the goals of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. The deadline for submissions is August 17, 2020. [Click here for the announcement.](#)

NACD Technical Assistance Grant Awardees

Seven more California RCDs were awarded funding from the National Association of Conservation Districts and NRCS Technical Assistance Grant. Congratulations to Contra Costa RCD, East Stanislaus RCD, Honey Lake Valley RCD, Inland Empire RCD, Marin RCD, Solano RCD, and Tulare County RCD. [Read the announcement here; read about the nine RCD awardees announced earlier this year.](#)

Branches and Roots Seeking Editor

Branches and Roots is an exciting new project to highlight the work of farmers and ranchers living in the San Joaquin Valley who are growing solutions that are good for their farms, communities, and land. They are now seeking a part-time editor who will play an important role in helping to shape and edit the stories and develop the tone of the content as the site comes online and continues to evolve. Branches & Roots is supported by the Media Impact Fund at the Central Valley Community Foundation and the San Joaquin Valley RCD. [Read more about Branches and Roots here; find the job description here.](#)

If your RCD has job openings, community events, or announcements that you would like to share with the RCD network and beyond, please e-mail me at kiko-barr@carcd.org with the details so that we can include them in an upcoming Weekly Digest and in a monthly blog post at the end of the month.

Conservation Announcements

FAC Virtual Workshop Tips

The Fire Adapted Communities Network has created a guide, "Tips for Hosting a Vibrant Virtual Workshop", to share lessons learned from hosting their fifty person virtual workshop. [Follow this link for the handout.](#)

WTC California Biomass Utilization Webinar

The Watershed Training Center's California Biomass Utilization Webinar will be on Thursday, August 6, 2pm - 3:30pm. Email Maddie Smit at maddie@thewatershedcenter.com with any questions. [Click here to register.](#)

OPR Free Webinar on Indirect Costs

The Office of Planning and Research has a series of free webinars on best practices for federal grant applications and administration. The next webinar will be on August 19, 10am - 11:30am, and will cover Indirect Costs and Cost Allocation Plans. [Click here to register.](#) Past webinars are also posted [on their YouTube channel.](#)

CDFA and CARB Event on Public-Private Partnerships for Soils

The California Department of Food and Agriculture and California Air Resources Board will have a series of workshops on a framework for public-private partnerships to invest in scaling up healthy soils practices. Upcoming workshops are on August 17 and September 1. The workshops will be held via webinar and registration can be found [on the webpage.](#)

Study on "Smarter Irrigation"

A new study used a hydrological model to show that half of irrigated agricultural land is unsustainable, depleting groundwater and environmental flows needed to conserve aquatic habitats. However, by using "smarter irrigation" practices—small reservoirs to capture excess water, minimizing evaporation, increasing soil water holding capacity, providing shade, and planting less water intensive crops—that agricultural output can be intensified. [Read the story here.](#)

Wildland-Urban Interface Virtual Conference

The International Association of Fire Chiefs' Wildland-Urban Interface Virtual Conference will go virtual, and will be held on November 2 - 6, 2020. [Learn more here.](#)

North Coast Salmonid Restoration Survey

The North Coast Salmon Project invites RCDs to fill out a survey which will solicit feedback regarding California Department of Fish and Wildlife permitting and granting for salmonid restoration along the North Coast. The survey will close August 23. [Click here for the survey;](#) [click here for information on the project.](#)

Sierra Nevada Alliance Virtual Conference

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's 2020 virtual conference will take place on [September 10 - 11, 2020](#). The theme of this year's conference is a "2020 Vision for the Sierra Nevada." This two-day conference features panels and workshops led by Sierra conservation leaders. [View the tentative conference schedule here](#); [register at this link](#).

NACD Forestry RPG Summer Virtual Meeting

The National Association of Conservation Districts Forestry Resource Policy Group will host a series of 50-minute webinars on [August 11, 2020](#). The meeting is open to all conservation districts and forestry partners interested in attending. [Click here for the agenda](#), which has links to register.

Funding Opportunities

PLEASE READ: RCD Grant Collaboration Calls

On May 27, 2020 over 50 RCD staff and board joined CARCD for the first Grant Collaboration Call. During the call, we discussed how CARCD can best serve RCDs in its role as a liaison for grants, as an occasional lead applicant on collaborative grants, and how RCDs would like to coordinate grant collaboration. Through comments and discussion, monthly calls by resource area and an [RCD Grant Collaboration spreadsheet](#) emerged as the best way for RCDs to indicate their interest in collaboration for open grants. Each natural resource area will have its own call. Please check [this section](#) to understand how to use the grant collaboration spreadsheet. We are always open to feedback and would be glad to hear more thoughts on these calls, topic division, and spreadsheets. Contact Kristen or Kiko for questions or suggestions at kristen-murphy@carcd.org or kiko-barr@carcd.org.

On [Friday, July 31, 1pm - 4:30pm](#), we will have a series of Grant Collaboration Calls:

- Capacity Building/Org Development: Friday, July 31 at 1pm
- Soil Health/ Regenerative Ag: Friday, July 31 at 1:30pm
- Forest Health/Fire: Friday, July 31 at 2pm
- Education/Communication: Friday, July 31 at 2:30pm
- Pollinator/Wildlife/Habitat: Friday, July 31 at 3pm
- Water/ Irrigation and Groundwater: Friday, July 31 at 3:30pm
- Fish/Rivers: Friday, July 31 at 4pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83601715526?pwd=cE5GNW9VaW5PUVZOOHJjS2NoN1d4QT09>

Meeting ID: **836 0171 5526**

Password: **RCDGrants**

CARCD Specialty Crop Technical Assistance Hubs Grant (8/7)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

CARCD is accepting proposals for regional technical assistance hubs to develop partnerships and coordinate farm demonstration field day events toward a goal of increasing the adoption of climate beneficial on-farm conservation practices. Applications will be accepted until 5pm on August 7, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

DWR Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction (8/7)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Department of Water Resource's Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Program will implement flood risk reduction projects with fish and wildlife habitat enhancements in coastal watersheds (excluding the legal Delta). Priority points will be given to projects in Federal Emergency Management Agency Coastal zones, but eligible projects also include those in upper coastal watersheds on rivers. Projects must include a capital asset acquisition or construction component that must not yet be under construction or acquisition to be eligible. Applications are due August 7, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant Program (8/7)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant Program is a newly created, nationally competitive grant program designed to support projects that address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas within determined estuaries of national significance. Grant amounts will range from \$75,000 to \$250,000. Non-federal matching funds are required, a Letter of Intent is due by 5pm on Friday, August 7. [Click here for the RFP.](#)

CalRecycle Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Program (8/13, 11/5, 2/4) **NEW**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet for the 8/13 due date.](#)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet for the 11/15 due date.](#)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet for the 2/4 due date.](#)

The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Program funds cleanup of illegal solid waste sites on farm or ranch property, including public and private forestlands. Applications are due August 13, 2020; November 5, 2020; and February 4, 2021. [Click here for more information.](#)

Rose Foundation's California Watershed Protection Fund (8/14)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Rose Foundation California Watershed Protection Fund supports projects designed to benefit the water quality of California's watersheds and their ecosystems. Projects do not necessarily need to have an explicit water quality focus to be eligible, but need to be able to address the impacts as they relate to water quality. The spring deadline for Letters of Inquiry is in February. The fall deadline for Letters of Inquiry is August 14, 2020. They anticipate that this funding process will be very

competitive and most grants awarded will be in the \$7,500 – \$25,000 range. [Check the list of currently eligible watersheds](#); [follow this link for the program page](#).

Campbell Foundation Grants (8/31)

The Campbell Foundation's Pacific Initiative funds scientifically-based and strategically focused programs related to water quality, land-sea connections, and protection of special places. They accept funding requests from RCDs. They accept applications continuously, with the cut-off dates in August and February. [Click here for their application guidelines](#).

Patagonia Grant (8/31)

Patagonia supports environmental organizations with bold, direct-action agendas and a commitment to long-term change. They support innovative work that addresses the root causes of the environmental crisis and seeks to protect both the environment and affected communities. They accept applications continuously, with the cut-off dates on April 30 and August 31. Eligibility is restricted to 501c3 non-profits, so this would be appropriate for RCDs with a non-profit arm. [Click here for the program page](#).

Coastal Conservancy's Sea Otter Recovery Grant (9/1)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet](#)

The Coastal Conservancy's Sea Otter Recovery Grant Solicitation funds research, science, protection, or projects related to the Federal Sea Otter Recovery Plan or improving the nearshore ocean ecosystem. Applications are due September 1, 2020. [Click here for more information](#).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Recovery Implementation Grant (9/4)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet](#)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Implementation funding opportunity is intended for projects that will contribute to the recovery of FWS-managed endangered and threatened species in the United States. The funding is limited to projects carrying out actions described in a species-approved recovery document, for example: securing scientific information about endangered or threatened species, implementing restoration actions that will lead to delisting of a species, help prevent extinction of a species, or aid in the recovery of a species. Applications are due by September 4, 2020. However, you may submit applications throughout the year. [Follow this link for the grants.gov page](#).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Candidate Conservation Action Funds (9/4)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet](#).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Candidate Conservation funding opportunity is based on cooperative relationships with states, non-profit organizations, private landowners and those interested in habitat restoration or undertaking candidate and at-risk species research, surveys and monitoring, or educational outreach efforts. Work may be done via cooperative agreement and

project grants. Applications are due by September 4, 2020. However, you may submit applications throughout the year. [Follow this link for the grants.gov page.](#)

PG&E Resilient Communities Grant (9/7) **NEW**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Better Together Resilient Communities Grant Program is requesting grant proposals of \$100,000 to fund four projects in 2020 that build community capacity to reduce flood risk and support healthy and resilient coastlines and wetlands. Applications are due September 7, 2020. [Click here for the program page.](#)

WCB Stream Flow Enhancement Program (9/10)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Board's 2020 Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) for the Stream Flow Enhancement Program is now available. Proposals for multi-benefit projects that result in enhanced stream flow are encouraged. The primary focus is on enhancing flow in streams that support anadromous fish; support special status, threatened, endangered, or at-risk species; and/or provide resilience to climate change. Proposals must be received by 5pm on September 10, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

DOC SGMA Watershed Coordinator (9/15)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Department of Conservation Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) Watershed Coordinator Grant will fund watershed coordinators in parts of the state impacted by implementation of SGMA. These watershed coordinators will work with local groundwater sustainability agencies, landowners, and local governments to identify and implement projects to help develop landowner driven solutions to increase groundwater sustainability and meet broader statewide goals of biodiversity and climate resiliency. The public solicitation notice is now available. [Click here for the program page.](#)

Resources Agency's Youth Community Access Grant Program (9/15)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The California Natural Resources Agency's Youth Community Access Program will fund small capital projects, program projects, or a combination of capital and program projects that provide youth access to natural and cultural resources with a focus on low-income and disadvantaged communities. The application will be due on September 15, 2020. [Learn more here.](#)

EPA Environmental Workforce Development Grant (9/22) **NEW**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant funds organizations to recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. Grants help residents take advantage of the jobs across a

spectrum of environmental management activities, including the assessment, cleanup, and revitalization of brownfields; management and cleanup of solid and hazardous waste management sites; chemical risk management; water quality improvement; stormwater management; low impact development activities; green infrastructure installation and maintenance; vulnerability assessment and mitigation planning; disaster recovery and debris management; and renewable energy installation and maintenance. There will be 15 grants at amounts of up to \$200,000 per award. Applications are due by September 22. [Click here for the program page](#); [click here for the grants.gov page](#).

Council of Western Foresters Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program (9/25)

****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Council of Western Foresters Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program funds hazard fuel reduction in the wildland urban interface, information and education, assessment and planning, and monitoring through community and landowner action. Applications are due September 25, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

The FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program (9/30) **NEW**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The FM Global Insurance Company's Fire Prevention Grant Program provides seed funding to help support a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness, and control efforts. For example, one major category of funding is Fire Prevention Education/Training, which includes community outreach initiatives, workshops, and publications. Deadlines for applications are September 30 and December 31, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

USFW Partners for Fish and Wildlife (9/30)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The US Fish and Wildlife's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative and grant agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Applications are due by September 30, 2020. [Click here to view the grant.gov page](#); [CARCD recently covered them in a story on our website.](#)

Papoose Conservation Wildlife Foundation Grants (10/1) **NEW**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Papoose Conservation Wildlife Foundation's Conservation Grants support the conservation of free-ranging wildlife or plant species in their natural habitats. Preference is given to projects focusing on lesser recognized species. Grants are awarded up to \$5,000. Applications are due October 1. [Click here to learn more.](#)

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants (10/15) **NEW**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The North American Wetlands Conservation Council's North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants funds projects that increase bird populations and wetland habitat while supporting local economies and American

traditions, such as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, family farming, and cattle ranching. Grant requests may not exceed \$100,000. Applications are due October 15, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Program (10/30) **NEW**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry's Landscape Scale Restoration program provides competitive grants focused on promoting collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and on furthering priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans. Applications are due by October 30. [Click here for the program page.](#)

Western SARE Professional Development Program Grants (11/12)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education's Professional Development Grants focus on training agricultural professionals to help them spread knowledge about sustainable agriculture concepts and practices. Awards are limited to \$100,000. Grants can run for up to three years, with the final year to be focused on project evaluation. Applications are due on November 12. [Find more information here.](#)

WCB Pacific Flyway Conservation Grant (11/15)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Board is inviting grant proposals for multi-benefit climate adaptation and resiliency projects that protect, restore or enhance migratory bird habitat associated with the Pacific Flyway. Projects should be consistent with and seek to implement habitat and/or species conservation objectives of one of the five North American Migratory Bird Joint Ventures in California. Funding can be used for implementation, planning, or acquisition. The grant is not yet open; the expected deadline is November 15, 2020. [Click here for more information.](#)

USDA/USDOI Joint Fire Science Program (9/30) **UPDATED**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The US Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management's Joint Fire Science Program funds research and studies pertaining to wildland fire and resource management, to enhance decision-making ability of fire, fuels, natural resource, and land managers and others to meet management objectives. Applications are due by September 30, 2020. [Follow this link for the grants.gov page.](#)

One Tree Planted Funding (Ongoing)

One Tree Planted is a non-profit organization that provides funding for reforestation projects. They have partnered with several RCDs, and would like to continue partnering. If your RCD is seeking funding for a project, please fill out the following information for One Tree Planted to evaluate. If you have specific questions, please call (800) 408-7850. [Follow this link for their website;](#) [follow this link for the funding application form.](#)

Coastal Commission WHALE TAIL Grants (Ongoing) ****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL Grants fund projects addressing the California coast and its watersheds that may support experiential education, stewardship, and outdoor experiences for children and the general public. The program focuses on reaching communities that are poorly served in terms of marine and coastal education, and strives for a broad geographic distribution throughout California. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

[Click here for more information.](#)

SNC Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities Directed Grant (Ongoing)

****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Resilient Sierra Nevada Communities Directed Grant Program is a multi-disciplinary grant program that will provide resources for capacity building and technical support to local agencies, organizations, and tribes in the Sierra Nevada region. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for more information.](#)

SNC Forest and Watershed Health Directed Grants Program (Ongoing)

****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Forest and Watershed Health Directed Grants Program aims to support projects that create or improve forest conditions that result in a combination of multiple watershed, ecosystem, and community benefits in the Sierra Nevada region. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for more information.](#)

WCB Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program (Ongoing) ****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Board's Enhancement and Restoration Program provides assistance for the restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources. Eligible projects include: native fisheries restoration; restoration of wetlands; restoration of coastal, tidal, or fresh water habitat; other native habitat restoration projects including coastal scrub oak, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitats; in-stream restoration projects, including removal of fish passage barriers and other obstructions; and other projects that improve the quality of native habitat throughout the State. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for more information.](#)

Coastal Conservancy's Coastal Resource and Public Access Program (Ongoing) ****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The California Coastal Conservancy's Coastal Resource and Public Access Program funds projects that restore and protect the California coast, increase public access to the coast, and increase communities' resilience to climate change. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for more information.](#)

WCB Inland Wetlands Conservation Program (Ongoing) ****NEW****

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Board's Inland Wetlands Conservation Program was created to assist the Central Valley Joint Venture in its mission is to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and associated habitats. The CVJV, a partnership of 22 public and private organizations and agencies, has identified through its Implementation Plan, specific goals to increase migratory bird populations. The Implementation Plan focuses on the Central Valley floor, which extends approximately 400 miles from Red Bluff in the north to Bakersfield in the south and encompasses the following nine basins: Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yolo, American, Suisun Marsh, Delta, San Joaquin, and Tulare. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for more information.](#)

Water Board Small Community Drinking Water Grant (Ongoing) **NEW**

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The State Water Resources Control Board's Small Community Drinking Water Funding is available to assist small disadvantaged communities implement eligible drinking water capital improvement projects. The Program provides low-interest loans and grants for the planning/design and construction of drinking water infrastructure projects that are needed to achieve or maintain compliance with federal and state drinking water statutes and regulations. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for more information.](#)

NFWF In-Lieu Fee Program (Ongoing)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

Applications are currently being accepted for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sacramento District California In-Lieu Fee Program. Funding can be used to create, enhance, and restore wetland resources in the designated priority Service Area, which includes headwaters, tributaries, and floodplains of rivers that flow through the Sacramento basin. [Follow this link for the program page.](#)

Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program (Ongoing)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy has announced the opening of their new Community and Economic Enhancement Grant Program. The program focuses on increasing public access to recreational opportunities in order to promote a robust Delta economy. Other program priorities include recreation and tourism, historic and cultural preservation, and environmental education. They will be accepting concept proposals on a rolling basis. [Follow this link for the program webpage.](#)

WCB Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Projects (Ongoing)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Board's has updated the Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) for their Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Projects (RCIS). The RCIS program encourages public agencies to develop regional conservation planning documents using the best available science to identify regional conservation priorities and other actions to help California's species populations that may be vulnerable or declining by protecting, restoring, creating, and reconnecting their habitats. An RCIS is a voluntary, non-regulatory document that provides guidance on actions that, if implemented, would result in effective regional conservation. Any public agency may propose

an RCIS that is developed in consultation with local agencies that have land use authority within the RCIS area. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. [Click here for the PSN.](#)

WCB Riparian Habitat Conservation Program (Ongoing)

[Click here for the RCD grant collaboration spreadsheet.](#)

The California Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) Riparian Habitat Conservation Program aims to protect and restore California's riparian ecosystems. Typical riparian projects include, but are not limited to: restoration of riparian vegetation and re-establishing floodplain connectivity; removal and control of non-native invasive plant species to restore (actively or passively) native riparian vegetation; installation of fencing along the riparian corridor to manage livestock or wildlife and reduce impacts to streams or riparian vegetation; reconfigure degraded, incised, or undefined streams to restore natural hydrology and encourage reestablishment of native riparian habitat. Prospective applicants should first discuss their project with the WCB program manager. A brief concept paper may be requested for an initial evaluation. If appropriate, WCB staff will request the applicant to complete a full application. [Click here for the program page.](#)



California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Your partner in local conservation and sustainable agriculture

www.carcd.org

Email Us

Find your local RCD



https://carcd.memberclicks.net/assets/weekly_digest/weekly_digest_2020/Branches%20and%20Roots%20Editor%20position.pdf

This email was sent to manager@teamrcd.org by kiko-barr@carcd.org

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts • 801 K Street, MS 14-15, Sacramento, California 95814, United States • (916) 457-7904

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Subject **CSDA eNews 7/7/20: Important CSDA Professional Development Updates**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>

Date 2020-07-07 12:14



Webinar: California Public Records Act Requests

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Special Discounted Pricing:

\$25 to CSDA Members | \$40 to Non-members

[Register for Event](#)

CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 7, 2020



Important CSDA Professional Development Updates

CSDA continues to monitor the COVID situation and adjusts our professional development offerings accordingly. The safety of our attendees is our number one priority. Here are some updates:

- 2020 CSDA Annual Conference & Exhibitor Showcase has been cancelled.
- Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) - CSDA is planning to proceed with the SDLA Conferences with some modifications.
- Board Secretary / Clerk Conference - CSDA is planning to proceed with this conference. We are planning a schedule that will allow for maximum social distancing.

READ MORE and CHECK for REGULAR UPDATES

TAKE ACTION

Legislation Regulating Recreational Camps Reintroduced

Recently, SB 217 (Portantino) was "gutted-and-amended," or amended to strip out the prior contents and replace it with new contents, and could affect those districts that host

MEMBER RESOURCES

CalPERS Webinar for Employers - July 21

CalPERS is producing a new webinar for public agency and school employers. This **FREE** webinar will feature CalPERS CEO Marcie Frost and other senior leaders, and will cover the fiscal year investment

LEARN

NEW! Virtual Workshop: HR Boot Camp for Special Districts

Join CSDA and our expert instructor Jack Hughes of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, for two half-day sessions on August 4th and 5th from 9:00

summer camps or other types of organized activities.

[Read More](#)

Court of Appeal Rules Voter Initiatives for Special Taxes Are Not Subject to 2/3 Vote

In a decision that may have statewide implications, the First District Court of Appeal confirmed last week that initiative measures brought forth by voters or local citizen groups are not subject to the same constitutional...

[Read More](#)

returns (now officially to be released Wednesday, July 15), the current state of play in the investment markets, CalPERS' new investment strategy, impacts and projections for employer costs, options for employers, and business rules regarding membership and reporting.

"CalPERS and Employers: Fiscal Year Returns, Cost Impacts and Our Path Forward"

**Tuesday, July 21, 2020
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

[Register](#)

a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The Virtual HR Boot Camp for Special Districts will cover cutting edge information that HR professionals at special districts need to know. Divided into four segments: hiring, performance evaluation, employee discipline, and legal trends, this day is designed to maximize your time and give you substantive information you can use at your district right away.

[Register](#)



Exhibitor Series: ForeFront Power

July 16, 2020 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Register Now for FREE

Solar & Energy Storage Simplified

ForeFront Power, and SPURR (School Project for Utility Rate Reduction) will explore how to simplify the procurement process through the Renewable Energy Aggregate Procurement (REAP) Program. The REAP Program is an aggregated solar and energy storage buying program that leverages the massive buying power of SPURR's collective membership to secure market-leading "piggybackable" solar project pricing and terms for California public sector districts.

RFP CLEARINGHOUSE

To post an RFP or receive notifications when a new RFP is posted, join the [RFP Clearinghouse Community](#).

RFP – Audit Services

[Learn More](#)

SDLF SCHOLARSHIPS

Need Help Paying for ANY CSDA Professional Development?

The Special District Leadership Foundation has removed all district budget limits from scholarship applications for education and applications can be approved the same day.

[Apply Today](#)

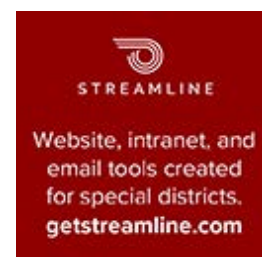
CAREER CENTER

Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's [Career Center](#):

[Utility Water District](#) – Otay Water District

[General Manager](#) – Redway Community Services District

[Read More](#)



California Special Districts Association
1112 I Street, Suite 200
Sacramento CA, 95814
Phone - 877.924.2732
www.cstda.net
[Manage Email Preferences/Unsubscribe](#)



Subject **CSDA eNews 7/14/20: Take Critical Survey to Update U.S. House and Senate for Pandemic Relief Access**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>

Date 2020-07-14 13:07



NEW! Webinar: Holding Public Meetings During COVID-19

Thursday, July 23, 2020

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Free to CSDA Members | \$95 to Non-members

[Register for Event](#)

CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 14, 2020



Take Critical Survey to Update, Inform U.S. House, Senate Questions for COVID-19 Relief Access

CSDA, in coordination with the National Special Districts Coalition, has been advocating for special districts' access to future federal COVID-19 relief for local governments. As we continue to gain momentum with our efforts, it is necessary to have the best picture of the pandemic's impacts on special districts' expenditures, revenues, staffing and ability to provide services. The survey at the link below is critical to provide accurate and current information as we work with the U.S. House and Senate staff to secure districts' access in future relief. **TAKE SURVEY**



Santa Monica: Groundbreaking Court Victory for Local Agency with At-Large Election System

For the first time since the passage of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) in 2003, a local government with an at-large voting system successfully defended a substantive legal challenge to its election method. The ruling last week from the Second District Court of Appeal in

Pico Neighborhood Association, et al. v. City of Santa Monica held that... [READ MORE](#)



Opportunities for Governance Training this Fall

There will be multiple opportunities for CSDA's premiere governance training this fall. CSDA plans to move forward with two Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) Conferences. SDLA Conference – South Lake Tahoe – September 27 – 30 (no session on 09/30 for returning attendees). First time and Returning attendee tracks are offered at this location. SDLA Conference – San Diego – November 15 -18. First time attendee track only at this location. [READ MORE](#)

TAKE ACTION

Prepare Now for August Call for 2021 Legislative Proposals

Do you have an idea to create, improve, or eliminate a law affecting special districts throughout the state? Is your district facing an issue that could potentially be resolved through statewide legislation?

CSDA is inviting special districts to submit ideas for legislation that could potentially be selected as a CSDA-sponsored bill for the 2021 legislative year. The formal call for proposals will go out in early August in CSDA's eNews newsletter; CSDA members are encouraged to take this time to raise this matter with their district colleagues to best formulate and refine their legislative proposals.

[Read More](#)

MEMBER RESOURCES

Coffee with CalTRUST

CalTRUST, CSDA's Endorsed Affiliate is hosting Coffee with CalTRUST on **July 22nd at 11:00 a.m.** to learn about the CalTRUST features and funds including:

- CalTRUST 101 – Learn the history and the features of CalTRUST
- CalTRUST Fund LineUp and Current Positioning
- Market Update by BlackRock

This webinar is a great opportunity for existing shareholders to invite their staff or elected officials to learn about CalTRUST as well as for those agencies that don't already participate with CalTRUST to learn about the funds and features that CalTRUST offers.

All attendees will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card to thank you for sharing part of your morning with us!

[Register Now](#)

LEARN

NEW! Virtual Workshop: So, You Want to Be a General Manager?

**August 12 & 13
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Join us for one of CSDA's most popular workshops in an informational and interactive format. This practical career development workshop is for senior executives and emerging leaders of special districts.

Take advantage of the reduced pricing for the virtual format – only \$50 CSDA Members and \$75 for Non-members thanks to a special sponsorship from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). Limited to 30 attendees.

[Register](#)

B-I-N-G-O is the GAME-O

Thursday, August 6 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

[Register Now for FREE](#)

Join your fellow CSDA members, CSDA staff, and sponsors for a fun networking event - CSDA Virtual

Bingo! BINGO will take place on Thursday, August 6 at 3:00 p.m. and will feature five rounds of virtual BINGO along with exhibitor introductions and fun prizes.

Interested in sponsoring BINGO? Three sponsor slots are still available. Email Ericks@csda.net for more information.



August 13 party! new community engagement tools

DON'T MISS IT! >

RFP CLEARINGHOUSE

To post an RFP or receive notifications when a new RFP is posted, join the [RFP Clearinghouse Community](#).

RFP- Strategic Planning Services

RFP – Classification and Compensation Study

RFP – Audit Services

[Learn More](#)

SDLF RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to the following district!

Transparency Certificate of Excellence
Desert Healthcare District

For questions on the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) programs, contact SDLF Program Assistant Amber Phelen at amberp@csda.net.

[Learn More](#)

CAREER CENTER

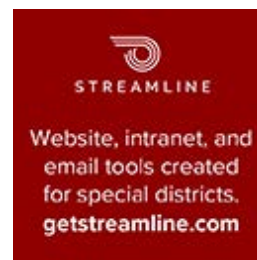
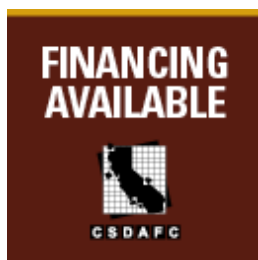
Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's [Career Center](#):

[Fire Chief](#) – Cosumnes Community Services District

[Senior Auditor/Accountant](#) – Zone 7 Water Agency

[General Manager](#) – Spalding Community Services District

[Read More](#)



1112 I Street, Suite 200
Sacramento CA, 95814
Phone - 877.924.2732
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Subject **Federal Funding at Stake: Update Your District's COVID-19 Impacts with Short Survey**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <colek@csda.net>

Date 2020-07-17 14:48



In early May, nearly 450 special districts completed a comprehensive survey regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on California's special districts. Because of that survey and the feedback provided, you played a direct role in securing federal legislation to ensure special districts have greater access to future coronavirus relief resources for local governments.

Now, at a critical point in our ongoing advocacy, CSDA ask that you take 5 minutes to update the impacts of COVID-19 on your district with a 12-questions survey. [Access the survey now.](#)

Your updated input will be essential in CSDA's advocacy and to demonstrate the pandemic's impacts on special districts' expenditures, revenues, staffing and ability to provide services. CSDA will communicate the information to federal representatives, the Office of the Governor, the state Department of Finance in efforts to underscore the needs of special districts.

These survey questions are structured to inform frequently asked questions regarding H.R. 7073, the Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act, and potential Senate companion legislation. ***This survey should take 5-8 minutes. The survey will close Friday, July 24.***

We appreciate your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or issues with the survey at colek@csda.net.

TAKE THIS IMPORTANT SURVEY NOW!



California Special Districts Association
1112 I Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814
877.924.2732 | www.csda.net

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Subject **CSDA eNews 7/28/20: Special Districts Coronavirus Relief Bill Introduced in US Senate**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <neilm@csda.net>

Date 2020-07-28 12:48



Virtual Workshop: So, You Want to Be a General Manager?

[Register for Event](#)

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 12 & 13, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each day

\$50 CSDA Member | \$75 Non-member

Sponsored by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF)

CSDA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

July 28, 2020



Special Districts Coronavirus Relief Bill Introduced in US Senate

United States Senator Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and Senator John Cornyn, R-Texas, introduced Thursday S.4308, a Senate companion to H.R. 7073, the Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act. Senator Kamala Harris is an original cosponsor. The bipartisan deal was reached after months of CSDA advocacy efforts and weeks of negotiations, which closely involved California United States Senator Dianne Feinstein. [READ MORE](#)

DEMOCRACY @ WORK
PROMOTE THE VOTE

**Our Democracy is in your hands!
California needs you!**

Make our Democracy stronger by supporting the upcoming
November 3, 2020 General Election by hosting a:



Voting Location

OR



Vote-By-Mail Ballot
Drop Box Location

Make Our Democracy Stronger: Host a Voting Location for November 3 General Election

California Secretary of State's office is seeking to establish sufficient polling sites statewide in time for the November 2020 general election, given the COVID-19 pandemic. These include in-person voting locations and vote-by-mail drop box locations. Alameda County, in particular, has been identified as a part of the state that is in serious

need of more voting locations. Special districts are eligible and encouraged to host voting locations!
[LEARN MORE](#)

ILG WEBINAR

Tips and Tools to Engage Your Community in a Digital Environment

Join CSDA partner Institute for Local Government (ILG) for their webinar this **Wednesday, July 29, at 11:00 a.m.**, "Tips and Tools to Engage Your Community in a Digital Environment." Ensuring inclusive public participation is more challenging than ever because of physical distancing requirements, the digital divide, language needs and learning curves. Join ILG and partners to learn innovative strategies for using high-tech and low-tech virtual platforms to engage residents on a variety of topics without meeting face-to face.

[Register](#)

MEMBER RESOURCES

Making a Difference to Your District's Bottom Line

Did you know that as a CSDA member, your district has access to a host services and products that help you save money, time and effort? Our [Value-Added Benefits](#) include: risk management coverages, pooled investment options, website design, commercial card program, merchant services, and more.

Make sure you are maximizing your CSDA membership! Contact us at membership@csda.net to learn more about starting your savings today!

[Contact Us](#)

LEARN

Update: Board Secretary / Clerk Conference Goes Virtual October 26, 27, and 28, 2020

In response to district travel restrictions as well as ongoing concerns surrounding COVID-19, CSDA will be presenting our 2020 Board Secretary / Clerk Conference VIRTUALLY! The new entirely virtual format will feature both a first time and returning attendee track. All attendees will experience two and half days of live and recorded education along with two live keynote presentations, two refreshment breaks, two lunches, two happy hours, exhibitor demonstrations and much more!

[Read More](#)



Exhibitor Series: Granicus

August 13 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | FREE

Granicus connects governments with the people they serve by providing comprehensive cloud-based solutions for communications, government website design, meeting and agenda management, records management, and digital services.

[Register Now for FREE](#)



California Special
Districts Association



Reach Your Audience Online & In Print

Opportunities at csda.net and in CSDA's Magazine

RFP CLEARINGHOUSE

To post an RFP or receive notifications when a new RFP is posted, join the [RFP Clearinghouse Community](#).

RFP- Strategic Planning Services

RFP – Audit Services

[Learn More](#)

SDLF RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the following:

Transparency Certificate of Excellence

Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

For questions about SDLF programs, contact Amber Phelen at amberp@sdlf.org.

[Learn More](#)

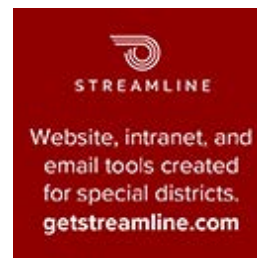
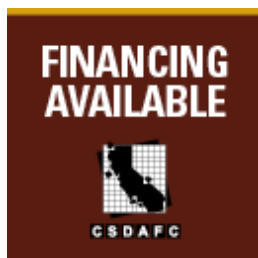
CAREER CENTER

Check out the most recent job postings in CSDA's [Career Center](#):

[CC&R Compliance Officer](#) – Cameron Park Community Services District

[Associate Civil Engineer/Professional Geologist](#) – Zone 7 Water Agency

[Read More](#)



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Subject **Barbara, a message from your CSDA Public Affairs Field Coordinator**

From Chris Palmer <chrisp@csda.net>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <chrisp@csda.net>

Date 2020-07-29 08:52



Federal Advocacy Efforts on COVID-19 Relief Efforts Moving Forward



S. 4308, the Senate Companion Bill to H.R. 7073, Introduced

Last week, in a bipartisan effort, Senator Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and Senator John Cornyn, R-Texas introduced [S. 4308](#), a Senate companion to H.R. 7073, the "Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act." The bipartisan deal was reached after weeks of negotiations, which closely involved California United States Senator Dianne Feinstein. The bill uses text of [H.R. 7073](#), but adds greater flexibility for states with less reliance on special districts within their communities, and offers states guidance on how to distribute the five percent they must direct of future Coronavirus Relief Fund appropriations. CSDA will continue working with the National Special Districts Coalition and other stakeholders to advocate for the Senate legislation to be included in the Senate's COVID-19 relief package, which would likely be negotiated with the House of Representative's [HEROES Act](#). **For more information on this legislation or to send a support letter, please visit our [COVID Take Action page](#).** For questions on federal COVID-19 advocacy, please contact Cole Karr, at colek@csda.net.

Grants for Special Districts

The California Grants Portal Has Launched!

The California State Library recently announced the launch of the California Grants Portal, a single website to find all state grant and loan opportunities offered on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit the site at grants.ca.gov to learn about available funding for your agency. You can also [view a flyer](#) about the Grants Portal. Please feel free to share the flyer with anyone you think might be interested. The Grants Portal will connect millions of Californians with the funds they need.

U.S. Department of Commerce CARES ACT Grant

There is \$1.467 billion from the CARES Act that the U.S. Department of Commerce is making available to grant recipients through the Economic Development Association (EDA) and special districts are eligible to receive funding. There is currently no deadline and applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until the funds are expended or cancelled. Types of projects that EDA may fund through its CARES Act Recovery Assistance include those geared towards public works and infrastructure projects. [Apply for the grant](#). For more information, please see the [program overview](#).

Let's Virtually Meet!

Normally, I spend a significant amount of time traveling and visiting special districts. With COVID-19, my travel has been severely limited – I definitely miss seeing everyone and learning more about your districts. In lieu of my personal visits, I'd love to catch up with you virtually. If you'd like to schedule a brief Zoom meeting/phone call to catch up, please email me at chrisp@csla.net to make an appointment. I look forward to hearing from you!

Chris Palmer

Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator

714-743-7404 cell

www.csla.net

chrisp@csla.net



California Special Districts Association
1112 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento CA, 95814
877.924.2732 | www.csla.net

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Subject **Here's How You Can Prevent Runoff Pollution in Your Watershed! ♥**

From Riverside County Watershed Protection Program
<rcwatershed@gmail.com>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <rcwatershed@gmail.com>

Date 2020-07-10 16:45



For the latest information regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Riverside County, please click here



Bringing Riverside County residents watershed news and updates!

Water You Doing?

Vol. 4 No. 7 - July 2020

Five Ways You Can Prevent Runoff Pollution

While you might be tempted to hose down your yard and driveway, household hazardous waste and even organic waste can cause a devastating impact to our watershed. With that in mind, here are five ways that you can minimize runoff pollution!

[Read More](#)



The Time is NOW. Reduce Your Water Use

Did you know that outdoor landscaping accounts for up to 40%-70% of annual home water use? We too often take our most precious resource for granted. Wasting water harms your wallet and our watersheds in the process! Here are a few simple tips to cut down overwatering in your home!

[Read More](#)

Hit the Devil's Slide Trail for Some Social Distancing Fun

If you are ready to plunge into exploring Riverside County's watersheds and get outside for a bit of fresh air, look no further than the Devil's Slide Trail in Idyllwild. Learn more about this devilish vista in the Santa Ana and Whitewater River Watersheds!

[Read More](#)

Follow our Social Media Accounts this Week for a Special Contest and More Watershed Fun!



Riverside County Watershed Protection is a division of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. It is their mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Riverside County watersheds by fostering a community-wide commitment to clean water.

Riverside County Flood Control District | 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501

[Unsubscribe manager@teamrcd.org](mailto:unsubscribe_manager@teamrcd.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by rcwatershed@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!

Subject **Ruff Ruff! This email will get you through The Dog Days of Summer!**

From Riverside County Watershed Protection Program
<rcwatershed@gmail.com>

To <manager@teamrcd.org>

Reply-To <rcwatershed@gmail.com>

Date 2020-08-05 12:35



For the latest information regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Riverside County, please click here



Bringing Riverside County residents watershed news and updates!

The Dog Days of Summer

Vol. 4 No. 8 - August 2020

The Dog Days of Summer are Back!

August 26th is National Dog Day! As the summer really starts to heat up, remember to keep spoiling your furry friends with these three watershed-friendly tips!

[Read More](#)



Em-Bark on a Watershed Adventure

Are you catching your pup looking out the window daydreaming? Give them a bone and take them outdoors for some socially-distanced fun in Riverside County by exploring your local watershed dog-friendly parks and trails!

[Read More](#)

Stretch Your Legs and Socially Distance at Lake Hemet!

Take a short trip to Lake Hemet this summer and enjoy the many activities it has to offer while taking precautions to social distance and follow other CDC recommendations. Located in the Santa Ana Watershed, Lake Hemet has plenty of sprawling space for you to catch a big gulp of fresh air and take in some of that summer sun!

[Read More](#)

Follow our Social Media Accounts this Month for a Special Contest that Will Get Your Pup's Tail Wagging!



Riverside County Watershed Protection is a division of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. It is their mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of Riverside County watersheds by fostering a community-wide commitment to clean water.

Riverside County Flood Control District | 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501

Unsubscribe_manager@teamrcd.org

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by rcwatershed@gmail.com powered by



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Subject **River Voices: August - Innovating Through Corporate Support**
From Amy at River Network <aboal@rivernetwork.org>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2020-08-05 06:14



Businesses play a vital role in a future with clean water and healthy rivers for all.

[View this email in your browser.](#)

[View the full August 2020 issue on our website.](#)

RIVER VOICES

AUGUST 2020 ISSUE



INNOVATING THROUGH CORPORATE SUPPORT

Group river cleanups are shifting due to COVID-19. Learn how "Masks On, Litter Gone" found success.

[CLICK TO READ MORE.](#)

Creative approaches and exciting initiatives are popping up all over the network as local groups pivot their programs in response to COVID-19. At River Network, we knew there had to be a way to continue engaging communities in caring for their rivers even though we couldn't host traditional group river cleanups. Thanks to the support of [the Ball Foundation](#), known for their

infinitely recyclable aluminum packaging, we were able to explore a creative new approach through our virtual campaign, "Masks on, Litter Gone."

[Read more.](#)

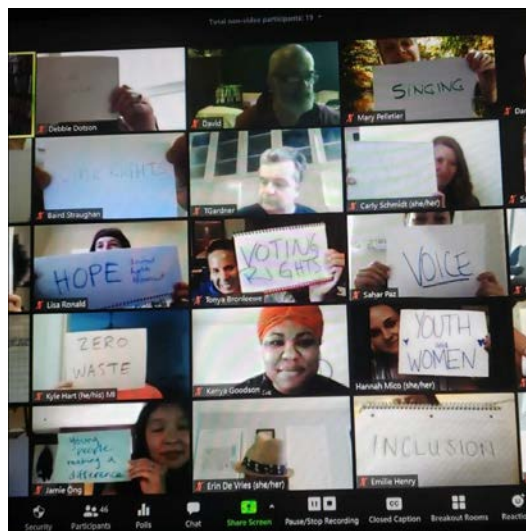
Help Us Help You!



Healthy Rivers in Agricultural Landscapes

How do you engage agricultural communities? Do you currently work with farmers and ranchers to promote programs and/or projects that focus on healthy rivers and clean and ample waters? What are your needs and challenges? We want to hear how you're currently working at the intersection of healthy rivers and agricultural landscapes to guide new program investments across the country. Please fill out the survey!

[Take the 3-minute survey.](#)



Fall Coffee Roundtable Series Topics

River Network is continuing the popular [Coffee/Lunch Virtual Roundtables](#) and planning the fall series. These online classrooms provide organizations and individuals from across the network with opportunities to connect, learn, and discuss. So far, we've covered community organizing during COVID-19, fundraising, virtual events, cybersecurity, and racial justice. What else do you want to discuss this fall?

[Share your topic ideas.](#)

Download Our Latest Toolkit



WASTE IN OUR WATERS: A COMMUNITY TOOLKIT FOR AQUATIC LITTER REMOVAL

River Network is proud to provide this free to access, easy to understand toolkit, **thanks to the generous support of The Coca-Cola Foundation**. Within, you'll find a variety of strategies, activities, and specific devices to help address aquatic litter in your community. The toolkit will walk you through assessing your community's aquatic litter issues, planning a cleanup effort, choosing a litter capture device, responsibly disposing of the waste you collect, and more. And, the strategies, activities, and devices included can be applied across the country.

"We consider this toolkit an essential resource for both community advocates and experts alike." -

US EPA's Trash Free Waters

[Learn more and download the toolkit.](#)



Meet Our Team: Mikhaela Mullins



Meet Your Network: Cecilia Riviere

Meet Mikhaela Mullins, River Network's Science & Policy Program Associate. Based in Denver, CO, Mikhaela comes to River Network with experience in sustainable agriculture, implementing community and environmental public health programs, leading programmatic evaluation efforts, and planning and facilitating professional development workshops.

Meet Mikhaela.

"This was the first virtual cleanup event we've ever done. The experience was brand new to us. What I noticed personally was that this experience changes the way you think about litter." Cecilia Riviere, with Rio Reimagined, discusses the "Masks on, Litter Gone" cleanup events, supported by Ball, in July. Hear how it went and learn about her work.

Meet Cecilia.



We've given the **Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank** page a refresh! If you have on-the-ground restoration projects that will restore river flows and/or recharge ground water and would like to share these with businesses who may be interested in providing support, check out the new page and join or renew your premium membership to submit your project.

Learn more and join or renew your **premium membership** today!

Read the full issue of River Voices on our website.



[Learn More](#) [Follow on Facebook](#) [Follow on Twitter](#) [Follow on LinkedIn](#) [Follow on Instagram](#)

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Boulder, CO 80308

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Subject **Events & Education**
From Carly at River Network <info@rivernetwork.org>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Date 2020-07-21 05:59



[View this email in your browser](#)



MEMBER NEWS

- Submit a proposal for the development, delivery, and production of an **equitable water infrastructure investment toolkit** by August 10.
- Register for the **Delaware River Watershed Forum** and the **Chesapeake Watershed Forum**.
- The current movement for racial justice highlights the importance of investing in the leaders working directly in our communities. If you are a Black-led organization, **apply for amplification through Give 8/28**.
- Check out upcoming peer calls in River Network's **Coffee/Lunch Virtual Roundtables series**.

ONE MONTH OF ACCESS LEFT

Get River Rally Access with a Premium Membership

Through 8/14, premium members can access **100+ hours** of River Rally content, including content related to:

- ▲ COVID-19 & Nonprofits
- ▲ Social Justice & Water
- ▲ Science & Climate
- ▲ And more!

Check out a sneak peek of Rally content.

CONNECT & LEARN



Community Organizing: Shared Stores Part II

July 29th, 12:00 PM EST. Join us for a facilitated conversation to share the challenges and opportunities of community organizing during COVID-19, the uncertainty around what will be open and permitted in the fall, and connect with other organizers facing similar challenges around the country. **Register.**

Advancing Racial Justice

August 26th, 12:00 PM EST. Join us for an open discussion on the role of racial justice in our movement and beyond. Be sure to complete the **pre-meeting survey** so we can better understand how you are coming into this conversation on racial justice. **Register.**



Planning Virtual Meetings and Conferences

August 12th, 12:00 PM EST. Join River Network staff as we share our experience planning and hosting Virtual River Rally, a 3-week virtual conference that attracted over 500 participants. Bring questions and/or your own insights into what has worked for you when hosting or participating in similar events. **Register.**

Register.

These meetings are a continuation of our Coffee/Lunch Virtual Roundtables series. These online classrooms provide the Network with opportunities to connect, learn from each of our experiences, and provide space for discussions related to topics that are top-of-mind. These sessions will be recorded when appropriate and posted on the River Network website as a resource for anyone on your team.

EVENTS FROM THE NETWORK:

- Register for the **8th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum** (online, September 14-17).
- Register for the **15th Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum** (online, October 29-30).

RESOURCES FROM THE NETWORK:

- **"The next disaster for Black communities"** by Katherine T. Eglund and Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr.
- **"Rivers as Economic Engines: Investing in clean water, communities and our future"** from American Rivers
- **"Resilience and Equity: Working with Communities, not for Communities"** by Renee Mazurek (Urban Waters Learning Network)
- SC **Adopt-a-Stream Workshops** During COVID-19 Pandemic
- Missouri Stream Team **Training Materials & Resources**
- River Watch Colorado **Training Videos**
- Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) **Creek Courses**

Find upcoming learning opportunities and events any time **on our website**.

Check out open career opportunities across the network on our **careers page**.

Search the online **Resource Library** for publications, newsletters, tools, templates, and recorded webinars.

MEET YOUR NETWORK

CECILIA ROSACKER

Executive Director at the Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust
Polvadera, New Mexico

"I think that the pandemic and the country's trauma has people thinking about *local* in a different way. With transport systems shut down and food being wasted in large quantities, people are realizing that the food system is broken. Protecting our farms that make up our local foodshed is finally becoming important to the public."

Read the full interview.



Share your news, updates and successes with the River Network communications team!



Questions about your membership? [Contact us.](#)

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P.O. Box 21387
Boulder, CO 80308

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Subject **eResource-This Week's NACD News Briefs**
From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
To <manager@teamrcd.org>
Reply-To <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
Date 2020-07-14 13:12



NACD NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

July 14, 2020



NACD is now [soliciting applications for breakout sessions](#) for the 2021 Annual Meeting, which is currently being planned as an in-person meeting. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, Sept. 4, 2020**.

NACD offers a number of informational breakout sessions during the annual meeting, focusing on the work of districts and their partners across the country. Sessions typically run 60-90 minutes, and in most cases, showcase several speakers at 20-30 minutes each. NACD's breakout sessions are some of the most popular activities among attendees at the meeting.

This year, NACD is seeking proposals that fit within five themes:

1. District Operations and Partnerships
2. Natural Resources Policy and Protection
3. Stewardship and Education
4. Communications and Outreach; and
5. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Conservation

Proposals will be evaluated based on the innovation and quality of the proposal; its relevance to one of the themes; and the applicability to other conservation districts across the country. Preference will be given to proposals submitted by a conservation district, state/territory association or partner.

NACD's 75th Annual Meeting will put heavy emphasis on NACD's legacy and focus on where the conservation movement is headed. We encourage proposals that explore the legacy of conservation districts, the way conservation districts are rising to meet the current moment, or proposals that explore the future of the conservation movement.

If your company or organization would like time at the meeting to present to NACD members about your products or services that support conservation district work, please contact info@nacdn.net.org.

Deadline Extended: Last Call for NCF Feedback

The National Conservation Foundation (NCF) has extended the deadline to fill out its [2020 NCF Survey](#) to this **Friday, July 17**.

We value your input and opinions, and we plan to use your responses to improve the work of the board and the NCF-Envirothon and the Next Generation Leadership Institute (NGLI) programs.

Upon completion of the survey, you will be entered for a chance to win a Yeti coffee cup from NACD's Marketplace. To take the survey, [click here](#).

Submit Your Ideas: NACD 2021 Annual Meeting Theme

Help us come up with a theme to celebrate NACD's 75th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, La., scheduled for Feb. 6-10, 2021.

To learn more and submit a proposal, visit [NACD's Breakout Sessions webpage](#). If you have any questions, please contact NACD Government Affairs Manager **Eric Hansen** at eric-hansen@nacdnet.org.

The winning submission will also earn a complimentary full registration to the 2021 Annual Meeting. To submit your theme idea, please fill out the form [here](#).

S.T.A.R. INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES START OF 2020 ENROLLMENT

The S.T.A.R. (Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources) initiative recently announced open enrollment for farmers for the 2020 crop year.

S.T.A.R. is an innovative conservation program in Illinois and several other states that helps farmers and landowners track how well they are caring for our soil and water while producing their crops, via the free, handy S.T.A.R. field evaluation tool.



S.T.A.R. participants complete a field form, which assigns points for everything from cover crops used and the kinds of fertilizer used for nutrient management at different points before and during the growing season, to various possible conservation practices used on that field to prevent runoff into nearby water sources.

S.T.A.R. uses a science committee of industry experts, university researchers and farmers to ensure the field forms accurately represent nutrient loss reduction and how those affect the natural resources of the state. Fields are then ranked on the five-star scale, and participants can receive a free sign for their fields to identify their S.T.A.R. designation.

The initiative touts several key benefits, including decreasing nutrient loss from the soil, improving water quality, helping farmers show their stewardship, increasing farm resilience, and positioning farms for future market opportunities.

S.T.A.R. was created by the **Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)** in 2017 to meet agricultural goals in the state's nutrient loss reduction strategy plan. That plan, developed by the state's Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency, lays out a



WOTUS Update: Finalized Navigable Waters Protection Rule and Current Litigation

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic hasn't prevented the [Navigable Waters Protection Rule](#) from being finalized, nor has it stopped litigation forecasted in NACD's last [blog](#) on waters of the United States (WOTUS). Revision of the 2015 WOTUS rule comes from a campaign promise made by the Trump Administration and is consistent with an [Executive Order](#) (EO) issued in 2017 by President Trump.

NACD has previously [advocated](#) for the reversal of the 2015 WOTUS rule and engaged in the new rulemaking process. NACD submitted [public comments](#) on the proposed rule defining "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act (CWA) last spring.

Under the new 2020 rule, broad definitions set forth in the 2015 Obama Era WOTUS rule have been tightened in an effort to provide more clarity. Highlights include the continued protection of tributaries; but ephemeral tributaries, which are only present during precipitation, have been removed in the 2020 rule.

To read the rest of the blog, visit [NACD's website](#).

Save the Date: SHI's 5th Annual Meeting

The Soil Health Institute (SHI) will hold its fifth annual meeting virtually from **July 30-31, 2020**.

NACD Soil Health Champion **Matt Griggs** from Tennessee will be one of the guest speakers.

comprehensive suite of best management practices for reducing nutrient loads from wastewater treatment plants and urban, and agricultural runoff. Similar strategies have been developed by 11 other states in the Mississippi River Basin since 2015.

S.T.A.R. has been well-received in its short lifetime. In 2019, 214 participants on 1,175 fields and 83,592 acres embraced the power of S.T.A.R., and organizations in Iowa and Missouri plan to offer the tool as well.

Participation is free, and as simple as completing a field form at the [S.T.A.R. website](#). Paper field forms are also available for download from the site. 2020 field forms will be available through next January. If S.T.A.R. participants are interested in getting field forms locally, several county soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) or farm bureaus serve as local administrators of the program. To learn more, [visit NACD's blog](#) on the S.T.A.R. initiative.

Pictured above: **Joe Rothermel**, farmer from Broadlands, Ill., and chairman of **Champaign County SWCD**.



BOONE COUNTY SWCD, MO.



In 2016, the **Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)** in Columbia, Mo., [received an NACD Urban and Community \(UAC\) Conservation Grant](#) to help create a new agriculture park (the Ag Park), in partnership with the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA), located at the site of the original Boone County Fairgrounds.

The SWCD helped oversee the initial planning phase of the project, which included completion of the site design and outdoor classroom design, marketing and promotional materials, and publication of growing guides for urban growers.

The Ag Park opened to the public in the summer of 2019. Phase One of the project is complete, with Columbia Farmers Market operating year-round at the site in the newly constructed MU Health Care Pavilion.

Registration is **free** and required for all attendees. To learn more and register, [visit SHI's website](#), where you can find the agenda, speaker bios and more.

Tim Palmer Joins ESMC's Inaugural Board of Directors

Recently, the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) announced the members of its board of directors, which was established in May 2019.

NACD President Tim Palmer joins four other agricultural leaders in ESMC's inaugural board of directors. The board will provide leadership as ESMC continues to develop and test its program to scale soil health and beneficial agricultural outcomes in the U.S., leading to the national market launch in 2022.

To learn more about the inaugural members of the board, visit [ESMC's website](#).

Register Now: NRCS Soil Health Webinar Series

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)'s Conversations in Soil Health Webinar series will hold its fourth webinar on **Thursday, July 23, from 1:00-2:30 p.m., Eastern**.

The series is intended to help conservation planners gain ideas from across the country that can be implemented locally. Each webinar will introduce the session's topic through speakers sharing their experience and includes time at the end for the audience to ask questions and create discussion.

No registration is required. To join the webinar, [click here](#).

Starting in 2019, gardening workshops and children's activities were offered to the public for free every Saturday. A one-acre stormwater retention area has been planted and designed to attract local wildlife and pollinators. The 0.8-mile paved recreation trail has been poured, and a farm-themed playground has been built.



Over three acres are in vegetable and cover crop rotations at the Ag Park and will host farm and garden demonstrations. A maintenance barn and one-room schoolhouse are currently under construction, while an ag-themed playground and edible landscaping throughout the park have been completed. Additional garden spaces will be constructed soon, including an area of raised beds for use around the schoolhouse, and a "backyard garden" space, dedicated to teaching citizens how to plan and produce in the space limitations of their city lots.

All of these features have been funded by over \$4,700,000 raised in the first two phases. Fundraising is currently underway to complete the second, and final, phase, which includes completion of the MU Health Care Pavilion, additional parking, and a 10,000 square-foot kitchen/event/resource center.

The project has overwhelming support from the community, the City of Columbia, and the Columbia Farmers Market and has garnered a much greater interest in urban agriculture. CCUA is able to produce on more acres, which yields an increase in food donated locally. CCUA's move to the Ag Park has allowed the transformation of their original farm into a therapeutic and skills development farm in partnership with the local Veteran's Administration hospital.

The SWCD is now working to assist those interested in pursuing urban agriculture as a business/career and in educating the community at large on urban agriculture and conservation.

Learn more about the project [here](#).

Tune into "The People of Soil Health" Podcast

The Soil Health Partnership (SHP) is producing a number of podcasts aimed at providing a direct connection into the network of soil health professionals who are focused on the on-farm economic and environmental benefits of soil health.

On *The People of Soil Health* podcast, host **John Mesko** discusses soil health practices and management systems, issues facing farmers, and insights from soil data sets. Podcasts produced to date include discussions about [growing cover crops](#), [building research partnerships that help address soil health and water quality](#), [how soil health is a win-win-win situation](#) and more.

Learn more and listen to the podcast [here](#).

Phil Campbell Named Chair of Oklahoma Conservation Commission



Pictured: Seated: **Phil Campbell**, Area II, Chairman. Standing from left to right: **Trey Lam**, OCC Executive Director; **Gary Crawley**, Area V; **Clay Forst**, Area IV; **Scotty Herriman**, Area III; **Karl Jett**, Area I.

On July 6, **Phil Campbell** of Luther, Okla., was named as chair of the [Oklahoma Conservation Commission](#) for Fiscal Year 2021. Campbell, who serves as the Area II commissioner in Oklahoma, is among the seven participants in the inaugural cohort of the National Conservation



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA

The Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) is an extremely environmentally sensitive area that loses approximately half an inch of soil every year. In this area, sugarcane and vegetable rotations are extremely prevalent, and unlike the rest of southern Florida, most of the soils are organic/muck soils. Here, irrigation water management plans are crucial for maintaining crop and soil subsidence, as well as reducing runoff. The [Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District](#) (SWCD) plays a major role in assisting producers in both writing and implementing these plans.

Thanks to a [2018 NACD Technical Assistance Grant](#), the district was able to bring on professional engineer **Ramon Santiago** as a full-time Land Management Manager. For one year, Santiago assisted the NRCS field office in developing irrigation water management plans for producers throughout the area.

However, writing these plans was no simple task. Santiago worked with the producers to consider factors such as weather, irrigation methods, system conditions, crops and more. The plans he created taught the growers when to turn on/off their water pumps, what level to keep their water at, where to set water elevations to retain or release water, and how to adjust the system to the crops' needs.

Santiago was also able to evaluate the producers' systems to ensure they were working as they should and give suggestions on system improvement, helping some producers update their system by replacing structures that were falling apart.

Santiago also helped producers receive funding for the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other entities.

Foundation (NCF)'s [Next Generation Leadership Institute](#) (NGLI).

Check it Out: Book Provides Roadmap on Conserving Wildlife

Saving Species on Private Lands: Unlocking Incentives to Conserve Wildlife and Their Habitats by **Lowell E. Baier** with **Christopher Segal** was recently named a 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Award winner by the Independent Book Publishing Professionals Group.

In the book, Baier provides landowners and their partners with a roadmap to achieve conservation compatible with their financial and personal goals. This guide is a great resource for private landowners who want to conserve fish and wildlife on their lands.

You can learn more about the book and purchase it [here](#).

NACD's 2021 Stewardship Materials Now Available for Print-On-Demand



Conservation districts interested in purchasing printed 2021 Stewardship Week educational materials can now order high quality, on-demand printed materials through [Goetz Printing](#). Next year's theme, "Healthy Forests = Healthy Communities," celebrates the importance of conserving and protecting our trees and forests.

The materials are also available for free download on [NACD's Marketplace](#). To learn more about NACD's Stewardship program, visit [NACD's](#)



[Conservation Education Hub](#) or
contact us at
stewardship@nacdnet.org.

EVENTS FOR JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Promote your conservation district or state association's tree sale, annual meeting, webinar, field day or more on NACD's [Calendar of Events!](#)

[Submit an event](#)

"The TA grant allowed our office to assist growers by completing the BMP details needed in order to conclude the project," **said Laura Bloom**, Palm Beach SWCD Director.

The irrigation systems that were designed and installed helped producers keep phosphorus on their farms, instead of running off the field and/or leaching into groundwater.

"We're helping them run their farms in a good, safe and efficient manner, which will both benefit their agricultural operation and keep Florida's waterways clean," **Santiago said**.

"Through the NACD grant given to Palm Beach Soil and Water Conservation District, the office was able to write irrigation water management plans, and at the same time, talk to farmers about the importance of proper water management," **said Rosa Reyes**, NRCS District Conservationist. "The grant allowed our field office to expand our outreach to farmers and other land users."

To learn more about NACD's Technical Assistance grants or to read other TA success stories, visit the [NACD Technical Assistance Grants webpage](#).

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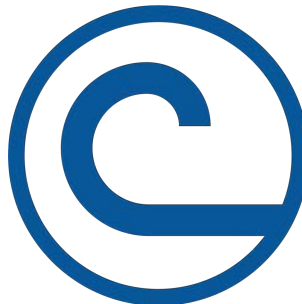


NACD BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

July 21, 2020



On Monday, July 20, the NACD Board of Directors conducted a virtual board meeting in place of the 2020 Summer Conservation Forum and Tour, which was to be held this week in Bismarck, N.D., but was moved to a virtual format given the ongoing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The organization's governing body voted to amend the national association's bylaws to permit virtual board meetings in times of state or federal emergencies and conducted the business meeting over Zoom.

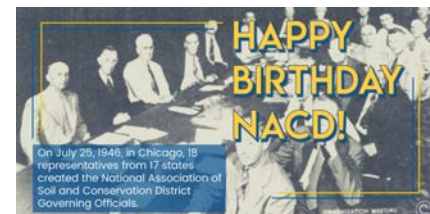


During the meeting, the NACD Board of Directors took up, voted on and approved a formal statement on diversity, equity and inclusion:

"The NACD Board of Directors formally denounces racism and discrimination in any form. We are committing to gain greater awareness and understanding of issues important to diverse communities, and we support actions to advance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in conservation. We are taking additional steps to encourage greater diversity in our national board, calling for the formation of a task force to examine DEI in our internal governance; and we call on conservation districts and state associations to examine their own programs, policies and procedures related to diversity, equity and inclusion as well, in order to make conservation delivery accessible and available for all Americans.

We also call on conservation districts to actively engage all members of their local communities to understand conservation issues important to diverse populations, to encourage greater diversity in local elections and to encourage even greater transparency and open dialogue in conservation district programs. NACD recognizes that if we do not fully embrace diversity, equity and inclusion in each and every local

NACD Celebrates 74th Anniversary



This Saturday, July 25, NACD will celebrate its 74th anniversary.

On July 25, 1946, at the Statler Hotel in Chicago, 18 representatives from 17 states created the National Association of Soil Conservation District Governing Officials. This was in response to the devastation of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt recommended the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act be signed into law by all state governors, which gave states a step-by-step guide in creating conservation districts.

74 years later, conservation districts have a more powerful national voice than ever. NACD represents nearly 3,000 districts in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the

conservation district, then we cannot possibly be a diverse organization at the national level.

At our core, we are a grassroots organization representing every community in the United States – and we understand that expanding our commitment to DEI takes this same fundamental approach – a voice that starts in the thousands of local communities that we serve and grows emphatically, energetically and compassionately into a cohesive national transformation that takes root across the country. NACD is fully committed in its efforts of diversity, equity, and inclusivity to work with clients, conservation districts, partners, and others to achieve our fundamental goal of transforming how we reach and work with communities across the country.”

[The statement is publicly available on NACD's website.](#)

Yesterday's meeting was the Board of Directors' first meeting since the 2020 NACD Annual Meeting in February and marks the first time board members have met virtually. The Board of Directors is next scheduled to meet in February 2021.

NACD AWARDS \$6.5 MILLION TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO BOOST CAPACITY

Today, [NACD announced the award of \\$6.5 million](#) in new technical assistance grants to nearly 400 conservation districts in 36 states and territories.

These grants, made possible through an agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), complement the \$8.5 million in technical assistance grants [awarded to previous grantees in March](#) of this year.

“Since 2018, NACD and NRCS have worked together to increase staffing at the field level for conservation districts,” **NACD President Tim Palmer said.** “This increased technical capacity helps to improve conservation services to farmers, ranchers and local communities across the nation.”

State conservation partnership leaders helped identify high priority locations and workloads to guide where the awards would best be placed. The funds announced today will support approximately 185 full- and part-time individuals, including over 12 full-time equivalent staff in tribe-related positions. More than \$1.6 million of matching funds will be added to these awards, furthering the impact of these grants.

“The funds announced today will support resource technicians, conservation planners, program support specialists, foresters, cultural resource specialists, agronomists and other specialists, who will work with thousands of clients to increase their conservation practices and their access to contracts and conservation plans,” **Palmer said.**

To date in 2020, NACD and NRCS have awarded \$15 million in technical assistance grants. Since the program's inception, NACD has funded technical assistance in all 50 states and three U.S. territories.

U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

To learn more about NACD's history and founding members, [visit NACD's website.](#)

Deadline Approaching: Submission for NACD's 2021 Annual Meeting Theme Due Friday

The deadline to submit a theme idea for next year's 75th Annual Meeting is this **Friday, July 24.**

Help us come up with a theme that embodies NACD's legacy as we celebrate 75 years in New Orleans, La., scheduled to be held from Feb. 6-10, 2021.

The winning submission will also earn a complimentary full registration to the 2021 Annual Meeting. To submit your theme idea, please click the button below or fill out the form [here.](#)

[Submit Here](#)

Call for NACD U&C Webinar Proposals

The deadline to submit proposals for NACD's FY2021 Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation Webinars is less than two weeks away!

NACD's Urban and Community Resource Policy Group (RPG) invites member districts and partners to submit presentation proposals by sending a brief paragraph describing the program/project to NACD Senior Advisor [Deb Bogar](#) by **Aug. 1, 2020.**

Topic suggestions are wide-ranging, including, but not limited to, stormwater management and low impact development; green infrastructure and urban forestry; urban agriculture and small acreage; soil health; community outreach and

Learn more about NACD's Technical Assistance grants on [NACD's website](#).

engagement; and technology. To view a full list of the past webinars, visit [NACD's website](#).

MICHIGAN GOVERNOR ESTABLISHES JULY 17 AS MICHIGAN CONSERVATION DISTRICT DAY

Last Friday, Michigan Governor **Gretchen Whitmer** established July 17 as Conservation District Day throughout Michigan.

The date commemorates the 83rd anniversary of Public Act 297 of 1937, Michigan's first soil conservation district law, enacted as a locally-based response to the soil erosion catastrophe of the 1930s Dust Bowl, coupled with extreme drought nationwide.

Since 1937, the scope and responsibility of Michigan conservation districts has grown far beyond their original focus of agricultural soil quality, to include invasive species management, optimizing forestland habitat, safe-guarding water quality and quantity, providing conservation education, recycling support, farmland protections and more.

"The common mission of Michigan's conservation districts is to protect and enhance the soil, water and habitat resources on working lands across the states' 83 counties," said **Gerald Miller**, president of the **Michigan Association of Conservation Districts** (MACD) and board chair of **Kent Conservation District**.

"Conservation districts have worked hand-in-hand with Michigan's farmers and producers for 83 years to accomplish this mission," he said.

"In their 83-year history, our conservation districts have addressed many significant conservation challenges by providing trusted, local assistance, working directly with land owners and managers to positively impact our natural resources, including the reduction of rain water runoff, soil erosion and nutrients into Michigan's lakes, streams and rivers," said **Lori Phalen**, executive director of MACD.

To learn more and read the entire press release, [visit MACD's website](#).



RCPP GRANT HELPS OREGON SWCD

Apply Now: NACD 2021 Annual Meeting Breakout Sessions

NACD is [soliciting applications for breakout sessions](#) for the 2021 Annual Meeting, which is currently being planned as an in-person meeting. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, Sept. 4, 2020**.

NACD's 75th Annual Meeting will put heavy emphasis on NACD's legacy and focus on where the conservation movement is headed. We encourage proposals that explore the legacy of conservation districts.

NACD seeks proposals that fit within five themes: District Operations and Partnerships; Natural Resources Policy and Protection; Stewardship and Education; Communications and Outreach; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Conservation.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the innovation and quality of the proposal; its relevance to one of the themes; and the applicability to other conservation districts across the country. Preference will be given to proposals submitted by a conservation district, state/territory association or partner.

If your company or organization would like time at the meeting to present to NACD members about your products or services that support conservation district work, please contact info@nacdnet.org.

To learn more and submit a proposal, visit [NACD's Breakout Sessions webpage](#). If you have any questions, please contact NACD Government Affairs Manager **Eric Hansen** at eric-hansen@nacdnet.org.

RESTORE OAK HABITAT

The **Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District** (SWCD) in Oregon is partnering with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to protect ancestral lands and implement forest management practices with a \$1.7 million grant awarded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)'s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

The efforts aim to enhance and restore Oregon white oak habitat and associated wildlife species on private lands in Polk County, in part by creating habitat corridors and adding wildlife forage. The plan also includes acquiring three permanently conserved tribal ancestral lands through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Fund and teach private landowners the tribal practices for maintaining oak habitat.

"They were maintaining this kind of habitat for over 400 years before anyone else got here," said **Karin Stutzman**, Polk County SWCD district manager. "Their management techniques were accomplished without using chemicals or machines. That's a very valuable set of knowledge to know."

About 1,900 acres total will be impacted by the RCPP project, including 740 acres of privately-owned land. Enhancements include creating habitat corridors that provide unobstructed travel for wildlife throughout the county and connecting to other similar corridors in neighboring counties. Restoration of the privately-owned land includes acreage in the Grand Ronde Community, the county and the Airlie-Haybeck Oaks Conservation Opportunity Area.

Nearly \$2 million in contributions from partners will support permanently protected conservation easements, and state grant funding will complement oak restoration work. There also will be technical assistance and outreach activities.



"There's a desire by constituents in the county that want to preserve that ecology," **Stutzman said**. "It's unique, it's historical, and it's greatly in decline."

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will provide education on their traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in managing oak habitat conditions and uses. Modern techniques modeling TEK will include the use of fire crews and brush burns.

"Tribal people are the best stewards of the land," **Stutzman said**. "The tribal elders and members will provide valuable information about historical oak habitat conditions and uses. Workshops will be held to train anyone who wants to know about this. It will help landowners manage savanna and oak habitat by building skills to implement another option to increase sustainability and create ecologically-based practices.

"If there are less invasive and less harmful ways to improve habitat, then everyone needs to know that," **Stutzman said**.

To read the rest of this story, [visit NACD's blog](#).

SHP Releases 2019 Cover Crop Report



Earlier this month, the Soil Health Partnership (SHP) released its 2019 Cover Crop Planting Report. SHP conducted a cover crop survey with SHP farmer partners about their cover crop use on trial sites in the fall of 2019.

SHP's report shows that farmers are using diverse strategies to plant cover crops and a variety of plant species to accomplish their soil health goals.

The objective is to do this annually and use the data to further analyze how cover crops impact soil health, agronomic outcomes and farmer profitability.

To read the report, [click here](#).

EVENTS FOR JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	2020 NACD Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	2020 NACD Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	2020 NACD Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Promote your conservation district or state association's tree sale, annual meeting, webinar, field day or more on NACD's [Calendar of Events!](#)

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REGISTER FOR NACD'S FORESTRY RPG SUMMER VIRTUAL MEETING

July 28, 2020



The NACD Forestry Resource Policy Group (RPG)'s summer meeting in New Hampshire was canceled due to concerns related to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. To replace it, the Forestry RPG has organized a [two-day virtual meeting](#) to explore relevant forestry topics and conduct annual RPG business.

A series of seven Zoom discussions will be held on **Tuesday, Aug. 11**. Each 50-minute session will feature a panel of presenters and a Q&A session with participants. Sessions are open to all conservation districts and forestry partners interested in attending.

Below is information on each session:

A closer look at American Tree Farm System (ATFS) standards

[The American Forest Foundation has proposed changes to American Tree Farm System standards. This session will explore how those changes affect small woodland owners, particularly in the northeast region.](#)

Aug. 11 • 10:00 a.m. Eastern • 50 minutes

[Click here to register.](#)

Supporting the NWTF National Forestry Initiative

In a number of states, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) foresters are part of multi-partner efforts that include conservation districts. In recent years, with funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the number of NWTF foresters has grown, and with it a need for support and collaboration.

Aug. 11 • 11:00 a.m. Eastern • 50 minutes

[Click here to register.](#)

Making the case for strong forest economies

A healthy wood products market helps allow for healthy forests. Conservation districts and state associations are well positioned to educate legislators and community leaders on how the two are linked.

Aug. 11 • 12:00 p.m. Eastern • 50 minutes

[Click here to register.](#)

Last Call for NACD U&C Webinar Proposals

The deadline to submit proposals for NACD's FY2021 Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation Webinars is this **Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020**.

NACD's Urban and Community Resource Policy Group (RPG) invites member conservation districts and partners to submit presentation proposals by sending a brief paragraph describing the program/project to NACD Senior Advisor [Deb Bogar](#).

Topic suggestions are wide-ranging, including, but not limited to, stormwater management and low impact development; green infrastructure and urban forestry; urban agriculture and small acreage; soil health; community outreach and engagement; and technology.

To view a full list of the past webinars, visit [NACD's website](#).

USDA Investigating Packages of Unsolicited Seeds

Mastering the message

How conservation districts connect with landowners and communicate with community leaders is critical in their ability to have an impact on the land. This session will explore what has worked (and not worked) and how to better prepare conservation district professionals for those conversations.

Aug. 11 • 2:00 p.m. Eastern • 50 minutes

[Click here to register.](#)

Is biochar a growth area for conservation districts?

A number of conservation districts have been involved in the production and use of biochar, which is believed to enhance soil health. This session will provide insight on the product and its uses and how conservation districts may become involved.

Aug. 11 • 3:00 p.m. Eastern • 50 minutes

[Click here to register.](#)

Conservation districts provide a boost to pre-fire efforts

This session will demonstrate how conservation districts are helping communities reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire through planning, partnering and implementation.

Aug. 11 • 4:00 p.m. Eastern • 50 minutes

[Click here to register.](#)

How conservation districts can support female forest landowners

Data suggests women are a growing demographic among forest landowners. Groups like Women Owning Woodlands (WOW) aim to support female forest landowners. This session will examine ways conservation districts may help.

Aug. 11 • 5:00 p.m. Eastern • 50 minutes

[Click here to register.](#)

To learn more, [visit NACD's website.](#)

DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR NACD SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

Only one month left to submit your award nominations! NACD is seeking submissions for its **NACD Friend of Conservation Award**, which recognizes an individual, business, organization or agency outside the association for outstanding contributions to the conservation of our nation's natural resources; and the **NACD Distinguished Service Award**, which honors an individual within the association, a conservation district or a state association that has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources.

Nominations are due **Monday, Aug. 31**. All nominations will receive an honorable mention certificate from NACD President Tim Palmer in appreciation of their service to conservation. Winning nominations will receive a complimentary meeting registration for NACD's 2021 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, La., a complimentary Appreciation Banquet ticket, a plaque and national recognition at the annual meeting and in NACD's publications.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is currently investigating packages of unsolicited seeds from China that people from across the country have received in numerous states.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, as well as other federal agencies and state departments of agriculture, to investigate the situation.

USDA urges anyone who receives a suspicious, unsolicited package of seeds to immediately contact their state plant regulatory official or APHIS state plant health director. To learn more, [visit APHIS's website.](#)

NACD Thanks Bobbie Frank for Conservation Work



This August, **Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts** Executive Director **Bobbie Frank** will retire.

"I can't imagine having a more fulfilling career," **Frank said**. "Conservation districts are the boots on the ground getting resource projects and programs implemented and helping agriculture along the way."

"Being a small part of that in Wyoming has been an honor and a privilege," **she said**. "I will miss the people in Wyoming's conservation districts, as well as the NACD friends I have met over the years."

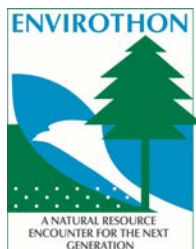
For more information and the guidelines to nominate an outstanding conservation leader, please visit [NACD's website](#) and download the nomination forms.

NACD thanks Frank for her many years of service toward the conservation mission.

NCF-ENVIROTHON SEEKS YOUR FEEDBACK

The National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon is seeking input on how it can grow as an organization and reach a wider audience of students and educators.

Whether you have participated in Envirothon as a student or an advisor or if you have only heard of the program but don't know how to get started, we want to hear from you! What are the challenges to participating in the Envirothon program?



Please take a few minutes to complete this [survey](#) and be sure to share with your fellow educators or students. Your responses will provide us with valuable information to help shape the future of the Envirothon program. The deadline to complete the survey is **Monday, Aug. 10, 2020**.

To take the survey, [click here](#).

FINAL RULE RELEASED IMPLEMENTING CHANGES TO NEPA

On Wednesday, July 15, President Trump announced the [final rule](#) implementing changes to the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). For the first time in over 40 years, NEPA has undergone a comprehensive update covering concerns with the implementation of the statute. NACD addressed our concerns with the way NEPA was implemented previously and expressed support for several of the changes in [comments](#) submitted to the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) this spring.

To learn more, [visit NACD's website](#). NACD will continue to provide updates on NEPA as available.

Apply Now: NACD 2021 Annual Meeting Breakout Sessions

NACD is [soliciting applications for breakout sessions](#) for the 2021 Annual Meeting, which is currently being planned as an in-person meeting. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, Sept. 4, 2020**.

NACD's 75th Annual Meeting will put heavy emphasis on NACD's legacy and focus on where the conservation movement is headed. We encourage proposals that explore the legacy of conservation districts.

If your company or organization would like time at the meeting to present to NACD members about your products or services that support conservation district work, please contact info@nacdnet.org.

To learn more about this year's five proposal themes and to submit a proposal, visit [NACD's Breakout Sessions webpage](#). If you have any questions, please contact NACD Government Affairs Manager [Eric Hansen](#).



Are You Involved with Woodland Pollinators?

Is your conservation district engaged in projects involving woodland pollinators? Do you have an interest in the subject?

Share your stories and interest with NACD Forestry Specialist [Mike Beacom](#), using "woodland pollinators" in the subject line.



ENGINEERING SUPPORT THROUGH AN NACD TA GRANT

Thanks to an [NACD Technical Assistance \(TA\) Grant](#), the **Shavano Conservation District (SCD)** in Montrose, Colo., was able to ease the engineering backlog in their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. **David Olivero** was brought on as an engineering technician with the district's first grant in 2018 and was one of two engineering technicians in the office.



"The funds that were made available for our engineering technician have provided our office with much needed engineering help," **said Penny Bishop**, SCD district manager.

In the first year alone, Olivero was able to help with 28 of the approximately 70 projects the team tackled. Since their area is a direct tributary to the Colorado River, efficient water use is strongly encouraged to keep their soils' salinity out of the watershed. Many projects are irrigation related and include components like gated pipes, sprinkler systems and subsurface drains.

"The majority of projects are gated pipe installations," **Olivero said**. "With the installation of gated pipes and with the education of farmers and ranchers on the best use of gated pipes, we're meeting lot of the objectives as far as keeping salinity out of the watershed."

To read the rest of this story, [click here](#). To learn more about NACD's Technical Assistance grants or to read other TA success stories, [visit NACD's TA Grants webpage](#).

AUGUST U&C WEBINAR FEATURES NORTH COVE COASTAL PROJECT

The next NACD Urban and Community (U&C) Conservation webinar, scheduled for **12:00-1:00 p.m. Eastern on Aug. 20, 2020**, will feature Washington State's **Pacific Conservation District (CD)**'s North Cove Coastal Project.

Shoreline erosion has been a disastrous problem for the North Cove community for over 100 years, where 12 square miles of land has been devoured by the ocean. If nothing was done, erosion would have continued until it engulfed State Route 105, which would have resulted in a loss of hundreds of acres of homes and the valuable cranberry farming ground that stretches from Willapa Bay to Grays Harbor. Historic dredging and riprap armoring are believed to have contributed to changing drift currents and sediment transport.

PLT Offers New Online Green Job Quiz



Project Learning Tree (PLT) has launched an interactive quiz that allows youth to answer a few simple questions online and receive recommendations for a rewarding green career path that suits their personality.

It's fast, easy and fun to do, as well as perfect for youth ages 12-25 looking to learn about what it takes to perform jobs in sustainability, forestry and conservation.

Try the [online quiz here](#).

Nominations Now Open for NOYF Awards

The Outstanding Farmers of America (OFA)'s National Outstanding Young Farmers (NOYF) Awards Program, the nation's longest running farmer recognition program, is now seeking nominations for young agricultural leaders committed to stewardship, innovative agriculture and community involvement.

The mission of the awards is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of the farmers' endeavors, to develop a further appreciation for their contributions and achievements, and to inform the agribusiness community of the growing urban awareness of farmers' importance and impact on America's economy.

Winners receive an award from John Deere and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., during National Ag Week next year. The nomination deadline is **Oct. 5, 2020**. To learn more and fill out a nomination form, visit [OFA's website](#).

This project represents a new approach to addressing erosion at the site and emulates the natural process along the upper Washington coast and Oregon coast. Work consisted of placing cobble against the existing erosion scarp to create a porous, dynamic revetment (retaining wall).

The revetment dissipates wave and tidal energy by allowing individual rocks to move and absorb the wave energy, rather than deflecting energy like a typical revetment. The dynamic revetment helped protect existing vegetation and beach sands from scour/erosion during storm events. Large woody debris was installed to help reduce lateral erosion.

These popular webinars, held on the third Thursday of each month, are sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation in partnership with the NACD Urban and Community Resource Policy Group. There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To register, click [here](#). If you have difficulty, please contact NACD Senior Advisor **Debra Bogar** at deb-bogar@nacdnnet.org.

EVENTS FOR JULY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	2020 Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	2020 Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	2020 Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	2020 Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	2020 Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	2020 Arizona Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Promote your conservation district or state association's tree sale, annual meeting, webinar, field day or more on NACD's [Calendar of Events!](#)

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NRCS CHIEF LOHR TO STEP DOWN

August 4, 2020



Last Call to Register for NACD's Forestry RPG Summer Virtual Meeting

Next **Tuesday, Aug. 11**, the Forestry RPG will hold a [two-day virtual meeting](#), in place of its in-person meeting due to COVID-19 (coronavirus) concerns, to explore relevant forestry topics and conduct annual RPG business.

There will be a series of seven 50-minute Zoom discussions, and each will feature a panel of presenters and a Q&A session with participants. Sessions are open to all conservation districts and forestry partners interested in attending.

To learn more about each session and register, [visit NACD's website](#).



On Friday, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) **Chief Matt Lohr** [announced in an online video](#) that he will be leaving USDA this month in order to return to Virginia and farm full-time.

Calling the moment "bittersweet" [in a Facebook post](#), Lohr stated, "I have been so blessed to lead this agency, and I will cherish the experience forever."

Lohr's last day will be Friday, Aug. 14. NRCS Associate Chief **Kevin Norton** will serve as acting chief of NRCS.

"Matt has committed his entire life to the betterment of agriculture, and we are grateful for his service to USDA," said **U.S. Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue** [in a statement](#). "The knowledge and experience he brought to the table helped ensure our locally-led, science-based approach continues to offer farmers the conservation solutions needed to enhance their environment and commercial viability."

NACD has been very fortunate to work with Lohr for the past two years, as he has been instrumental in helping champion the conservation mission while supporting the 3,000 NRCS field offices and their employees across the nation. We wish him and his family the best moving forward.

GAOA Signed into Law

This morning, President Trump signed the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) into law.

GAOA received bipartisan support and passed the Senate on June 17 with a 73-25 vote, followed by the House approving it 310-107 on July 22. Momentum for the bill comes on the heels of President Trump's request for

FEMA'S NEW BRIC PROGRAM ENCOURAGES NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENCE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is gearing up to release a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for its new [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) grant program. BRIC replaces the agency's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. It represents a steady year-to-year stream of funding for proactive, pre-disaster investment in community resilience, thanks to the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018. The Act allows FEMA to now set-aside six percent of all federal post-disaster grant funding to invest in nationwide resilience. BRIC will be an annual, nationwide grant program.

FEMA just concluded a [Summer Engagement Series](#) of virtual sessions to discuss key elements of the BRIC program. One session was dedicated entirely to BRIC and nature-based solutions. FEMA encourages BRIC grant applications that build community resilience with nature-based solutions (e.g., green infrastructure and low-impact development). These solutions both mitigate natural hazard risks and provide communities with co-benefits such as enhanced water quality and wildlife habitat.

The agency just released [Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities](#), which makes the business case for nature-based solutions, and offers examples and federal funding opportunities for projects through FEMA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The BRIC NOFO is anticipated sometime this August or September, and will be posted on [grants.gov](#). To learn more about how conservation districts can partner in their community to inform resilience planning and access funding like BRIC for projects, check out the article, "[Partnering for Conservation and Disaster Resilience](#)," in the [spring 2019 issue of NACD's The Resource](#).

SWCS HOLDS 75TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Congress to take up the issue after expressing his support in [early March](#).

The [bill](#) tackles maintenance backlogs by establishing the National Parks and Public Land Restoration Fund, which provides \$1.9 billion annually from 2021–2025. Furthermore, GAOA removes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) from the annual appropriations fund by permanently funding LWCF at \$900 million each year.

Learn more [here](#). NACD will continue to provide updates on activities impacting federal lands as they become available.

MACD Seeks Executive Director

The **Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts (MACD)** is seeking an executive director (ED) to work part-time as an independent contractor with a six-month probationary period.

The ED will be responsible for the overall administration and operation of the MACD and associated programs administered by MACD. Primary duties include outreach and communications, government affairs and nonprofit management and fundraising.

The position will remain open until filled. To learn more and apply, visit [NACD's job board](#).

ESMC Announces Inaugural Producer Circle Members

The Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC) recently announced that 28 farmers and ranchers from across the U.S. have been selected as the inaugural cohort of Producer Circle members.

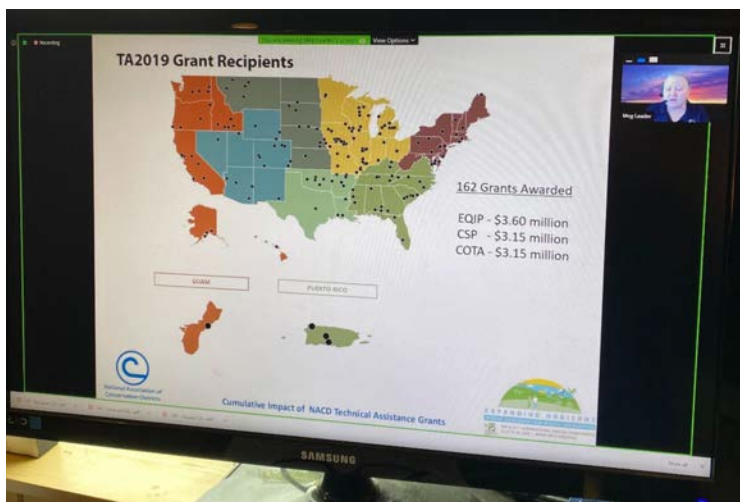
The Producer Circle will provide critical farmer and rancher input



From July 27-29, several NACD staff members were among the nearly 1,000 conservation partners who met on Zoom to participate in the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS)'s 75th International Annual Conference. The three-day conference, originally planned to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, was moved online due to COVID-19 (coronavirus) concerns.

This year's theme, "Expanding Horizons: Where Conservation Meets Innovation," focused on broadening individual perceptions of soil health by discussing new concepts, partners and advances in research with a diverse and multi-generational selection of speakers.

The conference opened with a Pritchard Keynote Panel, which explored the value of an interdisciplinary approach to advance conservation innovations at all scales. The Wednesday general session included an extended dialogue on diversity.



When SWCS moved to the virtual platform, nearly 90 percent of the individual presenters were willing to make the shift to the new format. NACD presenters included NACD Projects and Partnerships Coordinator **Meg Leader** (pictured above), who discussed the cumulative impact of [NACD's Technical Assistance \(TA\) grants](#).

Leader was joined by TA grantees **Greg Lake**, **Mike Werling** and **Tim Bomba** (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)) of the **Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District** (SWCD) in Indiana; **Keri Harris** and **Kaitlin Gibbons** of the **Franklin County Conservation District** (CD) in Kansas; **Christy Cincotta** of the Tyonek Tribal CD in Alaska; **Jill Arace** with the Vermont Association of CDs; and **Vicky Drew** with the Vermont NRCS. **Bill Berry** also presented on behalf of NACD and other partners of the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) on how to encourage the use of conservation technology innovations.

while pilot testing ESMC's innovative protocols and the technical assistance, verification and certification requirements over the next two years in preparation for full market launch in 2022.

NACD's Soil Health Champion **Jeff Rice** is among those selected from across the country. To learn more about the members, [visit ESMC's website](#).

Check out SDGC's Grasslands Video Stories

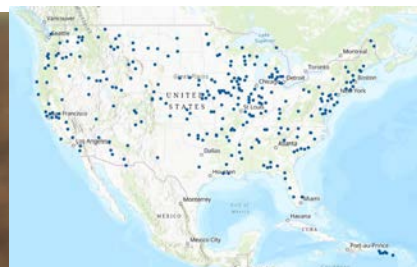


The South Dakota Grassland Coalition (SDGC), in partnership with several organizations, is working to raise awareness on the importance of healthy soils, grasslands and ecosystems by releasing a short video story each month during 2020, as part of a series called "Our Amazing Grasslands."

This month's story features NACD South Dakota Board Member **Fran Fritz**'s farm in Iroquois, S.D. [Click here](#) to watch the five-minute video.

Partners involved in this project include the Audubon Dakota, Ducks Unlimited, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and South Dakota State University. Learn more about SDGC [here](#).

NACD Debuts New TA Maps



NACD recently debuted a new interactive and in-depth mapping of the Technical Assistance (TA) grantees from across the country.

During the virtual summer board meeting on July 20, **NACD President Tim Palmer** [announced the awarding](#) of \$6.5 million of additional TA grants to 93 awardees. With this announcement, NACD is proud to announce we have a grantee in all 50 states and three territories. This new map highlights this achievement and allows you to view TA grantees and their stories all in one place.

To learn more, [visit NACD's TA grants webpage](#).

Upon graduating from Purdue University with a B.S. (in 1994) and a M.S. (in 1996) in Agricultural Systems Management, **Rodney Rulon** started farming full-time. [Rulon Enterprises LLC](#) is run by brothers **Ken** and **Roy Rulon**, cousin **Rodney Rulon**, and Roy's sons, **Nick** and **Neal Rulon**. This family operation started in 1869 on 80 acres and has since expanded to over 6,400 acres of no-till corn and soybeans across three counties in central Indiana – Tipton, Madison and Hamilton Counties. The operation also includes a farrow-to-finish hog operation called Bryant Premium Pork LLC; a Beck's Hybrid seed dealership; a custom drainage design and installation business; and a subscription-based agricultural discussion forum called "[The Peer Network](#)."

Since 1989, the Rulons have used a no-till system, finding that conservation farming provides economic and environmental benefits. Rulon says after about 10 years, they had learned how to really make no-till work on their farm. During that process, they saw significant changes in the soil—an increase in earthworms and improvements in the soil aggregate size. In 2003, they decided to take their operation to the next level of soil health by incorporating cover crops and amending the soil with Gypsum. Today, the Rulons have cover crops on 90 percent of their acres at some time during the year and, as a result, they say they've seen a yield boost of a few more bushels per acre.

Through participation in programs with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Rulons have been able to conduct on-farm trials examining no-till systems and the integration of cover crops. Through these trials, they've compared no-till management only to no-till with cover crops (with various seed mixes). Even when their participation in these programs had ended, the Rulons still continue to experiment with different cover crop mixes, with both economically and environmentally favorable results. They have observed greater water infiltration and retention, improvement in the soil structure and air exchange, increased organic matter, and decreased soil erosion. Rulon says that the no-till with cover crops system also helps to retain moisture on their fields during dry summer months.

While the Rulons continue to strive to improve their operations, Rodney diligently shares his passion for sustainable agriculture through various speaking events and through opening up his operation for field day tours. He also serves on the [Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District](#) Board.

To read more about Rodney Rulon and his family operation, visit [his profile](#) on the NACD website. If you or someone you know would like to become an [NACD Soil Health Champion](#), please contact NACD North Central Region Representative **Beth Mason** at beth-mason@nacdnet.org.

EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	27	28	29	30	31	1
2020 NACD National Conservation District Meeting	2020 NACD National Conservation District Meeting	2020 NACD National Conservation District Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

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Special Compensation Circular Letter

July 28, 2020

Circular Letter: 200-019-20

Distribution: VI, XII

To: All CalPERS Public Agency and School Employers
Subject: Common Issues on Special Compensation Reporting and Labor Agreement Conditions

Purpose

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to provide information and increase awareness of commonly misreported items of special compensation for public agencies and schools based on language in their Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Labor Agreements. This information is to ensure stakeholder understanding and accurate benefit payments, eliminate errors, and provide guidance on correctly reporting special pay items according to a compliant MOU/Labor Agreement. The information is intended to also ensure reporting of special compensation complies with the Public Employees' Retirement Law (PERL), Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013 (PEPRA), and Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

Defining Compensation for Classic Members and PEPRA Members

Compensation Earnable for Classic Members

Pursuant to Government (Gov.) Code sections 20636 and 20636.1, compensation earnable is defined as the pay rate and special compensation of the member, as further clarified by those statutes.

Gov. Code sections 20636(c) and 20636.1(c) further specify that special compensation includes any payment received for special skills, knowledge, abilities, work assignment, workdays or hours, or other work conditions. Pursuant to CCR section 571, a list of special compensation items is identified along with the requirements under subsection (b).

Pensionable Compensation for PEPRA Members

Gov. Code section 7522.34 and CCR section 571.1 state that pensionable compensation of a PEPRA member of any public retirement system is defined as the normal monthly rate of pay or base pay for normally required duties that must be historically consistent for the job classification.

CCR section 571.1(b) further identifies, clarifies, and defines the types of pay that meet the criteria of pensionable compensation according to each subsequent criterion set forth in subdivision (a) which must also be met.

Common Reporting Errors

- **Lump-Sum Reporting**

Lump-sum reporting occurs when special compensation items, such as holiday pay and bonus pay, are reported as a single lump-sum amount when paid. Pursuant to Gov. Code sections 20636, 20636.1, and 7522.34, special compensation items shall be reported in the pay period in which they were earned, regardless of when paid.

Special compensation is a component of final compensation and must be accurately reported to correctly calculate a member's retirement benefits. Lump-sum reporting issues may cause members to receive inflated retirement benefits, because a member's final compensation may include more than one lump-sum special compensation based on the reporting frequency.

For example, an employer may pay and report holiday pay at the end of the year in December as a lump-sum amount for the entire year; then, the following year, the member retires in November and receives the holiday pay reported in November as a lump-sum for the current year. This may cause the final compensation period to include two holiday pay lump-sums that span two calendar years. Alternately, a member with a 12-month final compensation may reflect 24-months of holiday pay reported within the 12-month final compensation period; this would be inaccurate reporting and is not compliant with the PERL.

- **Top Step Requirements**

Employers most commonly set eligibility based on a top-step requirement to receive special compensation such as longevity pay. A top-step requirement will create a group or class disparity, as it separates work-related grouping from other members, which makes the special compensation no longer available to all members in the group or class of logical grouping. Special compensation items are further defined under the CCR sections 571 and 571.1.

Longevity pay is a common example of special compensation for members who have been employed with an employer, or in a specified job classification, for a minimum of five years. When a non-compliant top-step requirement is included with longevity pay in the MOU/Labor Agreement terms and conditions, it will place further restrictions on the longevity pay and create a group or class issue.

- **Bonus Pay for Classic Members**

Bonus pay is compensation paid to members based on superior performance within a guideline and system in place; however, it is commonly misreported as special compensation when paid. Bonus pay is **only** reportable for classic members based on superior performance; however, employers often do not clearly define and/or outline clear and objective criteria, terms, and conditions for compliance in the MOU/Labor Agreement regarding how and when to measure the defined superior performance. For a member to clearly or objectively obtain reportable bonus pay, it should be in accordance with the employer's performance goals and/or objectives and properly documented as the member's evaluation criteria that deems the member's performance as superior for performance measures.

Note: Bonus pay is not reportable for PEPRA members.

- **Temporary Upgrade Pay for Classic Members**

Temporary upgrade pay (TUP) is often inaccurately reported due to noncompliant MOU/Labor Agreement language related to ambiguous terms and/or conditions for how the TUP shall be reported. It is most frequently misreported for members who are only taking on additional duties of an upgraded position, while continuing to perform their current duties.

Pursuant to CCR section 571(a)(3), TUP is defined as compensation to members who are required by their employer or governing board or body to work in an upgraded position/classification of limited duration. When a member maintains their current duties while concurrently assuming additional duties of an upgraded position, the additional duties do not meet the definition of TUP. They meet the definition of overtime as set forth in Gov. Code section 20635; overtime is not reportable for pensionable purposes to CalPERS.

To validate TUP, supporting documents, such as personnel action forms and related personnel documents, are commonly requested to verify the nature of the TUP and to determine if the member was performing additional duties or full duties of the upgraded position.

Note: Temporary upgrade pay is not reportable for PEPRA Members.

- **Categories & Types**

Employers often report special compensation items under an inaccurate category and/or type. This poses significant financial, contractual, and operational risks for the employer and its members.

Inaccurately reporting special compensation will also delay a member's retirement process until the compliant reportable information is obtained, verified, and accurately re-reported. Employers should properly identify special compensation items for transparency and reduce inaccurate data to be reported to the system.

Common Errors on MOU/Labor Agreement

- **Group or Class**

Employers may create a group or class disparity when a special compensation item is excluded due to a member's salary placement, including additional requirement(s) outside of the item's definition, and tenure. Although longevity pay is tenure-based at a minimum of five years (in most cases), additional requirements (i.e., performance-based) would create a group or class disparity. A group or class of employment is several members considered together because they share similarities in job duties, work location, collective bargaining unit, and/or other logical work-related grouping. A single member is not a group or class.

- **Condition(s) for Payments**

Employers commonly provide and report special compensation items consistently. To maintain compliance, all special compensation items must meet the definition of CCR sections 571 for classic members and 571.1 for PEPRA members.

Often, a special compensation item does not have a condition for payments contained within a labor policy and/or agreement. In addition, employers may compound other additional benefits in the calculation of a special compensation item, and it must be specified within the labor policy and/or agreement. For example, many employers include educational incentive and longevity pay when calculating holiday pay; therefore, the MOU/Labor Agreement shall include such terms within the condition for payments.

- **Combination of Eligibility Requirements**

Like the top-step requirements in reporting, employers may include additional requirements for members to qualify for special compensation items. Each special compensation item is defined under the exclusive list within CCR sections 571 and 571.1.

Although there are conditional eligibilities to qualify for the special compensation items, two definitions should not be combined into one. For example, the educational incentive's requirements are generally tied to completion of courses and/or obtaining a certification or degree. Adding a performance component would disqualify the educational incentive to be reportable.

- **Final Settlement Pay**

Employers may misreport compensation when they report amounts in the form of severance packages or "golden parachutes" that are typically paid in the member's final year of service prior to retirement. In other instances, employers may report vacation cash-outs and separation bonuses. This compensation meets the definition of final settlement pay set forth in CCR section 570. Final settlement pay in any form is not reportable to CalPERS for classic or PEPPRA members. Additionally, even if an employer's MOU/Labor Agreement specifically states that the compensation is not final settlement pay, the compensation will still be excluded in calculating a retirement benefit.

Impacts for Employers & Members

Special compensation items are one of the factors in calculating a member's retirement benefit. Therefore, misreported special compensation can create financial hardships for members. When a member's retirement benefit is calculated with inaccurate special compensation items, an overpayment is owed to CalPERS. This overpayment must be paid by the member and/or the respective employer to accurately account for funding contributions and benefits, ensure compliance with law, and reduce risk to the pension fund.

In addition to the impact these errors cause for your employee, failure to comply may also result in:

- Enforcement of an administrative hold on a member's account, which may result in loss of benefits and/or delay of a member's retirement date due to additional review required
- Notification to the employer's impacted members or bargaining groups to inform them of the employer's inability to make the necessary corrections and how it may impact their retirement and/or benefits
- A reoccurring administrative fee for delinquent resolution and erroneous payroll until compliance is obtained
- Escalation of the employer's Employer Compliance Review to the CalPERS Board of Administration's Risk & Audit Committee for further action
- Revocation of the employer's contract and/or pursuing all available remedies to enforce the PERL

To ensure consistent, transparent, and compliant employer compensation reporting and MOU/Labor Agreements requirements, employers may contact CalPERS' Compensation Compliance & Audit Resolution team via email at MOU_Review@calpers.ca.gov. This team is designated to collaborate with stakeholders to provide additional information, recommendations, and guidance.

We also offer [employer training classes](#) and resources on the CalPERS website to assist you with your CalPERS-related business. To gain a better understanding of myCalPERS business rules and procedures for reporting, view our [Business Rules Employer Education Schedule \(PDF\)](#) for virtual instructor led classes and/or explore our self-led [Online Classes for Employers \(PDF\)](#).

Questions

It is the employer's responsibility to comply with all terms and conditions set forth in the employer's contract with CalPERS and to ensure all reportable information is compliant with the PERL, PEPR, and the CCR.

For questions or concerns, contact the CalPERS Customer Contact Center at **888 CalPERS** (or **888-225-7377**).

Renee Ostrander, Chief
Employer Account Management Division



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Membership

Circular Letter

July 16, 2020

Circular Letter: 200-036-20

Distribution: IV, V, VI, X, XII, XVI

To: All CalPERS Employers

Subject: New Automated Process to Permanently Separate Retirement Appointments
that Meet Specific Criteria

Purpose

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to inform you of a new monthly automated process to permanently separate CalPERS retirement appointments that meet specific criteria. Beginning June 26, 2020, this process occurs on the last business day of every month. You will have the ability to correct or delete the automated permanent separations, if needed.

Background

In our ongoing efforts to ensure myCalPERS data integrity, we are focusing on addressing retirement appointments with unposted payroll and/or missing permanent separations. The absence of posted payroll and permanent separations may result in incorrect employer valuations and rates, retirement benefits, and/or PEPRA determinations.

Permanent Separations

Permanent separations should be reported once an employee ends employment with your agency, for any reason, so accurate membership details are captured within myCalPERS. Timely reporting of permanent separation dates will ensure member benefits are administered timely and accurately. Retirement appointments that meet specific criteria will now be permanently separated through a monthly automated process.

Separation Criteria

CalPERS will permanently separate appointments when one of the following scenarios exists:

- Employees with an active appointment with the start date of six months or greater with no payroll ever reported
- Employees with an active appointment who have not had payroll reported and posted within the last six months
- Employees who have retired and have an appointment that is active or on leave

Exclusions

The automated process **will not** include:

- Retired annuitants
- Non-contributory appointments
- Health-only appointments
- Retirement appointments with an active health enrollment associated to the appointment

You are still responsible for properly maintaining accurate employment data for all employees.

Circular Letters

- [200-002-13 \(PDF\)](#) Reporting Permanent Separation Dates in myCalPERS and Validating Participant Details in myCalPERS
- [200-015-16 \(PDF\)](#) Reporting Permanent Separation Dates in myCalPERS
- [200-028-16 \(PDF\)](#) Reporting Permanent Separation Dates
- [200-003-17 \(PDF\)](#) Retirement Appointment Reconciliation

If you have any questions, visit www.calpers.ca.gov, or contact the CalPERS Customer Contact Center at **888 CalPERS** (or 888-225-7377).

Renee Ostrander, Chief
Employer Account Management Division

Financial Letter Upload

SDRMA is requesting that each member submit a copy of their most recent Management Letter or Report on Internal Controls. We **do not** want you to submit your financial audit.

If your Report on Internal Controls refers back to your Management Letter, please submit a copy of the Management Letter.

Financial Letter Upload Instructions

To start, you will want to find your most recent Management Letter and/or Report on Internal Controls. Save this file as a PDF document to use in the below process.

Please also have available your Agency's annual revenue, from your most recent audit, to be used in the below process.

To upload your Financial Letter:

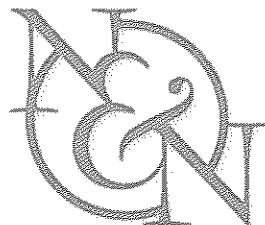
1. Log into the MemberPlus Portal, click on "Quick Links", then "Financial Letters"
2. Fill in your Agency's annual revenue, rounded to whole dollars
3. If you are not required to receive an audit, please check the box next to "I have no letter to Submit:" then click "Submit Now"
 - Please read the agreement and attest statement, then fill in the reason for not having an audit to submit. Once finished, click Submit.
4. If you did receive an audit, please fill in the fiscal year end date of your last audit.
5. Choose one of the following Document Types from the drop down
 - Management Letter
 - Report on Internal Controls
 - None (you will be required to provide a reason for not submitting a document when you click the "Submit" button)
6. Click the "Choose File" button and browse to the location where your Financial Letter is saved, click on the file then click "Open". This must be a single PDF file.
7. Click Submit Now
 - Please read the agreement and attest statement, then click the "Submit" button.

Once you click "Submit", you are finished. SDRMA staff will be in touch if there are any additional questions.

**TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Report to the Board of Directors

**For the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2019**



**TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Board of Directors
Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
Temecula, California

We are pleased to present this report related to our audit of the financial statements of the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019. This report summarizes certain matters required by professional standards to be communicated to you in your oversight responsibility for the District's financial reporting process.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. It will be our pleasure to respond to any questions you have about this report. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to be of service to the District.

Very truly yours,

Nigro & Nigro, PC

Murrieta, California
March 31, 2020

Required Communications

**TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Required Communications

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

Generally accepted auditing standards (AU-C 260, *The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance*) require the auditor to promote effective two-way communication between the auditor and those charged with governance. Consistent with this requirement, the following summarizes our responsibilities regarding the financial statement audit as well as observations arising from our audit that are significant and relevant to your responsibility to oversee the financial reporting process.

Area	Comments
Our Responsibilities with Regard to the Financial Statement Audit	Our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America have been described to you in our arrangement letter dated June 1, 2019. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities, which are also described in that letter.
Overview of the Planned Scope and Timing of the Financial Statement Audit	An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit involved judgment about the number of transactions and the account-type of areas tested. There were no changes to the planned scope and timing of our audit testwork.
Accounting Policies and Practices	<p>Accounting Policies and Practices Under generally accepted accounting principles, in certain circumstances, management may select among alternative accounting practices. During our audit, no such circumstances were noted.</p> <p>Adoption of, or Change in, Significant Accounting Policies or Their Application Management has the ultimate responsibility for the appropriateness of the accounting policies used by the District. The District did not adopt any significant new accounting policies, nor have there been any changes in existing significant accounting policies during the current period.</p> <p>Significant or Unusual Transactions We did not identify any significant or unusual transactions or significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.</p> <p>Management's Judgments and Accounting Estimates Accounting estimates are an integral part of the preparation of financial statements and are based upon management's current judgement. No such significant accounting estimates were noted or estimate applications were changed from the previous year.</p>
Audit Adjustments	Audit adjustments are summarized in the attached Summary of Adjusting Journal Entries .
Uncorrected Misstatements	We are not aware of any uncorrected misstatements other than misstatements that are clearly trivial.

**TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Required Communications

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

Area	Comments
Discussions With Management	We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the District's auditor. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.
Disagreements With Management	We encountered no disagreements with management over the application of significant accounting principles, the basis for management's judgments on any significant matters, the scope of the audit, or significant disclosures to be included in the financial statements.
Consultations With Other Accountants	We are not aware of any consultations management had with other accountants about accounting or auditing matters.
Significant Issues Discussed With Management	No significant issues arising from the audit were discussed or the subject of correspondence with management.
Significant Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit	No significant difficulties were encountered in performing our audit.
Required Supplementary Information	<p>We applied certain limited procedures to the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget to Actual Comparison <p>Which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.</p>

This information is intended solely for the information and use of Board of Directors and management of the District and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Summary of Adjusting Journal Entries

**TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

*Summary of Adjusting Journal Entries
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

No audit adjustments noted.