



BETTY T. YEE
California State Controller
Division of Accounting and Reporting

October 28, 2016

District Fiscal Officer
Elsinore - Murrieta - Anza Resource Conservation District
31569 Canyon Estates Drive, Suite 113
Lake Elsinore, CA, 92532

SUBJECT: 2015-16 Special Districts Financial Transactions Report

Dear District Fiscal Officer:

This letter provides information regarding the 2015-16 Special Districts Financial Transactions Report (FTR). Government Code (GC) section 53891 was amended and now requires the financial transactions of each local agency to be submitted to the State Controller's Office (SCO) within seven months after the close of the fiscal year. The report must contain underlying data from audited financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, if this data is available.

The financial reports are due January 31, 2017. Please submit the following documents:

- Financial Transactions Report
- U.S. Bureau of Census survey form

Please visit http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_locinstr_districts_forms.html for the electronic reporting program, as well as paper reporting forms, instructions, and information. Special District Reporting Unit staff is available if you need assistance with downloading the electronic reporting program.

If filing electronically, your username and password for the electronic reporting program are as follows:

Username: Elsinore - Murrieta - Anza Resource Conservation District

Password: 12363304300

Please use the following file transfer protocol (FTP) address for submitting electronically:

FTP Address: <ftp://sd82gbnv:Cw7r2ahy6S@ftp.sco.ca.gov>

October 28, 2016
District Fiscal Officer
Page 2

The addition of GC section 12463.2 (Chapter 781, Statutes of 2014) requires local government agencies (e.g., counties, cities, and special districts) to report information relating to the imposition of each locally assessed parcel tax on the SCO annual FTR. Please visit http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_locinstr_ParcelTaxRequirements_forms.html for more information regarding the reporting of parcel taxes.

Please note that in accordance with GC section 12464, if the reports are not made in the time, form, and manner required or there is reason to believe that a report is false, incomplete, or incorrect, the SCO is authorized to make an investigation to obtain the information required. Any costs incurred by the SCO shall be borne by the district.

GC section 26909 requires that an audit be completed and filed with our office within 12 months after the close of the fiscal year(s) under examination. As an alternative to mailing a hardcopy, you may submit an electronic copy by email to SDsupport@sco.ca.gov.

If you have any questions or need assistance with downloading the electronic reporting program, please contact the Special Districts Reporting Unit at SDsupport@sco.ca.gov or (916) 327-1017, or contact Susan Tsushima at stsushima@sco.ca.gov or (916) 323-2373.

Sincerely,



RENEE HSZIEH, Manager
Local Government Reporting Section

Enclosures

Top Ten Reporting Issues for Special Districts Financial Transactions Report

1. A Special District that has no financial transactions during the year must file the Cover Page form and the General Information form of the Special Districts Financial Transactions Report, stating "No Activity" on the Cover Page form. A Special District that has no financial transactions but has outstanding debt taken out in the Special District's name must report the debt and any debt payments on the Long-Term Debt and Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Equity forms.
2. The activity type must reflect the services the Special District provides. Select the type of non-enterprise/enterprise activity for which this report is being prepared. If preparing a paper report, select the appropriate non-enterprise activity from the list on page 12 of the Special District Reporting Instructions.
3. Major variances require footnotes. If there is an overall reporting change, add an explanation in the Comments form. The footnote panel can be accessed by double-clicking on the field in which the balance was reported. Invalid footnotes will be questioned by staff upon review of the Financial Transactions Report (FTR). Simply noting "Correct," "Confirmed OK," or "increase/decrease" is not acceptable. Please indicate what caused the variance (i.e., New AB 1234 law enforcement grant).
4. The Other fields on the revenue and expenditure forms are for items that do not apply to a hard-coded field elsewhere on the form. Please review all of the fields on the forms before reporting an item as Other, and provide a footnote.
5. Include a footnote to explain the reason for a prior period adjustment exceeding 20% of the Fund Equity, Beginning of Period.
6. Report residual equity transfers for non-recurring or non-routine transfers of equity to other agencies only, for example, transfers of residual balances of a dissolved district that was assumed by a city. Include a footnote to explain why a transfer was made. Report transfers between funds within the agency as Operating Transfer In/Out on the Revenues, Expenditures, Sources and Uses form.
7. The Appropriations Limit Information form must be completed by all special districts that receive property taxes and are subject to the provisions of California Constitutional Article XIII B. Refer to California Constitutional Article XIII B for specific information on this requirement. If the Special District is exempt from having an appropriation, note that in the General Comment form. Failure to report your Appropriations Limit might affect your mandated cost reimbursement.

8. If the Special District has any debt reported on the debt forms, the activity reported on the debt form must match the activity on the non-enterprise/enterprise form (i.e., Fire Protection activity reported on the non-enterprise form must have Fire Protection selected as the activity type on the debt form). All debt reported must have Principal and Interest (P&I) payments. If there are no P&I payments, include footnotes to explain why there are no current-year payments.
- Long-Term Debt
 - Principal Amount Issued During Fiscal Year
 - Report the total amount of principal issued during the fiscal year on the Long-Term Debt form.
 - Use a separate form for each debt issued.
 - For Non-Enterprise Activities, the principal amount issued must also be reflected on the Non-Enterprise Activity's Revenues, Expenditures, Sources and Uses form on the Proceeds of Long-Term Debt line.
 - Principal Amount Matured During Fiscal Year
 - Report the amount of principal paid during the fiscal year on the Long-Term Debt form. Do not include the current portion of principal amounts that are payable in the following fiscal year or the interest payment during the fiscal year.
 - For Non-Enterprise Activities, the principal payments reported must also be reflected on the Non-Enterprise Activity's Revenues, Expenditures, Sources and Uses form on the Retirement of Long-Term Debt line.
 - Interest Payment During the Fiscal Year
 - Report interest payments on the Interest on Long-Term Debt line on the Revenues, Expenditures, Sources and Uses form of the non-enterprise or enterprise activity related to the debt.
 - Other Long-Term Debt
 - Do not include liability type debts that have no P&I payments [e.g. Compensated Absences and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)] or interfund loans (e.g., copiers, vehicles, etc.) on the Long-Term Debt form as Other Long-Term Indebtedness.
9. Special Assessment, Mello-Roos, and Mark Roos Bonds
- Do not include interest or principal payments for 1911 Act Bonds, 1915 Act Bonds on the Revenues, Expenditures, Sources and Uses form. Report transactions and balances relating to these bonds on the Special Assessments, Mello-Roos Long-Term Debt form only.
 - Report assessments made for the payoff of bonds related to the Mello-Roos and Mark-Roos Bond Acts on the Special Assessments line on the Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Equity form.
10. We cannot grant extensions. You may submit your report via file transfer protocol (FTP). If you are unable to submit your report via FTP, please contact the Special Districts Reporting Unit by email at SDsupport@sco.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 327 1017 for other options. You must submit the signed Cover Page and the Bureau of Census form by mail.

Supplement to the Annual Report of Special Districts

Special District ID Number:	
Name of District:	Temecula-Elsmore-Anza-Murrita Resource Conservation District

Mark the appropriate box below to indicate the ending date of your agency's fiscal year.
Report data for that period only.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> July 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> October 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> January 2016 | <input type="checkbox"/> April 2016 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> August 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> December 2015 | <input type="checkbox"/> February 2016 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 2016 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> September 2015 | | <input type="checkbox"/> March 2016 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> June 2016 |

Return this form to the **California State Controller's Office**. If you have any questions regarding this form please contact:

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Michael Osman, 1-800-242-4523

A. Personnel Expenditures

Please report your government's total expenditures for salaries and wages during the year, including amounts paid on force account construction projects.

Z00:	\$
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B. Capital Outlay Expenditures for Enterprise Activities

Please report your government's capital outlay expenditures for the following enterprise activities, if applicable:

Airport Enterprise	Amount
Land and Equipment (Census Code G01)	\$
Construction (Census Code F01)	\$

Electric Enterprise	Amount
Land and Equipment (Census Code G92)	\$
Construction (Census Code F92)	\$

Harbor and Port Enterprise	Amount
Land and Equipment (Census Code G87)	\$
Construction (Census Code F87)	\$

Hospital Enterprise	Amount
Land and Equipment (Census Code G36)	\$
Construction (Census Code F36)	\$

Waste Disposal Enterprise	Amount
Land and Equipment (Census Code G80)	\$
Construction (Census Code F80)	\$

Water Enterprise	Amount
Land and Equipment (Census Code G91)	\$
Construction (Census Code F91)	\$

U.S. Bureau of the Census -- Revised 6/2015

Subject **Your Fall Resource is here!**
From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
Sender NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
<rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date 2016-11-07 18:13



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Tell Friend



Greetings NACD members and partners,

On the eve of what is sure to be an eventful election day, the staff here at NACD thought you might appreciate an update on a happier note – voluntary conservation.

The fall edition of NACD's quarterly publication can be [downloaded by clicking here](#) or [viewed online here](#).

In this issue of The Resource, you'll find feature stories on post-presidential election business and the work NACD is leading on Capitol Hill and beyond. Speaking of NACD's work, have you ever wondered who is here in Washington, D.C., championing locally-led conservation? Did you know that NACD has seven people based in different states across the country dedicated to serving our conservation district members? In this edition, you can learn more about the people who, like you, are dedicated to conservation and their national association.

Like in previous Resources, there are hyperlinks throughout the fall edition to redirect you to our website for more information. If you have any questions about this issue or story ideas for the winter edition, don't hesitate to contact me at whitney-forman-cook@nacdn.net.org.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Whitney Forman-Cook".

Whitney Forman-Cook

NACD Director of Communications

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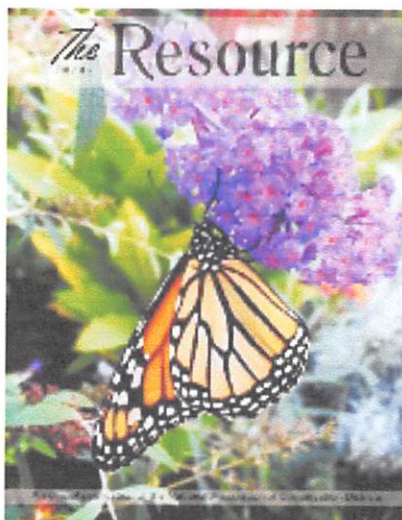


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

THE FALL RESOURCE IS IN YOUR INBOX!



If you are signed up to receive NACD's quarterly publication *The Resource*, you're in for a treat! The latest edition landed in your inbox yesterday and it's full to the brim with district spotlight stories and informational pieces on mission support services, what's to come following

today's election, and NACD's advocacy efforts.

The fall edition also includes letters from NACD's president and CEO, perspectives from our partners, and a nine-page spread on the folks behind the scenes at NACD.

To view *The Resource* online, [head to our website](#) and click on the first monarch butterfly you see. You can subscribe to receive future Resources on the same page.

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Visit NACD at NAFB Trade Talk

NACD President-Elect Brent Van Dyke and Director of Communications Whitney Forman-Cook are headed to Kansas City, Missouri, tomorrow for the National Association of Farm Broadcasting's 2016 Trade Talk. Encourage your friends and colleagues in attendance to stop by NACD's booth to learn how farmer-led, voluntary conservation measures are preventing Endangered Species Act listings and other regulations from the western range to the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Mark your calendars: Webinar on new herbicide app

Next Monday, November 14, from 1:00 to 1:30pm PST, the National Pesticide Information Center will host a webinar on a new web-based

NEW SPONSORS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR SUPPORT OF NACD

Joining Bob Warner, Agri Drain, and U.S. Sugar as 2017 Annual Meeting sponsors are Case IH and Agrium – two ag companies in the business of making conservation adoption easy.

Case IH is behind award-winning seed delivery, strip-till, and crop protection products outfitted with the latest in geospatial, variable-rate, and on-target application technology. Agrium – a global producer, supplier, and marketer of fertilizers – has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to promoting the 4R Nutrient Stewardship system.

To pledge your support as a sponsor of our Denver meeting or to save a booth in the Conservation Expo hall for your organization, contact NACD Director of Development [Melisa Augusto](#) before the December 1, 2016 deadline.

On the topic of annual meeting, do you know how you'll get from the Denver International Airport to the Sheraton in downtown Denver where the meeting will be held? Check out [this updated page on our website](#) for detailed route information you can use to create an individualized travel plan. NACD also encourages you to try out [Google's Trip Planner](#) – it's a fast and simple way to navigate.

CALLING ALL CONSERVATIONISTS: NEW NACD RPG REQUIRES REPRESENTATION

NACD's Natural Resources Policy Committee has been tasked with finding representatives from conservation districts in each NACD region that have successfully worked with tribes on conservation issues to sit on the association's newest Resource Policy Group.

Once its nine seats are filled, the Tribal Outreach and Partnership RPG will take an informal census of existing relationships between conservation

application it created. The [Herbicide Properties Tool](#) helps users evaluate the potential for herbicide drift easily and efficiently based on active ingredient solubility, binding affinities, and other chemical properties. No registration is required, just [tune in online here](#) or call in to (415) 655-0002. Archived webinars held by NPIC are [available here](#).

Add this forestry webinar to your calendar, too!

On Wednesday, November 16, from 2:00 to 3:30pm EST, the [Joint Forestry Team](#) will be hosting a webinar on state forest action plans. State forestry agencies use these plans to develop strategies for improving forest health, wildlife habitat, and water quality, as well as reducing wildfire risk. This webinar will discuss the plans in-depth and provide interested parties with information they can use to provide input on these plans. To register, contact NACD Forestry Specialist [Mike Beacom](#).

Recap of SAF Annual Convention

NACD welcomed visitors to its booth last week at the 2016 Society of American Foresters (SAF) Annual Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. More than 1,500 forestry professionals and students from across the country attended the four-day event where NACD was represented by Forestry Specialist Mike Beacom and Tom Crowe, NACD Forestry Resource Policy Group representative from the North Central Region. Beacom presented to Bureau of Land Management

districts and tribes, and identify "lessons learned" for future cooperative agreements and partnerships.

The TOP RPG will "open the lines of communication between districts and tribes to put good conservation on the ground," says Michael Crowder, NACD's Washington state board member and the RPG's chairman. "We are not looking to do work on tribal lands or have tribes do work off reservations. What we're looking to do is find the right people that have successfully collaborated on tribal and district projects to learn from their experiences."

If you or someone you know may be interested in serving on the TOP RPG, please email NACD President [Lee McDaniel](#) and [Michael Crowder](#) with the appropriate contact information.

"THANK YOU!" FROM NACD'S STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

A few months ago, NACD created a survey for our district members and partners to share their experiences downloading, printing, and using NACD's 2016 educational materials. We received positive input and suggestions for how we could improve the downloading process to be more user-friendly and how to streamline printing for smaller districts. In the upcoming year, we plan to do the following based on the feedback we received:

- Educational materials will be made available at an earlier date and in smaller file sizes.
- Downloading educational materials will be a more user-friendly experience and the PDF materials will be more easily printed on non-commercial printers.
- Professionally printed materials will be made available for purchase in smaller minimum orders.

The stewardship survey will be reopened at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver. To show our appreciation for your time, those that participate

foresters and visited with a variety of partners. Next year's SAF Annual Convention will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

We All Need Trees t-shirts are available in the Marketplace

Have you checked the NACD Marketplace recently? If you haven't, you're missing out on limited edition "We All Need Trees" t-shirts that celebrate NACD's 2016 stewardship theme. They're lightweight, 100 percent cotton, and available in all adult sizes. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email us at stewardship@nacdnnet.org.

Deadline approaching: NACD poster and photo contests

All amateur photographers and state poster contest winners have until December 1, 2016 to submit their entries for NACD's national competitions. Poster and photo contest winners receive monetary awards and will have their art displayed at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver. For more information [visit our website](#) or send us an email at stewardship@nacdnnet.org.

Contact Us

509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547 6223

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

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will be entered into a raffle to win prizes sourced from around the country.

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#).

- NACD Annual Meeting - January 28 - February 1, 2017
 - North Central Regional Meeting - January 9 - 10, 2017
 - Stewardship and Education Week - April 30 - May 7, 2017
-

NACD| 509 Capitol Court NE Washington, D.C. 20002| (202) 547-6223| www.nacdnet.org

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations and Individuals

DATE: November 10, 2016

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE EAST LAKE SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 11 PROJECT

Lead Agency:

City of Lake Elsinore
130 South Main Street
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530
Contact: Richard J. MacHott, Planning Manager
Contact Email: rmachott@lake-elsinore.org

The CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the above-referenced Project. In compliance with Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City of Lake Elsinore is sending this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to responsible agencies, interested parties, and governmental agencies that may be involved in approving or permitting the proposed Project.

The purpose of this NOP is to solicit guidance as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. The City wants to know your views and concerns related to the potential environmental effects of the Project. If you are a public agency, please provide specific comments germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities associated with the proposed Project. As a responsible or trustee agency, your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by the City when considering issuance of a permit or other approval for the Project.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. The comment period ends December 12, 2016. All comments must be delivered no later than **5 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2016.**

Please send your written response to **Mr. Richard J. MacHott, Planning Manager** at the City of Lake Elsinore Planning Division, 130 South Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530 or via email at rmachott@lake-elsinore.org. Please provide the contact information for your agency including, name, telephone number and e-mail address.

NOP for the EAST LAKE SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 11 PROJECT
NOVEMBER 10, 2016
PAGE 2 OF 3

SCOPING MEETING

According to Section 15206 of the CEQA Guidelines, the proposed Project meets the criteria for projects of statewide, regional, or area wide significance. Therefore, pursuant to Section 15082 (c) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines, the City is hosting a public scoping meeting to provide an opportunity for public agencies and members of the public to provide input as to the scope and content of the EIR. Meeting and project details are as follows:

Date: Thursday, December 1, 2016
Time: 5:00-7:00 PM
Location: Cultural Center
183 North Main Street
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project is located in the City of Lake Elsinore within southwestern Riverside County, and is generally bound by Lakeshore Drive to the north, Mission Trail and Corydon Road to the east, and Union Street to the South (see attached Regional Location Map). The Project site is adjacent to the southeasterly shore of Lake Elsinore and regionally accessible from Interstate 15 at Diamond Drive/Railroad Canyon Road (see attached Location Map).

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The existing East Lake Specific Plan (ELSP) serves as the primary guide for development within the approximately 3,000-acre specific plan area. The ELSP prescribes the types and arrangements of land uses, design guidelines, infrastructure, and zoning and development standards for the specific plan area. The existing ELSP primarily allows for residential uses along with open-space uses. Since the ELSP was originally prepared in 1993, the specific plan area has gradually evolved and become home to a "Dream Extreme" character with active sports-related facilities such as skydiving, hang-gliding, motocross and an 18-hole golf course, which have made the City a premier regional action sports destination. The City seeks to encourage this revitalization and further promote the "Dream Extreme" character of the area by amending the existing ELSP. The East Lake Specific Plan Amendment No. 11 (ELSPA No. 11) would accommodate a wide variety of unique sporting and recreational venues and supporting uses including commercial, restaurant, hotel, and open-space uses while also accommodating residential uses within the specific plan area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The ELSPA No. 11 is the proposed "Project". The proposed Project consists of amending the existing ELSP to:

- overhaul land uses, development regulations, circulation, drainage, and architectural guidelines for the specific plan area;
- streamline development by making the specific plan area guidance documents more user-friendly;
- protect the natural resources in the Back Basin; and
- ensure that the City's "Action Sports Capital of the World" activities have a permanent location in the City.

The proposed Project would allow for a change from the predominantly residential and open space uses currently allowed in the specific plan area to predominantly sports- and recreation-oriented uses while also maintaining open-space.

NOP for the EAST LAKE SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 11 PROJECT
NOVEMBER 10, 2016
PAGE 3 OF 3

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Based upon a preliminary analysis, the City has determined that the proposed Project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts, and an EIR is the appropriate CEQA document. As permitted by Section 15060(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, an initial study has not been prepared. The environmental topics that will be addressed in the Draft EIR are as follows:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Geology, Soils and Seismicity
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Public Services
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

The EIR will also identify alternatives to the proposed Project that would be capable of reducing or eliminating one or more of the significant environmental effects of the proposed Project.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the proposed Project, please visit the City's website at the following link: <http://www.lake-elsinore.org/city-hall/city-departments/community-development/planning/ceqa-documents-available-for-public-review/east-lake-specific-plan-amendment-no-11>. The website will be periodically updated as more information and documents become available, including the Draft ELSPA No. 11, Draft EIR and technical studies.

Please respond no later than **5 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2016** and send comments to **Mr. Richard J. MacHott** at the address shown above or via email at rmachott@lake-elsinore.org.

Date: November 10, 2016

Signature: _____

Richard J. MacHott

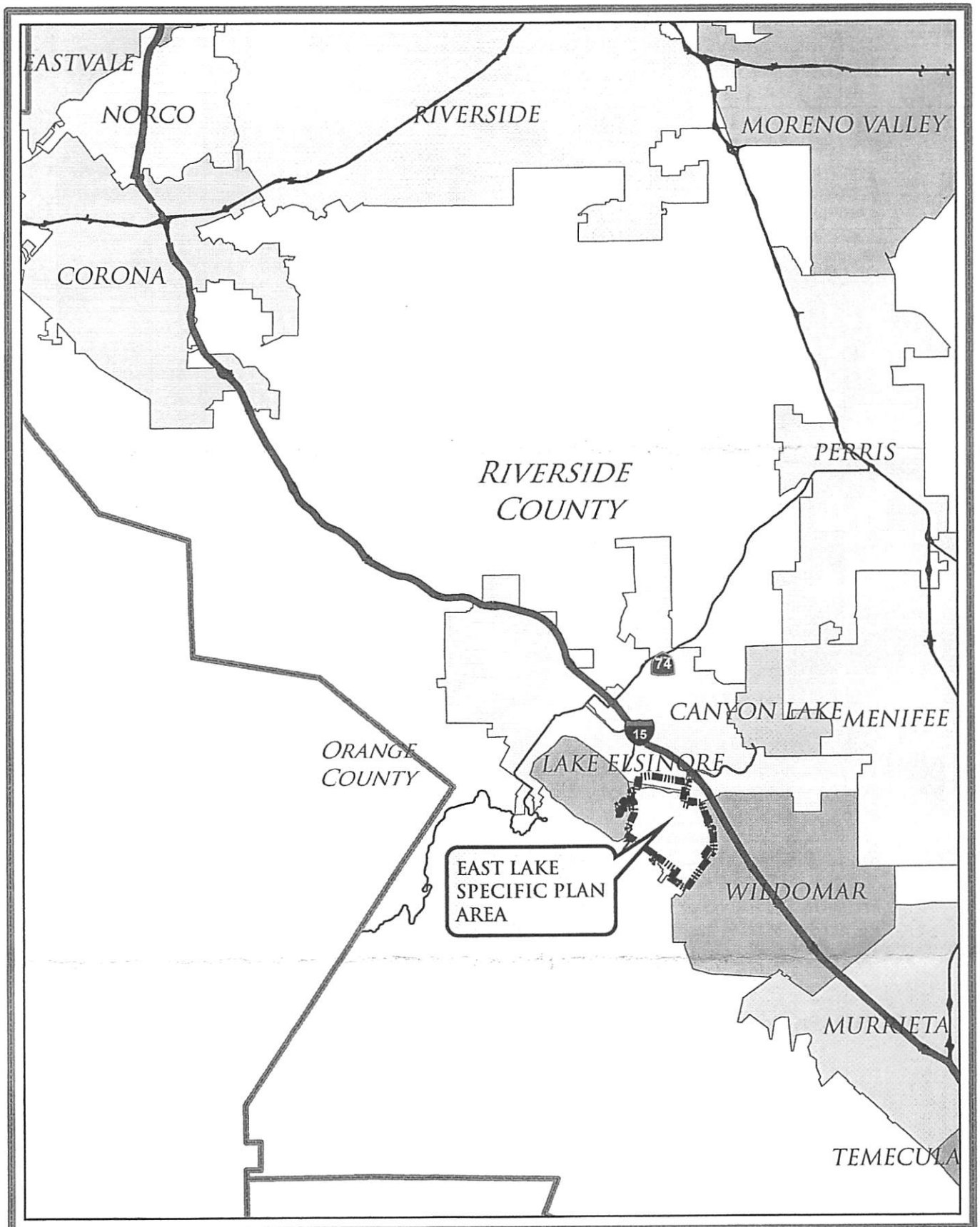
Title: Planning Manager

Telephone: 951.674.3124 Ext. 209

E-mail Address: rmachott@lake-elsinore.org

Attachments:

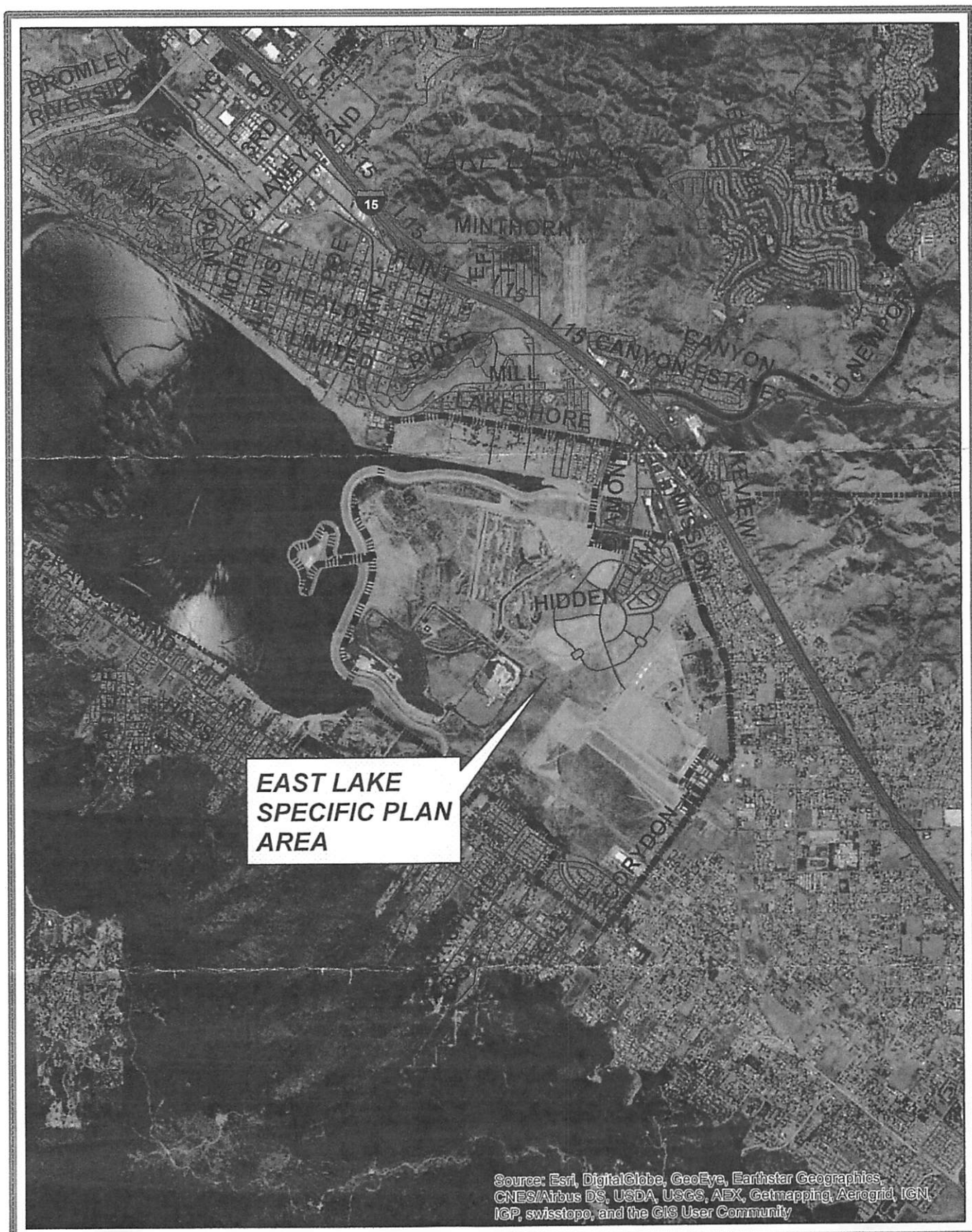
- Regional Location Map
- Location Map



SOURCES: CITY OF LAKE ELSINORE, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE GIS



REGIONAL LOCATION EAST LAKE SPECIFIC PLAN

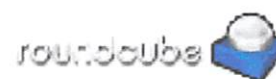


SOURCES: CITY OF LAKE EL SINORE, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE GIS

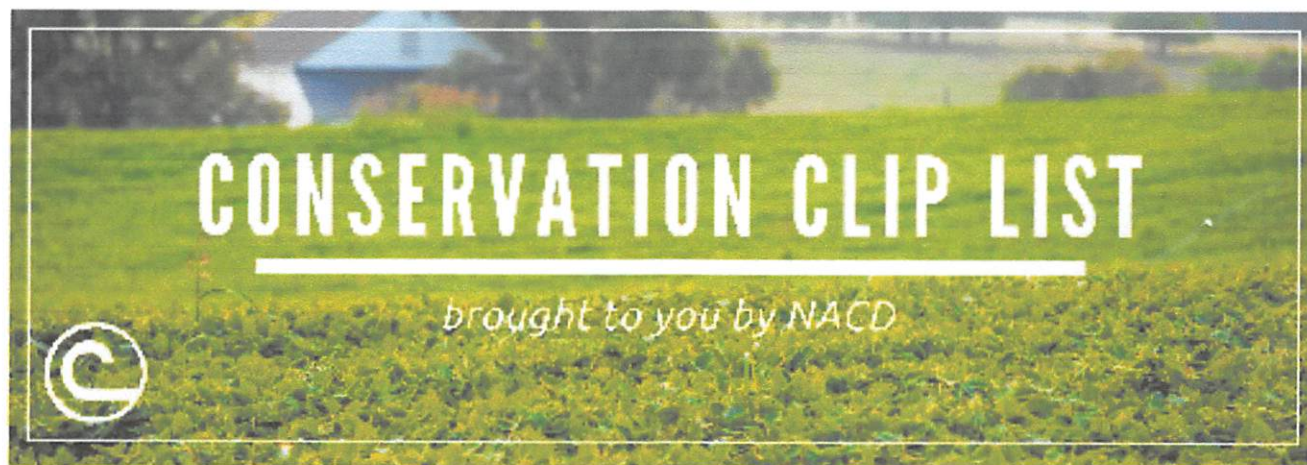


LOCATION MAP
EAST LAKE SPECIFIC PLAN

Subject **Conservation Clip List - Brought to you by NACD**
From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
Sender NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date 2016-11-11 01:46



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Conservation Clip List is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your NACD Communications Team.

Trump victory reverses U.S. energy and environmental priorities via The Washington Post

While vowing to "cancel" the international Paris climate accord Obama championed, Trump would also rearrange domestic energy and environmental priorities. He wants to open up federal lands to oil and gas drilling and coal mining. He wants to eliminate regulations he calls needless. He would scrap proposed regulations for tighter methane controls on domestic drillers. And he wants to shrink the role of the Environmental Protection Agency to a mostly advisory one and pull back the Clean Power Plan, Obama's proposed plan to push utilities toward lower carbon emissions.

Farmers, environmentalists spar over agriculture regulations via The Daily Progress

The required agriculture practices, which have been the subject of multiple meetings and public hearings, include rules for small farm certification, storing and managing manure, soil health, and vegetated buffer zones on fields near water and ditches. The state agriculture agency says livestock farms and farms growing annual crops in flood plain areas will be most affected by the requirements. The requirements include increasing vegetated buffer widths on streams from 10 feet to 25 feet for small farms and creating 10-foot-wide vegetated buffers on field ditches for all farms.

Dramatic reorganization, downsizing proposed for wildlife refuges via The Montana Standard

U.S. Fish and Wildlife is proposing a dramatic reorganization of its National Wildlife Refuge system in Montana and seven other states that would result in significant staff and program cuts. In some areas, reductions in staffing will lead to a shrinking commitment to active management on refuge lands, even while the land base grows.

Massachusetts voters say no to tight quarters for hens, pigs, and calves via The Washington Post

Roundcube Webmail :: Conservation Clip List - Brought to you... Page 2 of 2

The Massachusetts measure targets farms far outside the Bay State by also banning the sale of pork, eggs, or veal from producers that use the prohibited confinement practices, including products that come from across state lines. That means any U.S. farm that houses hens in the battery cages that are now the industry standard — which allot each bird a space with an area smaller than a piece of copier paper — will not be allowed to sell eggs in Massachusetts.

[When Bats Look for Meals Near Wind Power, Bats Die](#) via The New York Times

Wind power can help the world fight climate change, but it's not so great for bats. A new study of wind turbines found that each turbine killed one to two bats each month on average, with some killing more than 60. Bats might be attracted to turbines, whether because of the noise the machines make or the bugs that are trapped in the air movement.

[It's not just California. The Deep South is also reeling from a drought](#) via Los Angeles Times

The drought started months ago. With the region's fall dry season now in full gear, there's not likely to be much relief. The Southeastern drought almost challenges the longstanding Western drought, centered in California, as the largest in the nation. As of late October, drought conditions rated severe or exceptional — the two worst categories — covered 73% of Alabama, 50% of Georgia, 16% of South Carolina and 12% of North Carolina. The strength of the drought is the result of bad luck, if it could be called that. The rains that drenched Louisiana and led to disastrous floods this summer didn't head east, and the tropical storms that flooded parts of the East Coast didn't move west.

[Dozens of Wildfires Are Now Spreading Across North Carolina](#) via Charlotte Stories

As the drought continues to linger in the Southeast, wildfires are now spreading throughout the Blue Ridge mountains and into the Piedmont of North Carolina. North Carolina firefighters are expecting wind gusts of over 20mph today to push the fires even further.

[Wal-Mart Sets Environmental Plan as People Seek Green Items](#) via ABC News

Wal-Mart is laying out its environmental map for the next several years as it tries to satisfy customers who want green products at affordable prices. The world's largest retailer says it will seek to reduce emissions in its own operations by 18 percent by 2025 and work toward adding no waste to landfills in key markets like Canada and the United States. It also plans to be powered by 50 percent clean and renewable energy sources.

[Scientists to Try to Map Water's Flow Beneath Yellowstone](#) via The New York Times

Scientists from the United States and Denmark are seeking to map out the plumbing system hidden inside the earth's crust that is responsible for the famous Old Faithful geyser and other hydrothermal features at Yellowstone National Park. The team also hopes to gain insights into the infrequent but sometimes major hydrothermal explosions that occur in the park.

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Subject **eResource - This Week's NACD News Briefs**
From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
Sender NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD
<rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date 2016-11-15 14:06



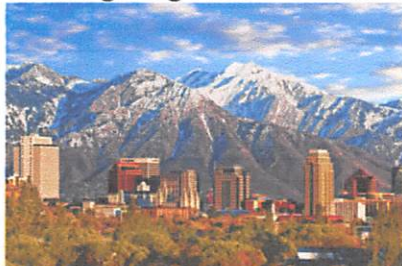
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

3-M TOUR TO HIT ALL THE MUST-SEE STOPS IN DENVER

On Tuesday, January 31, 2017, the NACD Auxiliary will be giving NACD Annual Meeting attendees an



up-close and personal tour of the Mile High City, starting with a trip to the Denver Broncos' stadium. On the 2016 Superbowl Champion's home turf, they'll take a

professionally-led tour before heading to the Wynkoop Brewery – the first brewpub and largest pool hall in Denver – for lunch.

After tour attendees have filled up, they'll head to the historical home of "the unsinkable" Molly Brown, an activist for children and workers' rights who famously survived the sinking of the Titanic. Before the day is over they'll also visit the U.S. Mint, where the United States produces its coins. To save your seat for the 3-M tour, check the appropriate box on the 2017 Annual Meeting paper or online registration form [provided here](#).

-->

New NACD blog post celebrates voluntary conservation

The latest post on NACD's blog is all about EPA's Section 319 grants program. Last week, EPA released a report on 319 grant successes and Director of Government Affairs Coleman Garrison wrote a column on it. You can [check it out here!](#)

Archived webinar on wild horses and burros now available

The Western Governors' Association has released its second webinar, as part of the group's [National Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative](#), on humane management options for wild horse and burro overpopulation. The [90-minute webinar](#) featured panelists from the Utah Public Lands Coordinating Office; Utah State

DID WE MENTION THERE ARE FIRST-TIMER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?

If you or someone you know hasn't attended an NACD annual meeting in the past, but would like to join us in Denver in 2017, you may be eligible for a first-timer scholarship! All it takes is a nomination from your state association. If you have questions about the scholarships, contact your state association or NACD Director of Membership [Kimberly Uldricks](#).

THERE'S MORE!



This just in: Kristin Bail, BLM's assistant director of planning and renewable resources, will be joining Jake Tibbitts and Ben Masters as the BLM representative on NACD's Wild Horse and Burro Panel to be held the evening of Sunday, January 29, 2017. You can register to attend the expert panel – and the film showing of “Unbranded” before the panel starts – [when you register for the annual meeting here](#).

Assistant Director Bail will also be presenting on the BLM planning 2.0 rule and on BLM's seed implementation strategy during the Public Lands RPG Meeting on Saturday morning, January 28, 2017. All meeting attendees are encouraged to sit in on her Saturday presentation and bring any unanswered questions to Sunday night's discussion.

RECAP: NACD REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF CDS IN KANSAS CITY



Last week, NACD President-elect Brent Van Dyke (pictured)

University; Eureka County, Nevada; Beaver County, Utah; and White River and Douglas Creek CDs in Rio Blanco, Colorado; and was moderated by Congressman Chris Stewart of Utah.

Score! Here's a promotional code:

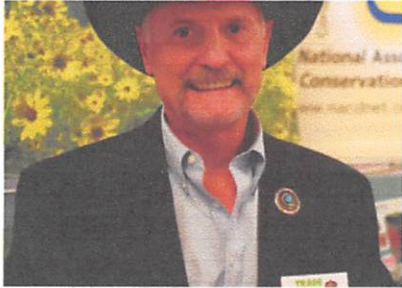
Now through November 30, 2016, early-bird registration is open for the [2017 New Partners for Smart Growth Conference](#)! And because NACD is a conference partner, our members get a 5% discount on their registration when they use this special code: NP17NACD. For every 20 times NACD's promotional code is used, we'll also receive a free registration!

The 16th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference will take place in St. Louis from Thursday, February 2, 2017 to Saturday, February 4, 2017. To register for the meeting, [click here](#).

Upcoming webinar on generational transfer of forestland

The U.S. Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program is hosting a webinar this Thursday, November 17, at 3:00pm Eastern, to discuss tools and approaches to engaging folks on generational transfer, or in other words, plans to pass land onto heirs, and what to do if heirs are not interested in taking ownership.

The webinar, [hosted here online](#), is open to all individuals. If you wish to call in, the conference line is 888-844-9904 and the access code



and Director of Communications Whitney Forman-Cook traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, for the National Association of Farm

Broadcasting's annual Trade Talk.

It was a whirlwind of activity, with Van Dyke giving interview after interview on NACD's mission and our top priorities for 2017 and the next farm bill. NACD would like to thank all the farm broadcasters that stopped by our booth to talk conservation and agriculture policy. Without you, it would be mighty difficult to tell the wonderful story of American ag and our conservation districts, and for that, we are so grateful!

NACD CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP

NACD President Lee McDaniel and President-elect Brent Van Dyke sent a letter to congratulate President-elect Donald J. Trump on his election last week. NACD put out [a press release](#) with an excerpt from their letter (below), pledging our commitment to working with President-elect Trump's transition team to ensure locally-led conservation is a priority for his administration.

"The natural resources concerns facing our nation's diverse landscapes – from our private agricultural working lands to forestlands and urban lands – span political parties and presidential administrations," McDaniel and Van Dyke wrote. "It is only through a locally-led, voluntary approach that we will achieve the healthy soils and clean water and air we all desire to leave for our future generations."

is 3070209. Contact NACD Forestry Specialist [Mike Beacom](#) if you would like to receive 1.5 SAF CFE for participating.

Do you know you can become a Friend of NACD online?

Friends of NACD are people just like you who are committed to the conservation of America's natural resources. Anybody can become a Friend, including district leadership and staff, and individuals who work with or represent partnering organizations.

Show your appreciation for the work our nation's 3,000 conservation districts do nationwide by becoming a Friend today on our website using an [online pledge form](#). Your support means a great deal to NACD – that's why we put all the proceeds from Friends donations toward projects and programs that directly benefit our district members. To learn more about what NACD does, check out [our website](#).

Contact Us

509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 547 6223

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

For additional details regarding meetings listed below, [click here](#).

- NACD Annual Meeting -
January 28 - February 1,
2017

- North Central Regional Meeting - January 9 - 10, 2017
 - Stewardship and Education Week - April 30 - May 7, 2017
-

NACD| 509 Capitol Court NE Washington, D.C. 20002| (202) 547-6223| www.nacdnet.org

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PALA ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT
PALA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS
PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road | Pala, CA 92059
Phone 760-891-3510 | Fax 760-742-3189
<http://ped.palatribe.com>

November 16th and 17th

Third Annual Riparian Management Workshop: Managing for Climate Change

**Organized by the Pala Band of Mission Indians
And the University of California, Cooperative Extension**

Where: Pala Administration Building, 12196 Pala Mission Road, Pala, CA 92059

Registration opens on 8:30 on the 16th and we meet in the field at 9:00 on the 17th.

Agenda:

Pala Riparian Workshop

Nov. 16	Title	Affiliation
	8:30 Open	
8:40-9:10	Kurt Broz	Pala
9:10-9:40	Yvonne Moore	SDMMP
9:40-10:10	Kelcey Stricker	Pechanga
Break		
10:30-11:00	Alex Tardy	NWS Kumeyaay Cultural
11:00-11:30	Ana Gloria Rodriguez	Coordinator
11:30-12:00	Jeremy Zagarella	Pauma
Lunch		
1:00-1:30	Rob Roy	La Jolla
1:30-2:00	John Parada	Los Coyotes
2:30-3:00	Chris McDonald	UC Cooperative Extension
Break		
3:15-3:45	Megan Jennings	Climate Science Alliance
3:45-4:15	Open Mic	
4:20	Adjourn	
Nov. 17		
	9:00 Meet at Field Trip Starting Point	
	Heidi Brow, Pat Taber, Kurt Broz, Chris McDonald, Shasta Gaughen	
11:45	Finish Field Trip	
	Lunch	

Field Trip Wrap up/Discussion

1:00-1:30	Alison Anderson	USFWS
1:30-2:00	Sheri Shiflett	ACOE
2:00-2:45	Arlee Montalvo	RCRCD
2:45-3:20	Open Mic	
3:30	Wrap up and conclusion	



 **University of California**
Agriculture and Natural Resources  **Cooperative Extension**



State of California • Natural Resources Agency
Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street • MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 324-0850 • FAX (916) 327-3430

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
John M. Lowrie, Assistant Director

November 16, 2016

Ms. Vicki Long, President
Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD
21535 Palomar Road, Suite A
Wildomar, CA 92595

Dear Ms. Long:

The 2014 Important Farmland Map and 2012-2014 land use conversion table for Riverside County is now available. The information, documenting the extent of important farmland, grazing land, and urban built-up areas in California, is produced every two years by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). Data is provided to agencies and organizations in your county to assist in land use planning and management.

We hope that in your review of the map you will assist us in further increasing its accuracy by forwarding any comments or information on anticipated land use changes. Indicating the locations of agricultural areas going out of production due to commodity or restoration programs, disease, water shortage, or other reasons, is particularly helpful. All information submitted will be referred to in conducting the 2016 map update.

You may indicate your recommended corrections or changes on printouts from the PDF maps, comments in GIS format are also accepted.

Please contact us if you would like to receive a full size county map, or enlargements of specified areas.

Please send your comments by 2/14/2017 to:

California Department of Conservation
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
Attention: 2014 Map Comments
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

For additional information related to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, please contact us at (916) 324-0850 or via e-mail (fmmp@conservation.ca.gov). The FMMP web site contains additional background that may be of assistance:

- Detailed descriptions of map categories
- Lists for soil units qualifying for Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance
- GIS data for current and prior years
- Summary statistics and reports

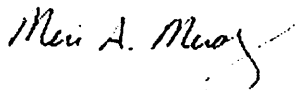


Ms. Vicki Long, President
November 16, 2016
Page 2

- Full size PDF maps. These files are formatted for 36" plotters but can be viewed or printed at multiple scales. The download address is: <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/>
- California Important Farmland Finder. Place points, digitize areas of interest, and obtain Important Farmland acreages via this web-based application:
- <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/CIFF.aspx>
- The main FMMP web address is <http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/fmmp/Pages/index.aspx>

Your use of Important Farmland Map products and comments to help us improve them is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Meri A. Meraz, Manager
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

Enclosures

**TABLE A-25
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
2012-2014 Land Use Conversion**

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Division of Land Resource Protection

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

**PART I
County Summary and Change by Land Use Category**

LAND USE CATEGORY	TOTAL ACREAGE INVENTORIED		2012-14 ACREAGE CHANGES			
			ACRES LOST	ACRES GAINED	TOTAL ACREAGE CHANGED	NET ACREAGE CHANGED
	2012	2014	(-)	(+)		
Prime Farmland	119,309	118,077	2,325	1,093	3,418	-1,232
Farmland of Statewide Importance	43,919	44,001	505	587	1,092	82
Unique Farmland	33,342	32,582	1,405	645	2,050	-760
Farmland of Local Importance	228,661	228,808	4,446	3,593	8,039	-853
IMPORTANT FARMLAND SUBTOTAL	426,231	423,468	8,681	5,918	14,599	-2,763
Grazing Land	110,386	110,102	310	26	336	-284
AGRICULTURAL LAND SUBTOTAL	536,617	533,570	8,991	5,944	14,935	-3,047
Urban and Built-up Land	325,411	328,871	216	4,676	4,892	4,460
Other Land	1,020,087	1,018,674	2,701	1,288	3,989	-1,413
Water Area	62,361	62,361	0	0	0	0
TOTAL AREA INVENTORIED	1,944,476	1,944,476	11,908	11,908	23,816	0

**PART II
Land Committed to Nonagricultural Use**

LAND USE CATEGORY	TOTAL ACREAGE 2014
Prime Farmland	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Farmland of Statewide Importance	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Unique Farmland	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
Farmland of Local Importance	DATA NOT AVAILABLE
IMPORTANT FARMLAND SUBTOTAL	
Grazing Land	
AGRICULTURAL LAND SUBTOTAL	
Urban and Built-up Land	
Other Land	
Water Area	
TOTAL ACREAGE REPORTED	

PART III Land Use Conversion from 2012 to 2014

LAND USE CATEGORY	Prime Farmland	Farmland of Statewide Importance	Unique Farmland	Farmland of Local Importance	Subtotal Important Farmland	Grazing Land	Total Agricultural Land	Urban and Built-up Land	Other Land	Water Area	Total Converted To Another Use
Prime Farmland (1)(2) to:	—	6	86	1,857	1,949	0	1,949	170	208	0	2,325
Farmland of Statewide Importance to:	2	—	23	365	390	0	390	15	100	0	505
Unique Farmland (2) to:	24	3	—	1,156	1,183	8	1,191	79	135	0	1,405
Farmland of Local Importance to:	971	501	192	—	1,664	12	1,676	2,213	557	0	4,446
IMPORTANT FARMLAND SUBTOTAL	997	510	301	3,378	5,186	20	5,206	2,477	998	0	8,681
Grazing Land to:	0	0	14	46	60	—	60	131	119	0	310
AGRICULTURAL LAND SUBTOTAL	997	510	315	3,424	5,246	20	5,266	2,608	1,117	0	8,991
Urban and Built-up Land (3) to:	2	0	16	26	44	1	45	—	171	0	216
Other Land to:	94	77	314	143	628	5	633	2,068	—	0	2,701
Water Area to:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0
TOTAL ACREAGE CONVERTED to:	1,093	587	645	3,593	5,918	26	5,944	4,676	1,288	0	11,908

(1) Conversion to Unique Farmland is due to the delineation of non-irrigated orchards and a potted plant nursery.

(2) Conversion to Farmland of Local Importance is primarily due to land left idle or land used for dryland grain production for three or more update cycles.

(3) Conversion from Urban and Built-up Land is primarily the result of a lack of sufficient infrastructure and the use of detailed digital imagery to delineate more distinct urban boundaries.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Riverside East

FIELD MAPPER(S): C.K. Williams

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2014 mapping.

Local Review Comments
(submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
None

Personal Contacts
None

Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps>

~~GIS Data Used for Reference~~

2012-2014 CHANGE SUMMARY:

Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. See definitions at bottom of table.

Conversions to Urban Land	
Irrigated Farmland to Urban Land	2 changes
<p>There were two notable conversions of irrigated farmland to Urban Land including an addition of new homes in the Mountain View Estates located in Thermal (~30 acres) and the addition of new homes and a soccer field in Coachella (~15 acres).</p>	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Urban Land	25 changes
<p>Nonirrigated land uses were converted to Urban Land primarily due to the construction of new homes, schools and a solar facility. The majority of the urbanization this update was the expansion of urban development in and adjacent to the Cities of La Quinta, Indio and Coachella. Most additions were for less than 40 acres.</p> <p>The most notable addition of Urban Land on nonirrigated land was the addition of new homes at the Shadow Hills North Course in Indio (~100 acres). Also notable was the new Rancho Mirage Hill School in Cathedral City (~60 acres).</p>	
Conversions from Irrigated Farmland aside from urbanization	
Irrigated Farmland to Nonirrigated Land Uses	17 changes
<p>Conversion from irrigated farmland to nonirrigated land uses was due to irrigated farmland or irrigated pastureland having been fallow for three or more update cycles. In the eastern part of Riverside County approximately 1,000 acres was converted to nonirrigated land uses. The most notable conversions were approximately 140 acres on the Rabbit quad, approximately 100 acres on the Indio quad and approximately 250 acres on the West Berdoo Canyon quad.</p>	
Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	1 change
<p>Conversion from irrigated farmland to Other Land was due to irrigated farmland that had been fallow for three or more update cycles and was shifted to Other Land primarily because of its small size. This conversion was located on the Indio quad (~9 acres).</p>	
Conversions to Irrigated Farmland	
Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	23 changes
<p>This update a total of approximately 700 acres were converted to irrigated farmland. These conversions were primarily due to the addition of alfalfa, row crops and palm trees (primarily date palms). The most significant additions were on the Blythe quad in the Palo Verde Valley area (~200 acres).</p>	
Unusual Changes	
(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)	
None	

**California Department of Conservation
FARMLAND MAPPING AND MONITORING PROGRAM**

2014 FIELD REPORT

COUNTY: Riverside West

FIELD MAPPER(S): Troy Dick

IMAGE DATA USED:

Source: National Agriculture Imagery Program, USDA
Acquisition date: Summer 2014
Data description: True color mosaic, 1 meter resolution
Coverage gaps: None
Additional imagery used: None

WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:

The following entities and individuals provided information used to conduct 2014 mapping.

Local Review Comments
(submitted by cities, counties, & others on 2012 maps)
Cities of Temecula, Moreno Valley and Corona

Southern California Association Of Governments

Personal Contacts
None

Websites Used for Reference
Google Maps: www.google.com/maps

GIS Data Used for Reference
California City Boundary Layer
Riverside County Base Map

2012-2014 CHANGE SUMMARY:

Changes made during the map update are summarized by type and location. Particular attention is paid to large or unusual changes and their estimated acreages. Please note that land use type, size of land use unit, soil quality, and Farmland of Local Importance definition (if any) determines the final Important Farmland (IFL) category. See definitions at bottom of table.

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)

To the east of the city of Bythe large area of citrus are going out of production, watch for solar development in this area.

Definitions:

Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance definitions.

Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the FMMP web site.

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: 11/23/2015
Image interpretation, number of days: 13
Ground truth dates: 3/15-3/18/2016
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 2

Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>

Finally, areas of irrigated farmland were identified that were no longer being irrigated but, instead, were being used for the cultivation of nonirrigated crops. The largest changes due to nonirrigated crop production for three or more update cycles occurred on the Perris quad (~680 acres) followed by the Lakeview quad (~270 acres).

Irrigated Farmland to Other Land	16 changes
---	-------------------

The majority of these conversions were due to a combination of irrigated farmland having been fallow for three or more update cycles which had been graded for development or was too small to be mapped separately as a nonirrigated land use. The use of high resolution (1 meter) imagery also helped delineate areas of low-density commercial throughout the county. The majority of these conversions happened on the Winchester quad with approximately 90 acres being converted to Other Land due to land fallowed for three or more update cycles which had been graded for development. This was followed by the Bachelor Mtn. quad with approximately 80 acres converting to Other Land.

Conversions to Irrigated Farmland

Nonirrigated Land Uses and Other Land to Irrigated Farmland	58 changes
--	-------------------

The most notable addition of irrigated farmland occurred on the Lakeview quad, where approximately 220 acres was converted to irrigated farmland for row crops. This was followed by the Winchester and San Jacinto quads with approximately 180 and 120 acres, respectively, that were converted to irrigated farmland.

Unusual Changes

(Types of change not already described or special circumstances during the 2014 update.)

None

Areas of Concern for Future Updates

(Locations or map categories noted as needing careful checking during 2016 update, and reasons.)

None

Definitions:

Irrigated Farmland includes most irrigated crops grown in California. When combined with soil data, these farmed areas become the Important Farmland (IFL) categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance & Unique Farmland. Because of the nature of the IFL definitions, some irrigated uses, such as irrigated pastures or nurseries, may not be eligible for all three IFL categories.

Nonirrigated land uses include grazing areas, land used for dryland crop farming, and formerly irrigated land that has been left idle for three or more update cycles. These uses are frequently incorporated into county Farmland of Local Importance

definitions.

Other Land includes a variety of miscellaneous uses, such as low density rural residential development, mining areas, vacant areas and nonagricultural vegetation. Confined animal agriculture facilities are mapped as Other Land unless incorporated into a county Farmland of Local Importance definition.

Urban Land includes residential, industrial, recreational, infrastructure and institutional uses.

For more on map categories, including Farmland of Local Importance definitions, visit the FMMP web site.

LABOR ESTIMATE:

Time estimates for conducting the 2014 update.

Image interpretation, start date: January 14, 2016
Image interpretation, number of days: 13
Ground truth dates: April 11 – 24, 2016
Number of days for post-ground truth clean-up: 3

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:
<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Index.aspx>*

Here's a Big "Thank you!" for Renewing Membership!

Renew your CSDA membership by **January 3, 2017** and receive access to AB 1234 Ethics Compliance training On-Demand Webinar for your entire Board of Directors. Details are below:

- To take advantage of this offer, your 2017 dues payment must be received in the CSDA office by January 3, 2017.
- Offer applies only to the on-demand webinar training.
- Access to this training will be available between January 6 and March 15, 2017 only.
- Renewed members will receive access instructions via email on January 6. These instructions will be emailed to everyone within your agency with an email address on file.
- Please contact Cassandra Strawn, Member Services Specialist, with any questions regarding your invoice or this special offer: cassandras@csda.net or 877.924.2732.

Subject **Conservation Clip List - Brought to you by NACD**
From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
Sender NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date 2016-11-18 01:48



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Conservation Clip List is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your NACD Communications Team.

'The Worst I've Ever Seen': Fires Sweep Through Southeastern U.S. via NPR

The blaze in question is one of dozens of partially contained wildfires, some of them suspected cases of arson, burning across the Southeast. In Alabama alone, there are currently 20 fires burning, and more than 1,500 blazes have burned there since October 1. People are being evacuated in North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee, including in and around Chimney Rock, N.C., where an erratic fire has enveloped some 3,000 acres since Saturday.

Scientists Try Bacteria to Halt Invading Cheatgrass in West via ABC News

In southwest Idaho, experiments are underway to determine if soil bacteria can halt the century-long assault of non-native cheatgrass, which sends out roots that cheat other plants of water in the spring. The strategy is to use the bacteria, possibly with some combination of herbicide, to eliminate cheatgrass long enough so that native plants can get established and fend off cheatgrass themselves.

Wood waste powers airline flight in 'breakthrough in bioenergy' via Agri-Pulse

An Alaska Airlines flight took off from Seattle and landed at Washington Reagan National Airport in what USDA is calling a "breakthrough in bioenergy." The trip was the first commercial airline flight powered by a renewable fuel made from wood waste – in this case discarded tree limbs and branches from forests in Washington, Oregon, and Montana. The demonstration flight used a 20 percent blend of jet fuel made from cellulose derived from limbs and branches that typically remain on the ground after the harvesting of sustainably managed private forests, known as harvest residuals.

What's Organic? A Debate Over Dirt May Boil Down to Turf via The New York Times

If a fruit or vegetable isn't grown in dirt, can it be organic? That is the question roiling the world of organic farming, and the answer could redefine what it means to farm organically. At issue is whether produce that

Roundcube Webmail :: Conservation Clip List - Brought to you... Page 2 of 2

relies solely on irrigation to deliver nutrients to plants — through what is known as hydroponic and aquaponic systems — can be certified organic.

[How dogs sniff out invasive species of mussel in Montana](#) via The Christian Science Monitor

Like most invasive species, these mussels have no natural predators in the United States to slow their rapid increase in population size – an estimated 10 trillion zebra and quagga mussels in the Great Lakes alone. The mussels eat plankton, leaving less food for native fish, and their tendency to live in sharp bunches have ruined pipes and even many beaches, contributing to billions of dollars in damage every year. So far, scientists have been unable to kill these mussels without harming other wildlife, which means that preventing an invasion is the only way to keep local bodies of water free of the creatures. And that's where the dogs in Montana come in.

[What Does Trump Mean for America's Lands and Waters?](#) via National Geographic

From oil exploration to the Clean Water Act, the incoming Trump Administration stands to make a break from previous policy. Climate is not the only issue on which Trump may depart from the Obama Administration's environmental policy. Others include: Which public lands should be preserved as national monuments, which waters should be protected from pollution, and which public lands should be open to fossil fuel development.

[Is Soil our Secret Weapon Against Climate Change?](#) via The Huffington Post

What if one of the planet's secret weapons in the fight against climate change was all around us? Most of us might guess that the answer lies in clean energy, car-pooling, or ramping up recycling only - but then you would be missing a big opportunity that's literally right under our feet: soil. The bad news is, it is estimated that around a third of all soils are currently degraded due to issues like erosion, nutrient depletion, acidification, and pollution. That is why improving soil health is a key component of a new strategy dubbed "climate-smart agriculture."

[Oklahoma Reflects on 'Right to Farm' Loss](#) via AgWeb

The measure would have allowed courts to rule on state and local laws regulating agricultural activities passed after Dec. 31, 2014. It was intended to allow farmers to defend themselves in the face of unjust laws. The bill would not have removed regulations but would have made it more challenging to add additional regulations.

[Florida may expand critical wildlife areas](#) via News4Jax

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will consider creating 10 new sanctuaries. The FWC will vote on creating 10 new sanctuaries and expanding five existing locations. Of the 10 new critical wildlife areas, nine are for birds and one is for bats.

[Much Of The Southeast U.S. Is Grappling With Drought](#) via NPR

Large parts of the Southeast are grappling with severe drought. Nearly 40 percent of the Southeast is under moderate to exceptional drought conditions. An even larger swath of the country — from eastern Texas through parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, and up to Kentucky — is experiencing less serious, but still severe, drought that threatens crops and has led to water shortages.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

NACD LAUNCHES HALL OF DISTINCTION TO HONOR CONSERVATION LEADERS

NACD was established over 70 years ago in 1946 by a group of forward-thinking conservation district officials from across the country. These leaders recognized the need for a unified voice in natural resource conservation and worked tirelessly to ensure that conservation remained at the forefront of United States agricultural and environmental policy.

NACD is delighted to announce that its newly launched Hall of Distinction will recognize and honor past and present district official leaders who have helped pave the way for NACD's accomplishments. Your state or territory can induct a former or current district official to the Hall of Distinction every four years. Head to NACD's website to [access the online form used to make inductions](#), and keep an eye out for new inductees featured in eResource.

INDIANA'S DISTRICT SHOWCASE AWARDS HIGHLIGHT THE BEST OF THE BEST IN CONSERVATION

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NACD offices will be closed for Thanksgiving

In observance of Thanksgiving, the NACD Washington, D.C., office will be closed Thursday. We hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday! All of us here at NACD are thankful for you and your service to conservation.

Speaking of being thankful...

One of the best ways to show your appreciation for locally-led conservation is by becoming a Friend of NACD [here on our website](#). You can also give back to conservation every time you make a purchase on Amazon.com during your Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping by linking your account to NACD. [Click here](#) to make the connection through Amazon Smile.

NACD's Forestry Notes has
a new look!

Each fall, the [Indiana Conservation Partnership \(ICP\)](#) – a coalition of eight Indiana agencies including the [Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts \(IASWCD\)](#) – sponsors four District Showcase Awards throughout the state. The showcases allow Indiana's conservation districts the chance to share best practices for conservation project design and implementation.



This year's four conservation district honorees were: the Huntington County Soil and Water Conservation District Group (including Wabash County SWCD, Wells County SWCD, Blackford County SWCD, and Grant County SWCD), the Jennings County SWCD, the Washington County SWCD, and the Hamilton County SWCD.

Last week, the Hamilton County SWCD's Urban Conservationist Claire Lane wrapped up the last of the four showcases with a detailed presentation on her district's activities and a tour of several conservation projects. Pictured are tour attendees – including NACD North Central Representative Beth Mason – visiting the [Carmel Clay Schools Plots to Plates Organic Gardens](#) in Carmel, Indiana. Hamilton County SWCD was also one of the 42 conservation districts awarded an [NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant](#) in 2016.

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Over 200 representatives from Colorado's 76 conservation districts and partner organizations met in Loveland, Colorado, last week for [CACD's 72nd annual meeting](#). NACD President Lee McDaniel and Western Issues Specialist Jeff Burwell spoke at the event, as did

If you are interested in receiving Forestry Notes – now a monthly publication with an updated look! – [head over to our website](#). There you'll find archived editions of Forestry Notes and an online form you can use to subscribe to the news service.

Interested in learning about State Forest Action Plans?

State forestry agencies use State Forest Action Plans to assess natural resources and develop strategies for improving forest health, wildlife habitat, and water quality as well as reducing wildfire risk. Some states use public input to identify priorities for private landowners, tribes, communities, and other groups. You can learn about the plans and how you can engage in the input process by watching [this newly archived webinar](#) hosted by the Joint Forestry Team.

Calling all Soil Health Champions!

NACD has \$1,000 stipends available for Soil Health Champions to attend NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver. Champions can use their stipends to pay for travel costs, hotel accommodations, meals, and even their meeting registration! So far, 18 stipends have been reserved, leaving only 12 stipends left. If you are a Soil Health Champion and would like to attend our upcoming annual meeting, reach out to [North](#)

Les Owen, director of conservation services for Colorado's Department of Agriculture, and Clint Evans, Colorado's NRCS state conservationist.

The meeting featured six unique breakout sessions that covered topics like water usage and oversight, forestry stewardship tools, and district funding. Several Colorado conservation districts presented policy proposals related to water resources that will be submitted to NACD through the resolutions process. CACD also presented their 2016 Conservationist of the Year awards to farmers, ranchers, and state legislators.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM ENROLLMENT PERIOD OPEN

USDA recently opened a new enrollment period for the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP). The federal program provides financial assistance to farmers for expanding and maintaining conservation practices on working lands. Eligible practices include cover cropping, creating pollinator habitat, reducing pesticide drift, and converting to organic production.

If farmers and ranchers are interested in enrolling in CSP they have until February 3, 2017 to submit their initial application. Although NRCS accepts applications year-round, submissions after this date will not be considered until 2018. CSP is a highly competitive program. At the end of each enrollment period, applications are ranked and the highest scoring applications are funded.

AUGUSTO, BERRY REPRESENT NACD AT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

Last week, a meeting unlike any other was convened in Atlanta, Georgia. The [Sustainable Agriculture Summit](#) – hosted by Field to Market, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy, the National Pork Board, the Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops, the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, and the U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef – featured presentations from industry experts on all aspects of supply chain sustainability.

Central Representative Beth Mason before the December 15 deadline.

NACD re-ups partnership with Scotts Miracle-Gro

NACD Director of Projects and Partnerships Rich Duesterhaus met with representatives from The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company last Thursday to provide feedback on the company's Water Positive Landscapes program and to share best practices with other organizations partnering in the effort. One of the primary benefits the Water Positive Landscapes program provides NACD members is funding for monthly urban and community conservation webinars, organized by NACD's Urban and Community RPG and Deb Bogar.

Arkansas State Envirothon Champions

Arkansas has named its top Envirothon team for 2017! The first place trophy went to Marshall High School's A Team of Marshall, Arkansas. The state's Envirothon competition took place at the University of Central Arkansas' campus in Conway, Arkansas, yesterday.



The winning team, coached by Dorothy Taylor, will represent the state at the 2017 international Envirothon held in Maryland July

NACD Communications Specialist Bill Berry represented conservation in a panel discussion featuring NRCS leaders and Field to Market staff. Berry's session underscored the value of partnerships, allowing attendees to voice successes and potential improvements to conservation programming.

Following the summit, Field to Market – of which NACD is a member – held its annual plenary meeting and celebrated its 10th anniversary. Berry and NACD Director of Development Melisa Augusto participated in those business meetings and also used the time to introduce NACD to new corporate partners.

23-29, 2017. Pictured, from left to right, are team members Clay Horton, James Housley, John Taylor, Garrett Harris, and T.J. McElfish.

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[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

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- NACD Annual Meeting - January 28 - February 1, 2017
- North Central Regional Meeting - January 9 - 10, 2017
- Stewardship and Education Week - April 30 - May 7, 2017

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

DID YOU KNOW?

Interesting Facts & Anecdotes
from your District Operations and Member Services Committee



BY NACD PRESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Before NACD's 1962 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, an affiliate organization didn't exist to support and champion the individuals who served as presidents of their state associations. Luckily, that changed when the "Association of Past Presidents of State Associations of Conservation Districts" was formally established through a bylaw amendment at NACD's 1963 Annual Meeting in Denver. ([Learn more about how the Presidents Association has contributed to NACD's success over the last 64 years by clicking here!](#))

Several years passed before the group's name was shortened to the NACD Presidents Association to include past and current presidents of state and territory associations; but did you know the mission of the organization hasn't changed since 1963? (Did you know all past state association and NACD presidents are members of the Presidents Association? Submit your updated contact info [here on NACD's website](#) to receive all of the Presidents Association's latest updates.)

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NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting is less than two months away!

The countdown to NACD's 71st Annual Meeting is under two months – can you believe it? Here is the latest in important updates on the meeting:

First, Kristen Bail, assistant director of resources and planning for the BLM, will present on BLM's 2.0 planning rule and the BLM's seed implementation strategy during the Public Land RPG's meeting on Saturday January 28. The presentation will take 45 minutes and include a Q&A portion. Bail will also serve on a wild horse and burro panel Sunday evening. If you haven't registered to attend the screening of "Unbranded" and the expert panel discussion on wild horses to follow on January 29, now is the time to [reserve your seat!](#)

Speaking of wild horses and burros in the West, have you read NACD President Lee McDaniel and President-elect Brent Van

You can read this month's Did You Know? [in full on NACD's blog](#). And don't forget - any individual, state, agency, or district can write a Did You Know? article and have it featured on NACD's blog and in eResource. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions for future editions, contact NACD Southeast Representative [Phyllis Vandevere](#).

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

As Congress returns to Capitol Hill after Thanksgiving, an important deadline looms large. Lawmakers have until next Friday – December 9 – to pass a stopgap measure to avoid a government shutdown. Right now, it seems Congress is leaning toward passing a short-term, continuing resolution that extends into March, rather than a funding bill that goes through the end of the Fiscal Year 2017. If this is the case, funding levels for FY 2017 programs that conservation districts utilize will likely stay at FY 2016 levels. NACD will continue to closely monitor appropriations discussions on Capitol Hill and advocate for robust funding for programs that support locally-led, voluntary conservation.

In other news, President-elect Trump's pick to head the EPA may be coming soon. Two candidates, who are said to be the front runners for the position, recently met with the President-elect at his New York City office: Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt and Kathleen Hartnett, director of the Armstrong Center for Energy and the Environment at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Both Pruitt and Hartnett have opposed the EPA's waters of the U.S. rule and hail from oil- and gas-rich states. As for the head of USDA – no favorites are known. Trump hasn't held meetings with any potential candidates and it's expected the pick will come from his Agricultural Advisory Committee.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SUBMITS ESA POLICY, INITIATES REVIEW OF LPC

Last Monday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a [notice](#) of its final Endangered Species Act mitigation policy in the Federal Register. NACD

Dyke's essay? [You can find it here on NACD's blog](#). We here at NACD encourage you to hear what our leadership has to say on the issue.



Second, the ever-popular Denver meeting logo is now on t-shirts! You can

buy these super comfortable, cotton t-shirts in any adult size from NACD's Marketplace. These **limited edition t-shirts** can be purchased for just \$15 each, but only until December 30, 2016.

If you order soon, your t-shirt(s) will be available for pick-up in the Conservation Expo Hall – not shipped to you – when you arrive in Denver for NACD's annual meeting. Don't miss out on your chance to own a bit of Denver – order your logo tee today!

Third, this eResource reminder will be the last one to hit your inbox before Thursday – the deadline to become a sponsor of NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting. Thursday, December 1 is also the deadline to donate items for the meeting's live auction. Would you like to be a sponsor of the meeting, man your own expo booth, or donate an item to benefit conservation districts and the great work of NACD? If you would like to support one of the largest gatherings of conservationists in the U.S. this January, contact NACD Director of Development [Melisa Augusto](#).

For your calendar: U&C webinar on managing small horse farms

The next NACD Urban and Community Conservation webinar sponsored by The Scotts

[submitted comments](#) this past spring on the agency's proposed revision to the policy, and by early December, our members can expect a detailed comparison of the final mitigation policy and NACD's spring comments. Right now, the Service's proposed ESA Compensatory Mitigation Policy is still under review. If when Trump takes office his administration decides to eliminate the rule, they are free to do so.

This morning, the Service announced its intention to move forward with a 12-month review of the [lesser-prairie chicken](#) to determine whether the species warrants protections under the ESA. A September [petition](#) filed by WildEarth Guardians, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Center for Biological Diversity required the agency to determine whether a review was necessary.

In March 2014, the Service listed the lesser prairie chicken as threatened under the ESA. In September 2015, the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Texas ruled the Service's decision did not properly evaluate existing conservation plans. In July 2016, the Service removed the lesser prairie chicken from the list due to this decision.

The Service's notice to review will be published in the Federal Register tomorrow, November 30, and comments will be accepted through January 30, 2017.

NACD LEADERS BRIEF MEMBERSHIP AT STATE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

NACD's officers spent many hours on the road in November visiting with members at state association meetings.

NACD President Lee McDaniel visited with the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts during their annual meeting held November 14-16. President-elect Brent Van Dyke attended annual meetings for the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts November 13-15 and the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts November 15-18. CEO Jeremy Peters attended the annual meetings for the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts November 14-16 and the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts November 20-22. Second Vice

Miracle-Gro Company will feature the ways districts can help horse owners on small acreage protect their land and water resources.

Alayne Bickle of Horses for Clean Water will explain how her organization helps horse owners manage their land in the best way possible for horse health and the environment through consultation, workshops, farm tours, and educational materials. Bobbi Lindemulder with Snohomish Conservation District in Washington state will show how her district teaches landowners to manage their pastures, prevent mud and manure problems, keep weeds at bay, and more.

To join the conversation, [email NACD's Debra Bogar](#) and tune in December 15 from noon to 1:00pm Eastern. To view archived webinars, head to [NACD's website](#).

Source Water Collaborative holding webinar on messaging for ag producers

As part of its Learning Exchange Webinar Series, the Source Water Collaborative is holding its fifth webinar on agricultural messaging on December 6 from 1:00 to 2:00pm Eastern. Several of the collaborative's partners – including representatives of the Missouri Rural Water Association, the U.S. EPA, and Lancaster Farmland Trust – will share the strategies they use to overcome barriers to outreach. To register, [click here](#).

Apply for the Community Forest Program

President Dick Went attended the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting November 20-22.

The officers briefed meeting attendees on current NACD programs and initiatives including the [National Conservation Planning Partnership](#), [Conservation Planning Boot Camp](#), NACD's [Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative](#) and the policy outlook for the new administration and congressional make-up as a farm bill reauthorization approaches. The officers also stressed the importance of grassroots participation in the policy process, which will on many issues culminate at [NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver](#).

TODAY IS #GIVINGTUESDAY!

Giving Tuesday is the perfect time to show your appreciation for locally-led, voluntary conservation. You could [become a Friend of NACD](#), stay active in your state association, [promote soil health practices](#), or [register for NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting](#) – whatever you do to support conservation, we salute you!



This Giving Tuesday, NACD is celebrating the first inductee to the NACD Hall of Distinction – an Ohioan who gave so much to his community through conservation. Clarence Durban (pictured) served in conservation district leadership positions for nearly three decades. He provided tremendous leadership to NACD as the association's president from 1985 to 1988 and was integral in securing the organization's Capitol Hill headquarters, which strengthened NACD's visibility and carved out a place for conservation in Washington, D.C.

To learn more about Clarence and his contributions to national conservation efforts, head over to our [Hall of Distinction page](#). In the coming months, we expect to add to the page many more photos and biographies of those who have made the Conservation Movement possible.

Local governments, qualified non-profits, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forestland from willing sellers. Applications must be received by January 13, 2017. Information about how to apply can be found in the [Federal Register notice](#) and on the [Community Forest Program website](#).

2017 Wood Innovations Grants Program request for proposals

The deadline for proposals is January 23, 2017. Information on how to apply is available on the [Wood Education and Resource Center website](#).

Contact Us

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Conservation Clip List is a weekly collection of articles distributed by NACD that provides our members and partners with the latest news in what's driving conservation. If you have a relevant submission, please contact your NACD Communications Team.

Gatlinburg Wildfires Force Evacuations: 'It Was Like Driving Into Hell' via The New York Times

Deadly wildfires ripped through the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee, forcing thousands to flee as emergency responders sought to contain a blaze that conjured biblical comparison. Fueled by high winds and a drought in Tennessee, the fires damaged about 150 buildings and forced thousands to evacuate. Three people died and 14 others were injured, officials said. More than 14,000 people left Gatlinburg, and others were evacuated from nearby Pigeon Forge as well as other parts of Sevier County, in the eastern part of the state. More than 10,000 people had been left without power in Sevier County.

General Mills joins effort to support bee and butterfly habitats via Minneapolis Star Tribune

General Mills has made its largest contribution to help save pollinators, announcing a \$2 million commitment that will add more than 100,000 acres of bee and butterfly habitat on or near existing crop lands. The five-year agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Xerces Society, the world's oldest and largest pollinator conservation group, will focus its efforts in Minnesota, North Dakota, California, Nebraska, Iowa and Maine. The USDA and Xerces will match this donation with another \$2 million toward the project.

Sides brace for hearing on California river flow plan via The Modesto Bee

The plan would reduce water supplies by 14 percent in an average year of rain and snow and by 38 percent in "critically dry" years. The plan tries to balance the needs of fish and humans; the increased reservoir releases would help struggling fish in the lower rivers. The agency also aims to reduce salinity in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, which is tapped as a water supply for much of California.

How big data could save aquatic species via The Christian Science Monitor

Last week, the US Forest Service announced what is perhaps its loftiest conservation goal ever: to map every aquatic animal in the Western states. By next summer, the department hopes to release the first-ever Aquatic Environmental DNA Atlas. Using new DNA testing technology, researchers plan to comb rivers and streams for the genetic material of every otter, salmon, and water bug west of the Mississippi. The resulting biodiversity map, cataloging thousands of species by population boundary, would be a public resource. Such a map could inform future land management decisions and help allocate limited conservation funding. Meanwhile, the technology behind the map could identify unknown populations or invasive species.

North America's grasslands are slowly disappearing — and no one's paying attention via The Washington Post

The Great Plains lost more grassland to agriculture in 2014 than the Brazilian Amazon lost to deforestation. The continued expansion of cropland in the region may be threatening birds, pollinators, and even drinking water, while releasing millions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. For more than a century, the area has been known chiefly for cattle ranching — but in more recent years, millions of acres have also been converted into farmland for crops like wheat, alfalfa, corn, and soybeans. The two greatest concerns about grassland conversion in the Great Plains involve reduced water quality and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Targeting poachers: Wildlife crimes a persistent problem via The Blade

Both Ohio and Michigan battle poachers who plunder the resources of white-tailed deer, waterfowl, game fish, and even ginseng. Poaching includes killing an animal out of season, trespassing with the intent of hunting or stealing game without the landowner's permission, killing protected species, using prohibited firearms or tactics, exceeding the legal bag limit, or attempting to hide or mask the amount of game in one's possession. In simpler terms, poaching is the illegal taking of game, fish, or protected plants.

Trying to Solve the Fishy Problem Behind Livestock Feed via TakePart

There's a market for high-quality livestock feed that meets the same measures of sustainability consumers have come to expect from farmers and their animals. But even farms motivated solely by the bottom line may soon be forced to consider alternative animal feeds. The question is whether at-scale alternatives will beget new environmental problems.

Boulder County to proceed with phasing out GMO crops via Daily Camera Boulder News

Boulder County will proceed with a policy and plan for phasing out the growing of genetically modified corn and sugar beets on county-owned farmland. Tenant farmers who have been growing genetically engineered corn on the lands they lease from the county can continue to plant it next year but will have to end using county-owned fields for GMO corn crops by the end of 2019. Genetically engineered sugar beets will continue to be allowed for the next five years but will have to be phased out completely by the end of 2021.

Ready for Some Good Environment News? It's About Coal via Bloomberg

Thanks to a decrease in coal use in North America and better technology to make the fossil fuel less harmful, the amount of mercury in the atmosphere is on the decline—and our air, our oceans, and even our food appear to be getting safer.

Southern wildfires burn 80,000 acres across six states via CNN

Crippling drought conditions are sparking blaze after blaze across six states in the South. More than 30 large wildfires have left a trail of destruction through 80,000 acres in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky, according to the US Forest Service. Eight large fires are still blazing in the mountains of western North Carolina while 15 smaller ones burn elsewhere in the state.

Bullock declares natural resource emergency due to invasive mussels via Independent Record

Gov. Steve Bullock declared a natural resource emergency following the detection of invasive aquatic mussels in Montana. The executive order triggers the development of an interagency rapid response team and allows the response team to tap \$750,000 in special state funding.