

CORRESPONDENCE



P.O. Box 720720 Sacramento, CA 94229-0720
888 CalPERS (or 888-225-7377); 916-795-0810
TTY: (877) 249-7442 FAX: (916) 795-3005
www.calpers.ca.gov
Email: SSSA@calpers.ca.gov

October 1, 2016

Elsinore Murrieta Anza Resource Conservation District, EMARCD
Attention Payroll Department
P.O. Box 2078
Emecula, CA, 92593

Annual Information Request 2016

California Government Code 22200 establishes the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) as the official Social Security Administrator for the State of California's Section 218 Agreement. The Section 218 Agreement is an agreement between the State of California and the Federal Government under which Social Security and/or Medicare coverage is extended to State and local government employees.

As the State of California Social Security Administrator, CalPERS represents the State with respect to its responsibilities for maintaining and administering the provisions of the 218 Agreement and the proper application of Social Security and Medicare. CalPERS must ensure that the State meets the responsibilities set out by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

The SSA requires that CalPERS maintain a database and conduct an annual information request from all covered and non-covered government agencies as part of the State Social Security Administrator responsibilities.

As a part of this annual information request, we ask that you complete and return the attached **Annual Information Request Form** by November 1, 2016.

What if the Agency no longer exists or plans to dissolve at the close of this fiscal year?

If your agency will dissolve, merge, or consolidate with another agency, please inform our office by immediately with dates and details of the change. Once the dissolution is complete please submit the following:

1. Employer Federal Tax ID
2. Employer CalPERS ID
3. Employees list of names under Social Security at the time of dissolution
4. Type of dissolution (i.e. unification, annexation, merger, etc)
5. Copy of resolution and election certification with all necessary documents supporting the proof of dissolution

Elsinore Murrieta Anza Resource Conservation District, EMARCD P.O. Box 2078
Emecula CA 92593



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6. Is there a succeeding agency? If yes, please name the entity

What if the Addressee no longer exists or has merged with another organization?

If the addressee is no longer in existence, please write "Dissolved" in large print on the form under "Official Employer Name"

If the addressee has merged with another organization. Please complete the form for the existing organization and note that the organization name has changed.

CalPERS preferred method of receiving Annual Information Request form updates is paperless. Other formats are also acceptable.

How do I return the completed electronic form?

To return the form electronically, please complete, scan and save the form as a PDF and email the PDF form to:

SSSA.AIR@calpers.ca.gov



How do I return the completed paper form?

To return this paper form using the United States Postal Service, please complete and mail the form to:

CalPERS
State Social Security Administrator
P.O. Box 720720
Sacramento, CA 94229-0720

Note: If you mail the form, please attach the enclosed coversheet to the top of the Annual Information Request Form to ensure expedited delivery to our office.



What if I have questions about the form?

To get answers to questions, please call or email your State Social Security Administrator.

Telephone: (916) 795-0810

Email: SSSA.AIR@calpers.ca.gov



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www.calpers.ca.gov
Email: SSSA@calpers.ca.gov

Annual Information Request Form

"Official" Employer Name: Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD

Federal Tax ID/EIN: _____ CalPERS ID: _____

Has the employer name ever been changed? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, list the former name(s) and dates. Please provide legal documentation substantiating the name changes.

Elsinore Murrieta-Anza RCD
Organization Name Date Name changed
Temecula-Elsinore Anza Murrieta RCD June 2016

1. Select organization type: Public Agency ☒ Non-Profit _____ Private _____ Other _____

If other, please list organization type _____

2. Are you part of a Public Retirement System? Yes _____ No ☒

If yes, please provide the name of the system: _____

3. Do you withhold Social Security and Medicare from employees' wages? We don't have any employees. This is all volunteer. Yes _____ No ☒

If yes, are you excluding any positions? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list the excluded position(s): _____

4. Do you withhold Medicare ONLY for any employees? Yes _____ No ☒
If yes, were any of those employees hired or elected prior to April 1, 1986? We have no employees Yes _____ No _____

5. Within the agency, has a new sub-division, component or division been created with its own EIN, payroll, bookkeeping and/or tax reporting system? Yes ☒ No _____

Authorized Contact: ROSE CORONA

Title: President Email: rose.corona@emarcad.org

Telephone: 909-208-7848 Fax: N/A

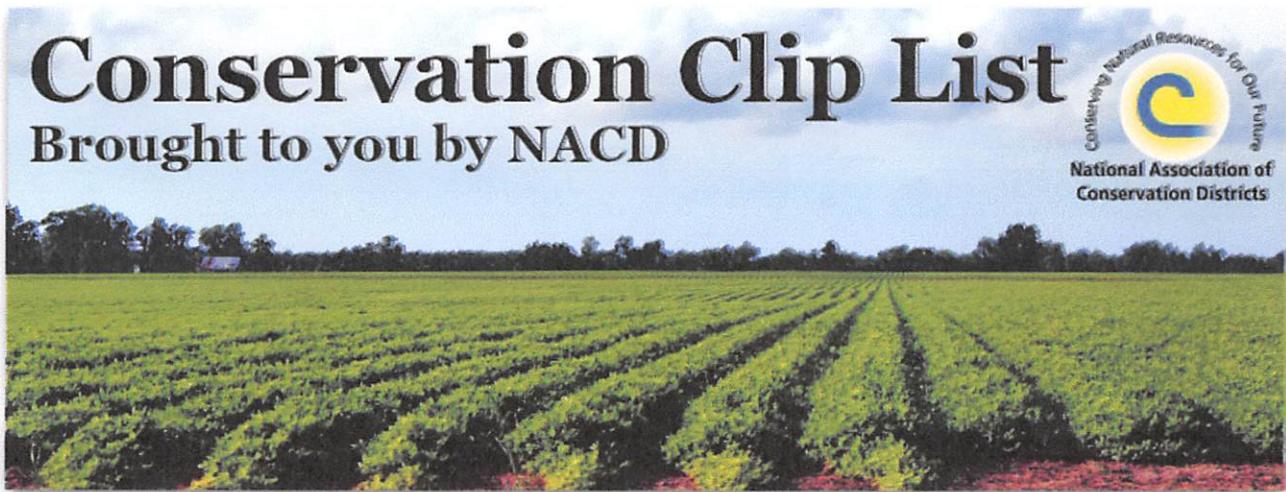
Address: P.O. Box 2078
Temecula, CA 92592

Elsinore Murrieta Anza Resource Conservation District, EMARCD P.O. Box 2078
Emecula CA 92593

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-Escondido-Anza-Murrieta RCD <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date: 2016-10-07 03:04



If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#)



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](#).

Tom Gordon, of the state's emergency task force, talks about the drought via Portland Press Herald

"Primarily what we are hearing about is dry wells or extremely low farm ponds, and that is affecting farmers' ability to get water to their cattle and also to irrigate crops." The worst problem? "The impact on the hay crop. Normally they wouldn't irrigate, they'd just rely on the rain to take care of that." But without rain, there's been a serious problem with that second cut of hay, the one that everyone with livestock needs to get through the winter. The hay has "been either extremely poor or not even worth cutting."

America's Gray Ghosts: The Disappearing Caribou via The New York Times

Because they are so rarely seen, the caribou — America's version of reindeer — are known as gray ghosts. They may very soon become real ghosts: These animals are among the most endangered species in the lower 48 states.

Bees were just added to the U.S. endangered-species list for the first time via The Washington Post

For the first time in the United States, bees have been placed on the endangered-species list. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Friday determined that seven species of yellow-faced bees, all native to Hawaii, should be protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Remarks by the First Lady at the White House Kitchen Garden Dedication via The White House

First Lady Michelle Obama highlighted the recent improvements to the White House Kitchen Garden, saying, "We have the first-ever White House compost system to highlight the importance of having healthy soil. That's back there. It's going — it's blazing, our composting. We planted the first-ever pollinator garden to provide a home for our birds and butterflies and our bees."

Arctic Pollinator Faces Uncertain Future via Scientific American

A 2013 study found that the Arctic flowering season is shortening. The numbers of fly pollinators is down, as is the the number of visits by these fly pollinators. Which could be bad for mountain avens—and beyond. "One could expect that also the other pollinators and flower visitors visiting the mountain avens could get more uncommon and even become extinct in the long run."

United Tribes aims to draw students to environmental science via The Bismarck Tribune

Students in the master's program conduct more in-depth research projects, and two students have worked on water quality — one was looking at mercury content in the sediment in rivers near the Standing Rock Reservation, the other analyzing lead content of sediments in some of the rivers.

Out of the ashes comes a silver lining via The Wichita Eagle

Controlled burning, proponents argue, is the only way to rid the prairie of cedar trees and other fuel and prevent another major wildfire. "Prairie needs fire almost as much as it needs water if it's going to stay healthy," Ted Alexander said.

As cities get warmer, their trees lose some of their ability to take carbon out of the atmosphere via Los Angeles Times

A recent study found that the total amount of carbon stored in urban trees in the U.S. is 643 million tons and that city trees suck up an additional 25.6 million tons of carbon from the atmosphere each year. But their ability to perform this critical work may soon be hampered. New research suggests that as the planet and its cities get warmer, the ability of urban trees to take carbon out of the atmosphere is diminished.

The EPA gets closer to cleaning up one of the nation's most polluted rivers via The Washington Post

This spring, the EPA finalized a \$1.4 billion, 10-year plan to remove industrial toxins that have built up for more than a century along the Passaic's lower eight miles. That stretch would be dredged from bank to bank, with more than 3.5 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment removed and a two-foot-thick sand and stone barrier laid to "cap" the river bottom. The contaminated sediment eventually would be shipped to a licensed disposal site out of the state.

To unsubscribe from future mailings [please click here](#).

Subject **Jeffries Journal**
From Supervisor Jeffries - 1st District <district1@rcbos.org>
To Supervisor Jeffries - 1st District <district1@rcbos.org>
Date 2016-10-13 18:21



- October2016_newsletter_v3.pdf (2.2 MB)

Please find the attached October Jeffries Journal E-Newsletter, featuring Kevin's Corner, Supervisor Success Stories, Board and Commissions Spotlight, our Non-Profit Spotlight and upcoming events in our District.

Pasted immediately below is this issues Kevin's Corner, but the whole newsletter is attached or available at this link:

http://supervisorjeffries.com/opencms/galleries/PressNews/October2016_newsletter_v3.pdf

Kevin's Corner

Given our county budget situation, when every dime counts - you should probably start counting them. As I have mentioned before, the annual budget for the County of Riverside is around \$5.3 billion. A significant amount of the \$5.3 billion is spent for state and/or federally-funded, social service related programs. When I mention the following penny-pinching spending issues, you may not see it as such a big deal in the big budget picture, but I honestly suspect that if I was spending (or losing) money that came directly from your personal bank account, you might raise an eyebrow.

Property #1: The Board was asked to approve funding for an additional 59 parking stalls at an existing county facility. The successful contractor estimated that actual construction costs would be \$166,000. The County's cost for design, management, consultants and contingencies added an additional \$117,000, almost as much as the actual cost to physically add parking stalls.

Property #2: The County has a surplus property with an old building that it decided to sell to another government entity for a total of \$190,000. However, the county costs to process the sale, maintain it until sold and survey it, plus escrow and appraisal, will all eat up over \$50,000 of the sale proceeds.

Property #3: The Board was asked to approve construction of a new 500-foot long sidewalk near a school site. The successful contractor estimated actual construction costs would be roughly \$188,000. However when the costs for the surveys, environmental review, design, right-of-way, engineering and inspections, the \$188,000 construction project quickly reached a projected \$430,000.

In all of the above cases the departments were working within standard government project procedures (at least in California). All the significant extra costs are not seen as anything unusual when working within government. It's only when you compare it to private sector projects that you really see how our hard earned tax dollars are spent so inefficiently. What really hurts our pocketbooks isn't even the cases mentioned above. If you spent just a few minutes looking at all the claims and lawsuits (successful or not) against the County of

Riverside, you would come unhinged over the tens of millions of our tax dollars that are drained away each year from actual services to our communities.

In 2015/16 claims paid for Worker's Compensation reached \$18 million.

In 2015/16 claims paid for Generally Liability reached \$44 million.

In 2015/16 claims paid for Medical Malpractice reached \$747,000.

Fortunately (or unfortunately) we write big checks to an excess insurance carrier that covers a portion (but definitely not all) of the large lawsuits that we county taxpayers would end up paying for – but in the end we are all paying for it with higher premiums.

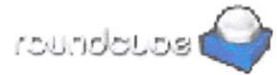
In closing, I want the taxpayers of the First District to know that my staff and I are always asking, probing, digging and sometimes irritating our county government to be more respectful of all taxpayer funds.

Respectfully,

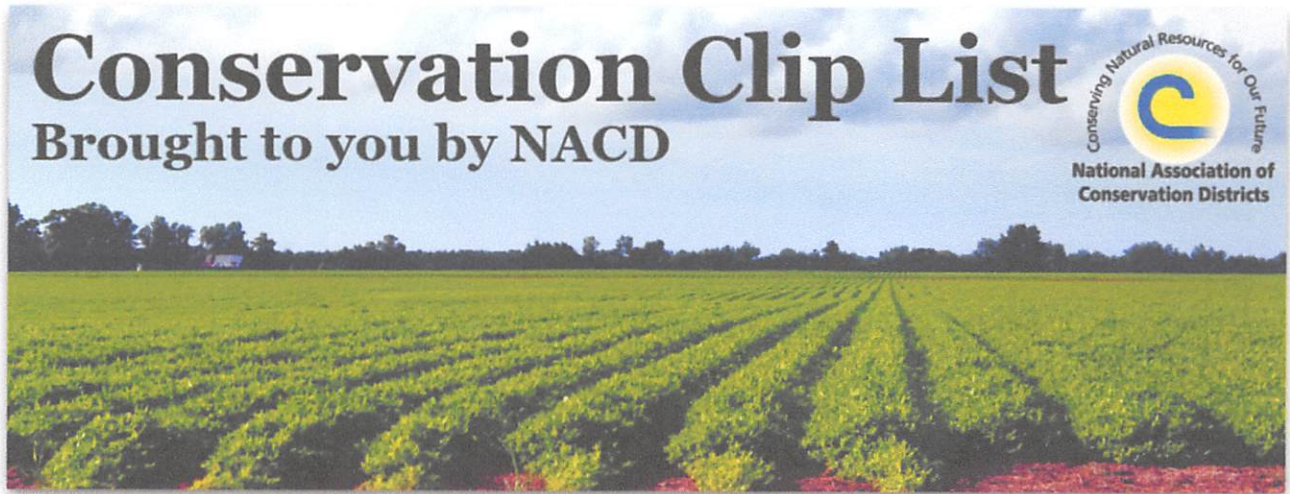
Kevin Jeffries

Please Note: To be removed from this mailing list, please respond with "Unsubscribe" and the email address to be removed. Thank you.

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@teamrccd.org>
Date: 2016-10-14 03:04



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[ND program aims to mitigate losses via Agweek](#)

More than 1 million acres of grassland in North Dakota have been converted to other land uses since 2007, and the state could lose thousands more as Conservation Reserve Program contracts expire. The state Game and Fish Department's 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan attributed the declining populations of some birds — including the state bird, the western meadowlark — to grassland losses, which could be exacerbated by fewer CRP acres nationwide.

[Farmers dealing with losses from hurricane via The Wilson Times](#)

During Hurricane Matthew's heavy rainfall and strong winds Saturday, Tyner's farm shop experienced extensive flooding, damaging a lot of his equipment. He said much of his soybean and peanut crop is still under water. "We don't know how long it will be before we can get into the fields," Tyner said. "The ground is still heavily saturated so crops like sweet potatoes and peanuts could rot in the ground before we get to them."

[Tentative clean water conservation deal for Minnesota aids birds via Star Tribune](#)

Replanted with native grasses, the change in land use will protect against fertilizer-related nitrate contamination while also providing new pheasant habitat. Pheasants also will benefit from CREP restoration of prairie pothole wetlands and flood plains. Those marshy areas, restored to their natural state, will provide nesting habitat and winter cover for ringnecks.

[US Forest Service Helps Educate Students at World's Largest Conservation Event via USDA](#)

Approximately 180 middle and high school students joined Smokey Bear, U.S. Forest Service staff and a host of other conservation-focused professionals from around the world. The U.S. Forest Service contributed multiple interactive displays and presentations covering the subjects of fire prevention, clean water and forest health.

[Columbian white-tailed deer rebound via The Columbian](#)

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

Hailed as a conservation success story by wildlife officials, the Columbian white-tailed deer has been downlisted to threatened after being federally classified as endangered for nearly 40 years. To be clear, the Columbian white-tails are not off the endangered species list, but reclassifying the species as threatened gives landowners, states and tribes more flexibility in how to manage and move the deer populations.

Environmentalists fear coal ash spills from flooding via WRAL

Thousands of gallons of water flowed out of a cooling pond at a retired Duke Energy power plant on Wednesday after part of the retaining wall on the 545-acre pond gave way. Dead livestock and animal waste are another concern in the floodwaters. An estimated 100,000 chickens drowned in Wayne County alone, and Starr said hog waste lagoons are overflowing.

Grant Funding Targets Farm Emissions via Lancaster Farming

New York state is making another \$2.5 million available to help farmers prevent climate change. Individual soil and water conservation districts may apply for the competitive grants on behalf of farmers in their respective areas. Applications must be for agricultural waste storage cover and flare systems, water management systems, or soil health systems.

Waters wash away divides as Montanans unite to protect rivers via Montana Standard

A group called Montanans for Healthy Rivers has drafted requests for 54 more Wild and Scenic River designations totaling 694 river miles. "This is a public land management priority," Kascie Herron said. "People are fearful of more government, and we try to explain it's not — it's the same government. This just elevates rivers to the same level with timber and grazing and minerals."

Human-caused warming doubled how much of the West has burned since 1984 via Los Angeles Times

Using large-scale climate models, annual wildfire data and eight established methods for measuring the aridity of the forests, the researchers concluded that from 1979 to 2015, climate change increased the aridity of wildfire fuel by 55%.

To unsubscribe from future mailings [please click here](#).

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 2016-10-18 14:22



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

SIGNED: NACD TO CONTINUE OFFERING SPOTS TO CD STAFF FOR NRCS' BOOT CAMP THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

NACD and NRCS have agreed to invite an additional 75 conservation district employees each year for the next five years to attend Conservation Planning Boot Camp training. District employees



must be nominated by their state association to participate in one of the three-week educational sessions held in

Lincoln, Nebraska. The first Boot Camp training for 2017 will start on March 28, 2017. To learn more about Boot Camp and to see a list of session start and end dates, [visit NACD's Boot Camp webpage](#).

Last fiscal year, 59 conservation district employees participated in this training and told NACD what an excellent educational experience it was. We look forward to receiving nominations from state and territory associations of conservation districts from across the nation. For more information about this

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Final rule for ACEP released

NRCS released the final rule for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) today. The 2014 Farm Bill combined the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, Grassland Reserve Program, and Wetlands Reserve Program into this single program. NACD was generally supportive when this rule was proposed last year and we are reading through the new rule to see how it may affect our member districts and their easement programs. The final rule is available [here](#) and NACD's comments on the interim rule can be found in the [comments section of the newsroom](#).

Chinese delegation visits with NACD

On Monday, NACD hosted eight members of a Chinese delegation at our headquarters in Washington, D.C. The individuals from Shanghai included representatives from

opportunity, contact NACD Director of Projects and Partnerships [Rich Duesterhaus](#).

SUBMITTED: COMMENTS ON FISH AND WILDLIFE'S ESA PROPOSED RULE

Late last week, NACD submitted comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the agency's draft Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy. [Click here](#) to be redirected to NACD's Newsroom where you can view our comments on the proposed rule.

The draft ESA CMP details how FWS plans to implement its proposed ESA mitigation policy, something that was lacking in the agency's draft Mitigation Policy Revision [81 FR 12379, March 8, 2016]. The proposed policies are the result of recent presidential and Interior Department memorandums. To view NACD's comments on the Mitigation Policy Revision that were submitted in May, head to the "Comments" section of NACD's Newsroom.

SCHEDULED: NACD'S U&C WEBINAR CALENDAR FOR FISCAL 2017 NOW AVAILABLE

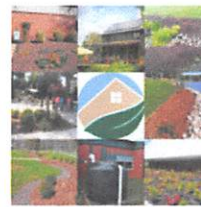
NACD's Urban and Community Resource Policy Group (RPG) has set its [webinar schedule](#) for fiscal year 2017 and you're invited to tune in on October 20 – the first webinar of FY2017. Like all U&C webinars, this interactive presentation will be sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and take place from noon to 1:00pm Eastern on the third Thursday of the month.

Since September 2012, NACD has reached over 1,300 members and partners and covered a variety of urban and community conservation topics. You can view previously covered topics and past presenters for several years of NACD webinars [here](#) on NACD's website. At that link you may also download PDF presentations and recordings of past

China's Rural Management and Administration Department, the Rural Commercial Bank, life insurance companies, human resources organizations, and a youth federation. The delegation was briefed on how conservation work is planned, implemented, and evaluated in the United States and how conservation districts and their partners play a crucial role in putting conservation practices on the ground. The group had a lively and engaging discussion, including a question and answer session on how conservation practices used in the U.S. may be used to address their own country's natural resource concerns.

Last call for U&C webinar this

Thursday



The FY2017 Urban and Community Conservation Webinar series, sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, will begin with a presentation from the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program on October 20 from noon to 1:00pm Eastern.

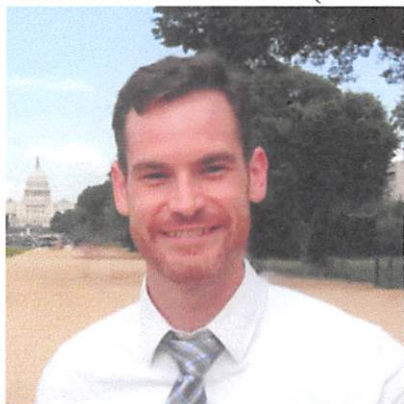
The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is an urban cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical assistance to property owners who use eligible BMPs to improve water quality within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. To register, [email Debra Bogar](#) with your name, title, district or business name, and state.

sessions to use in district outreach or for educational purposes.

NACD TRAVELS TO NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR STATE'S ANNUAL MEETING

NACD's Northeast Region Representative and Policy Specialist Eric Hansen (pictured) participated in the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts' (NHACD) annual meeting



last week. In addition to the usual annual meeting agenda items – such as partner reports, officer elections, and policy resolutions – this year's meeting focused on soil health and cover crops. Attendees

heard from several farmers about their cover crop practices and from NRCS about national soil health work underway.

In addition, each of NHACD's ten member districts had a few minutes to present on their current work. New Hampshire's districts are engaged in a wide variety of activities, including a lending program for cover crop farm equipment; a nutrition incentive program through local farmers markets; the managing of conservation easements; and hosting field days and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Several districts have found outside grant funding to support this work, and in some cases, used these activities to leverage additional county funding. Interested in learning more about New Hampshire's districts? Visit [NACD's Conservation District Directory](#) for contact information and keep an eye out for the fall edition of [The Resource](#).

You don't want to miss this tour of the Headwaters State

As part of NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver, attendees are being offered the chance to take a scenic tour through the Rocky Mountains to visit some of Colorado's 17 headwater rivers.



The Wednesday tour will start with a bus ride to the Continental Divide at the

summit of Berthoud Pass (11,307 feet in elevation) where tour speakers will explain how annual snowfall levels and snowpack on Colorado's peaks affect the state and at least eighteen others.

Attendees will also hear about Colorado's many Trans-Mountain Diversions – pipelines that move the state's water from the western slope to the eastern front range of Colorado – as well as western water law, private property water rights, and river compact requirements. In addition, this tour will include a presentation on the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation – a plague that has devastated federally owned forestland in Grand County. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Headwaters State tour and all of the other tours NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting has to offer!

Contact Us

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

[email us](#)

NACD Events Calendar

CARCD-SoCal Inland Area

Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016
To: TEAM RCD & Danny Martin
From: Carol Bartels, Treasurer, CARCD SoCal Inland Area
Subject: SoCal Inland Area Meeting Auction Outstanding Debt

At the spring 2016 meeting of the SoCal Inland Area, Danny Martin bid on 4 wine lots in the amount of \$160. According to the attached sheet from Mandy Parkes, this amount has not been paid and an invoice for it is attached.

Please make the check out to CARCD-SoCal Inland Area and mail to me at:

**Carol Bartels, Treasurer
CARCD-SoCal Inland Area
4500 Glenwood Dr, #A
Riverside, CA 92501**

Thank You.

Carol Bartels, Treas.



RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS

TO: TEAM RCD
PO Box 2078
Temecula CA 92593

Date: October 18, 2016

Item	Payment Terms
CARCD-SoCal Inland Area Meeting Auction Outstand Debt	Past Due
Description	Total
Auction Items: 4 wine lots bid on by Danny Martin at the May 14, 2016 area meeting hosted by TEAM RCD	160.00

Total Due 160.00

Make all checks payable to: CARCD-SoCal Inland Area




**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE RIVERSIDE LOCAL AGENCY
FORMATION COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the **Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission**, in the Boardroom of the Eastern Municipal Water District, 2270 Trumble Road, Perris, California, 92570 on **Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.** on the following proposals:

- 1. LAFCO 2016-04-1-Reorganization to Include Annexation 84 (The Summit) to the City of Lake Elsinore and Concurrent Annexation to the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control District and Concurrent Detachment from the Riverside County Waste Resources Management District and pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act the Commission, as responsible agency, will review and consider Addendum No. 2 to the Environmental Impact Report SCH # 2005121019 prepared by the City of Lake Elsinore, as lead agency: Generally located south of Claire Rd., west of Greenwald, west of the City of Canyon Lake and north and east of the City of Lake Elsinore. T5S R4W, Section 27.**
- 2. Amending the LAFCO Conflict of Interest Code.**

The above does not necessarily reflect the order in which the items will be heard. Previously continued items may not appear on this notice. For a particular description of the land involved, reference is hereby made to maps and legal descriptions on file in the office of the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission, 3850 Vine Street, Suite 240, Riverside, CA 92507. Staff reports are available for download from our website at www.lafco.org, **approximately one week prior to the hearing date** or you may submit a written request for a proposal listed above and one will be sent to you. For additional information call (951) 369-0631.

RIVERSIDE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION


George J. Spiliotis
Executive Officer
October 19, 2016

RIVERSIDE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

The following proposal has been submitted to LAFCO and is being routed to you for comment. Please sign, date and provide your comments on a separate form and be sure to reference the proposal title with your comments. If appropriate, include suggested terms and conditions and/or recommendations. Please coordinate your response with the County Executive Office if you are a County department. If you would like additional information regarding this proposal contact our office immediately. Your comments are due back by the date requested. A map of the proposed project has been provided to you on the opposite side of this sheet along with the 2 page application form. All comments can be emailed to info@lafco.org or mailed to 3850 Vine Street, Suite 240, Riverside, CA 92507-4277.

Title: LAFCO 2016-09-3-Annexation 125 to County Service Area 103 (TR 33423 & 33423-1)

Forwarded on: October 11, 2016
Return comments by: November 8, 2016

☒ SURVEYOR - email
☒ COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE - (Tina Grande) email
☒ SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT - 3rd district - email
☐ MAC / COMMUNITY COUNCIL
☒ CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL - Riverside - email
☒ CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL - San Bernardino - email
☒ CALTRANS - (DISTRICT DIRECTOR) - email
☒ REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
☐ Colorado River Basin Region - email
☐ San Diego Region - email
☐ Santa Ana Region - email
☐ AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
☐ Mojave Desert (for Blythe/Palo Verde Valley Area)
☒ RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION - email
☒ SOUTHERN CA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS - email
☐ TLMA REGIONAL OFFICE - MANAGER, INDO - email
☒ COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOC. OF GOVERNMENTS - email
☒ WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - email
☒ BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - email
☒ BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION - (Riverside) - email
☒ COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
☐ (Paul Jessup, Riv County Dep. Superintendent of Schools) - email
☐ DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION - (59752.5 city proposal
 was preserved; Director, c/o Dan Ols, Program Mgr. - email
☒ COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL - (MARK WILLIS) - email
☒ COUNTY REGIONAL PARK & OPEN SPACE - email
☒ COUNTY WASTE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT - email
☒ EDW CSA - (AMBER JACOBSON, CSA PROJECT MGR) - email
☒ RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES - (GARY MOULT) - Riv. Only
☐ THE VISTA SANTA ROSA ASSOC. - (ELLEN TROVER) - email
☐ DIRECTOR OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION (city
 proposals)
☐ US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (Jeannette McBride) - Eastern Riv.
 County - email
☒ CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - email

SPECIAL DISTRICTS:
 Eastern Municipal Water - email
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern Cal. - email
 Riverside Valley Cemetery - email
 Perris Valley Cemetery - c/o EDA - email
 San Jacinto Basin Resource Conservation - email
 San Jacinto Valley Cemetery - email
 Temecula-Eskmore-Alza-Riverside Resource Conservation - email
 Temecula Public Cemetery - email
 Valley Health System - email
 Valley Wide Recreation & Park - email
SCHOOL DISTRICTS:
 Hemet Unified - email
 Menifee Union Elementary - email
 Mt. San Jacinto College - email
 Riverside Valley Unified - email
 Perris Union High School - email
 Temecula Valley Unified - email
CITIES:
 City of Menifee - email
 City of Murietta - email

LAFCO 2016-09-3

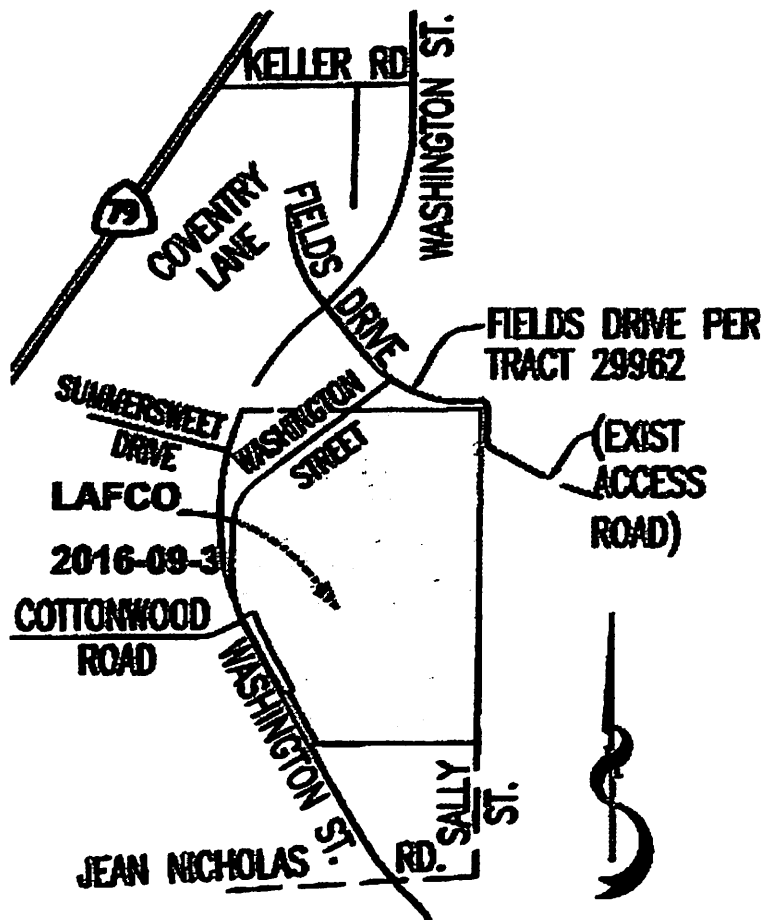
Annexation 125 to County Service Area 103 (TR 33423 & 33423-1)

APPLICANT: Washington Road Investment, LLC

PROPOSAL: To annex for the provision of street lighting services.

GENERAL LOCATION: Generally located south of Brumfield St., west of Sally St. north of Jeans Nichols Rd., and east of Washington St.

ACREAGE: The proposal contains approximately 45 acres.



APPLICATION TO THE RIVERSIDE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
LAFCO 2016-09-3

Annexation 125 to County Service Area 103 (TR 33423 & 33423-1)

RIVERSIDE
 LOCAL AGENCY
 FORMATION
 COMMISSION
 16 AUG 25 AM 10:18

PROPOSAL: ANNEX TRACTS 33423 AND 33423-1 INTO LAFCO FOR CSA 103.		FOR LAFCO USE ONLY
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition, or <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Complete
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map / Legal Description
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maps
APPLICANT		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan of Services (1 copy unbound)
Name: WASHINGTON ROAD INV., LLC		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Docs (1 copy unbound)
Address: 3121 MICHELSON DRIVE, STE. 150		<input type="checkbox"/> F&G Fee Exempt, or <input type="checkbox"/> Receipt
City, State, Zip: IRVINE, CA 92612		<input type="checkbox"/> Prop. Tax Reso. <input type="checkbox"/> Master <input type="checkbox"/> Indiv.
Phone: 949-258-7555 Email: adam@cityventures.com		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAFCO Fees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal Descript. Dep.
CONTACT PERSON/AGENT		<input type="checkbox"/> City Pre-zoning Ordinance
Name: SAME		<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal (city > 100 ac) (1 copy unbound)
Address: SAME		<input type="checkbox"/> S.O.I. Factors
City, State, Zip: SAME		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailing Labels
Phone: (949) 376-5522 Email: rthomas@cityventures.com		

NOTICES: List below the names, email address, and addresses of persons to whom notices and staff reports should be directed (3 maximum). In the event the document is too large to email, a hard copy will be sent. Please provide six sets of mailing labels for persons to whom notices and reports are to be sent.

ADAM SMITH ON BEHALF OF

Name: WASHINGTON ROAD INV., LLC	Telephone: 949-258-7555
Address: 3121 MICHELSON DRIVE, STE. 150	City, State, Zip: IRVINE, CA 92612
Email: adam@cityventures.com	
Name: _____	Telephone: _____
Address: _____	City, State, Zip: _____
Email: _____	
Name: _____	Telephone: _____
Address: _____	City, State, Zip: _____
Email: _____	

Does this proposal have the consent of 100 percent of the affected property owners? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, include written statements of consent and proof of ownership (assessor roll printout, grant deed, etc).

Also, attach all correspondence to/from existing residents and/or property owners.

AREA DATA

General Location: WASHINGTON ROAD AND COTTONWOOD ROAD, FRENCH VALLEY, CA		
Topography and significant physical features: VACANT LAND FOR FUTURE SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROJECT		
Acreage: 46AC	Estimated Dwelling Units: 132	Estimated Population: 462

Describe the proximity of the subject area to currently developed areas.

VACANT UNDEVELOPED LAND TO SOUTH AND EAST

EXISTING RESIDENTIAL TO WEST

WASHINGTON PARK TO NORTH

LAND USE APPROVALS	COUNTY	CITY
General Plan Designations	MDR	
Zoning or Pre-Zoning	L-1, R-5	
Subdivisions	TRACT 33423, TRACT 33423-1	

Is any portion of the subject territory within a redevelopment area? Yes ☐ No ☒

Is any portion of the subject territory subject to a Williamson Act Contract (Agricultural Preserve)? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, Contract/Preserve Number: _____ Date established: _____

List all amendments by date: _____, _____, _____

Date Notice of Non-Renewal filed: _____


Has the city filed a protest pursuant to government code section 51243.5? Yes ☐ No ☒


Provide an official map of the Agricultural Preserve.

The City ☐ will succeed ☐ will not succeed to the contract.

Applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), its officers, agents and employees from any claim, action or proceeding, and for any damages, penalties, fines or other costs imposed on or incurred by LAFCO wherein LAFCO, its officers, agents or employees should be named as a party in any litigation or administrative proceeding in connection with this application. Applicant agrees that LAFCO has the right to appoint its own counsel for its defense and conduct its own defense in the manner it deems in its best interest and taking such action shall not limit Applicant's obligation to indemnify and reimburse LAFCO, its officers, agents and employees.

Furthermore, I hereby certify that the statements and information presented within this application and associated attachments are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I acknowledge that anyone who is involved with any annexation to be considered by the Commission and who has made a contribution of more than \$250 in the past twelve months to any member of the Commission must disclose the Commission member to whom the contribution was made and the matter of consideration with which they are involved. Furthermore, the Agent designated herein is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Applicant for the purpose of processing this application until such time as written notice to the contrary is provided by the Applicant to the Executive Officer of the Riverside LAFCO.


Signature of Agent
Date: **01/24/16**
ADAM SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT
Printed Name of Agent and Firm (if applicable)


Signature of Applicant
Date: **5/24/16**
ADAM SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT
Printed Name of Applicant

REVISED 12/2015



PLAN OF SERVICE

July 28, 2016

LAFCO
3850 Vine Street, Suite #110
Riverside, CA 92507

RE: TR 33423 & 33423-1, Annexation into CSA 103, Annexation # 125

Description:

CSA 103 Murietta-Temecula will provide lighting services and the annexation will be administered by LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission). The current special assessment range for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 is \$28.86 to \$110.14 per lot per year. All new developments are required to do an engineer's report to determine the special tax assessments specific to the development⁽¹⁾. The engineer's report will be completed by our consultant Psomas and once annexation is complete the developer will be charged a fee for the processing of the report.

Any new development within the service area will also be included in CSA 152 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)⁽¹⁾. Inclusion into CSA 152 NPDES will be handled through the CSA office if conditioned.

It is the responsibility of the developer to forward the Plan of Service to LAFCO in order to begin the annexation process. The conditions of approval related to the CSA will not be cleared until the annexation and engineer's report has been completed and all fees have been paid.

For the existing location in which services are to be provided please see the attached CSA 103 Map. TR33423 & 33423-1 are required to be annexed into CSA 103.

Regards,

Hazel Spruett,
Administrative Services Analyst II

(1) The annual assessment will be increased by the greater of two percent (2.0%) or the cumulative percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers ("CPI-U") for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County California Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (index) published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. The annual "CPI-U" adjustment will be based on the cumulative increase, if any, in the index as it stands on March of each year over the base index.

[illegible] $\mathbf{z} \rightarrow$

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Subject **LAFCO 2016-09-3 proposal information**

From Elizabeth Valdez <evaldez@lafco.org>



Supervisor - 3rd Distict <district3@rcbos.org>, BIA - Riv1
<bblankenship@riversidebia.org>, Bureau of Indian Affairs - 2
<felix.kitto@bia.gov>, Bureau of Indian Affairs - 3
<patrick.taber@bia.gov>, Bureau of Indian Affairs
<joann.koda@bia.gov>, CALTRANS - Dist 8 - 2
<rebecca_forbes@dot.ca.gov>, CALTRANS - Dist 8- 1
<dan_kopulsky@dot.ca.gov>, CHP - Riverside
<tmccreary@chp.ca.gov>, CHP - San Bernardino
<msperbeck@chp.ca.gov>, County Committee of School Dist.
Organization <creynoldsyoung@rcoe.us>, County Surveyor 1
<rlantis@rctlma.org>, County Surveyor 2
<gehe@rctlma.org>, EMWD - DC <howardrose@emwd.org>,
EMWD - DM <jonesp@emwd.org>, EMWD 4
<teaguech@emwd.org>, EDA 1 - CSA Project Mgr.
<ajacobson@rivcoeda.org>, EDA 2 <hspruell@rivcoeda.org>,
Executive Office <tgrande@rceo.org>, Hemet USD -
Superintendent <cdunaway@hemetUSD.org>, Menifee, City of
- CC <smanwaring@cityofmenifee.us>, Menifee City of - CM
<rjohnson@cityofmenifee.us>, Menifee Union SD - Dir. of
Facilities <bshaw@menifeeUSD.org>, Mt. San Jacinto College -
VP <belam@msjc.edu>, Superintendent - Mt.SJC
<rschultz@msjc.edu>, Murrieta, City of - CM
<rdudley@murrieta.org>, Murrieta, City of- CC
<jhalstead@murrieta.org>, Murrieta Valley Cemetery District
- DC <murrieta3@verizon.net>, Murrieta Valley Cemetery
District - DM <murrieta3@verizon.net>, MWDSC - DC
<dchin@mwdh2o.com>, MWDSC - DM
<jkightlinger@mwdh2o.com>, Ethel Young
<eyoung@mwdh2o.com>, Superintendent - Murrieta Valley
USD <cjones@murrieta.k12.ca.us>, Perris Union High School
District - Superintendent <jonathan.greenberg@puhsd.org>,
Perris Valley Cemetery District - C/O EDA
<twoodruff@rivcoeda.org>, Flood Control - DC
<bethlj@rcflood.org>, RivCoFloodControl-Chief of Planning
Div. <mwills@rcflood.org>, Riv. Co. Regional Park & Open-
Space - Sr. Planner <mbrewer@co.riverside.ca.us>, Riverside
County Transportation Commission <arackerby@rctc.org>,
SJBRCDC - DC <gayle.holyoak@ca.nacdn.net>, SJBRCDC - DM
<gayle.holyoak@ca.nacdn.net>, San Jacinto Valley
Cemetery District - DC <sjvcd.cem@verizon.net>, San Jacinto
Valley Cemetery District - DM <sjvcd.cem@verizon.net>,
California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana
<RB8-SantaAna@waterboards.ca.gov>, SCAG
<WANGP@scag.ca.gov>, Asst. Supt. Bus. Support Svcs. -
TVUSD <lordway-peck@tvusd.k12.ca.us>, TEAMRCD -
President <rose.corona@emarcd.org>, Temecula Public
Cemetery District - DC <rctpcd@verizon.net>, Temecula
Public Cemetery District - DM <rctpcd@verizon.net>, Valley
Health System - DM <vhs.board@aol.com>, Valley Health
System - DC <vhs.board@aol.com>, Valley-Wide Recreation
& Park District - DC <sleborgne@vwrpd.org>, VWRPD - DM
<dwetter@vwrpd.org>, WRMD-1
<rmross@co.riverside.ca.us>, WRCOG
<bishop@wrcog.cog.ca.us>

To

Date 2016-10-11 13:15

- LAFCO 2016-09-3 Plan of Service.pdf (1.1 MB)
- LAFCO 2016-09-3 Proposal Info.pdf (330 KB)

Please see the attached proposal information regarding LAFCO 2016-09-3-Annexation 125 to County Service Area 103 (TR 33423 & 33423-1). All comments can be sent via email to info@lafco.org.

Elizabeth Valdez
LAFCO Secretary

Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission
3850 Vine Street, Suite 240
Riverside, CA 92507-4277
Phone: (951) 369-0631
www.lafco.org

Please note: This office is closed every other Friday. On regular business days office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. On occasion, the office will be closed during the noon hour or during meetings of the Commission. Please call ahead.



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Oct. 21, 2016

Riverside County
NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Rebecca Spencer, Registrar of Voters
(951) 486-7330

Monday is deadline to register to vote in Nov. 8 General Election

Monday (Oct. 24) is the deadline for voters to register and be eligible to cast a ballot in the Nov. 8 election.

Registration applications submitted online at RegisterToVote.ca.gov prior to midnight Monday will be honored, as will paper forms postmarked by the deadline. Paper applications are available at the Riverside County Registrar of Voters' office, Department of Motor Vehicles offices, post offices and public libraries.

The registrar's office, 2724 Gateway Drive in Riverside, will be open from 8 a.m. Monday morning until midnight to accept registration forms. The forms contain personal information, so to help ensure confidentiality and that they are received on time, the Registrar of Voters encourages voters to personally deliver or mail completed forms to the registrar's office, while keeping the deadline in mind.

California residents may register to vote if they are U.S. citizens, at least 18 years old by Election Day, not adjudicated as mentally incompetent and not precluded because of certain criminal convictions. A person must re-register to vote after moving, changing names or changing political party preference.

Call the registrar's office at (951) 486-7200 if you have any questions about your eligibility to vote.

- 30 -

Please note: The County Administrative Center is open Monday through Friday. Business hours for the County Executive Office are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

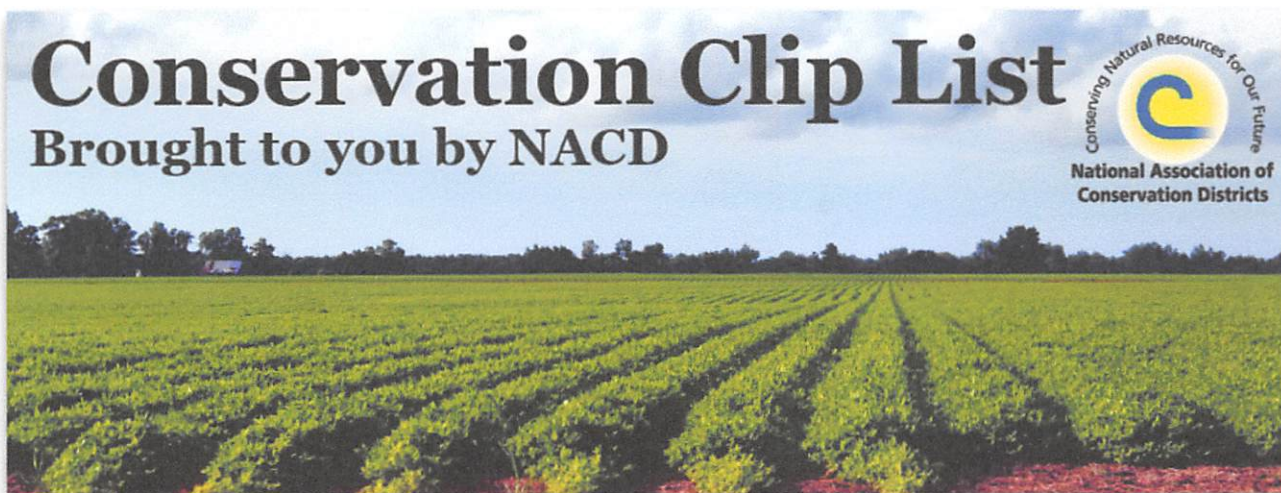
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Subject: **Conservation Clip List - Brought to you by NACD**
From: NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
Sender: NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
To: Temecula-Escondido-Anza-Murrieta RCD <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date: 2016-10-21 03:03



If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#)



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](#).

[NRCS rolls out regs for new Ag Conservation Easement Program via Agri-Pulse](#)

Fewer acres would be purchased as easements to protect wetlands and other sensitive lands under the new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), which is replacing three programs repealed by the 2014 farm bill. The amount of funding available and the increase in per-acre costs will result in a corresponding decrease in acreage enrolled under ACEP.

[Court mandates new recovery plan for Mexican gray wolves via The Washington Post](#)

Federal wildlife officials are now under a court order to update a decades-old recovery plan for the endangered Mexican gray wolf, a predator that has struggled to regain a foothold in the American Southwest despite millions of dollars of investment in reintroduction efforts.

[As California Water Use Rises, Some Ask: Were Limits Eased Too Soon? via The New York Times](#)

The state slashed urban water use over 25 percent in the face of a punishing drought last year, exceeding a mandatory order issued by Gov. Jerry Brown and turning California into a model of water conservation. But this year, after regulators lifted the mandatory 25 percent statewide cut following a relatively wet winter, water use is up again, a slide in behavior that has stirred concern among state officials and drawn criticism that California abandoned the restrictions too quickly.

[Open Mic: Bill Buckner, President, Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation via Agri-Pulse](#)

(Audio) In this interview, Buckner outlines a national effort to develop a standardized condition rating and testing for soil health. A standardized numeric value could help producers embrace agronomic practices, technology, and cropping systems which could eventually be tied to risk protection plans and crop insurance as well as the overall value of farmland.

[Farm to 'Put a Fork in It': Why We Can't Afford to Polarize the Next Farm Bill via The Huffington Post](#)

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

(Opinion) Conservation programs assist farmers and ranchers in implementing sustainable practices and programs on their operations, protecting our environment and natural resources. Farmers and consumers alike share concerns about the effects of our changing climate, and it's important to get the agriculture industry involved in solutions to mitigate climate change. It is our moral obligation, rather than our political impulse, that should motivate improvements to food and farm policy programs this election season and in the next Farm Bill cycle.

South Carolina's forest products industry seeks to grow exports to key, emerging markets via The Post and Courier

A growing, consumer-driven middle class, a burgeoning furniture industry, and stepped up efforts to protect its own forests are driving the growth of wood product shipments to China from the Port of Charleston and other U.S. markets, a panel of global business experts said Monday.

White Paper Lists Recommendations For Great Lakes Cleanup Program via Wisconsin Public Radio

A mix of industry, tribal, regulatory, and environmental stakeholders have released a white paper listing a dozen recommendations for the future of a federal Great Lakes cleanup program. More than \$2 billion has been spent cleaning up toxic hotspots along the Great Lakes over the last six years, but stakeholders believe it needs a long-term funding commitment.

Falconers hired to discourage other birds from eating crops via The Washington Post

Frustrated growers tired of seeing wild birds devastate their fruit crops are turning to raptors to patrol their fields, orchards, and vineyards. Falconers train their birds to intimidate rather than destroy, since state or federal laws protect all but a few bird species.

Settlement deal possible in Oregon Clean Water Act lawsuit via Capital Press

Earlier this year, the federal government filed a complaint alleging that farmer Bill Case of Albany, Ore., discharged pollutants by placing large rocks within the high water mark of the North Santiam River. The bank stabilization has actually reduced pollution in the river by preventing erosion, according to Case. The EPA's lawsuit seeks up to \$37,500 in fines per day for the alleged violations — which it claims stretch back to 2009 — as well as returning the riverbank to its original condition.

EPA gets an earful at Superfund 5-year-review meeting via Montana Standard

The message to the Environmental Protection Agency at a public meeting Monday at the Mining City Center was clear: Butte's Superfund cleanup and the document that evaluates it is inadequate. Many of the caps — vegetation and soil placed over mine waste — on the Butte Hill are not working or were not addressed in the first place.

Oregon barn fire leads to wetland dispute via Capital Press

The underlying problem is that state and county maps may show that a property isn't a wetland, but that doesn't necessarily mean the Department of State Lands can't later determine it's actually a wetland. After he attempted to rebuild upon his land, an Oregon resident said the agency effectively declared the area a wetland and then forced him to prove it's not.

To unsubscribe from future mailings please [click here](#).

Subject **Re: Conservation Easement Monitoring and Reporting RFP**

From <carol.lee.brady@emarcd.org>

To Mike Sweesy <msweesy@dudek.com>

Cc Rose Corona <rose.corona@emarcd.org>

Date 2016-10-24 13:18



Hi Michael,

We were pleased to receive your proposal, and will maintain your firm's name and contact info to potentially be included as we develop our bidder lists for future RFPs.

For this scope of work, the evaluation has been completed and another qualified organization submitted the low bid.

We appreciate your participation, and thank you for your follow-up.

Best regards,
Carol Lee Brady

On 2016-10-14 16:11, Mike Sweesy wrote:

Hi Carol:

I am writing to inquire about the selection of a consultant for the referenced solicitation. Can you tell me if a selection was made or when this might happen?

Thanks,

MICHAEL L SWEESY
PRINCIPAL/HABITAT RESTORATION SPECIALIST
REGISTERED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT #3319

MSWEESY@DUDEK.COM AND @LINKEDIN ON THE WETLANDS MITIGATION BANK
INFOSITE

([HTTP://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/GROUPS?HOME=&GID=3005412&TRK=ANET_UG_HM](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=3005412&trk=ANET_UG_HM) [1])

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_| _REGULATORY COMPLIANCE_
605 THIRD STREET
ENCINITAS, CALIFORNIA 92024
Office (direct) 760.479.4253 F 760.942.9976 C 619.987.1210

[WWW.DUDEK.COM](http://www.dudek.com) [2]

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Links:

- [1] http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=3005412&trk=anet_ug_hm
[2] <http://www.dudek.com/>

Subject **CSDA e-News: Major Legislative Highlights**
From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>
To <rose.corona@emarcd.org>
Reply-To <cassandras@csda.net>
Date 2016-10-25 05:00



If you are on a mobile device or want to view this as a web page, please [click here](#).
To ensure receipt of our email, please add CSDA@informz.net to your address book.
Please do not reply to this automatic e-mail.



Major Legislative Highlights

In 2016, CSDA actively tracked 619 bills and directly lobbied on 81 of those measures. Of the 26 bills CSDA opposed, only 5 became law. Conversely, 26 of the 48 bills CSDA supported became law.

Below are some of CSDA's highlights for the year, including the prevention of redundant new reporting requirements and the protection of special districts' public works contracting processes. For a more in-depth look on the status of all the legislation CSDA worked on this year, download the [2016 Year-End Legislative Report](#). [Read more...](#)

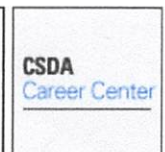
Second Hoover Hearing on Special Districts October 27

The Little Hoover Commission will hold its second of two hearings on special districts this Thursday, October 27 in Room 437 of the State Capitol beginning at 9:30 a.m. The [first hearing on August 25](#) sought to overview special districts as a follow-up to the Commission's 2000 report, [Special Districts: Relics of the Past or Resources for the Future](#). For its [second hearing on October 27](#), the Commission has narrowed its focus to the adaptations special districts are undertaking in response to climate change. [Read more...](#)

Meet the Candidate for State Senate District 25

CSDA has been meeting with candidates for the State Legislature in an effort to learn more about the future legislators and educate them on who special districts are, as well as the issues our members are facing. During these meetings we learn from the candidates why they're running for office and what they hope to accomplish in Sacramento. We share with the candidates a list of the special districts located within the boundaries of the seat they're seeking, and offer to help them connect with those districts. Recently, we sat down with Los Angeles County Supervisor,

October 25, 2016



EDUCATION CALENDAR

November 8
[Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training](#)

Roundcube Webmail :: CSDA e-News: Major Legislative Highl... Page 2 of 3

Michael Antonovich, a candidate for the 25th Senate District, which includes portions of El Dorado, Placer, and Sacramento counties, and encompasses the San Gabriel Mountains and its adjacent San Gabriel Valley foothill communities. [Read more...](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Just Added! Ethics Workshop in the Fresno Area

Wednesday, November 9, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

This two-hour workshop covers general ethics principles and state laws related to:

- personal gain by public servants, conflicts of interest, bribery, and nepotism;
- gift, travel, and mass mailing restrictions;
- honoraria, financial interest disclosure, and competitive bidding;
- prohibitions on the use of public resources for personal or political purposes;
- The Brown Act Open Meeting Law;
- The Public Records Act.

[Click here](#) to register online. Free to SDRMA members, \$65 to CSDA members, and \$95 to Non-members.

MEMBER SERVICES

New Members Approved at Annual Conference

Join us in welcoming 14 new members to CSDA! At their meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Conference, the CSDA Board of Directors approved membership for the following public agencies and businesses:

Aries Advisors (cell site consulting)
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Recreation & Park District
[ECS Imaging, Inc](#) (document management)
[FlashVote](#) (online survey technology)
Grizzly Ranch Community Services District
[Honeywell International, Inc](#) (energy solutions)
[Ifow Energy Solutions, Inc](#) (remote energy reading systems)
[NovusAGENDA](#) (meeting management software)
Southern Cascades Community Services District
[SunPower](#) (solar energy systems)
Tulare Public Cemetery District
[Urban Futures, Inc](#) (municipal advisors)
West Basin Municipal Water District
Wulff Energy Consulting, LLC (energy consulting)

DISTRICT PRESS

Cal-ICMA Offers "Succession Planning and Knowledge Transfer" Webinar November 17

Cal-ICMA is offering a webinar free to CSDA members on November 17, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. The webinar, "Succession Planning and Knowledge Transfer," will cover the following topics:

1. What challenges do local governments face in succession planning?

Webinar

November 9
[Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training](#)
Govis

November 14-16
[Board Secretary/Clerk Conference](#)
Monterey

December 6
[How to be an Effective New Board Member](#)
San Diego

December 6
[Responding to Data Breaches](#)
Webinar

December 8
[How to be an Effective New Board Member](#)
Tehachapi

December 8
[Overview of Special District Laws](#)
Apple Valley

[View the complete professional development calendar here.](#)

EMPLOYMENT AND RFPS

Listed below are the most recent employment positions posted to www.csda.net:

Deputy Operating Officer
- Santa Clara Valley Water District

Public Affairs Field Coordinator - California Special Districts Association

Executive Vice President
- Rural County Representatives of California

Roundcube Webmail :: CSDA e-News: Major Legislative Highl... Page 3 of 3

2. What are effective strategies to attract, prepare, and retain needed future talent?
3. What insights and experiences can you gain from best practices in knowledge transfer?
4. What resources are available to support you?

As part of CSDA's sponsorship of the Cal-ICMA coaching program, CSDA members have access to this webinar free. [Register here.](#)

NEW Recognition in Special District Governance Approval

Danny Brown, Chandra Mead and Lowell Chalk with the South Kern Cemetery District have received the [Special District Leadership](#)



[Foundation](#) Recognition in Special District Governance certificate. [Recognition in Special District Governance](#) was designed to honor special district board members, trustees and staff. It is comprised of two distinct parts: 1) the CSDA Special District Leadership Academy and 2) elective courses. An application for this program can be found at www.sdlf.org, under Recognition in Special District Governance.

In addition to individual recognitions, there are also district recognitions. Districts that have a majority of their governing board holding recognitions will receive a Silver Recognition, and districts with their entire board holding recognition will receive a Gold Recognition.

Connect with CSDA on Facebook and Twitter!

Are you connecting on Facebook and Twitter? If so, connect with CSDA! Get important updates on Legislative issues, professional development offerings and member services by liking us on [Facebook](#) and following us on [Twitter](#)! Find us [@specialdistrict](#) on Twitter and like the California Special Districts Association on Facebook.

Administrative Analyst -
Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

Finance Manager -
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

Assistant General Manager - *Susanville Sanitary District*

To view all job opportunities, visit the [Career Center.](#)

RFPs and RFQs

RFP - Consulting Services for Park Impact Fee Program

RFP - Professional Engineering Services

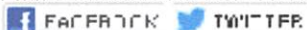
RFP - Cost of Service and Utility Rate Design Study

View and download open RFPs and RFQs at the [RFP Clearinghouse](#)

For information on posting an RFP or job listing, call 877.924.2732.

California Special Districts Association

1112 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone - 877.924.2732 Fax - 916.442.7889



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Subject **2016 Safety Awards, Financial Audit Results**
From SDRMA - Greg Hall, CEO <ghall@sdrma.org>
To <rose.corona@emarcd.org>
Reply-To <memberplus_accounts@sdrma.org>
Date 2016-10-27 14:17



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**SDRMA Safety/Claims
Education Day &
Annual Membership
Meeting**

**March 28, 2017
Hilton Sacramento
Arden West**

**No Registration Fees
Full Plated Breakfast &
Lunch Included**

Earn CIP Points

**For more information
visit www.sdrma.org**

CSDA Annual Conference - 2016 Safety Awards

On Wednesday, October 12 during the recent CSDA annual conference in San Diego, the SDRMA Board of Directors hosted a full plated breakfast and presented the 2016 Annual Safety Awards to the following recipients;

Property/Liability - Earl F. Sayre Excellence in Safety Awards
Cayucos Sanitary District
Northstar Community Services District

Workers' Compensation - McMurchie Excellence in Safety Awards
Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Authority
Bear Valley Community Services District



In addition, guest speaker Kai Kight, Innovator. Speaker. Violinist. performed mesmerizing original music and vulnerably shared stories from his own transformation as an artist. He then translated those insights into takeaways that attendees will hopefully infuse into their own lives and work environments.

SDRMA also sponsored several workshop sessions throughout the day with attending members earning Credit Incentive Points (CIPs) that will reduce their agency's annual coverage contribution amounts.

Congratulations to all our 2016 Annual Safety Award Recipients!

2015-16 Annual Financial Audit Results



A proud California Special
Districts Alliance Partner

**PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
AWARD**

This award is to recognize members having no paid claims during the prior 5 consecutive program years. There were 300 members (60%) in the Property/Liability Program and 131 members (30%) in the Workers' Compensation Program receiving the 2016 President's Special Acknowledgement Award.

Congratulations to all our members who received this special recognition and a special thanks to all our members for their continuing loss prevention efforts!



SDRMA's annual financial audit was recently completed and presented to the Board of Directors at their October 26, 2016 board meeting. Once again SDRMA received an unmodified opinion which is issued by an auditor when the financial statements presented are free from material misstatements and are represented fairly in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GASB).

In other words, SDRMA's financial condition, position, and operations are fairly presented in our financial statements. It is the best type of report opinion an auditee may receive from an external auditor. There were no internal control deficiencies "findings" and no management improvement recommendations. This is the 5th year in a row with no findings!

SDRMA has more than \$110.7M in Total Assets, an increase of \$3M or 2.8% compared to last year. Total Liabilities are now \$58.8M, a decrease of \$865k or 1.5% over last year. Total Net Position increased to \$52.1M, roughly \$3.5M or 7.1% more than last year. The increase includes a decision by the Board of Directors to use reserves for any shortfall in revenue while keeping rates as low and stable as possible. In addition, investment earnings continue to be minimal while the investment market is still unstable.

The complete financial audit including the Management, Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) will be available by November 30 in the MemberPlus Online Portal document library by [clicking here](#) and then logging in to MemberPlus Online.

New Members

The SDRMA Board of Directors recently approved the following new members at their August 3-4 and October 26-27 board meetings;

Property/Liability Program (currently 501 members)

Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
San Mateo County Harbor District
Southern Cascades Community Services District
Surfside Colony Community Services District

Workers' Compensation Program (currently 435 members)

Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
Lake County Resource Conservation District
McKinney Water District
Ontario International Airport Authority
Placer County Resource Conservation District
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Twenty-nine Palms Public Cemetery District

Health Benefits Program (currently 121 members)

None

The SDRMA Board of Directors and staff welcomes you to SDRMA and are here to serve all your risk management needs!

San Diego Farm & Nursery Expo

November 3, 2016
Del Mar Fairgrounds

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Cultivating Answers for Southern California Agriculture



Learn from experts on what to expect in SoCal Ag!

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9:30 AM | Casey Anderson , SD Farm Bureau Project Manager
Is Commercial Cannabis Production Right For You? |
| 10:30 AM | Dan Walters , Sacramento Bee Columnist
How California Politics Got To Where They Are Today |
| 12:00 PM | Ken Melban , California Avocado Commission VP of Industry Affairs
Food Safety Management Act - How To Comply |
| 1:00 PM | Eric Larson , SD Farm Bureau Executive Director
Fixing California's Water |
| 2:00 PM | Gary Bender Ph.D. , UCCE Farm Advisor - Emeritus
Dense Planting Lessons Learned |
| 3:00 PM | Tom Munnecke , President of Munnecke Enterprises, Inc.
How Drones Will Help You Farm |

Free Attendee Pre-Registration Now Open!

- ◆ Network with a wide variety of farmers and vendors
- ◆ Visit the Resource Center to learn about programs that may be beneficial to you and your business
- ◆ Hear from top researchers and authorities in our seminar series
- ◆ Find out about the newest product and equipment upgrades for your farm or nursery

More information and online attendee registration available at

sdfarmbureau.org/Expo

Questions? Call 760-745-3023 or email taylor@sdfarmbureau.org

Subject **Conservation Clip List - Brought to you by NACD**
From NACD News <nacdnews@nacdnet.org>
Sender NACD News <nacdnews@nacdnet.org>
To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD <rose.corona@teamrca.org>
Date 2016-10-28 03:56



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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.

2018 Farm bill - Sustainability via Agri-Pulse

(Opinion) There's no sustainability title in the 2014 Farm Bill, and there probably shouldn't be one in the 2018 bill either. But as the next farm bill develops, we need to keep sustainability in the forefront of our thinking as we envision agriculture in the 21st Century. We need to find ways to manage data and information to respond to today's consumer and customer needs without overburdening individual farmers and ranchers with overlapping recordkeeping or jeopardizing data confidentiality.

Drought stresses farmers along Pennsylvania's northern tier via PennLive

This year, after a 40-day string in June and July when no rain fell as the sun blazed down into this little valley and the other valleys of north-central Pennsylvania and up into New England, the earth is dry. Ponds have turned to mud and in the fields, a brown dust is rising, even as farmers plant their fall crops – crops they depend on to feed their cows and livestock and, in turn, all of us.

Who will pay for water pollution cleanup divides urban and rural Iowa via PBS

Iowa is home to some of the richest farmland in the country, but Des Moines Water Works says that has come with an environmental price. The city water authority has filed a lawsuit against three rural counties claiming that nitrate from fertilizer is contaminating their urban water supply.

Taking Down Dams and Letting the Fish Flow via The New York Times

Nationwide, dam removals are gaining traction. Four dams are slated for removal from the Klamath River alone in California and Oregon by 2020. Just a few of these removals have occurred on such large rivers, which play an outsized role in coastal ecosystems. But the lessons are the same everywhere: Unplug the rivers, and the fish will return.

At ground zero of Alabama's drought 'It's an agricultural disaster' via AL.com

The drought truly began in May in Alabama, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The latest update from the drought monitor last week declared that 98.48 percent of the state was suffering from some type of drought. This is a problem that can't be washed away with a heavy downpour or two. The National Weather Service forecast office in Huntsville last week said that outlooks indicate the drought will only get worse by the end of the year.

Species may be listed as threatened based on climate change projections, court says via The Los Angeles Times

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

"If this opinion stands, the National Marine Fisheries Service would list a species that is abundant and in good health based on the claim that climate change will impact habitat over the next 100 years and may cause harm," said Brad Meyen, senior assistant attorney general for Alaska.

Bundy Brothers Acquitted in Takeover of Oregon Wildlife Refuge via The New York Times

In a monthlong trial, the defendants never denied that they had occupied and held the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge headquarters for nearly six weeks, demanding that the federal government surrender the 188,000-acre property to local control. But their lawyers argued that prosecutors did not prove that the group had engaged in an illegal conspiracy that kept federal workers – employees of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management – from doing their jobs.

Florida making largest conservation land purchase in decade via WPTV

Gov. Rick Scott and the state Cabinet agreed Tuesday to spend more than \$22 million to preserve three pieces of land covering 14,000 acres, with much of the money coming from the Florida Forever conservation program.

When animals share, conservation is affordable via Cornell Chronicle

Researchers at Cornell, Georgia Tech and the U.S. Forest Service have found that when a corridor includes areas that are hospitable to two species, the cost is far less than it would be to create separate corridors for each one. This also means more animals can be helped within the same limited budget. Given the suitability of every available parcel of land, along with the purchase price, a computer can evaluate, in a "smart way," many possible combinations of connected parcels to find a route that best satisfies all the animals' needs at the lowest total cost.

Green vs. Gray: UD study suggests people prefer conservation as way to protect drinking water via UDaily

A new study from the University of Delaware has found that when given the choice, people prefer to invest their money in conservation, such as protecting key areas of a watershed — also referred to as green infrastructure — rather than in traditional water treatment plants — also referred to as gray infrastructure.

Opinion: The Next President Should be a Force for Conservation via Outdoor Life

(Opinion) The challenges of today have not diminished. If anything, arguments can be made that they have increased. Water is still a significant issue for both people and wildlife. Access to public lands is an increasing challenge, and balancing the needs of a diverse public in the regulatory arena is more and more difficult. There is little doubt that the next president of the United States will face challenges on natural resource use and conservation that many believe have not been seen since the 1930s, and that she or he will either have a significant place in history for finding solutions to the challenges, or be remembered for allowing them to become malignant.

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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.palatribes.com>

Save The Date 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

This two-day workshop focuses on riparian management and restoration in the San Luis Rey watershed. This year we will focus on how land managers are incorporating climate change into their management activities and plans.

On Nov. 16th we will be learning indoors, and on Nov. 17th we will head outdoors for the morning into the field, to provide hands-on instruction for workshop participants.

The Pala Environmental Department will be providing lunch on both days! There is no charge for this workshop, however registration will be limited.

Agenda, speakers and registration will be announced soon.

Thanks!

Kurt Broz
Tribal Wildlife Biologist
kbroz@palatribes.com
(760) 891-3550

Chris McDonald
University of California Cooperative Extension
Cjmcdonald@ucanr.edu

Subject **Renew CSDA Membership Online for Access to Ethics Training**
From Neil McCormick <neilm@cda.net>
To <rose.corona@emarcd.org>
Reply-To <cassandras@cda.net>
Date 2016-10-28 13:30



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To ensure receipt of our email, [please add 'CSDA@informz.net'](#) to your address book.



Renew CSDA Membership Online Today

Renew your CSDA membership before January 3, 2017 and get access to AB 1234 Ethics Compliance Training On-Demand Webinar through March 15, 2017. You and everyone else at your agency can receive required Ethics Training for FREE – just for renewing!

CSDA exists for just one reason – to serve your district! That's why we focus on specialized training opportunities and other member benefits that help meet your needs, including:

- Highest quality webinars, workshops and conferences to train your Board and staff
- Dedicated advocacy to protect your revenues and independence
- Important information and peer-to-peer connections
- Access to financing services and risk management options

To renew membership online, login at www.cda.net, access your profile page by clicking on your name, and go to "Manage Your Organization's Account."

Questions? Contact Member Services at 877.924.2732 or cassandras@cda.net.

Renew Your Membership Today!

Subject **CSDA e-News: Little Hoover Plans Next Steps**

From Neil McCormick <neilm@csda.net>

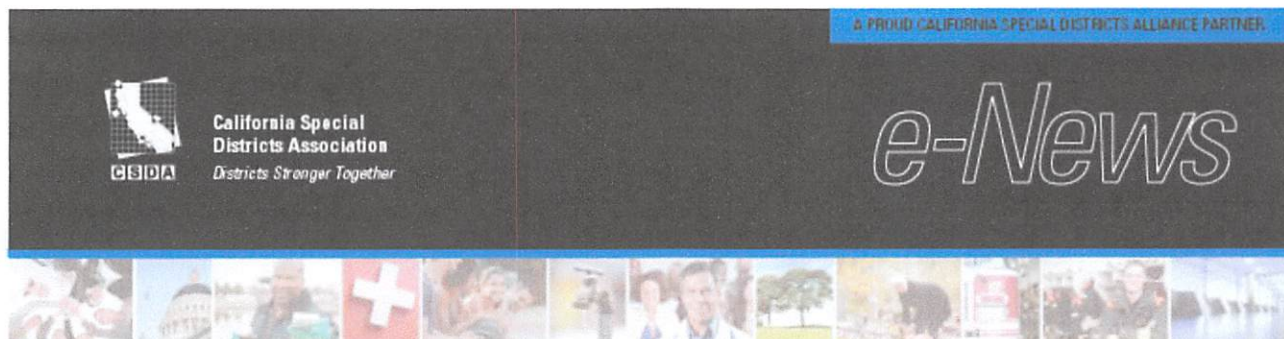
To <rose.corona@emarcd.org>

Reply-To <cassandras@csda.net>

Date 2016-11-01 05:00



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Please do not reply to this automatic e-mail.



Little Hoover Plans Next Steps Following Second Hearing

The Little Hoover Commission conducted its second hearing on special districts October 27, with district leaders testifying on the proactive steps underway to adapt local infrastructure to drought, sea-level rise, increased severity of storms, and other climate related conditions. Following the hearing, Commissioners planned next steps as part of their business meeting, including plans for two new studies based largely on the testimonies received during the hearing. While these additional undertakings would go above and beyond the Commission's review on special districts, they will be of clear interest to districts and the communities they serve. [Read more...](#)

Provide Feedback on Local Cap-and-Trade Funding

Don't miss out on the opportunity to provide feedback on a proposal to focus cap-and-trade funding for a new local communities program in three specific locations – the cities of Los Angeles and Fresno and a third, currently undetermined, location. Special districts are encouraged to provide comments on this proposal to the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) by November 7. [Read more...](#)

Election Preview

Voters choosing to go to the polls, versus mailing in their ballots, will have a long list of important decisions to make on November 8 besides United States President. These decisions include 17 statewide propositions, All 80 State Assembly Members, 20 of California's 40 State Senators, and of course all of those local measures, including bonds and special taxes. CSDA opposes one statewide ballot



November 1, 2016

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Workers' Comp
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CSDA Career Center

For the CSDA District Purchasing Card, go west.
BANK OF THE WEST

EDUCATION CALENDAR

November 8
[Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training Webinar](#)

measure this year, Proposition 53. Learn more about Prop 53, CSDA's efforts to build relationships with legislative candidates, and the large number of local measures before voters below. [Read more...](#)



Meet the Candidate for State Assembly District 34

CSDA has been meeting with candidates for the State Legislature in an effort to learn more about the future legislators and educate them on who special districts are, as well as the issues our members are facing. During these meetings we learn from the candidates why they're running for office and what they hope to accomplish in Sacramento. We share with the candidates a list of the special districts located within the boundaries of the seat they're seeking, and offer to help them connect with those districts. Recently, we sat down with Vince Fong, a candidate for the 34th Assembly District. [Read more...](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Two New Board Member Training Workshops

CSDA is bringing you two "How to be an Effective New Board Member" workshops this December. The first, on December 6 in the [San Diego Area](#), and the second, on December 8 in [Tehachapi](#). These two workshops also meet the AB1234 requirement. Discounted pricing is available for these workshops through the generous sponsorship of SDRMA: free to SDRMA members, \$100 to CSDA members, and \$150 to non-members, including a hosted lunch.

MEMBER SERVICES

2017 Membership Dues Now Payable Online



You now have the option to renew your CSDA membership online as well as update other important data such as roster, contact information, operating revenue, and more. Log in to www.cstda.net to manage your agency's account. And don't forget - as a thank you to our members, CSDA is again offering online access to required Ethics Training at no cost! Just pay your CSDA membership dues by January 3, 2017 and your district will receive access to on-demand AB 1234 Ethics

Compliance Training through March 15, 2017. For more information, contact member services at 877.924.2732 or email [Cassandra Strawn](mailto:Cassandra.Strawn).

DISTRICT PRESS

Cemetery District Sponsors Dia de los Muertos Event

[Annual celebration of Dia de los Muertos](#) for families with loved ones interred at Anaheim Cemetery is planned for November 2. This event is sponsored by the Orange County Cemetery District. Featured entertainment includes Ballet Folklorico Donaji and Rhythmo Mariachi Kids. Free refreshments, desserts, Dia de los Muertos masks for children, marigolds and Pan de Muertos while supplies last.

Districts Partner Together for Community Park Upgrade

November 9

[Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training](#)
[Clovis](#)

November 14-16

[Board Secretary/Clerk Conference](#)
[Monterey](#)

December 6

[How to be an Effective New Board Member](#)
[San Diego](#)

December 6

[Responding to Data Breaches](#)
[Webinar](#)

December 8

[Overview of Special District Laws](#)
[Apple Valley](#)

December 8

[How to be an Effective New Board Member](#)
[Tehachapi](#)

[View the complete professional development calendar here.](#)

EMPLOYMENT AND RFPs

Listed below are the most recent employment positions posted to www.cstda.net:

[Human Resources Manager | Marin Municipal Water District](#)

[Supervising Open Space Technician | Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority](#)

[Finance Officer | Lamont Public Utility District](#)

[Assistant Director of Operations \(Sanitation\) | Coachella Valley Water District](#)

It's been a long time coming, but the Phase 1 upgrades to Meadowbrook Park in Golden Hills have been completed for the community to enjoy, the Tehachapi Valley Recreation & Park District, Golden Hills Community Services District and the City of Tehachapi partnered to get this completed.

District Receives Transparency Certificate of Excellence

The Yorba Linda Water District has been approved for the Transparency Certificate of Excellence program through the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF).



This program promotes transparency in the operations and governance of special districts and provides special districts with an opportunity to showcase their efforts in transparency. This is an SDLF sponsored program so it is free for districts to participate and receive recognition by completing the checklist of requirements. Get started on your Transparency Certificate today!

Connect with CSDA on Facebook and Twitter!

Are you connecting on Facebook and Twitter? If so, connect with CSDA! Get important updates on Legislative issues, professional development offerings and member services by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter! Find us @specialdistrict on Twitter and like the California Special Districts Association on Facebook.

Marketing/ Community Outreach Specialist | Cameron Park CSD

Administrative Analyst | Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency

To view all job opportunities, visit the Career Center.

RFPs and RFQs

RFP - Banking Services



RFP - Professional Engineering Services

View and download open RFPs and RFQs at the RFP Clearinghouse

For information on posting an RFP or job listing, call 877.924.2732.

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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@teamrca.org>
Date 2016-11-01 14:48



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The NACD eResource

Weekly News Briefs from NACD

COLORADO GOVERNOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER JOINS SPEAKER LINE-UP

John Hickenlooper, the governor of Colorado, will be joining us in Denver for NACD's 2017 Annual Meeting this January – will we see you there too?



A former geologist, Mr. Hickenlooper is a member of the Western Governors' Association and once served as the mayor of the Mile High City. He also recently added "author" to his resume with the publication of his memoir, "The Opposite of Woe: My Life in Beer and Politics." Since becoming governor in 2011, Hickenlooper and his team have kept Colorado on the leading edge of innovative, voluntary sage grouse conservation.

To be in the audience when the governor takes the stage on Monday, January 30, 2017, make sure you register to attend our meeting on [NACD's website!](#)

NACD TO HOST PANEL OF WILD HORSE EXPERTS AT 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

Filmmaker Ben Masters (pictured here), a member of the BLM [advisory board](#)



on wild horses and burros, will sit on a panel with Jake Tibbits, NACD board member from Nevada, and a representative from the BLM to discuss wild horses on the western range Sunday, January 29, 2017. Their discussion, moderated by NACD Government Affairs Associate Chris Heck, will delve deep into the root

causes of, and the possible solutions to, the overwhelming overpopulation of wild horses in the West.

Masters, the documentarian behind the hit film "[Unbranded](#)" – the story of four friends who traveled 2,000 miles on the backs of wild mustangs along

-->

Christiansen takes helm of USFS branch

Vicki Christiansen has succeeded Jim Hubbard as deputy chief of the U.S. Forest Service's [State and Private Forestry](#) branch. Check out [our Facebook page](#) to learn more!

NACD celebrates Halloween with new blog post!

[Head over to our blog](#) to read about how one of NACD's past presidents celebrates the season by educating his community at Guse Christmas Trees' pumpkin patch and corn maze.

One-time student, adviser reunited as fellow science teachers



Mississippi Envirothon alum Kelly Langford and her former advisor Kim Parker reunite 15 years after

the Continental Divide – will host a screening of the movie prior to the panel discussion.

NACD PRESENTS AT SOIL HEALTH INSTITUTE PARTNER MEETING

As a key partner in soil health, NACD was invited to join the Soil Health Institute (SHI) Partner Meeting held last week at The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The purpose of the meeting was to identify existing soil health efforts, any gaps or overlap in these efforts, and how future efforts undertaken by the partnership can complement one another.

[Beth Mason](#), NACD's North Central Region representative, briefed attendees on the NACD Soil Health Champions Network and the unique working relationships it has fostered nationwide between landowners. [NACD CEO Jeremy Peters](#) presented on NACD's integral role in framing and promoting soil health research, policy, education, and adoption.

Other soil health partners in attendance included the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), the Tri-Societies (ASA, CSSA, SSSA), the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), and the Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC). At the meeting, the partners agreed to work as a "coordinating coalition for soil health." NACD is represented on the Soil Health Institute's board of directors by [Past President Earl Garber](#).

NACD HOSTING U&C WEBINAR ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

On Thursday, November 17, NACD will host a webinar on stormwater management training from 12:00-1:00pm Eastern, as part of a series sponsored by The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.

This webinar will include a presentation from the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee on its statewide sediment and erosion control education program, [Clear Water Alabama](#); and another from West Multnomah SWCD and its partners in Oregon on their "[Stormwater Stars](#)" design and build workshop series.

There is no cost to participate, but space is limited. Email NACD's [Debra Boqar](#) with your name, title, district or business name, and state to register.



CHAMPION OF THE MONTH



This month's Soil Health Champion spotlight is on Ken Miller and his wife Bonnie, who own and operate a 2,000-acre ranch in Morton County, North Dakota. Together the couple manages a very diverse landscape, from native grasslands mixed



their last competition together at the Mississippi State Teachers Conference! Langford was a student at Amory High School when Parker advised her and her team for the 2001 Envirothon competition. Langford, now a high school science teacher herself, is pictured to the left of Parker.

For your calendar:

Webinar on working with NGOs for conservation delivery

The National Association of State Conservation Agencies is hosting a free webinar on November 15 at 10:00am EST on tips and ideas for working with non-governmental organizations for conservation delivery. Tune in to hear straight from the leaders of national conservation organizations how they successfully build partnerships with state conservation agencies, conservation districts, NRCS, and other partners. Register to [join the conversation here!](#)

NASF releases results of tree nursery survey

Earlier this year, the National Association of State Foresters asked all U.S. states and territories, including the District of Columbia, to complete and return a comprehensive questionnaire concerning state-operated tree seedling nurseries and tree improvement programs. Now, the results in. A complete inventory of nurseries and tree improvement programs is [available here](#).



within high cut-banks to unpredictable river-bottom land. They have utilized conservation practices for over 25 years to improve their soil health, including management practices like intensive

rotational grazing.

While working for the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District, Ken helped producers in the county plan for and install grazing and no-till cropping systems. He continues to support producers as a past chair and mentor for the North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition. This year, Miller hosted several tours on his land, including a Winter Grazing and Feeding Tour, and also presented on "How to Build Soil Health" at the Morton County SCD Winter Workshop. In partnership with the 150-acre Menoken Farm, owned and operated by the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District, Miller promotes soil health restoration by championing minimal soil disturbance practices, cover crops, and other techniques.

To read [Ken Miller's SHC profile](#) – and the profiles of our other soil health champs – visit the NACD [Soil Health Champions webpage](#). If you or someone you know is a leader in soil health and would like to become a member of this growing, progressive network please contact NACD North Central Region Representative Beth Mason at beth-mason@nacdnw.org or 317-946-4463 for more information.

2016 USFS Timber Tax Tips now available

The U.S. Forest Service's annual Timber Tax Tips is [now available for download](#). It provides up-to-date federal tax information affecting timber transactions to help landowners, logging professionals and tax accountants for the 2016 tax year.

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.nacdnw.org

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Complimentary Breakfast Briefing

HANDBOOKS
Building a Better Handbook
Tips and Checklists

Employee handbooks can help public agencies manage their employees' expectations. Handbook language can guide management's actions in running the organization and directing employees. It is important that handbooks be clear and comprehensive.

Apart from these basic philosophical and structural considerations, handbooks are subject to the constantly changing nature of employment law. With each new year comes an opportunity to update handbooks and recommit management to compliance with the latest laws and court interpretations. Join us as we review and discuss:

- ✓ **Required Handbook Updates**
- ✓ **Basic Policies Every Handbook Should Include**
- ✓ **Optional Handbook Language**
- ✓ **Effective Implementation of Handbooks**
- ✓ **Top Pitfalls to Avoid when Drafting and Revising a Handbook**

Registration for this event is complimentary!

Register by January 6, 2017

Dates & Locations

Tuesday, January 10
Cerritos Sheraton Hotel
12725 Center Court Drive
Cerritos, CA 90703

Thursday, January 12
Ramada Fresno
324 E. Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Wednesday, February 22
San Diego/Del Mar Hilton
15575 Jimmy Durante Blvd.
Del Mar, CA 92014

Registration/Breakfast: 7:30 am
Program: 8:00 to 9:00 am

Registration
www.aalrr.com/events

Brooke Myers
E-mail: bmyers@aalrr.com
Phone: (562) 653-3200



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(951) 780-1012
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<http://www.sawatershed.org>

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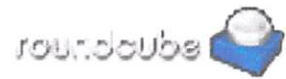
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Subject **Conservation Clip List - Brought to you by NACD**
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Sender NACD News <nacdnews@nacdn.net.org>
To Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta RCD <rose.corona@teamrcd.org>
Date 2016-11-04 03:12



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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.

Can Birth Control Save Our Wild Horses? via National Geographic

With euthanasia and sterilization ruled out, the government is banking on contraceptive vaccines to manage the booming population. Horse birth control is a key strategy to better manage wild horses on rangelands throughout the western U.S. Descended from domesticated animals that escaped or were released from captivity, wild horses are technically "feral"—the term used to describe the offspring of any domesticated species that people no longer tend.

Which states have most land in CRP? via Great Falls Tribune

On Oct. 28, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released details of the nearly \$1.7 billion in Conservation Reserve Program payments made to more than half of a million U.S. property owners in 2016. The 2008 farm bill reauthorized the CRP, but Congress set a downward trend to the program, capping maximum enrolled acreages at 32 million. That cap is scheduled to decline to 24 million acres by 2018.

President Obama Establishes 17th Wildlife Refuge of his Presidency via The Heartland Institute

Despite chronic under-funding and a \$3.3 billion maintenance and operations backlog on existing federal wildlife refuges, on October 25 the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) announced the creation of a new, 15,000-acre wildlife refuge, The Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge, made up of 10 areas scattered across six Northeastern states.

Farmers are using bees to spread nature's own pesticides via Popular Science

Biopesticides, pesticides derived from natural materials, are growing faster than synthetic pesticides, which make up the bulk of crop protection. Pests and pathogens have grown resistant to many pesticides, while the EPA has phased out older chemistries, due to environmental and health concerns. These

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

concerns have not only increased government regulation and driven up the cost of developing new chemical pesticides, but have also increased demand from consumers for farmers to grow more organic produce.

The Farming of the Future: Agriculture Drones Take to the Skies via Futurism

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has streamlined the registration process for commercially used drones, putting new rules in place for the protection and regulation of users of the unmanned aircrafts. These procedures are expected to benefit both farmers and the drone industry, as agriculture already leads the market for commercial drones and is expected to generate \$350 million in drone revenue in 2025.

Solar farms are uprooting agriculture, farmers say via Delmarva Now

Photovoltaic cells are springing up across the Eastern Shore at an unprecedented clip. Fueled by hefty government subsidies and relatively cheap prices for acreage, utility-scale solar facilities are supplanting one farm after another. Cue the backlash: Farmers say the loss of valuable cropland threatens the very existence of their industry in the Free State.

Forestry Commission pegs Matthew's damage at \$205 million via Post and Courier

Hurricane Matthew caused more damage to South Carolina's forestry industry than initially thought, with the final tally coming in at \$205 million, according to the state Forestry Commission. Hurricane Matthew caused about twice as much damage to the state's forestry industry as last year's historic flooding.

Water conservation improved in September but is still worse than in 2015 via Los Angeles Times

Californians halted a three-month slide in water conservation in September, saving enough to hearten state regulators who previously had expressed alarm about possible drought fatigue. Conservation backsliding has been a point of concern among officials in recent months.

Border walls are bad for wildlife via The Washington Post

Two recent studies have shed light on the often-overlooked effects walls have on wildlife. The fences can "curtail animals' mobility, fragment populations, and cause direct mortality." Conservation success for large carnivore populations is largely depending on trans-boundary connectivity.

Once common in Minnesota, rusty patched bumblebee nominated for endangered species list via StarTribune

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed legal protection for the bee, named for the distinctive orange marking on its back, after an extraordinarily swift decline in its numbers over the past two decades. Like dozens of other pollinators, the rusty patched bumblebee is suffering from widespread use of chemical pesticides, an increasingly flowerless landscape, disease, and climate change.



Western Riverside County MSHCP
Management - Monitoring Coordination Meeting
10:00am November 10, 2016
Lake Perris Lakeview Pavilion

AGENDA

- I. Introductions / Announcements
- II. RCA Update, if applicable
- III. Monitoring Program Activities Update
 - Rare plants
 - Terrestrial herps
 - Aguanga Kangaroo Rat (habitat)
 - Camera stations
 - Delhi Sands Flower-loving Fly (habitat)
 - Burrowing Owl (habitat)
- IV. Management Program Activities Update
- V. Any other management activity updates from the group?
- VI. Nick Peterson (BMP) – MSHCP Burrowing Owl Habitat Assessment.
- VII. Next Meeting – December 8: Jen Hoffman (BMP) – MSHCP Monitoring of San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat. Meeting location to be determined!
- VIII. Adjourn, and lunch!

Directions to Lake Perris

Street Address: 17801 Lake Perris Drive, Perris, CA 92571

From Los Angeles:

60 Freeway East, Exit Moreno Beach Dr. go (R) to Via Del Lago (L) this brings you to Moreno Valley Entrance.

Or

60 Freeway East, 215 South, Exit Ramona Expressway go (L). Make left on Lake Perris Drive this brings you to Perris Main Entrance.

From Orange County:

91 Freeway East, Exit Van Buren Blvd, go (L) to first light Van Buren Blvd. R) about 7 miles up hill to 215 Freeway South, Exit Ramona Expressway (L) to Lake Perris Drive this brings you to Perris Main Entrance.

From San Diego:

15 Freeway North, 215 Freeway North, Exit Ramona Expressway (R) to Lake Perris Drive (L) this brings you to Perris Main Entrance.

Directions to the Lakeview Pavilion once at the Park

When arriving at one of the park kiosks tell the attendant that you are going to the Lakeview Pavilion in Parking Lot 9 and they will direct you. If you are here for a meeting tell the attendant that and what meeting you are arriving for when they ask you for the \$10 gate fee and the fee will be waved.

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Date 2016-10-28 11:18

Dear Santa Margarita River Stakeholders and Interested Parties, As a follow up to the e-mail from Dave Ceppos to postpone the November 2nd meeting of the Nutrient Initiative to December, attached is a short Doodle Poll to determine the best date in December. Please participate at the link below and the Doodle Poll will close on Friday, November 4, 2016 at 3:00 pm. Thank you!

Below is the link to the doodle poll:

<http://doodle.com/poll/xkhpvizqzgh9247>

Jo Ann Weber
Watershed Planning Program Manager
5510 Overland Ave., Ste. 410
San Diego, CA 92123-1239

October 17, 2016

Submitted via Federal eRulemaking Portal and U.S. Mail

Public Comments Processing

Attn: Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0165

Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC

5275 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, CA 22041-3803

Re: Comments on Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service;
Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy
(Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0165)

This comment letter is submitted on behalf of _____ ("California RCD's"). See attached list of California resource conservation district joining these comments.

The California RCDs support the Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to formulate a policy to address compensatory mitigation issues. However, the California RCDs have significant concerns regarding one provision in particular. As explained in more detail below, the California RCDs ask that public agencies focused on preservation of open space, rehabilitation of wildlands, and performance of education and outreach to partners and stakeholders on the importance of these actions not be effectively precluded from holding conservation easements required under the federal Endangered Species Act. In review of the Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy, the "right of first refusal" provided to accredited land trusts in Section 8.3 appears to have the potential to result in such as preclusion. As described below, before accepting conservation easements and stewarding endowment funds, California RCDs must satisfy legally required standards that are equal to, if not more rigorous than, those faced by accredited non-profits.

We believe that the final adopted Compensatory Mitigation Policy should not contain a preference for any particular type of public or non-profit entities to hold FWS-required conservation easements. Instead, the policy should simply focus on ensuring that conservation easements are held by entities qualified to do so. Local FWS offices should retain the discretion to approve the most financially and biologically qualified conservation organization to hold and steward conservation easements in each situation, provided minimum standards are satisfied.

Background on California Resource Conservation Districts

In response to the "Dust Bowl" of the 1930's, the Federal Government established the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Shortly thereafter, public agency soil conservation districts were formed across the United States to become the local agency partners of the SCS. In 1938, California authorized the formation of soil conservation districts under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code. (Public Resources Code, sections 9151 et seq.) As originally established, the role of these soil conservation districts was to assist landowners with flood control, erosion, water quality and other on-the-ground issues, primarily on agricultural lands.

In 1971, the California Legislature broadened the powers of local soil conservation districts to include the protection of fish and wildlife resources and the management of a wider array of habitat, soil and water projects. The expanded powers accorded to these districts led the Legislature to rename them "resource conservation districts".

Since the 1970's, the more than 90 resource conservation districts across California have not only continued their original partnership with the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), they have also established numerous other partnerships with federal, state and local agencies. Among the most important of these are the RCD partnerships with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Local RCDs, as well as the statewide California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), regularly work with FWS as well as its state counterpart, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), on a wide variety of species and habitat enhancement projects. These projects take many forms, including studies of listed fish and wildlife species, habitat enhancement projects, mitigation installation, coordination with federal, state and local agencies under RCD's broad resource management powers to protect plants and wildlife, implementation of programs funded under ESA Section 6, and invasive species eradication programs.

In addition, over the last 20 years, RCD's have partnered with FWS, CDFW, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and other state and local agencies to accept and manage dozens of conservation easements over thousands of acres across California.¹ (California RCDs are specifically authorized to hold conservation easements under California Public Resources Code, section 9405, California Civil Code, section 815.3(b), and endowments under California Gov't Code, §§ 65965(k)(2), 65966-68.) Many of these conservation easements have been established to meet the requirements of biological opinions and habitat conservation plans approved under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). In most instances, the RCD's also hold the accompanying non-wasting, long-term endowment funds established to ensure these important conservation areas can be managed in perpetuity.

In many cases, RCDs not only hold these conservation easements and endowments, and conduct critical long-term stewardship of these properties; they also draft and implement habitat mitigation and monitoring plans for onsite compensatory mitigation projects (to meet performance criteria) as well as comprehensive long term management plans on the easement properties. Long term stewardship typically includes annual surveys for listed species, water quality and wetlands analyses, fence repair, easement enforcement, invasive species control, replacement of dead/dying native plants, and many other tasks crucial for site functionality. Numerous RCDs have significant technical depth which includes employment of qualified staff biologists and/or partnering with agencies employing similarly qualified individuals, many of whom hold ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A) permits and

¹Many RCD conservation easements have also been set aside under mitigation requirements set forth in permits issued under the federal Clean Water Act by ACOE (404 permits) or regional water quality control boards (401 certifications), or state law, such as the California Endangered Species Act (California Fish and Game Code, section 2080 et seq.), Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code (Streambed Alteration Agreements), and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code, section 13000 et seq.). Many of the conservation easements held by RCDs have been established to satisfy mitigation requirements under multiple state and federal permits. That is, more than one federal or state permit might require mitigation that is satisfied for one resource-impact project at a single site, under one conservation easement. Indeed, in California, it is not uncommon for an RCD to hold a single conservation easement intended to satisfy mitigation obligations required by four or five federal, state and local permits or requirements

whose primary job is to manage wildlife resources on conservation easement lands. With a long track-record of effective management of these conservation lands, successful easement stewardship required by FWS and other wildlife agencies has become one of the hallmarks of RCD work in California.

State Law Scrutiny of RCDs as Public Agencies and Conservation Easement Holders

California RCDs are subject to an extremely high level of scrutiny before they are permitted to accept conservation easements and endowments. As described in greater detail below, this scrutiny comes not only from the federal and state environmental agencies, but also from the myriad financial and other requirements imposed on RCDs under state law. Further, the State Department of Conservation (DOC) is in the final stages of establishing a California RCD accreditation program. (See <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/RCD/publications/Pages/Regulations.aspx>) And, perhaps more importantly, because RCDs are public agencies, they also undergo ongoing public, financial and agency scrutiny that will continue during the lifetime of conservation easements.

As public agencies, RCD's are under the following obligations, among other requirements of state law:

- A publicly appointed or elected board of directors oversees all RCD affairs, with oversight by the State Department of Conservation. (CA Public Resources Code, § 9301.)
- All board meetings are open to the public and are subject to California's myriad open meeting, conflict of interest, public record availability, and sunshine laws.
- All RCD assets and funds, including restricted endowment funds, are subject to annual audits and RCDs are prohibited from incurring more than a minimal amount of indebtedness. (CA Public Resources Code, § 9525.)
- RCDs are subject to legally mandated fiscal procedures. (CA Public Resources Code, §§ 9521 – 9530.)
- Governmental Accounting Standards Board accounting standards must be followed for the stewardship of all endowment funds. (CA Gov't Code, § 65966(d)(3).)
- Under California Government Code, sections 53600 et seq., RCDs are tightly restricted on how they can invest funds they hold. These requirements are in addition to any mandates set forth by the wildlife agencies in an endowment management agreement or otherwise.
 - RCDs are held to the prudent investor standard (Cal Gov't Code, § 53600.3) and the primary objective of any endowment or other funds held by an RCD "shall be to safeguard the principal of the funds under its control."
 - As a result of these strict standards, RCD investment policies only allow for investments in U.S. Government securities, certificates of deposit, commercial paper of "prime" quality, the "Local Agency Investment Fund" administered by the State of California, and similar safe investments with maturity dates no more than five years in duration. (See Cal. Gov't Code, §§ 16429.1, 53600-53609, 53630-53686.) In fact, these standards are more conservative than what is typically allowed for investments by non-profits.

- Endowment funds held by RCDs must also be held, managed, invested, disbursed and governed under the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act. (Gov't Code, § 65966.)
- Under California Government Code, section 53607, the RCD Treasurer is required to submit a monthly investment report to the RCD Board of Directors which covers all RCD-held endowment and other funds and includes all the elements prescribed by Government Code, sections 53600.3 and 53646.
- The public agency RCD board must hold at least one open public meeting to consider any request to accept a new conservation easement. The board must determine that the RCD has the financial and scientific acumen to undertake such work, review and approve property analysis records to determine the sufficiency of endowment funding, and commit to perpetual management of the site. The board also approves a certification to meet the requirements set forth in CA Government Code, section 65968(e).
- The RCD holds at least monthly open, public meetings to address all items of RCD business, including conservation easement stewardship. This allows any member of the public, including landowners who neighbor conservation easements, to provide regular input and voice concerns to a public body.

In addition, RCD's are eligible to hold conservation easements and endowments required under any permit issued by the State of California (e.g., CDFW) only after they have satisfied rigorous requirements. These requirements are found in Government Code, sections 65965 to 65968. They are also implemented in the related "due diligence" process established by CDFW for proposed conservation easement endowment holders. See <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/EndowmentsAuthorization> to hold endowments must be obtained from each CDFW region where an RCD operates and is subject to renewal every three years. Some RCDs have already completed this recently-established process and others are in the process today. (As a practical matter, RCDs that hold conservation easements must obtain CDFW mitigation clearance as part of their mitigation programs. As a result, RCD's that hold FWS conservation easements will likely have already satisfied the CDFW requirements.)

The applicable CDFW "due diligence" requirements include:

- Mitigation endowment holders for conservation easements required under CDFW permits must be approved by CDFW. CDFW is to determine that the conservation easement holder is capable of effective management and stewardship of natural lands and resources, using standards adopted by CDFW or "guidelines, standards or accreditation established by a qualified entity that are in widespread state or national use." (Gov't Code, § 65967(d).). In deciding whether to approve an application from an RCD or other eligible entity to hold endowments and conservation easements, CDFW considers:
 - + the number of conservation easements held by the RCD
 - + the number of acres protected under such easements
 - + the number of fee conservation lands held
 - + land stewardship strategies
 - + list of rare, fully protected, candidate, threatened and endangered species on properties managed

- + property and land management experience, including monitoring protocols
- + easement compliance and enforcement protocols
- + annual financing reporting actually undertaken
- + purpose, mission and policies of the RCD
- + legal authorization to hold conservation easements
- + public outreach efforts
- + board information
- + board role in conservation easement acceptance, monitoring and enforcement processes
- + various financial, investment, expenditure, long-term funding and audit requirements.

In addition to the CDFW process, the California Department of Conservation is in the final stages of establishing, by state regulation, an RCD accreditation program that will examine a wide variety of RCD "Good Governance" principles.

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/RCD/publications/Pages/Regulations.aspx>. These include certification that individual RCDs have adopted and implemented dozens of policies, open meeting requirements, and other legally mandated obligations. The DOC accreditation program, coupled with the CDFW mitigation endowment/conservation easement holder authorization process, parallels or surpasses the land trust accreditation process.

In addition to the above, RCDs also have the advantage of being public agencies. As such, the RCDs—many of which are over 70 years old--were established to be perpetual in duration. They frequently have numerous funding sources, sometimes including annual property tax allocations, to support their missions. RCDs also have a particular focus on assisting local, regional and state agencies meet their conservation and mitigation goals. (See CA Public Resources Code, §§ 9408-9410.) Many local and regional public agencies have come to rely upon RCDs to assist in meeting mitigation requirements associated with the most vital of public infrastructure projects, such as the building of freeways, roads, flood control facilities, transmission lines, water pipelines and similar projects.

Based upon the above requirements imposed upon California RCDs, we believe it is inappropriate to allow resource conservation districts to hold FWS conservation easements only in instances where an accredited land trust is unavailable or unwilling to do so. In point of fact, there are dozens of accredited lands trust across California. These land trusts overlap and operate in every corner of the state. As a result, were section 8.3 of the draft Compensatory Mitigation Policy be adopted as written, RCDs would effectively be precluded from holding conservation easements required by FWS almost everywhere in the state, or at least accredited land trusts would have a right of first refusal to hold such easements. This outcome might well put RCDs entirely out of accepting conservation easements, which is a role the State of California has legislatively required RCDs to undertake.

Adopting the draft Compensatory Mitigation Policy as written would also preclude local FWS offices from having authority to determine which land trust, RCD or other entity in a given area is most appropriate to hold a particular conservation easement. Certainly, many RCDs have expertise managing particular listed species and habitats recognized not only FWS, but also by ACOE, CDFW and other agencies. That expertise and ability to help recover listed species could be lost to the species if Section 8.3 is left as written.

In addition, retention in the draft policy of a legal preference for accredited land trusts to hold FWS-mandated conservation easements could also create difficulties for public agencies and private parties pursuing projects in California. As described in footnote 1, above, multiple federal and state permits, including biological opinions, issued for a single project may require mitigation in the form of conservation easements. In many instances, this mitigation can be conducted concurrently, on the same land, with a single conservation easement. However, if the new FWS Mitigation Policy is written to limit conservation easement holders to accredited land trusts, project proponents will have no choice but to use these same land trusts to meet all their concurrent conservation easement mitigation requirements required under state law and the federal Clean Water Act. For example, a project proponent would not set aside and provide an endowment to fund perpetual management of a 10-acre conservation easement to be held by an RCD at one site to meet its California and Clean Water Act mitigation requirements and then also provide funding for a separate conservation easement over a separate site held by an accredited land trust to meet its FWS mitigation requirements. Such an outcome would be economically unviable. As a result, the FWS draft Compensatory Mitigation Policy would unduly interfere with conservation easement requirements issued by sister wildlife agencies, with the ability of permittees to select from a range of potential mitigation providers, and with state law providing that CDFW cannot designate a particular endowment holder as a condition of approval of a CDFW permit or mitigation approval. (Cal. Gov't Code, § 65968(k).)

At bottom, we believe the finally adopted FWS Compensatory Mitigation Policy should not contain a preference for any particular public or non-profit entities to hold FWS mandated conservation easements. Instead, the policy should focus on ensuring that conservation easements are held by qualified entities with the requisite expertise and experience. Local FWS offices should retain the discretion to approve the most financially and biologically qualified conservation organization in a given situation, provided minimum standards are satisfied.

Thank you for your attention to our comments. Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about them.

Sincerely,

cc: Karen Buhr, Executive Director, California
Association of Resource Conservation Districts

LIST OF COMMENTING RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Inland Empire RCD

PRESENTATION
MISSION PACIFIC
HELIX CORPORATION
