Board Meeting Packet

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Truax Building
41923 Second Street, Fourth Floor
Temecula, CA 92590

This packet contains:

Prepared by
Clifton Meek, District Manager
Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (TEAM RCD)

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MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Truax Building
41923 Second Street, Fourth Floor
Temecula, CA 92590

I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS

Call to Order – 4:04 p.m. President Biancardi called the meeting to order. Conservation Technician Kit Swift led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in person and via teleconference and was recorded.

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi, President; Newt Parkes, Secretary-Treasurer; Rose Corona, Director; Arturo Garcia, Director.
Arriving During the Consent Calendar: Stuart Kuhn, Vice President.
Directors Absent: None
Also Present: Clifton Meek, District Manager; Kit Swift, Conservation Technician.
Public Guests: Members of the public attended via teleconference.
A quorum was established.

Approval of Agenda

Director Garcia moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to approve the Agenda as presented. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Biancardi: Aye
Corona: Aye
Garcia: Aye
Parkes: Aye

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR:

The consent calendar comprised the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2026, and the bills and reimbursements for June and July 2026, including bills paid, bills to be paid or reimbursed, accounts receivable, and the monthly financial reports for the periods ending June 30, 2026 and July 31, 2026. President Biancardi pulled the minutes and the financial reports for separate discussion.

Director Garcia moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to approve the remaining items on the consent calendar. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: No
Garcia: Yes
Parkes: Yes

Minutes and Financial Reports. Director Corona objected for the record that the minutes do not materially and accurately represent the actions, discussion, and objectives that occurred. Questions were raised regarding the financial reports. The District Manager confirmed that the Greer Ranch figure reported under fixed assets appeared to be an error and should be corrected, and agreed to look into director access to the District's Ramp account.

Director Parkes moved, and Director Garcia seconded, to approve the minutes of July 9, 2026 and the monthly financial reports, with the understanding that the fixed asset discrepancy would be corrected. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: No
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

III. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Subject: Authorization to Execute Maintenance Agreement with the Santa Ana Watershed Association for the Greer Ranch Conservation Easement Fuel Modification Project

Background: TEAM RCD's Greer Ranch Conservation Easement requires active fuel modification to reduce fire risk and maintain the ecological integrity of the property. In May 2026, District staff conducted a joint field day at Greer Ranch with President Biancardi, Murrieta Fire, and Greer Ranch Community Association personnel to assess conditions and lay out a multistage cleanup plan organized around Murrieta Fire's clearance standards. The Santa Ana Watershed Association submitted a proposal to provide the required fuel modification and biomass removal services, structured in two phases. Phase 1 targets areas within 30 feet of structures and 10 feet of roads and includes an initial biological assessment of the full work area as required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, at an estimated cost of $24,304.88. Phase 2 addresses the remainder of the easement and includes two years of annual biological site assessments following completion of removal, also as required by the Department, at an estimated cost of $40,004.45. All work will take place in September 2026 as approved by the Department in its Verification Request Form. The combined not-to-exceed amount is $64,309.33, inclusive of a TEAM RCD administration fee of $8,337.86, which will be retained to offset staff administrative and oversight costs. TEAM RCD will serve in an oversight and administration role and all costs will be paid by the Greer Ranch Community Association.

It was reported that the Greer Ranch Community Association approved the proposal earlier in the week, and that final approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife was received in July. The board discussed the distinction between this maintenance work and the District's separate easement monitoring obligations, and a request was made to review the conservation easement language.

Director Garcia moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to authorize the District Manager to develop, execute, and administer a maintenance agreement with the Santa Ana Watershed Association for fuel modification and biomass removal services at the Greer Ranch Conservation Easement in a not-to-exceed amount of $64,309.33, and to take all administrative actions necessary to implement the agreement on behalf of TEAM RCD. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: No
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

B. Subject: Authorization to Execute Letters of Support and Commitment – State Healthy Soils Program Block Grant (IERCD) and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant (RCDGSD)

Background: Two neighboring resource conservation districts have invited TEAM RCD to serve as a partner agency and technical assistance provider on pending state grant applications. The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District is applying under the California Department of Food and Agriculture State Healthy Soils Program Block Grant, and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego is applying under the Department's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant. Both programs support on-farm conservation projects benefiting agricultural producers and align with TEAM RCD's core mission and technical capabilities. TEAM RCD would provide technical assistance to participating producers throughout the project lifecycle, including outreach and education, application development support, project planning and design, implementation guidance, site visits, verification of completed projects, and documentation and reporting. There is no direct fiscal impact; staff time associated with technical assistance would be reimbursed through each respective grant agreement.

It was reported that both partnerships have been invited to submit full proposals and that the District's combined portion is estimated at approximately $83,000 to $85,000.

Director Garcia moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to authorize the District Manager to execute the letter of support and commitment to the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District for the State Healthy Soils Program Block Grant application, and the letter of support and commitment to the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant application. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Yes
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

<u>C. Subject:</u> SB 827 Compliance – Ethics and Fiscal Training Requirements for Board Members and District Manager

Background: SB 827 (2025) expands existing ethics training requirements and creates a standalone fiscal and financial training mandate for local agency officials, including special district board members and executive staff. It expands the existing AB 1234 ethics training requirement of two hours every two years to explicitly include the District Manager and board members, and creates a new fiscal and financial training requirement of two hours every two years covering financial administration, budgeting, auditing, capital financing, cash management, investments, and ethics of public resource stewardship. All board members and the District Manager are covered under both tracks. Director Garcia, appointed March 10, 2026, must complete both by September 10, 2026, and District Manager Meek, who started April 13, 2026, must complete both by October 13, 2026. Sitting board members in office before January 1, 2026 must complete the new fiscal training by January 1, 2028, with their existing AB 1234 ethics cycle continuing unchanged. The District is also required to maintain training records for at least five years as public records, post instructions on the TEAM RCD website explaining how the public may request those records, and notify covered officials of available training at least annually. Fiscal impact is minimal, as training is available from multiple low-cost or no-cost providers.

It was noted that both trainings are available at no additional cost through the District's California Special Districts Association membership, and that the District Manager would circulate the training links to all covered officials.

Director Garcia moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to direct the District Manager to identify and enroll all covered board members and staff in an SB 827 compliant fiscal training provider and to enroll Director Garcia and District Manager Meek in both ethics and fiscal training ahead of their respective deadlines; to establish and maintain a training tracking log documenting completion dates and certificates; to prepare the required website posting explaining how the public may request training records; and to adopt a policy manual addition, Policy 2190, formalizing ethics and fiscal training obligations, recordkeeping responsibilities, and onboarding requirements for future board members and District Managers. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Yes
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

<u>IV. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS:</u>

<u>1. Subject:</u> District Manager Report

- The District holds approximately $2.7 million in assets, of which approximately $443,000 is unencumbered. A reserve account will be established in the California CLASS system, sized to cover approximately six months of District expenditures.
- The District is undergoing its annual audit.

- The District Manager has completed the required ethics and financial trainings through the California Special Districts Association.

<u>2. Subject:</u> Projects Update

- I-15 Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing: The consulting contract was finalized and executed with County Counsel, and Caltrans received authorization to begin work and charge to the project. The first project development team meeting was held in early August, kicking off the CEQA and NEPA phase.
- Greer Ranch Easement: Monitoring was completed and the annual easement report is in progress. Monitoring was also completed at Adeline's Farm, and its annual report is likewise in progress. The annual report to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife awaits biological reports.
- Whitewood Easement: The required report has been commissioned and the District is awaiting delivery.
- Kiley Property: The District is evaluating a potential acquisition of an approximately 450 acre property in Wildomar, to be acquired by a partner organization through a Wildlife Conservation Board grant and transferred to the District for long-term maintenance and monitoring. A property analysis report is in preparation.
- Clinton Keith Property: County road maintenance completed a cleanup of the accessible area and has agreed to install a fence to deter further dumping. Remaining debris on the lower slope lies outside District property.
- Riverside County Flood Control: Reimbursements continue to be received. A meeting is scheduled for September 3 regarding renewal of the District's agreements and potential additional projects.
- IECF: A second payment of $49,000 from the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity grant is expected imminently. Funds must currently be expended by the end of October, with some indication the deadline may be extended. A demonstration workshop resulted in twelve assessment sign-ups, and work continues on populating the Regional Priority Plan.
- Cannabis Cleanup: The District is awaiting a funding decision from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- IERC: The application was submitted during the past month, with no response expected before August 18.
- WETA: Funding was reinstated at the end of July and those funds are again accessible.
- Healthy Soils and SWEEP: Proposals are being finalized with the Southern California hub.

<u>3. Subject:</u> SAWA Update

Director Garcia reported on the recent Santa Ana Watershed Association board meeting, which addressed an annual revenue gap of approximately $500,000 arising from changes to a multi-year Army Corps of Engineers contract, related staffing and capacity pressures, and the executive director's contract. The SAWA board approved a two-month extension of that contract while performance metrics are finalized with counsel, with input from TEAM RCD and the other member districts. A further update is expected next month.

4. Subject: Governance Briefing

The board reviewed the statutory basis and purpose of resource conservation districts under Public Resource Code Division Nine, Section 9001, tracing the statute's adoption in 1938 through the 2022 amendments adding climate adaptation, resilience, and carbon sequestration to the statutory purpose. This marks the beginning of a short and intermittent series in which the board and staff will review relevant legislation. No action was taken.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

A director reported a change in the District's banking contact at Chase, with no resulting difficulties. It was noted that the majority of District funds are now held in California CLASS, with the general fund and the two conservation easement certificates of deposit remaining at Chase.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the board unanimously voted to end the meeting. Director Kuhn moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to adjourn. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Yes
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026.

Dated: ________________ __________________________________

Newt Parkes, Secretary-Treasurer

Financial Report

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

For the period ended August 31, 2026

Prepared on

September 3, 2026

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Profit and Loss

July - August, 2026

	Total
INCOME	
Investments	
Interest Income	7,973.66
Total Investments	**7,973.66**
RCFC Pilot Projects	43,941.15
Service/Fee Income	
Grant Revenue	
Grant IECF	49,990.00
Total Grant Revenue	**49,990.00**
Whitewood	15,000.00
Total Service/Fee Income	**64,990.00**
Total Income	**116,904.81**
GROSS PROFIT	**116,904.81**
EXPENSES	
401k contribution	1,822.54
General and Administration	
Accounting Fees	
Bookkeeping	601.25
State Report	22.48
Total Accounting Fees	**623.73**
Computer, Data and Software	301.13
Legal Fees	665.82
Membership Dues	1,238.70
Postage, Mailing Service	40.00
Quickbooks-Accounting	407.00
Storage	218.00
Telephone, Telecommunications	80.00
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	1,252.77
Travel	621.61
Total Travel and Meetings	**1,874.38**
Total General and Administration	**5,448.76**
SERVICE COSTS	
Contract Services	
RFC FACILITIES	
HELASH	134.84
HILDY	134.84
MORGAN VALLEY WASH	115.23
MURRIETA CREEK LINE F	1,432.63
PALOMAR-CORYDON CHANNEL	134.84
SANTA GERTRUDIS CREEK	896.88

	Total
TEMECULA CREEK AD 159	1,388.20
WARM SPRINGS / FRENCH VALLEY	945.92
WARM SPRINGS/BENTON CHANNEL	863.05
WILDOMAR CHANNEL	93.77
Total RFC FACILITIES	**6,140.20**
Total Contract Services	**6,140.20**
Grant Administration Expense	
Consultants and Contracts	
Conservation Tech	20,217.95
District Manager	17,708.30
Project Manager	14,604.04
Total Consultants and Contracts	**52,530.29**
Total Grant Administration Expense	**52,530.29**
Total SERVICE COSTS	**58,670.49**
Total Expenses	**65,941.79**
NET OPERATING INCOME	**50,963.02**
NET INCOME	**$50,963.02**

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2026

	Total
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
California Class	
CC - Adeline CE Interest	42,331.28
CC - Greer Ranch CE Interest	31,527.99
CC - Historic Funds	55,674.31
CC- General Fund	2,092.18
CC- TeamRCD Reserve Account	175,197.97
CC- WCB Grant Interest	3,063.02
CC- Whitewood	15,047.76
CC-Flood Control	271.27
CC-WCB Grant	1,000,174.34
Total California Class	**1,325,380.12**
Chase CD	
Chase CD - Benton Channel	165,000.00
Chase CD - Greer Ranch	125,000.00
Chase CD-4631	100,000.00
Total Chase CD	**390,000.00**
Checking/Savings	
Chase General - 0592	258,230.65
Total Checking/Savings	**258,230.65**
Total Bank Accounts	**1,973,610.77**
Total Current Assets	**1,973,610.77**
Fixed Assets	
Adeline Farms Easement*	162,750.00
Clinton Keith Land	475,000.00
Greer Ranch Easement*	110,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	**747,750.00**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$2,721,360.77**
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	23,190.90
Total Accounts Payable	**23,190.90**
Credit Cards	
Chase 8053	1,506.78
Total Credit Cards	**1,506.78**
Total Current Liabilities	**24,697.68**
Total Liabilities	**24,697.68**

*Note that the highlighted items here are under review and may be removed from fixed assets following our FY25/26 audit.

	Total
Equity	
Retained Earnings	2,645,700.07
Net Income	50,963.02
Total Equity	**2,696,663.09**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	**$2,721,360.77**

Statement of Cash Flows

July - August, 2026

	Total
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	50,963.02
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations:	
Accounts Payable	-1,789.16
Chase 8053	1,261.28
Total Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations:	**-527.88**
Net cash provided by operating activities	**50,435.14**
NET CASH INCREASE FOR PERIOD	**50,435.14**
Cash at beginning of period	1,923,175.63
CASH AT END OF PERIOD	**$1,973,610.77**

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Bills and Applied Payments

August 2026

Date	Transaction type	Memo/Description	Amount	Open balance
CARCD				
07/31/2026	Bill	Payroll invoice for staff hours, salary, and employer match View this bill in Ramp: https://app.ramp.com/s/bill-pay/bills/f54207ae-fff6-4c0a-9416-b4e6c19ff2b5	31,161.93	0.00
08/06/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		-31,161.93	
Grace Dougan Consulting				
07/31/2026	Bill	Consulting services for bookkeeping reconciliation and reporting View this bill in Ramp: https://app.ramp.com/s/bill-pay/bills/e77152b8-7ca3-4a5e-8f77-55196195b56d	601.25	0.00
08/27/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		-601.25	
08/31/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		-568.75	
06/30/2026	Bill	Consulting services including meeting coordination and Quickbooks data entry View this bill in Ramp: https://app.ramp.com/s/bill-pay/bills/0343ad41-ec53-4976-a054-ac1b07d18706	568.75	0.00
Riverside Office of County Counsel				
08/12/2026	Bill	Legal services rendered for wildlife crossing and general billing matters View this bill in Ramp: https://app.ramp.com/s/bill-pay/bills/c7d92b11-2f92-4bba-be13-ac5c1df385a2	481.29	0.00
08/14/2026	Bill Payment (Check)		-481.29	

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Profit and Loss by Class

July - August, 2026

	ADELINE FARMS	DISTRICT ADMIN	GREER RANCH	IECF-HOME HARDENING	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	RCFC	WHITEWOOD	WILDLIFE CROSSING	TOTAL
Income									
Investments									$0.00
Interest Income	134.56		100.42		1,182.29	271.27	47.76	6,237.36	$7,973.66
Total Investments	**134.56**		**100.42**		**1,182.29**	**271.27**	**47.76**	**6,237.36**	**$7,973.66**
RCFC Pilot Projects						43,941.15			$43,941.15
Service/Fee Income									$0.00
Grant Revenue									$0.00
Grant IECF				49,990.00					$49,990.00
Total Grant Revenue				**49,990.00**					**$49,990.00**
Whitewood							15,000.00		$15,000.00
Total Service/Fee Income				**49,990.00**			**15,000.00**		**$64,990.00**
Total Income	**$134.56**	**$0.00**	**$100.42**	**$49,990.00**	**$1,182.29**	**$44,212.42**	**$15,047.76**	**$6,237.36**	**$116,904.81**
GROSS PROFIT	**$134.56**	**$0.00**	**$100.42**	**$49,990.00**	**$1,182.29**	**$44,212.42**	**$15,047.76**	**$6,237.36**	**$116,904.81**
Expenses									
401k contribution		670.69			481.16			670.69	$1,822.54
General and Administration									$0.00
Accounting Fees									$0.00
Bookkeeping					601.25				$601.25
State Report					22.48				$22.48
Total Accounting Fees					**623.73**				**$623.73**
Computer, Data and Software		49.98			251.15				$301.13
Legal Fees					72.19			593.63	$665.82
Membership Dues					1,238.70				$1,238.70
Postage, Mailing Service					40.00				$40.00
Quickbooks-Accounting					407.00				$407.00
Storage					218.00				$218.00
Telephone, Telecommunications		40.00			40.00				$80.00
Travel and Meetings									$0.00
Conference, Convention, Meeting					579.44			673.33	$1,252.77
Travel					621.61				$621.61
Total Travel and Meetings					**1,201.05**			**673.33**	**$1,874.38**
Total General and Administration		**89.98**			**4,091.82**			**1,266.96**	**$5,448.76**

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Profit and Loss by Class

July - August, 2026

	ADELINE FARMS	DISTRICT ADMIN	GREER RANCH	IECF-HOME HARDENING	MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	RCFC	WHITEWOOD	WILDLIFE CROSSING	TOTAL
SERVICE COSTS									$0.00
Contract Services									$0.00
RFC FACILITIES									$0.00
HELASH						134.84			$134.84
HILDY						134.84			$134.84
MORGAN VALLEY WASH						115.23			$115.23
MURRIETA CREEK LINE F						1,432.63			$1,432.63
PALOMAR-CORYDON CHANNEL						134.84			$134.84
SANTA GERTRUDIS CREEK						896.88			$896.88
TEMECULA CREEK AD 159						1,388.20			$1,388.20
WARM SPRINGS / FRENCH VALLEY						945.92			$945.92
WARM SPRINGS/BENTON CHANNEL						863.05			$863.05
WILDOMAR CHANNEL						93.77			$93.77
Total RFC FACILITIES						**6,140.20**			**$6,140.20**
Total Contract Services						**6,140.20**			**$6,140.20**
Grant Administration Expense									$0.00
Consultants and Contracts									$0.00
Conservation Tech	207.28		310.92	14,559.80	4,658.75	481.20			$20,217.95
District Manager		17,708.30							$17,708.30
Project Manager								14,604.04	$14,604.04
Total Consultants and Contracts	**207.28**	**17,708.30**	**310.92**	**14,559.80**	**4,658.75**	**481.20**		**14,604.04**	**$52,530.29**
Total Grant Administration Expense	**207.28**	**17,708.30**	**310.92**	**14,559.80**	**4,658.75**	**481.20**		**14,604.04**	**$52,530.29**
Total SERVICE COSTS	**207.28**	**17,708.30**	**310.92**	**14,559.80**	**4,658.75**	**6,621.40**		**14,604.04**	**$58,670.49**
Total Expenses	**$207.28**	**$18,468.97**	**$310.92**	**$14,559.80**	**$9,231.73**	**$6,621.40**	**$0.00**	**$16,541.69**	**$65,941.79**
NET OPERATING INCOME	**$ -72.72**	**$ -18,468.97**	**$ -210.50**	**$35,430.20**	**$ -8,049.44**	**$37,591.02**	**$15,047.76**	**$ -10,304.33**	**$50,963.02**
NET INCOME	**$ -72.72**	**$ -18,468.97**	**$ -210.50**	**$35,430.20**	**$ -8,049.44**	**$37,591.02**	**$15,047.76**	**$ -10,304.33**	**$50,963.02**

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Expenses by Vendor Summary

August 2026

	Total
Adobe	24.99
CARCD	24,443.67
County of Riverside	22.48
CubeSmart	109.00
Microsoft	98.96
QuickBooks	216.00
Riverside Office of County Counsel	481.29
Southwest	621.61
USPS	40.00
Visible	40.00
TOTAL	**$26,098.00**

Memorandum of Understanding between
The Nature Conservancy
and Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into this ____ of ________________, ______, between Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District ("TEAM RCD"), a local government agency, established under the laws of California with its principal mailing address at PO Box 2078, Temecula CA 92593, USA, and The Nature Conservancy ("TNC"), a California, USA non-profit corporation with its principal place of business in Sacramento, California, USA.

TEAM RCD's mission includes an objective to promote conservation practices of natural resources, opportunities for public education and participation, and a sustainable quality of life for communities within TEAM RCD's territory. TNC's mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. The parties wish to work together for the advancement of the Interstate 15 Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing Planning Project ("Project"), in Riverside County, California.

1. OBJECTIVES. The objective of this MOU is to formalize a mutual collaboration, with the purpose of furthering the Project by implementing deliverable tasks outlined in the workplan included in TEAM RCD's application submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board ("WCB"), and which was approved by the WCB on February 26th, 2026, and attached as Exhibit A hereto.

In this sense, the MOU seeks to facilitate this interaction by outlining means of collaboration, communication mechanisms, and methods for the implementation of activities.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES. This section sets forth the parties' intentions with respect to the expected activities under this MOU. Each party's responsibilities shall be fulfilled within the bounds of its available resources, budget, and procedures, as determined at its own discretion.

a) TNC will be responsible for providing a total of $210,000 towards the Project, consisting of (i) in-kind match funds pursuant to the provisions below, and (ii) at TNC's option, in its sole discretion, the payment of contractors employed in furtherance of the Project.

   In-Kind Match

   TNC shall contribute TNC staff time (including both past and future staff hours, as permitted by WCB guidelines for matching contributions) to the Project by assisting with overall project management and coordination, and the development of a monitoring and management plan to measure the effectiveness of the wildlife crossing, once built.

Payment of Contractors

To the extent TNC agrees to pay for any particular contractor, TNC shall directly enter into a contract for services with such contractor.

b) TEAM RCD will be responsible for:

(1) project management, grant administration, and coordination beyond what is provided by TNC;
(2) advancing the project through the Project Approval & Environmental Document phase and to 65% design, including procuring and overseeing a consultant to perform the required technical work;
(3) all additional tasks as necessary to fulfill the terms of TEAM RCD's grant agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board.

3. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS.** The principal contact for each party will be:

For TEAM RCD:
Clifton Meek
District Manager
PO Box 2078
Temecula CA 92593
951-740-3891
clifton.meek@teamrcd.org

For TNC:
Cara Lacey
Associate Director, Climate Program
830 S Street
Sacramento CA 95811
916-449-2850
cara.lacey@tnc.org

Each party may change its principal contact at any time by written notice to the other party.

4. **TERM.** This MOU will begin on ___________________________ and will remain in effect until July 12, 2029 ("Expiration Date"), unless sooner terminated as provided herein. Any extension beyond the Expiration Date must be in writing and signed by the parties.

5. **TRANSFER OF FUNDS.** This MOU does not obligate either party to transfer funds to the other party hereunder. Any transfer of funds between the parties will be the object of an independent contract that includes clauses and other conditions in accordance with the internal procedures of each party and that will be duly signed by both parties.

6. TERMINATION. Either party may terminate this MOU by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.

7. TITLE AND USE OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.

a) Under the provisions of this MOU, the parties may produce documents, reports, studies, photographs, and maps, as well as documents as well as product-specific documents (collectively "Works"). Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties in writing, the copyright and other intellectual property rights in any such Work will belong to the party that produces the Work. If a Work is jointly produced by the parties, the copyright will be owned jointly by the parties. In all cases of co-authorship of scholarly journals or similar publications, each party is hereby authorized to use the Work, without prior authorization from the other, for non-commercial purposes in support of the party's mission.

b) Neither party will publish or otherwise distribute Works of the other party without both the previous written consent of the other party and crediting the other party in such Work.

c) The names and logos of the parties are trademarks; as such, they may not be used for any purpose without the prior express written permission of their owners.

8. POLITICAL CAMPAIGN INTERVENTION PROHIBITION. The parties agree not to directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any Candidate for public office or any political party in any election, at any level of government, anywhere in the world. This means that any activity that could help or hurt the chances for election of any Candidate, group of Candidates, or any political party is prohibited. A "Candidate" is any individual who offers him/herself, or is proposed by others, as a contestant for an elective public office.

9. CONFIDENTIALITY. During the course of the performance of this MOU, the parties may have access to materials, data, strategies, systems, or other information relating to the other party and its programs which is intended for internal use only. Any such information shall not be used, published, or divulged to any individual or corporation, in any manner or for whatever purpose, except through the party's previous written permission, which may be withheld by the respective party at its sole discretion, or as required by operation of law.

10. OTHER PARTNERS. This MOU does not preclude the parties from establishing similar agreements or contracts with other individuals, entities, agencies, and public or private organizations. The parties recognize the importance of continuing to cooperate and work with other partners in programs of mutual interest and to be able to, by means of a written document signed by both parties, invite other partners to participate in the activities implemented under this MOU.

11. NON-BINDING. While the parties are committed to using their best endeavors to achieve its purpose, this document is not intended to create binding or legal obligations on the parties. Nothing in it shall be construed as creating any legal relationship between the parties and its provisions do not create rights, obligations, or duties for either party. It is intended to be a statement of intent to foster genuine and mutually beneficial cooperation.

12. NO JOINT VENTURE. The parties agree that they are not entering into a legal partnership, joint venture or other such business arrangement, nor is the purpose of the parties to enter into a commercial undertaking for monetary gain. Neither party will refer to or treat the arrangements under this MOU as a legal partnership or take any action inconsistent with such intention.

13. DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The parties hereby agree that, in the event of any dispute relating to this MOU, they shall first seek to resolve the dispute through informal discussions. If a dispute cannot be resolved informally within sixty (60) consecutive working days, the parties agree to terminate this MOU.

14. LIABILITY. Each party shall be solely responsible and liable for the actions or omissions of its own employees, agents, and representatives involved with the activities contemplated under this MOU, including any related damages, losses and claims to or by third parties. Nothing herein shall be construed as creating joint or several liability between the parties.

15. ASSIGNMENT. Neither party may assign or transfer its rights and obligations under this MOU without the prior written consent of the other party.

16. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS. The parties will observe all applicable laws and regulations during the execution of the work implemented under the provisions of this MOU. TEAM RCD represents that it is not registered under the U.S. Foreign Agent Registration Act. The Parties agree that the activities contemplated by this MOU are undertaken at the discretion of each Party, and TNC is not, nor acts as, the agent, representative, employee, or servant, or in any other capacity at the order, request, or under the direction or control of TEAM RCD.

17. AMENDMENTS. This MOU, including any material modification to Section 2, may only be modified by a written amendment signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding, effective as of the last date written below.

FOR TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	**FOR THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**
	Cara Lacey box SIGN 4255KZ8P-15KZRL7X
Clifton Meek District Manager	Cara Lacey Associate Director, Climate Program
	9-3-2026
Date	Date

Exhibit A

Workplan: Interstate 15 Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing Planning

Project Summary

The proposed Interstate 15 (I-15) Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing will reconnect a severed linkage between the Santa Ana and Palomar mountain ranges, allowing distressed mountain lion subpopulations and other target species to move freely across the corridor while enhancing landscape-level ecological resilience. Under the grant, the project will be advanced through the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase including completion of CEQA/NEPA, and into the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) phase resulting in delivery of 65% engineering design plans. Outreach will be conducted to local partners, and a short- and long-term monitoring and management plan will be generated.

Task 1. Project Management, Grant Administration, Coordination

TEAM RCD will provide overall project management, grant administration, and coordination. This will include hiring an engineering contractor (Subcontractor 1) to work on Tasks 2 and 3, and working with partners to promote collaboration.

Deliverables: Executed subcontract(s), invoices, final report.

Task 2. Planning and Environmental Permitting

A Cooperative Agreement between TEAM RCD and Caltrans for PA&ED and PS&E will be established. CEQA and NEPA within the identified CDFW Priority Barrier Segment of I-15 will be completed. The PA&ED phase of the Caltrans project development process will be completed.

Deliverables: Cooperative Agreement between Caltrans and TEAM RCD, completion of CEQA/NEPA, project approval from Caltrans.

Task 3. Engineering Plans, Specifications, and Estimates

This task will advance the wildlife overcrossing into the PS&E phase, up to 65% design. Subcontractor 1 will develop and finalize the PS&E documents to 65% design plans within the CDFW Priority Wildlife Barrier and ensure crossing infrastructure designs are taxonomically inclusive.

Deliverables: 65% engineering design plans and refined cost estimates.

Task 4. Monitoring and Management Plan

The Project Team, in collaboration with partners, will develop a monitoring and management plan to measure the effectiveness of the wildlife overcrossing, once built.

Deliverable: Monitoring and management plan.

Task No.	Task Description	Deliverables	Expected Completion Date
1	Project Management, Grant Administration, Coordination	• Invoices • Executed Subcontract(s) • Final Report	Throughout project (42 months)
2	Planning and Environmental Permitting	• Cooperative Agreement • Completion of CEQA/NEPA • Caltrans project approval	24 months from project start date
3	Engineering Plans, Specifications, and Estimates	• 65% engineering design plans • Refined construction cost estimates	18 months from completion of Task 2
4	Management and Monitoring Plan	• Monitoring and management plan	Throughout project (42 months)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE OF THE TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(Amended September 10, 2026)

The Political Reform Act (Gov. Code § 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate a conflict of interest code. The Fair Political Practices Commission (“FPPC) has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code Regs. § 18730 that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing, the standard code may be amended by the FPPC to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations section 18730, and any amendments to it duly adopted by the FPPC, are hereby incorporated by reference. This Regulation, and the attached Appendix designating positions and establishing disclosure categories, shall constitute the Conflict of Interest Code of the **Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (the "District").**

All officials and designated positions for which the FPPC is the filing officer shall file their Statements of Economic Interests electronically and directly with the FPPC, using the FPPC's electronic filing system. All other individuals holding designated positions must file their statements with the District Manager as the District’s Filing Officer. The District Manager shall retain the filings and make them available for public inspection in accordance with Government Code section 81008. The District shall not receive or retain Statements of Economic Interests for positions required by law to file directly with the FPPC.

APPENDIX

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE OF THE

TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(Amended September 10, 2026)

PART "A"

OFFICIALS WHO MANAGE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

District officials who manage public investments, as defined by 2 Cal. Code of Regs. § 18700.3(b), are NOT subject to the District's Code, but must file disclosure statements under Government Code section 87200 et seq. (Regs. § 18730(b)(3)). These positions are listed here for informational purposes only.

It has been determined that the positions listed below are officials who manage public investments[1]:

Members, Board of Directors

District Manager

[1] Individuals holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligations if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Government Code section 87200.

DESIGNATED POSITIONS

GOVERNED BY THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

Designated Positions	Disclosure Category Assigned
Conservation Technician	4
Project Manager	2,4
Consultants and New Positions[2]	

[2] Individuals serving as a consultant as defined in FPPC Reg.18700.3 or in a new position created since this Code was last approved that makes or participates in making decisions must file under the broadest disclosure set forth in this Code subject to the following limitation:

The District Manager may determine that, due to the range of duties or contractual obligations, it is more appropriate to assign a limited disclosure requirement. A clear explanation of the duties and a statement of the extent of the disclosure requirements must be in a written document. (Gov. Code Sec. 82019; FPPC Regulations 18219 and 18734.) The District Manager's determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this Conflict of Interest Code. (Gov. Code Sec. 81008.)

PART "B"

DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES

The disclosure categories listed below identify the types of economic interests that the designated position must disclose for each disclosure category to which they are assigned.[3] "Investment means financial interest in any business entity (including a consulting business or other independent contracting business) and are reportable if they are either located in, doing business in, planning to do business in, or have done business during the previous two years in the jurisdiction of the District.

Category 1: All investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, that are located in, that do business in, or own real property within the jurisdiction of the District.

Category 2: All interests in real property which is located in whole or in part within, or not more than two (2) miles outside, the jurisdiction of the District, or within two (2) miles of any land owned or used by the District.

Category 3: All investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, that provide services, products, supplies, materials, machinery, vehicles or equipment of a type purchased or leased by the District.

Category 4: All investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, that provide services, products, supplies, materials, machinery, vehicles or equipment of a type purchased or leased by the designated position's department, unit or division.

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[3] This Conflict of Interest Code does not require the reporting of gifts from outside this agency's jurisdiction if the source does not have some connection with or bearing upon the functions or duties of the position. (Reg. 18730.1)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE OF THE TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(Amended ~~May 14, 2020~~September 10, 2026)

The Political Reform Act (Gov. Code § 81000, et seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate a conflict of interest code. The Fair Political Practices Commission ("FPPC) has adopted a regulation (2 Cal. Code Regs. § 18730 ~~["Regulation 187301)~~ that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an agency's code. After public notice and hearing, ~~Regulation 18730~~the standard code may be amended by the ~~Fair Political Practices Commission~~FPPC to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations section 18730, and any amendments to it duly adopted by the ~~Fair Political Practices Commission~~FPPC, are hereby incorporated by reference. This ~~incorporation page,~~ Regulation, ~~18730~~ and the attached Appendix designating positions and establishing disclosure categories, shall constitute the Conflict of Interest Code of the **Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District** (the **"District").**

All officials and designated positions for which the FPPC is the filing officer shall file their Statements of Economic Interests electronically and directly with the FPPC, using the FPPC's electronic filing system. All other individuals holding designated positions must file their statements with the District Manager as the District's Filing Officer. The District Manager shall retain the filings and make them available for public inspection in accordance with Government Code section 81008. The District shall not receive or retain Statements of Economic Interests for positions required by law to file directly with the FPPC. ~~required to submit a statement of economic interests shall file their statements with the District Secretary as the District's Filing Officer. The~~ ~~**District Secretary**~~ ~~shall make and retain a~~

~~copy of all statements filed by the District Manager and members of the Board of Directors and Associate Directors, and forward the originals of such statements to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside. (Gov. Code, § 87500.) The **District Secretary** shall retain the original statements filed by all other officials and designated positions and shall make all retained statements available for public inspection and reproduction during regular business hours. (Gov. Code §81008.)~~

APPENDIX

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE OF THE

TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

(Amended ~~May 14, 2020~~September 10, 2026)

PART "A"

OFFICIALS WHO MANAGE PUBLIC INVESTMENTS

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It has been determined that the positions listed below are officials who manage public investments [1]:

Members, Board of Directors ~~and Associate Directors~~

District Manager

~~Investment Consultant~~

[1] Individuals holding one of the above-listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligations if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Government Code section 87200.

DESIGNATED POSITIONS

GOVERNED BY THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

Designated Positions	Disclosure Category Assigned
Conservation ~~Educator~~Technician	4
~~Education Coordinator General~~	~~4~~
~~Counsel Field Ecologist~~	~~4~~
~~General Counsel~~	~~1, 2~~
~~Natural Resources Manager~~	~~2,4~~
Project Manager	2,4
Consultants and New Positions[2]	

[2] Individuals serving as a consultant as defined in FPPC Reg.18700.3 or in a new position created since this Code was last approved that makes or participates in making decisions must file under the broadest disclosure set forth in this Code subject to the following limitation:

The District Manager may determine that, due to the range of duties or contractual obligations, it is more appropriate to assign a limited disclosure requirement. A clear explanation of the duties and a statement of the extent of the disclosure requirements must be in a written document. (Gov. Code Sec. 82019; FPPC Regulations 18219 and 18734.) The District Manager's determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this Conflict of Interest Code. (Gov. Code Sec. 81008.)

PART "B"

DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES

The disclosure categories listed below identify the types of economic interests that the designated position must disclose for each disclosure category to which ~~he or she is~~they are assigned.[3] "Investment means financial interest in any business entity (including a consulting business or other independent contracting business) and are reportable if they are either located in, doing business in, planning to do business in, or have done business during the previous two years in the jurisdiction of the District.

Category 1: All investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, that are located in, that do business in, or own real property within the jurisdiction of the District.

Category 2: All interests in real property which is located in whole or in part within, or not more than two (2) miles outside, the jurisdiction of the District, or within two (2) miles of any land owned or used by the District.

Category 3: All investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, that provide services, products, supplies, materials, machinery, vehicles or equipment of a type purchased or leased by the District.

Category 4: All investments and business positions in business entities, and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, that provide services, products, supplies, materials, machinery, vehicles or equipment of a type purchased or leased by the designated position's department, unit or division.

[3] This Conflict of Interest Code does not require the reporting of gifts from outside this agency's jurisdiction if the source does not have some connection with or bearing upon the functions or duties of the position. (Reg. 18730.1)

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AMENDING THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE PURSUANT TO THE POLITICAL REFORM ACT OF 1974

WHEREAS, the State of California enacted the Political Reform Act of 1974, Government Code Section 81000 et seq. (the "Act"), which contains provisions relating to conflicts of interest which potentially affect all officers, employees and consultants of the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (the "District") and requires all public agencies to adopt and promulgate a conflict of interest code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors adopted a Conflict of Interest Code (the "Code") which was amended and approved on May 14, 2020, in compliance with the Act; and

WHEREAS, subsequent changes in the District have made it advisable and necessary pursuant to Sections 87306 and 87307 of the Act to amend and update the District's Code; and

WHEREAS, the potential penalties for violation of the provisions of the Act are substantial and may include criminal and civil liability, as well as equitable relief which could result in the Authority being restrained or prevented from acting in cases where the provisions of the Act may have been violated; and

WHEREAS, notice of the time and place of a public meeting on, and of consideration by the Board of Directors of, the proposed amended Code was provided each affected designated position and publicly posted for review at the offices of the District; and

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held upon the proposed amended Code at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors on September 10, 2026, at which all present were given an opportunity to be heard on the proposed amended Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District that the Board of Directors does hereby adopt the proposed amended Conflict of Interest Code, a copy of which is attached hereto and shall be on file with the District Manager, and available to the public for inspection and copying during regular business hours;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said amended Conflict of Interest Code shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside for approval and said Code shall become effective upon the Board of Supervisors' approval of the proposed amended Code as submitted.

APPROVED, SIGNED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

TEMECULA-ELSINORE-ANZA-MURRIETA
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

____
Teri Biancardi
President, Board of Directors
Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta
Resource Conservation District

ATTEST:

____
Newt Parkes
Secretary, Board of Directors
Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta
Resource Conservation District

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
PO Box 2078, Temecula, CA 92593 | (951) 389-3890
www.teamrcd.org

September 10, 2026

California Fire Foundation
Fall Southern, Central & Coastal CA Fire Prevention & Preparedness Grant Program

RE: Board Authorization to Accept Grant Funds

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter confirms that, at its regular board meeting held on September 10, 2026, the Board of Directors of the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (the "District") voted to authorize the District to accept any funds awarded through the California Fire Foundation's 2026 Fall Southern, Central & Coastal CA Fire Prevention & Preparedness Grant Program.

Please contact me at teri.biancardi@teamrcd.org or (951) 389-3890 with any questions regarding this authorization.

Sincerely,

Teri Biancardi
Board President
Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Outlook

Restore California Reclamation Training Initiative: Selection Decision

From Cannabis RFP <cannabisRFP@iercecology.org>
Date Fri 8/28/2026 12:27 PM
Cc imedel <imedel@iercecology.org>

Hello,

I am pleased to let you know that your organization has been selected to participate in the Restore California: Regional Reclamation Training Initiative as a Regional Reclamation Training Team.

We received eleven applications from organizations across the state, and the level of interest was encouraging for the region. Your application and our follow-up conversation stood out, and we are looking forward to working with your team.

Next steps:

Subcontract: Please note that no costs may be incurred before the agreement is fully executed. I will send a draft subcontract agreement for your review in the upcoming days. It will require:

1. a schedule of rates from your organization
2. certificates of insurance naming IERC as an additional insured.

Designated supervisors: Please confirm the names and contact information for your designated supervisors for this training at your earliest convenience so we can begin coordinating directly with them.

Supervisor training: We aim to hold the supervisor training in late October or likely November. I will send out a survey to your designated supervisors to identify a week that works for everyone. Your designated supervisors will need to complete a 40-hour HAZWOPER certification before the supervisor training, along with some background reading and a short questionnaire.

Kickoff Meeting: After subcontract execution, we will coordinate a kickoff call with all supervisors to walk through the training and what to expect.

I will follow up soon with the draft subcontract. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions.

Congratulations, and thank you for your interest, and we look forward to working with you!

Best regards,
IERC Team

****

Ivan Medel, M.S.
Environmental Restoration Program Manager

imedel@IERCecology.org

Office: (707) 668-4030

Mobile: 707-866-1715

Integral Ecology Research Center

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Scientific Research Organization

Dedicated to Conservation Since 2004

Minority and Woman Founded

www.IERCecology.org

Physical Address

239 Railroad Ave, Blue Lake, CA 95525

Mailing Address

PO Box 52, Blue Lake, CA 95525

Governance Briefing: Understanding Our Enabling Legislation

California Public Resources Code, Division 9 — Section 9001

(Amended by Stats. 2022, Ch. 585, Sec. 4. (AB 1902) Effective January 1, 2023.)

(b) The districts, in addition to any other authority provided by law, may do all of the following:

> **(1)** Ensure consistency with the authorities and policies of the United States, this state, counties, cities, public districts, other resource conservation districts, persons, associations, and corporations.
>
> **(2)** With the consent of the owner, construct on privately or publicly owned lands any necessary works for the protection, conservation, restoration, or enhancement of natural resources, the improvement or enhancement of adaptation or resilience to climate change, the mitigation or sequestration of carbon emissions, or the prevention and control of soil erosion and erosion stabilization.
>
> **(3)** Facilitate coordinated resource management efforts for watershed restoration and enhancement.
>
> **(4)** Develop and implement projects and programs for the conservation, enhancement, restoration, adaptation, and resilience of soil, water, and biodiversity and related natural resource conservation.

(c) The districts shall not conserve water for power purposes or produce or distribute power for their own use or for the use of others.

Discussion Questions

1. Relationships open the door, but they don't get us far unless we bring the goods once we're through it. Technical credibility, ground-truthed data, a track record of knowing the land better than anyone else in the room. Where do we think our credibility actually comes from right now, and where are we thinnest?

2. Historically we've leaned on (b)(3) — facilitating and coordinating. But the wildlife crossing, and now the cannabis remediation grant on RCA land, put us squarely in (b)(2) and (b)(4) — direct construction and implementation. That authority was always in the statute; we're just starting to use more of it. Is that a shift we want to lean into, and what does the district need — staff, systems, capacity — to do it well?

Source: California Public Resources Code § 9003, Division 9 (Resource Conservation Districts).

Conservation Technician Update

August 2026

IERC Training

The biggest news this month is that TEAM RCD and SAWA were selected for the IERC training. We had a short list interview where the IERC gathered more detail on our application, our capacity, and how we see this work developing over time, and the offer came through a week later. The training includes the forty hour HAZWOPER certification, and there will be two weeks of training up in Humboldt at the end of October. SAWA is going through it alongside me, which builds on work we are already doing together. I am waiting on the kickoff meeting to learn how the certification piece will be handled and what the rest of the schedule looks like. This is a real capacity gain for the district, both in what I can do in the field and in what we can offer our partners.

Home Hardening and Assessment Program

Assessments have continued steadily and the reporting is streamlined enough now that I can turn reports around shortly after the visit. We are heading toward the end of this grant, and I am tracking the deliverables and the budget closely so that nothing gets left behind in the last stretch. I have drafted a justification for shifting funds within the budget to reflect where the work actually landed. I am also putting together the next advertising push for the coming assessment season.

Regional Priority Plan and Partner Outreach

We have assembled a set of standard information about the Regional Priority Plan, and I have started partner outreach across the district to begin filling the plan out with real projects. Everyone we approach gets the same background material and the same ask, so we are building from a consistent starting point rather than a string of one off conversations. I also attended the RPP advisory council meeting, which was useful for seeing how other groups in the region are handling their own submissions. On the Vibrant Planet side, the files the platform exports are not good enough to send out on their own, so I have shifted to running the demo live in meetings and asking partners to send me shapefiles for any areas they want analyzed. That gets me their critique in real time, which is more useful than a static package anyway.

Flood Control

I put together a site list and spent a day in the field walking the flood control sites, covering the Benton channel, Santa Gertrudis, and the Baker Street area in Lake Elsinore. Getting eyes on all of them in one run made it much easier to think about what each site actually needs and how much work that represents. That is feeding directly into the proposed scope for the coming year. There is a site selection meeting coming up and I would like my recommendations in good shape beforehand.

Looking Ahead

We are planning to apply for a California Fire Foundation grant. If we move forward, the aim is to get more out of each dollar rather than simply doing more, so the assessment work would be pulled back and focused on higher fire risk communities, with ongoing project finding for the Regional Priority Plan and Firewise assistance written into the scope.