

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
August 30, 2012  
Location: RCD Office**

Directors present: Rich Allen, TJ Glauthier, Jim Reynolds  
Staff present: RCD – Kellyx Nelson, Renee Moldovan, Chelsea Moller  
NRCS – Jim Howard  
Guests: none

**1 Call to Order**

- Allen called to order at 6:34 pm.

**2 Introduction of Guests and Staff**

- No guests present.

**3 Public Comment**

- No public comment

**4 Approval of Agenda**

- Glauthier moved to approve the agenda, Reynolds seconded. Agenda passed unanimously.

**5 Discussion Items**

**5.1 Executive Director Report – Kellyx Nelson**

- Brown Act – Since the state is required to reimburse some costs associated with Brown Act compliance of noticing public meetings, yet has never done so, some requirements have been lifted for this fiscal year. We will continue noticing our meetings as usual in the spirit of transparency.
- Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC) – On September 20, 2012 Nelson will present at the annual fall meeting of the BAOSC. The theme of the meeting is about sustaining local foods. Nelson will promote the need to enable agriculture to function as a business.
- Nelson distributed the newsletter of San Mateo County’s Fitzgerald Pollution Reduction Program (Attachment A), to which the RCD is a subcontractor and partner.
- Nelson distributed Notice of Availability for the Ecological Function Project in Pescadero (Attachment B). State Parks have issued a negative declaration for NMFS’ proposal to breach Pescadero Lagoon. An anonymous donor in Pescadero offered to pay for the permit. The NOAA Restoration Center is the lead on this project and State Parks did CEQA.

**6 Action Items**

## 6.1 Recommend approval of Agreement between Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and SMCRCO for Pescadero Integrated Flood Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Project.

- Nelson distributed and reviewed a report that includes a project summary, history, contracting process, timeline, budget, and notes for Board discussion (Attachment C). Due to the large size of the contract it is not included as an attachment to these minutes. The project is to develop 10% conceptual designs to address flooding of Butano Creek on Pescadero Road and implement a juvenile steelhead monitoring program on Pescadero Creek.
- The contract has an outdated timeline because there were many delays in the contracting process. The report includes an updated timeline, and RCD has determined with the grant manager that we are not contractually obligated to follow the outdated timeline.
- The program will no longer include a watershed council. The grant manager approved a quarterly report that stated the watershed council would be removed from the scope of work due to community input. The contract was not amended, as the watershed council was not a separate budget line item and an amendment would be onerous. The grant manager has provided a guarantee that the RCD is not required to convene a watershed council, and has stated that ABAG attorney could issue a letter stating such.
- Payments to RCD are by reimbursement only, and payments will only be made after all match funds have been expended on a particular task. This may be problematic because of cash flow for RCD, and for the biologist on the project who would have to pay \$10,000 up front without reimbursement for multiple years. This provision is under Prop 84 Integrated Regional Watershed Management Program (IRWMP). We are trying to be creative to resolve this issue and ensure everyone working on the project gets reimbursed in a reasonable amount of time.
- This problem could be addressed in the long run by ensuring that the California Association of RCDs (CARCD) is involved in the development of these state level bond programs from the beginning, so that by the time the RFP comes out the expectations and requirements are reasonable.
- Nelson recommends that if the Board approves the Agreement that they do so under the condition that Nelson looks into reallocating \$20,000 and that ABAG have their attorney provide a letter to acknowledge a mistake from Section F of the Project Performance Measures which erroneously lists stream restoration curves as an outcome of the project.
- The State plans to convene a Science Panel to discuss potential solutions to Pescadero Marsh fish kills and flooding on Pescadero Road. Nelson is working with State officials to make sure our project is coordinated with that effort as appropriate.
- Reynolds stated that he thinks this is a step in the right direction, and that the issues at hand are getting more attention and support than they have in a long time.
- Nelson stated that Supervisor Horsley has been instrumental in getting state-level attention focused on this issue.
  - **ACTION: Glauthier moved to approve the Agreement with the caveat that Nelson look into reallocating \$20,000 and direct ABAG to provide a letter from their attorney acknowledging errors in the contract, Reynolds seconded. The Agreement passed unanimously.**

## **6.2 Possible Board action regarding NRCS Field Office of the Future.**

- Nelson distributed a letter from RCDSCC to the NRCS California State Office in response to the Joint Guidance Memo on developing a Field Office of the Future plan, as an example of the type of letter SMCRCRD may want to send (Attachment D).
- Nelson expressed concern about the watering down of the partnership between NRCS and RCDs.
- Howard did not see a clear direction that threatened the RCD/NRCS relationship.
- Nelson stated that CARCD and Central Coast RCDs are very alarmed by this.
- Glauthier suggested that elevating this to a national level may have more of an impact since this seems like it is something being developed at USDA headquarters. If this is being driven by budget concerns a national RCD effort to address this may make an impact.
- Howard feels that we are the field office of the future, we have low costs, RCD pays rent, and we have a high level of interface with customers.
- Nelson will look for a charter document regarding the Field Office of the Future, check in with NACD and CARCD regarding the status of their work on this issue, and see if there are any particular ways they want our Board to get involved.
- Howard also stated that they have a new State Conservationist who is supportive of RCDs. One of his priorities is to have the Assistant State Conservationist to go to Board meetings of RCDs around the state.
- Howard informed the Board that we have hired a new agricultural engineer, Bruce Quintana-Jones, who will attend a Board meeting soon to meet the Directors.

## **6.3 Board consideration of RCD sponsorship of Supervisor Don Horsley's workshop on agriculture in San Mateo County.**

- Nelson distributed a letter from Sup. Horsley requesting SMCRCRD co-sponsorship of his upcoming agricultural workshop (Attachment E)
- RCD is under contract to help organize the workshop.
- Sup. Horsley has asked SMCRCRD, POST, MROSD, San Mateo Food System Alliance (SMFSA), Farm Bureau, Silicon Valley Foundation, and San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau to sponsor the workshop.
- There was a general discussion regarding the changing role of land trusts in agriculture and how SMCRCRD can use our 75 years of experience providing technical assistance to farmers in this county through partnership with land trusts. RCD and the land trusts in this county have unique strengths and skills, so partnering to create something bigger would be more effective than having multiple entities doing redundant work.
- Reynolds moved to sponsor the workshop, Glauthier seconded. RCD sponsorship of Supervisor Don Horsley's workshop on agriculture in San Mateo County passed unanimously.

## **7 Adjourn**

- Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

# Fitzgerald Special Edition



## PROTECTING THE MARINE RESERVE TOGETHER

SUMMER 2012

### LEARN MORE ONLINE:

- See maps of the Reserve, the ASBS, and the pilot projects
- View photos of the Reserve and the incredible sea life there, plus before-during-and-after shots of swale construction
- Read about the Reserve's history
- Find links to more great resources online, local groups, and upcoming events

For all this and more, visit [www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs)

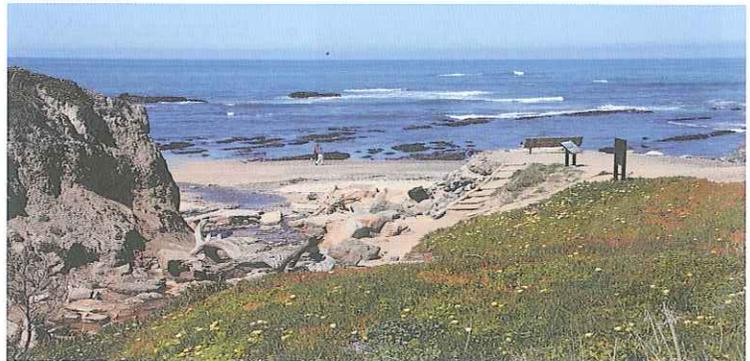
### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Protections	2
Survey link	2
Pollution Reduction	2
Alphabet Soup	3
Vegetated Swales	3
Kids' Corner	4
Events	4

## Partnering to Protect a Special Area

Have you visited the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (Reserve), and felt the ocean breeze, listened to the surf, or enjoyed looking at the birds, seals, tidepool creatures, and surrounding landscape?

It's an area worth protecting; and several different legal structures are in place to help do that (see page 3 article).



The Reserve includes 370 acres of intertidal and subtidal marine habitat below the high tide line and 32 acres of upland coastal bluffs with elevations up to 100 feet. San Mateo County Parks manages the Reserve area beginning 3 miles south from Point Montara to the south end of Pillar Point and 1,000 feet west into the ocean from the mean high tide line. The Department

of Fish and Game has authority below the mean high tide line.

The State Water Resources Control Board oversees the larger Area of Biological Significance (ASBS) that the Reserve fits within.

Because everyday upstream activities may affect the incredible diversity of life within the ASBS, the County is now

partnering with UC Davis, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District on the Fitzgerald ASBS Pollution Reduction Program. Projects through 2015 will focus on keeping stormwater draining to the Reserve from nearby properties as clean as possible.

We need your help too.

## Pollution Prevention Tips

If you visit, live, or work in Moss Beach or Montara, you can help protect the Reserve. How?

By remembering that everything that touches the ground can wash down storm drains to the ocean.

### Tips:

- Garden with non-toxic pesticides and fertilizers
- Take your car to a commercial car wash
- Dispose of motor oil, paint and other chemicals properly
- Keep all dirt from construction projects on your property
- Pick up litter
- Pick up after your pet

Visit [www.flowstobay.org](http://www.flowstobay.org) for more!

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State Water Resources Control Board, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

## How is this Special Area Protected?



Different sets of laws and regulations protect the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and may affect you even when you aren't at the beach.

### On the Shoreline

- Only visit the Reserve between sunrise and sunset
- Don't camp, set fires, or smoke
- No dogs or pets on the beach
- No collecting! Leave pails and nets at home, and shells and other keepsakes on the beach.
- No fishing
- Don't disturb plants or animals
- Don't turn over rocks—the creatures underneath are delicate
- Walk around tidepools, not through them
- Keep 300 feet from harbor seals
- Leave no trace behind

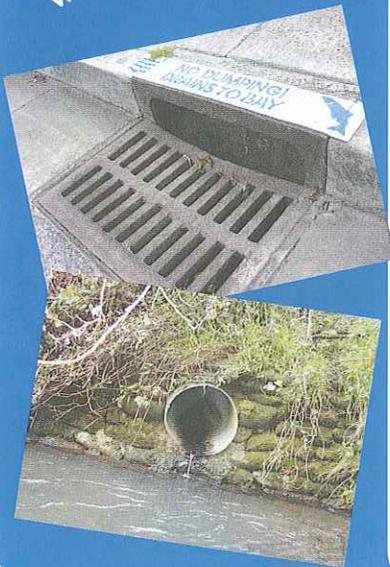
### In Your Neighborhood

If you live upstream from the Reserve, there are steps you can take to make sure that rain, landscape irrigation, or car washing from your property does not impact the Reserve.

Visit [www.flowstobay.org](http://www.flowstobay.org) or [www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs) for more!

Take a quick survey about the Reserve and enter to win prizes!

[www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs)



## Fitzgerald Pollution Reduction Program

Grant funding for this program is being provided by the State Water Resources Control Board. Three projects have already begun: stormwater management pilots, a storm drain inventory, and microbial source tracking study.

### What Filters Best?

A variety of best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater are being installed and tested at ten locations near the Reserve. Vegetated swales and water filter devices are in place now, with a green parking lot makeover planned at

the Reserve.

### Which Storm Drains?

A Storm Drain Inventory and Assessment was recently conducted by BKF Engineers, a local engineering firm. The study involved detailed GPS/GIS mapping and hydraulic modeling of the County storm drain system.

The goal of the study was to identify priority locations within the Reserve and ASBS watershed for installation of storm water filtration BMPs to remove pollutants from storm water and to identify

storm drain locations that are prone to flooding. The report was completed in May 2012 and will be used to help the County select BMP locations for the second phase of the grant.

### What's the Source?

For the Microbial Source Tracking (MST) study, researchers from UC Davis will collect water samples from Martini, Kanoff, Montara, Dean/Sunshine Valley, and San Vicente Creeks. Genetic analysis will help to identify potential sources of fecal contamination (human, dog, bird, cow, or horse).

# What Do All those Letters Stand For?

The James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is an ASBS, part of an MPA, and part of a MS too! So?

**ASBS** stands for **Area of Special Biological Significance**. There are 34 ocean areas along the California coastline designated as an ASBS, which are monitored and maintained for water quality by the [State Water Resources Control Board](#). ASBS cover much of the length of California's coastal waters. They support an unusual variety of aquatic life, and often host unique

individual species. ASBS are basic building blocks for a sustainable, resilient coastal environment and economy.

**MPA** stands for **Marine Protected Area**. California maintains three kinds of MPAs: state marine reserves, state marine parks and state marine conservation areas. They are designated specifically to protect aquatic life, and often are associated with ASBS. MPAs are designated by the [California Department of Fish & Game](#) and the [California Department of Parks and Recreation](#).

**Marine Sanctuaries (MS)** are federally designated areas similar to national parks. They often cover vast areas and offer another layer of special protection for the aquatic life and water within their boundaries. They are managed by the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#). There are four National Marine Sanctuaries off the coast of California. They often are associated with ASBS.

For the full list of native species used in the swales and more photos of all four sites, visit [www.smchealth.org/asbs](http://www.smchealth.org/asbs)

## Vegetated Swales - Beauty in Action

**Problem:** when water runs off of streets, parking lots and sidewalks quickly, it carries all sorts of pollutants to the nearby creeks and ocean with it, and can cause erosion as well.

**Solution?** Create a shallow ditch filled with native plants, called a vegetated swale. The swale will slow down and partially absorb the flow of stormwater, and remove pollutants before they reach the open waters nearby.

As part of the Fitzgerald ASBS Pollution Reduction Program, the County is testing different ways of constructing vegetated swales at four locations in Montara and Moss Beach.

### Ocean Boulevard

The County contracted with Blue Sky Designs to design and install a vegetated swale. In the fall of 2011, gravel, dirt, and non-native plants were replaced with native

Before



After

grass sod.

By this spring, the swale was lush and green, blending in beautifully and doing its work as a filter.

### Juliana Avenue

The County contracted with Go Native to design and install a swale using an under drain system, permeable pavers, and a mix of native plants including grasses and wetland species.

Before



During reconstruction



At work on a rainy March day

# Kids' Corner

## Spotlight on Harbor Seals

### Word Search

H	A	U	L	O	U	T	Z	A	W
B	R	O	T	J	H	U	E	X	A
M	P	I	M	V	C	F	V	K	T
A	N	Q	S	E	A	L	G	W	E
M	H	X	W	B	L	I	T	S	R
M	Y	P	I	U	D	P	U	P	I
A	O	Z	M	G	Y	P	T	O	L
L	F	O	R	A	G	E	F	T	Q
C	E	S	D	N	J	R	K	S	X
S	A	L	M	O	N	W	R	F	M



Seals catching some rays

### FUN FACTS

**How big are they?**  
From 4 to 6 feet long, and up to 310 pounds

**What do they eat?**  
Rockfish, cod, herring, flounder, and salmon

**Where do they sleep?**  
They can sleep under water (coming up for air every 30 minutes); but they like to doze in safe spots on land, called haulouts.

### Can you find these?

Seal, flipper, pup, forage, water, haulout, salmon, swim, spots, mammal



### Quick Quiz

What should I do if I find a seal pup alone at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, or on any beach?

- A. Take it home
- B. Sing it a song
- C. Keep your distance
- D. Take a photo

For the right answer, check the bottom of this page

## 2012 Coastside Events

### Half Moon Bay July 4th Parade

Dress as your favorite tidepool creature!  
with [Friends of Fitzgerald Reserve](#)

### Coastal Cleanup Day Sept 15

Pitch in to pick up litter at Mirada Surf or another Coastside beach.  
Visit [flowstobay.org](#) for full details

### Pumpkin Festival Parade Oct 13

Dress as your favorite tidepool creature!  
with [Friends of Fitzgerald Reserve](#)

### Stewardship Work Parties

First Saturdays and third Wednesdays, May through August.  
Organized by [Coastside Land Trust](#)



Rangers unlock tidepool secrets

### Workshop August 25

#### Protecting Coastal Watersheds

(Residential low impact development — LID)  
Cypress Meadows 10 am - 1pm  
343 Cypress Avenue, Moss Beach

Five focus areas:

1. Bioswales and Rain Gardens
2. Pervious Pavements and Permeable Pavers
3. Irrigation and Pesticide Use
4. Rainwater Harvesting and Gray Water Reuse
5. LID Features for Small Projects and MRP Requirements

Check online for additional events in your area  
[www.smchealth.org/asbs](#)

**Quiz Answer: C - stay back! Its mother is off finding food; and it needs to rest.**

## Attachment B

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION PESCADERO STATE BEACH FOR THE ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION PROJECT

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has directed the preparation of, and intends to adopt a Negative Declaration for, the proposed project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

**Project Location:** Pescadero State Beach, San Mateo County, California

**Description of the Proposed Project:**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks) proposes to issue a Right of Entry permit to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center to conduct the proposed Lagoon Ecological Function Project at Pescadero State Beach. The NOAA Restoration Center, in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, propose to manually breach the Pescadero lagoon sand bar up to two times between September 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012. The work will consist of excavating a channel through the sandbar at the mouth of Pescadero Creek using hand tools. The channel for the breach, which will extend from the ocean to the edge of the lagoon, will measure approximately 75 feet long, three feet wide and 1-foot below the lagoon water surface elevation. This project is an attempt to maintain sufficient water quality in the lagoon and reduce the likelihood of a fish kill during the natural breaching of the lagoon.

**Public Review Period:**

An Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared by California State Parks evaluating the potential environmental effects of this project proposal. It is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 20 days, beginning August 16, 2012.

Your views and comments on this project are welcomed. Written comments should be submitted to the following address:

Victor S. Roth  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
303 Big Trees Park Road  
Felton, CA 95018  
FAX (831) 335-6395

Copies of the Initial Study/Negative Declaration may be reviewed at the following locations during normal business hours:

Half Moon Bay State Beach  
95 Kelly Avenue  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

California Department of Parks & Recreation  
Santa Cruz District Hq.  
303 Big Trees Park Road  
Felton, CA 95018

Half Moon Bay Library  
620 Correas Street  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

California Department of Parks & Recreation website <http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

## Attachment C

### Pescadero Integrated Flood Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Project

#### Notes for August 30, 2012 Meeting of RCD Board of Directors

##### Project Summary

This project will develop 10% conceptual designs to develop a solution or solutions to the flooding problems on Pescadero Road at Butano Creek and implement a juvenile salmonid monitoring program on Pescadero Creek that will provide information on the steelhead and coho salmon populations for ongoing restoration efforts.

##### History

- Spring/ Summer 2009: The RCD was contacted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board about the grant opportunity and worked with PMAC to submit a concept proposal on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Spring 2010: RCD worked with PMAC and other Pescadero residents to provide supporting materials for grant.
- October 2010: Bay Area IRWMP approved the project to be included in their grant application.
- November 2010: Submitted full proposal forms with input from PMAC.
- July 2012: Received contract for RCD Board approval
- October 2010- current: Extensive coordination and rescoping with stakeholders. Leveraged additional funds, including: (1) \$40K granted by the National Marine Fisheries Service to collect data for a hydrologic model; (2) \$19,655 and technical assistance through the USFWS Coastal Program for planning, developing, and assessing design alternative (s) that maximize habitat restoration and sediment management best practices while sustainably solving road flooding problems associated with lower Butano Creek; and (3) a commitment by San Mateo County to conduct an engineering study on dredging alternatives.

##### Contracting process

DWR → BACWA → ABAG → RCD

Proposition 84 funds for Integrated Regional Water Management are administered through the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR contracted with Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) as the fiscal entity for the \$30+ million awarded to projects listed in the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). It is administratively burdensome for BACWA to manage all of the contracts for smaller projects, so they subcontracted to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)'s San Francisco Estuary Project (SFEP). ABAG's SFEP then contracts with the RCD.

##### Timeline

August 2011- September 2016. The RCD can bill for work back to August 2011. We have already submitted two quarterly reports but no invoices because we are not under contract yet. The contract expires September 30, 2016. A *draft anticipated* work program timeline is as follows:

## Attachment C

- September 2012: Convene advisory group for flood reduction project, including 2 at-large representatives of the Pescadero community, one member of PMAC, resource agencies, and the County. Enter into contracts with biologists for fish monitoring project.
- November/ December 2012: Distribute RFP for consultants for flood reduction designs.
- January/ February 2013: Select and contract with consultants for flood reduction designs.
- February 2013- June 2015: Consultants work on flood reduction designs.
- March- May 2013 and 2014: Fish trapping and monitoring

### Budget

<b>Task</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1. Project Administration	\$47,460		\$47,460	Desire to reallocate \$20,000 for watershed council coordination to Task 2 for consultant design to address flooding.
3. Planning/ Design	\$58,500	\$3,840	\$62,340	Match provided by biologist for permitting. Grant funding for consultant design work for flooding. Hope for \$20K more.
4. Implementation	\$113,350	\$32,940	\$146,290	Fish trapping and monitoring. Match from volunteer hours.
<b>Total</b>	\$219,310	\$36,780	\$256,090	1. Bringing in additional match and leveraged funds through NMFS, USFWS, and County. 2. 14% match because other match found in other part of Bay Area.

### Notes for Board discussion

1. Payment is by reimbursement and only after all match has been expended on a particular task. This will be challenging for RCD cash flow and more so for subcontracting biologists doing fish monitoring.
2. The Budget Contingency Clause on page 136 of the State Agreement includes the now typical language in state funding agreements that the state will not have to pay until they have funds available. This opens the RCD to some risk.
3. The State will retain 5% of all payments until successful project completion until January 2016 and 10% thereafter. Retention is standard in state contracts but can also pose a cash flow issue.
4. The Scope of Work in the contract still includes a watershed council. The grant manager approved a quarterly report that stated the watershed council would be removed from the scope of work due to community input. The contract was not amended, as the watershed council was not a separate budget line item and an amendment would be onerous. The grant manager has provided a guarantee that the RCD is not required to convene a watershed council.
5. Reallocating \$20K from Task 1 Administration for the RCD to Task 2 Planning and Design for the flood reduction may be challenging. Reallocation of funds over 10% would require a contract amendment. It is not clear if the threshold is 10% of the project or 10% of a line item. RCD staff

## Attachment C

recommends that, if the Board accepts the contract, the Board directs staff to pursue the possibility of reallocating \$20K from Task 1 to Task 2.

A contract amendment is challenging because it would have to go up through BACWA and DWR. Payments are withheld on a project while an amendment is considered, which can take months. BACWA and recipients of the IRWM P Prop 84 funds would be extremely hesitant to hold up payments on \$30M of projects for our \$20K line item adjustment, and it would take a great deal of bureaucratic work.

6. Attachment 6, Project Performance Measures, Section F of the contract erroneously lists stream restoration curves as an outcome of the project. The grant manager confirms that this will not be required because it is not a task in the scope of work or a deliverable in the scope of work. If the Board needs more guarantee that the RCD is relieved of this obligation ABAG has offered to have their attorney provide a letter.



June 19, 2012

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Attn: Jim Kocsis  
California State Office  
430 G Street, Room 4164  
Davis, CA 95616

RE: Guidance on developing a Field Office of the Future Vision at the local level

Dear Jim,

In response to the Joint Guidance Memo on developing a Field Office of the Future plan, we would like to provide the following feedback from the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County Board of Directors. Thank you in advance for the opportunity to comment.

The RCD of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC) views the Field Office of the Future as the field office of the past. We would like to see a re-focus on the origin of our two organizations and the strong partnership that has existing between us for the past 70 years. Conservation Districts were created to help direct federal services within each community to more effectively address resource impairments which can vary dramatically within states and certainly within the country. Over the past decade, we have seen a strong shift from meeting the needs of our county through the direction and focus of Farm Bill. In Santa Cruz, we have great need for NRCS services beyond agricultural land, including erosion reduction from rural roads, manure management from horse facilities, and wetland and riparian restoration with local landowners. We recognize that the Field Office of the Future must look different for each county to adequately meet local resource needs.

For example, while the Farm Bill has been extremely sought after as a resource in the Central Valley, in Santa Cruz County our landowners are more likely to implement conservation with the offer of technical assistance rather than the offer of cost share. This is in large part due to the rigorous application process with both NRCS and Farm Services Agency. In addition, we have seen a decrease in the amount of CTA available for both District Conservationists and Soil Conservationist to provide services to both private landowners and to assist the RCDSCC.

The RCDSCC Board of Directors strongly requests that the State Conservationist be given the opportunity to direct CTA and Farm Bill dollars across the state in a way that most efficiently gets conservation on the ground. We suggest that DC's and SC's be given less administrative tasks to allow them to spend more time in the field building relationships with local landowners and to support RCD efforts. To adequately respond to resource conservation priorities at the local level, it is imperative that the State Conservationist is given more flexibility in funding allocations. There are many opportunities to leverage funding and achieve high value conservation outcomes. We hope to see NRCS working with RCD's to better position technical assistance and resources in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim McKenna", is written over a horizontal line.

Jim McKenna, President

# *DON HORSLEY*

Board of Supervisors  
County of San Mateo

August 9, 2012

Kellyx Nelson  
Executive Director  
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District  
625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103  
Half Moon Bay, California 94019

Dear Kellyx,

I am writing to request that San Mateo County Resource Conservation District co-sponsor an agricultural workshop which the County of San Mateo is hosting. This event will provide an opportunity for the agricultural community to come together in a learning forum. The event will be held on Thursday, November 29, at the I.D.E.S. Hall in Half Moon Bay. We are still working to finalize the agenda, but we have set a few goals we would like to achieve. They are as follows:

- Bring together San Mateo County's diverse agricultural stakeholders
- Build bridges between the various segments of the agricultural community
- Provide information on statewide and county trends, and local land research, particularly related to keeping land in or returning land to agricultural production
- Explore tools that would keep land in or return land to agricultural production
- Gather feedback from the agricultural community about ways that current landholders, agricultural operators, advocacy organizations, and the county can contribute to retaining land in San Mateo County in productive agriculture

The San Mateo County Resource Conservation District will be listed as a co-sponsor on all material including the invitation, the agenda, and any report-out data. The San Mateo County Resource Conservation District will be recognized on the day of the event as a co-sponsor. We hope that the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District staff could join us at this workshop. We would also be happy to set up a table for you to profile your work.

In order to insure that our invitations can recognize your support, please respond to this letter and provide your logo for me by September 1, 2012. Thank you for considering this request. I will have Sarah Rosendahl, from my office follow up with you in the event that you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Don Horsley  
Supervisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Vice President, Board of Supervisors



---

County Government Center  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

---

Direct (650) 363-4569  
Coastside (650) 573-2222  
Fax (650) 363-1856