

**DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 16, 2020
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Via Zoom Teleconference**

Directors present: Barbara Kossy, TJ Glauthier, Adrienne Etherton

RCD staff present: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Adria Arko, Sheena Sidhu, Kasey Butler

NRCS staff present: Jim Howard

1. Call to Order

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Glauthier moved to approve the agenda, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introductions of Guests and Staff

No introductions were needed.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Consent Agenda

- Kossy requested the March 26, 2020 minutes specify that she called the meeting to order and, as best practice continue to include that information as part of administrative record for meetings.
- Etherton moved to approve the consent agenda as amended, Glauthier seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 The Board will consider adopting Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Third Quarter Financial Statements.

- Discussion included RCD spending lower than budgeted, operating reserve, significant recent donations, and the difference between operating expenses and total expenses was that total expenses include pass through expenses.
- Glauthier moved to adopt Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Third Quarter Financial Statements, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.2 Reports about COVID-19 planning and response (Kellyx Nelson)

- The decade spent building a reserve is paying off. She noted the following:
 1. Uncertainty around potential bond freeze and/or stop work orders.
 2. The Cutting Green Tape Initiative is a nexus as California looked to get people back to work at lower costs.

3. The RCD is prepared to weather the current storm, but the downstream effects remain unknown. The RCD is bracing for pulses of COVID-19.
 4. RCD staff still have two staff meetings a week: one focused on COVID-19 and the other a regular staff meeting in which COVID-19 items are often discussed.
 5. Staff is developing solutions for safe field work, virtual outreach, and IT issues for an entirely remote workforce.
 6. The National Association of Conservation Districts and California Special Districts Association are leading advocacy efforts that might help RCDs receive federal relief.
 7. Nelson and Glauthier had submitted letters to Senators Feinstein and Harris and Representative Speier requesting financial relief for RCDs.
 8. The RCD staff, a close-knit group, is finding it hard to be apart.
- Directors and staff discussed impacts on contracts for this construction season, ability to access properties, keeping staff employed by cross training during the hiring freeze and working on deferred administrative projects, Newsom opening the economy and the opportunity to prioritize our work as part of a “green economy,” and the County’s budget and impacts on the RCD.
 - Glauthier asked Howard what he had heard at the national level. Howard explained that his office was dubbed essential therefore allowed to remain open and he had been working on new procedures to keep his working moving forward.

6.3 Directors’ Reports

- Glauthier reported that Lenny Mendoza had resigned from the Governor’s Office and that the San Mateo Harbor District’s Commission had put off consideration of the RCD’s contract for another month.
- Etherton reported that the Sustainable San Mateo County Awards had been postponed until July 10, 2020. She had purchased a table for the RCD Board and staff and requested Nelson extend the invite to staff. She asked Nelson if the RCD’s Strategic Planning Committee would be moving forward; Nelson explained it had been put on hold until there was a better financial picture. The Communications Strategic Plan was also on hold.
- Kossy reported she had been attending various Zoom meetings that seemed relevant to the RCD. She also noted, as the host of the California Invasive Plant Community on Facebook, that approximately 15 people were joining a day as people were spending more time in their garden, neighborhood and community. She hoped RCDs could take advantage of the new way in which people are appreciating their environment. Arko stated that her programs had been brainstorming that idea. Etherton stated that the City of Brisbane was hosting an earth month program; encouraging residents to pull invasives from their yards since Earth Day activities had been canceled.
- Glauthier asked Nelson if the White Paper for the Cutting Green Tape Initiative would still be released on Earth Day (April 22, 2020). Nelson explained that it would be delayed.

6.4 NRCS Report (Jim Howard)

- He is continuing to roll out new programs, including three contracts including rangeland and integrated poultry & vegetation support.
- He noted how fortunate it was that NRCS had worked with most of their customers for long enough that he was familiar with their operations and their land and was able to keep money flowing to them.

6.5 Presentation about the RCD's climate and agriculture programs by Adria Arko, Climate and Agriculture Programs Manager & Agricultural Ombudsman. (see attached)

- Discussion included:
 - the definition of silvopasture (livestock grazing under a tree canopy, primarily done with trees that would be harvested for lumber).
 - the scale of calculations of carbon sequestration from carbon farming- individual farm level as well as aggregating for regional or statewide impact and potential via Carbon Cycle Institute and California Association of RCDs.
 - sources of funding for development and implementation of carbon farm plans
 - the high level of interest among local farmers for carbon farm plans.

6.6 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

1.3. Discussion about whether to include as a standing agenda item

- Directors, staff, and NRCS partner discussed bringing more intention to DEI regarding recruitment, hiring, projects, how the RCD thinks about its constituents and community, and the fact that staff had created an internal team to focus on DEI.
- It was decided to create a standing agenda item for 6 months to see how it goes.

2.3. Discussion about whether to begin meetings with land acknowledgement

- There was discussion about connecting with local indigenous people to make sure that if we do this we do it right. Nelson will follow up.
- This item will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

7 Adjourn Meeting

Kossy adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Our Climate and Agriculture Programs

Presentation to the Board of Directors
April 16, 2020



Sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions, build resiliency for adaptation



Build agricultural resiliency and provide a tool to be a part of the climate solution



Increase soil water holding capacity and water conservation, and improve water quality



Enhance wildlife habitat



Reduce fuel loads

Conservation and Carbon Farm Plans

Conservation Plans

- USDA NRCS's Conservation Planning process
- Site specific
- Comprehensive assessment of natural resources
- Holistic recommendations for conservation



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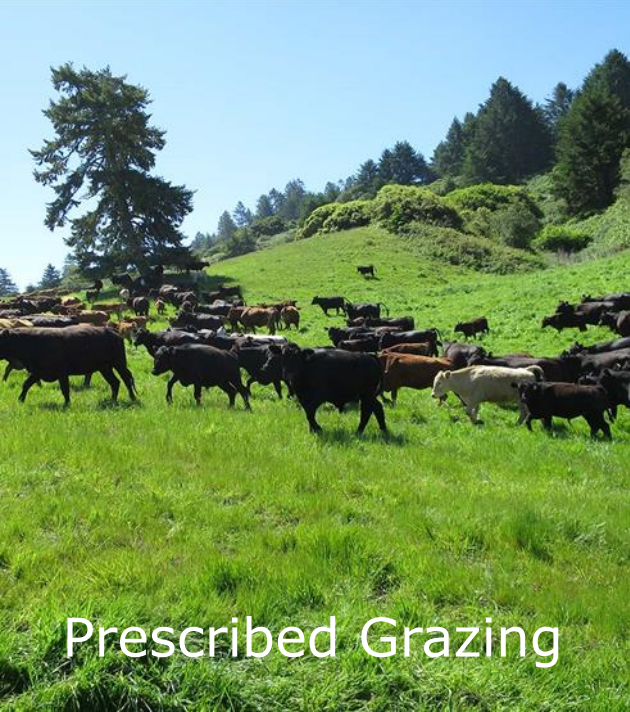
Carbon Farm Plans

- Store carbon in soils and vegetation
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Quantify CO₂e reduction/sequestration









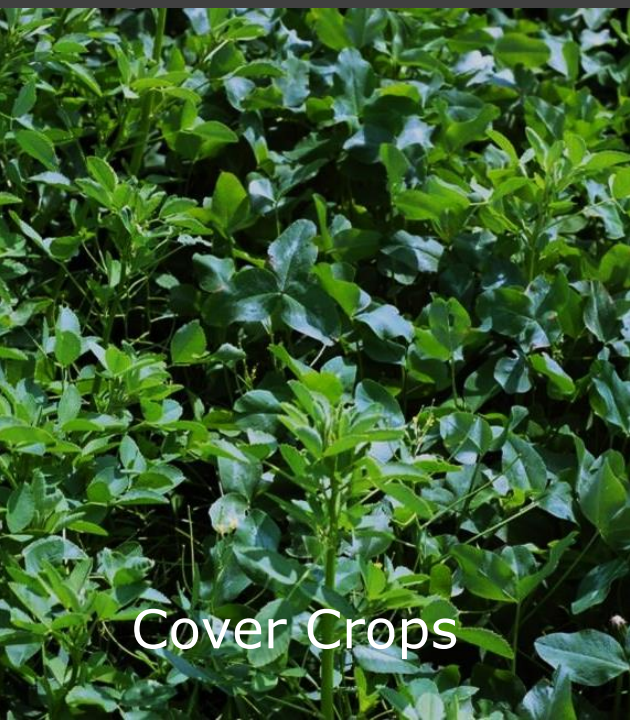
Prescribed Grazing



Woody Plants



Energy and water efficiency



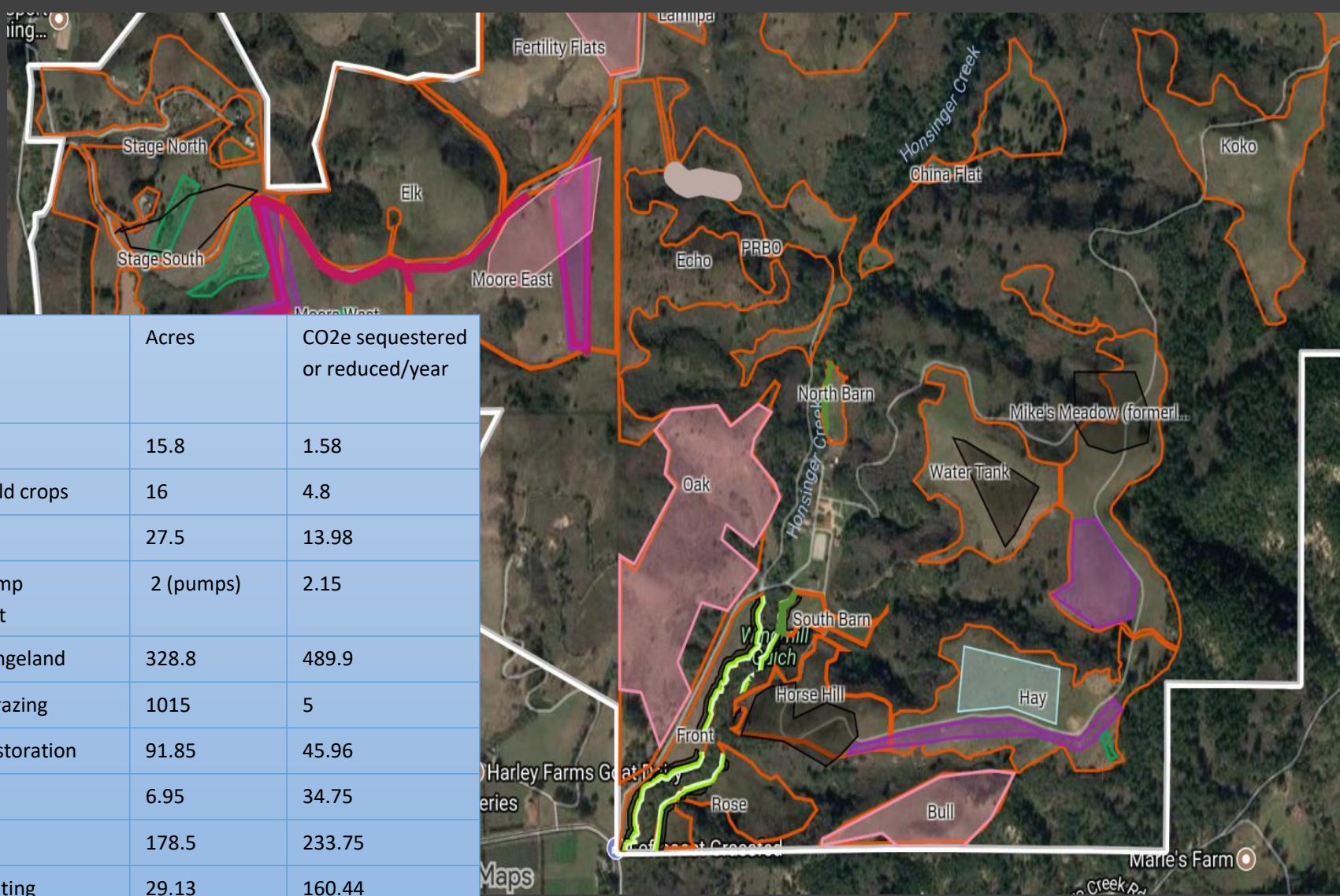
Cover Crops



Compost



Grassland Restoration



| | Acres | CO2e sequestered or reduced/year |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Reduced till | 15.8 | 1.58 |
| Compost- field crops | 16 | 4.8 |
| Cover Crop | 27.5 | 13.98 |
| Irrigation pump improvement | 2 (pumps) | 2.15 |
| Compost- rangeland | 328.8 | 489.9 |
| Prescribed grazing | 1015 | 5 |
| Grassland restoration | 91.85 | 45.96 |
| Hedgerow | 6.95 | 34.75 |
| Silvopasture | 178.5 | 233.75 |
| Riparian planting | 29.13 | 160.44 |
| Riparian restoration | 16.58 | 33.16 |



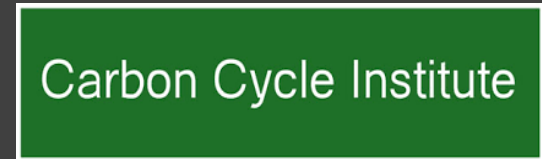
9 plans completed in San Mateo County
1,240 tonnes CO2e annually

268 cars on the road for one year

3.08 million miles driven

143 homes energy use for one year

Carbon Farming Partners



Farmers, ranchers and landowners!



Rangeland Compost Field Trial



Local Compost Source Feasibility Study



Photo credit: Cornell University

Brussels Sprouts and Eucalyptus Compost Trial



Equestrian Manure Technical Assistance

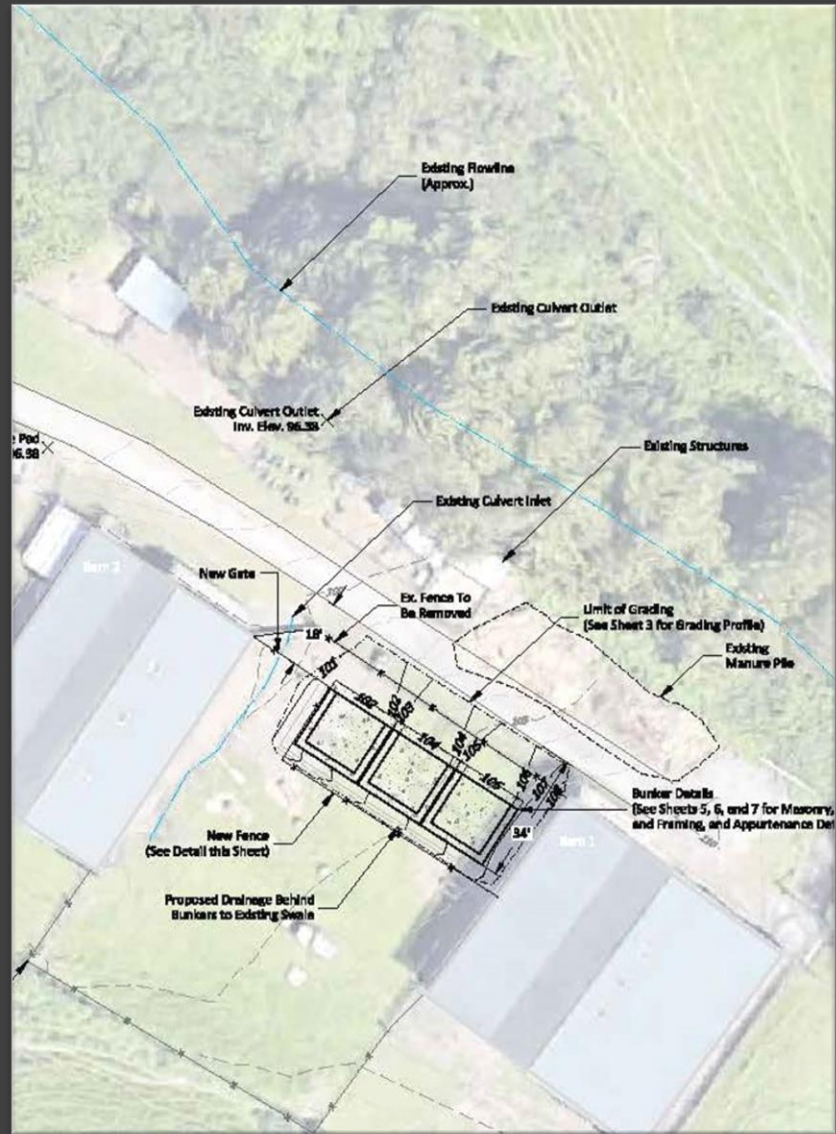


Photo credit: San Mateo County Parks

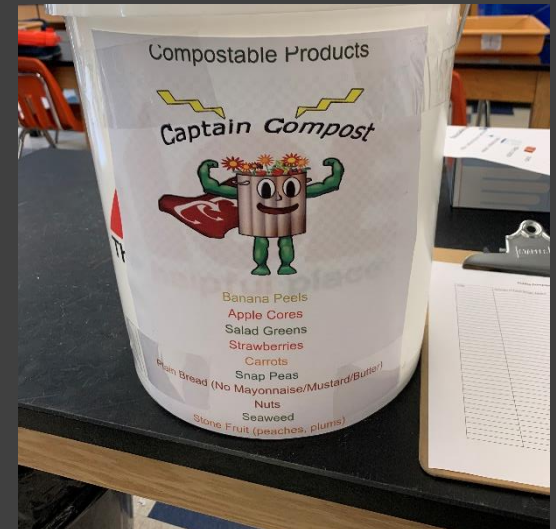
Elkus Ranch Manure Bunker Project



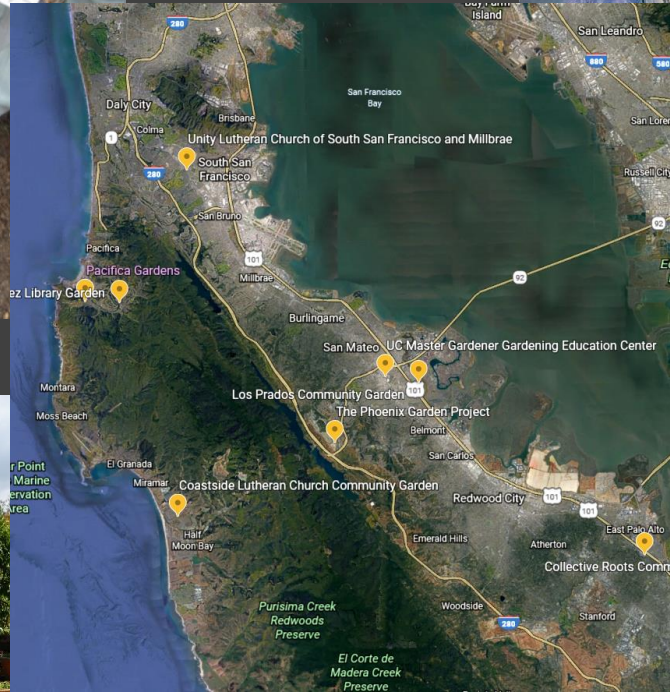
Photo credit: NRCS



Cunha Middle School Composting Demonstration Project



Urban Farming



Climate Planning

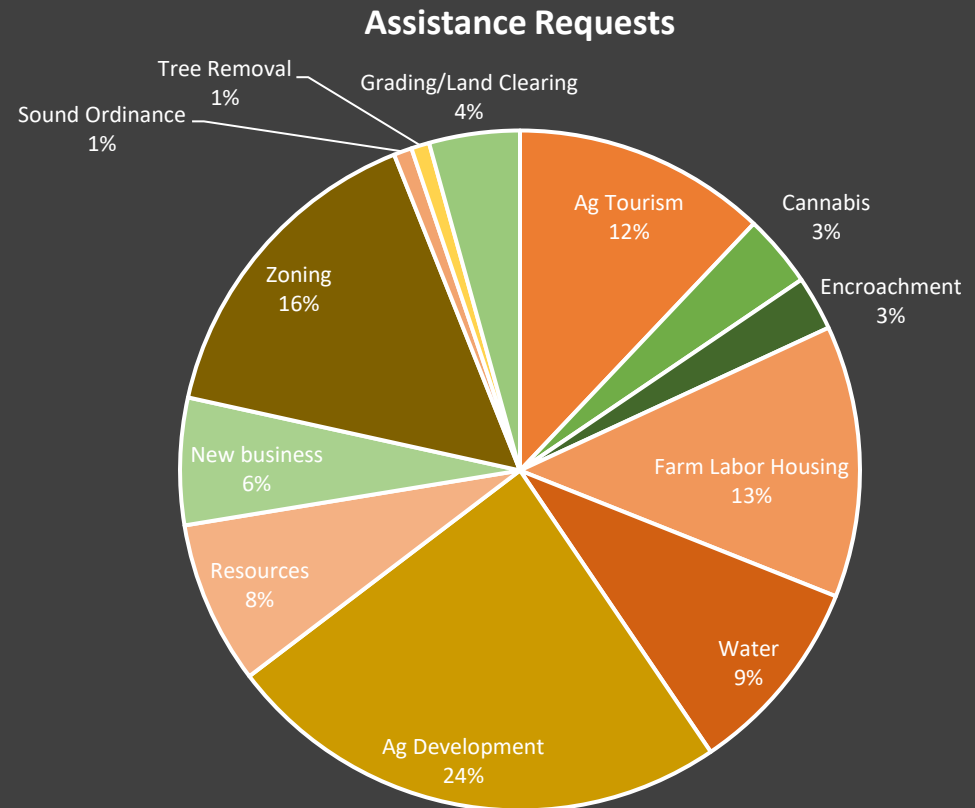
- Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment for the South Coast
- Climate Action Planning



Agricultural Ombudsman

Technical assistance
Collaborations

- Newsletter
- Handouts
- Webpage
- Regulatory Improvements



Collaborating for Broader Impact



- “Soil Health Coordinator Calls”
- Carbon Farming Network
- San Mateo County Food System Alliance
- Greater Bay Area Carbon Farming Hub



Thank you!

Adria Arko

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Funding Implementation

NRCS EQIP

CDFA Healthy Soils Program

- Grant to help producers with this program

Zero Food Print

Carbon markets - ?

State and federal grants - ?

