

California Conservation Planning Partnership- C2P2

Fact Sheet to Support the MOA & Technical Assistance Effort



Goal

A Memorandum of Agreement to formalize collaboration between four key partners has been developed to support the conservation goals of California’s agricultural producers, private, nonindustrial forest managers, and Tribes through locally led technical assistance. Working together, the partners will utilize their individual strengths to provide a coordinated approach and consistent service to customers to address the enormous natural resource challenges throughout California.

Background

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR), and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recognize that their efforts and programs contribute to many shared values and that technical assistance for conservation planning is a critical element of those values. As members of the conservation community, we can help strengthen the outcomes of this effort by understanding the goals and actions that will get us there.

Key Messages

- Four primary partners are collaborating to increase the effectiveness of their individual, yet complementary services.
- Aligning efforts will result in better utilization of what each partner brings to the table
- Customers will experience streamlined assistance instead of navigating the processes of multiple organizations on their own.



- This model is already occurring in several locations throughout the state and these success stories can be replicated through this formalized arrangement. It’s a combination of resources that is known to benefit customers and take land management to the next level.
- The MOA clarifies each organization’s contributions towards providing quality Technical Assistance to landowners and land-managers through voluntary services and programs.

Outreach

Public awareness of the full range of services is critical to the success of these efforts.

Partners will individually and collaboratively increase efforts to ensure potential customers are aware of the range of available, as well as future, opportunities.

The outreach strategies will target Historically Underserved customers and Tribes, as inclusion and equity are a priority for each of the contributing organizations.

Other organizations that would like to collaborate are encouraged to join this effort.

The MOA is a starting point, and we recognize that many other resources are available that would enhance the experience and outcomes for customers.



Unique Partner Contributions

Each of the four partners in the MOA are committed to improving the natural resources within California through the voluntary efforts of landowners and land-managers.

CDFA: Policy and Funding Support for Cropping Systems and Conservation

- Provide a number of [funding opportunities](#) for producers that can be used in conjunction with USDA Farm Bill programs.
- Offer robust [resources and information for farmers and ranchers](#) on a range of issues and questions, from selling at farmers' markets to food safety regulations.
- Employ team of Climate Smart Agriculture [Community Educator Specialists](#) in collaboration with UCANR, who can educate producers on climate smart agricultural practices.

CARCD and Local RCDs: Outreach on Conservation and Leveraging Resources

- Provides funding, support and technical assistance on the ground
- Holds educational events and community support
- Completes on the ground projects to support conservation and community.
- Partners locally to ensure a commitment to local conservation
- Coordinates funding amongst local, state, federal and private entities

UCANR Research and Outreach: Cropping Systems and Conservation Practices

- Robust system of producer outreach and education staff.
- [Cooperative extension offices](#) are in every county, with [advisors](#) that work with farmers to implement efficient growing methods, solve pest management issues, and develop water-smart strategies.
- A team of [Small Farm Advisors](#) is devoted to supporting small farmers.
- Research targeted to serve producers' needs, spread across [six focus areas](#).

NRCS: Conservation Planning and Implementation Funding

- Works in close partnerships with producers and foresters, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes, through [several key programs](#).
- Delivers practical, site-specific solutions based on sound science and proven research that produces on-farm results and off-farm public benefits, such as clean water, safe air, and healthy plant and animal populations.

