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RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT RELEASES 15-YEAR IMPACT REPORT SHOWING REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN CONSERVATION

(Half Moon Bay, CA- [September 6, 2023]) - The San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) announces the release of its comprehensive 15-year impact report, "Helping People Help the Land: a 15 year review (2007-2022)." It showcases the RCD's efforts to protect the environment and help ensure sustainable, resilient local communities. The report highlights how the RCD has helped provide clean, reliable water for people, farms, and wildlife; restored habitat for endangered species; removed greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; reduced the risk of catastrophic wildfire, flooding, drought, and other natural disasters; and helped ensure viable agriculture for a sustainable food system.

The report demonstrates the RCD's commitment to conservation and benefits to the community. Some key accomplishments in the report include:

- Restoring over 1,500 acres of wetland, forest grassland, and riparian habitats (equivalent to 1.5 times the size of Golden Gate Park);
- Annually conserving and storing the amount of water used by half the population of the south coast region;
- Monitoring and remediating water pollution at local creeks and beaches;
- Helping 1,861 homes in 19 communities create defensible space for wildfire resilience;
- Removing dams to open up 118 miles of creeks for salmon and steelhead trout, species at risk of extinction, to migrate and spawn;
- Helping farms draw down more than 6,330 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (equivalent to nearly 16 million miles of vehicle emissions); and
- Mitigating natural disasters as well as helping people and lands recover from wildfires, drought, flooding, and erosion.

Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director, said, "The release of our 15-year impact report represents a significant milestone in our organization's rich 85-year history. We are immensely proud of how this work has achieved transformative outcomes with lasting benefits for everyone in San Mateo County thanks to our collaborative partners, stellar staff, and devoted volunteers. This report not only showcases achievements but also highlights the continued need for collective action to protect and preserve our natural resources."

The report shows the RCD's pivotal role in ensuring reliable water supplies for farms, wildlife, and communities in the region. In the face of drought and limited water resources, the RCD has implemented strategic measures to conserve, manage, and store water. The report reveals the creation of 146 acre-feet* of storage capacity, ensuring reliable water supplies for agricultural operations, recreational areas, and residential needs alike, while mitigating threats to endangered species.

A testament to the RCD's commitment to supporting local agriculture, the report highlights the support provided to 107 urban and rural farms and ranches, as well as 29 equestrian operations, in achieving their conservation goals. Through the provision of technical expertise and financial assistance, the RCD has empowered these environmental stewards, ensuring the conservation of water and soil while fostering a diverse and thriving food system.

The RCD invites all stakeholders, partners, and community members to explore "Helping People Help the Land: a 15 year review (2007-2022)," which is available in English and Spanish on the RCD's website [www.sanmateoRCD.org/15-years].

About the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD): The San Mateo Resource Conservation District, established in 1939, is a local hub for conservation, helping the people of San Mateo County build a more thriving natural environment for all. The district provides comprehensive, non-regulatory services to protect, conserve, and restore natural resources in partnership with land managers, technical advisors, area jurisdictions, government agencies, and others. For more information visit www.sanmateoRCD.org.

* Note: An acre-foot is the volume of water required to cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot, approximately 326,000 gallons.

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