

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday January 19, 2023
4:00 – 6:00 pm

The meeting will be held remotely via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89675733636>

If you are using a computer or other device to join the meeting, you may click [here](#). A computer video camera is not required to participate. If you do not have access to a computer or internet during this meeting, or if your computer does not have audio, you can call in by phone: (669) 900-6833 and enter the meeting ID: 896 7573 3636 when prompted.

<p>1. Call to Order</p>
<p>2. Approval of Agenda</p>
<p>3. Introduction of Guests and Staff</p>
<p>4. Public Comment- The Board will hear comments on items that are not on the agenda. The Board cannot act on an item unless it is an emergency as defined under Government Code §54954.2.</p>
<p>5. Consent Agenda The Board of Directors approves:</p> <p>5.1. December 15, 2022 Draft Regular Minutes</p> <p>5.2. Resolution 2023-1: Adopting the San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan October 2019 Update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Documents: Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan <p>The Board of Directors receives into record:</p> <p>5.3. August 15, 2022 Mountain View Voice article, "Pescadero' s farmworkers can't afford the food they're growing on the Peninsula."</p> <p>5.4. November 22, 2022 The Six Fifty article, "The mysterious case of the SF Peninsula's poop-polluted beaches."</p> <p>5.5. January 12, 2023 County of San Mateo article, "The Top 12 of '22"</p>
<p>6. Regular Agenda</p> <p>6.1. Board, staff and guests will discuss the series of severe storms since late December, including: damage that has been observed and reported, how impacts from the August 2020 CZU Lightning Complex fires compounded storm impacts, how the RCD and partners are responding, effectiveness of the Butano Channel Reconnection Project in reducing flooding, and ongoing nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk. Discussion will begin with presentation by Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director.</p> <p>6.2. Board will consider allocation of 2022 earnings for eligible employees to the Employer Sponsored 401K Plan.</p> <p>6.3. Directors' connection and reports</p>
<p>7. Adjourn Meeting</p> <p>The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be February 16, 2023.</p>

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular board meeting are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time as they are distributed to all members, or a majority of the members of the Board.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 19, 2023
via Zoom teleconference**

Directors: Barbara Kossy, Adrienne Etherton, Steve Stielstra, Michelle Weil, Rudy Espinoza-Murray

Associate Directors: John Wade

RCD staff: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Amy Kaeser, Timothy Federal, David Cowman, Stephanie MacDonald, Joe Issel, Jarrad Fisher, Kasey Butler, Adria Arko, Christina Kelleher, Erica Harris, Noah Katz, Andrew Hall

NRCS staff: Jim Howard, Dillon Beatty

Guests: Michael Barber (Office of Supervisor Dave Pine), Barbara Dye, Troy Pittock, Andy Lagow, TJ Glauthier, Setenay Frucht (Regional Water Quality Control Board), Nicholas Hargas (Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo), Casey Dunn, Greg Dieguez (Midcoast Community Council), Rob Skinner (Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council), Jayne Battey (Miramar Farms, Regional Water Quality Control Board), Melinda MacNaughton, Wendy Wardell, Len Erikson, Bill Johnson (Regional Water Quality Control Board), Lennie Roberts (Green Foothills), Coastways Ranch, Ron Sturgeon, Matt Switzer, Karen Allanson, Stephanie Hudson, Helen Wolter (Office of CA Senator Josh Becker), George O. Kolombatovich, Colin Martorana (OneShoreline), Lisa Ketchum, Mark Biaggi (TomKat Ranch), Mekena Wong (OneShoreline), Troy Guy, Timothy Hudson, Larry Jacobs (Jacobs Farms), Thomas _____, NBC Bay Area

1. Call to Order

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Etherton moved to approve the agenda, Stielstra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introductions of Guests and Staff

All in attendance introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Consent Agenda

- Nelson noted that published media shared under this agenda item are informational and does not imply accuracy or endorsement of the content of any particular article.
- **ACTION:** Espinoza-Murray moved to approve the consent agenda, Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Regular Agenda

6.1 Board, staff and guests will discuss the series of severe storms since late December, including: damage that has been observed and reported, how impacts from the August 2020 CZU Lightning Complex fires compounded storm impacts, how the RCD and partners are responding, effectiveness of the Butano

Channel Reconnection Project in reducing flooding, and ongoing nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk. Discussion will begin with presentation by Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director. (Presentation below)

- Biaggi shared successes at TomKat Ranch using logs to repair gullies in an attempt to eliminate fuel, promote healthy pastures and provide erosion control.
- There was discussion about dealing with the biomass coming out of the logjams:
 - RCD brought in a carbonator to convert the wood to biochar that can sequester carbon.
 - Re; offers and ideas for use of the wood, Issel explained the importance of making an informed decision, as handling the biomass too many times which would increase the cost.
 - Issel said there had been little interest from people to take chips or to compost the biomass; the carbonator was mobile and can come to the wood; a huge advantage.
 - Nelson noted not all of the wood was a good fit for large woody debris projects. Most pieces were either the wrong size or had no root ball.
- Dunn thanked the RCD for coming out the Butano Canyon. There had been concerns about the bridges that carry water to the community and the RCD staff did a great job of assessing and explaining the situation to residents.
- Arko explained that biochar is biomass that has been pyrolisized (burned at a high temperature without oxygen). The carbon then becomes porous and compost is able to 'live in the porosity'; it can also increase the porosity of soil.
- Kossy asked if the RCD had funding for the carbonator; Issel confirmed San Mateo County was providing funding for processing and cleanup of the biomass. Nelson reiterated the RCD's work on the storms and flooding would not have been possible without the partnership with San Mateo County.
- Stielstra gave kudos to RCD staff who approached the log jams with a 'can-do attitude'. He further noted each site was incredibly dense with heavy logs; the sheer biomass was compelling and so different site by site.
- Nelson expressed gratitude to Timothy Best, consulting engineering geologist; Matt Weld, consulting civil engineer and hydrologist; and the RCD staff; Issel had been exceptional at holding all the pieces!
- Battey thanked Nelson for her presentation and the staff for their efforts. She offered to help if the Regional Water Quality Control Board could aid in the dissemination of information. She asked how the team felt about San Mateo County's plan/ability to prepare for climate change. Nelson responded that she had seen a real shift, for example with CalTrans, away from focusing solely on the protection of infrastructure and mitigation of ecological damage to one of conservation to protect infrastructure.
- There was discussion about sandbags being sent to the landfill, whether they could be stored and re-used, and what water quality risk they posed if they had been contaminated with water that was flowing to the ocean anyway.

- Kossy asked what the effects of flooding had been to residents and the water supply. Nelson stated that a number of logjams were potentially going to damage homes, including those particularly vulnerable (farm labor housing) as well as fields and crops and infrastructure.
- Wardell asked if RCD staff had been to White House Canyon. Nelson responded that, yes, staff had and it was a pretty bad and very complex situation. Nelson did not have an exact number of those impacted but noted PG&E had been off which was effecting wells and water pressure. Dunn stated that turbidity had caused some alarm regarding drawing from the creek; but had not gotten to rationing water.
- Frucht gave kudos to Issel and the entire RCD team and asked if there had been any septic backups in the marshy, lowland areas. Nelson confirmed RCD staff had not seen any nor heard of any but were fairly certain that they are inundated. Issel stated he had seen the end of one leach line exposed.
- Nelson stated that staff would like to hold upcoming community conversations about wood in creeks and Dee Harley had offered her barn for meeting; its an invitation for a watershed to come together around a shared resource.
- Issel stated that the RCD was seeing its modeling come to life before our eyes.
- There was a discussion about when to anchor wood that is installed in creeks.
- Switzer noted, if 80-90% of the trees were cut and then would be turned into biochar, it might appear like an industry was being created. He asked what role beavers could play in repairing the creeks. Nelson explained that most of the problematic wood RCD staff was seeing had been cut up by landowners upstream then racking up on other wood downstream and becoming problematic. If the RCD had to take wood out of creeks there was a way to turn it into something beneficial. Regarding the beavers, that would be a bigger conversation.
- Barber noted the recent tides had been off the charts, much larger than king tides.

6.2 Board will consider allocation of 2022 earnings for eligible employees to the Employer Sponsored 401K Plan.

- Kossy noted her support of the RCD staff and how great it was to be able this benefit in such a flexible way.
- Espinoza-Murray stated how happy he was to support this; he noted how affordable it was considering all the work the RCD staff does.
- **ACTION:** Etherton moved to allocate 9% of 2022 earnings for eligible staff, Weil seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.3 Directors' connections and reports

- Espinoza-Murray provided the prompt: why are you here? What brought you to the RCD? Directors each reflected on the prompt.

7. Adjourn Meeting

Kossy adjourned the meeting at 6:00p.m.

Jan 2023 Storms: impacts & responses

January 19, 2023

Meeting of Board of Directors

Outline

- Characterize the storm
- Effects on watersheds and residents
- RCD and partner response
- Insights
- Longer term solutions

Characterizing the Storm

- Estimating 50 yr rain event for purposes of this discussion
- Combined with strong winds (prevailing winds were almost category 1 hurricane level)
- Variation throughout district/ microclimates, topography, windbreaks, etc.
- System was stressed after drought and fire
 - Significance of more dead or downed wood?
 - Stressed trees more susceptible to falling or breaking?
 - Top-heavy regrowth of eucalyptus after fire?
 - Bare soils mobilized?





Flooding Images from Jan 9



Falling Trees

- Damaging homes, water tanks, roads
- Impairing access, egress, emergency response
- Exacerbating logjams
- Creating holes on streambanks





Failing Dam

- Compromising water security for farms
- Perched above housing
- Limited resources to address



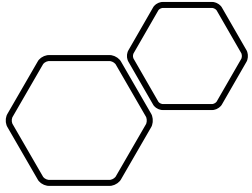
Sediment Movement

- Mudslides
- Culverts
- Flooding
- Roads
- Access and egress



Erosion

- Streambanks
- Gullies
- Loss of property
- Downstream flooding
- Septic systems



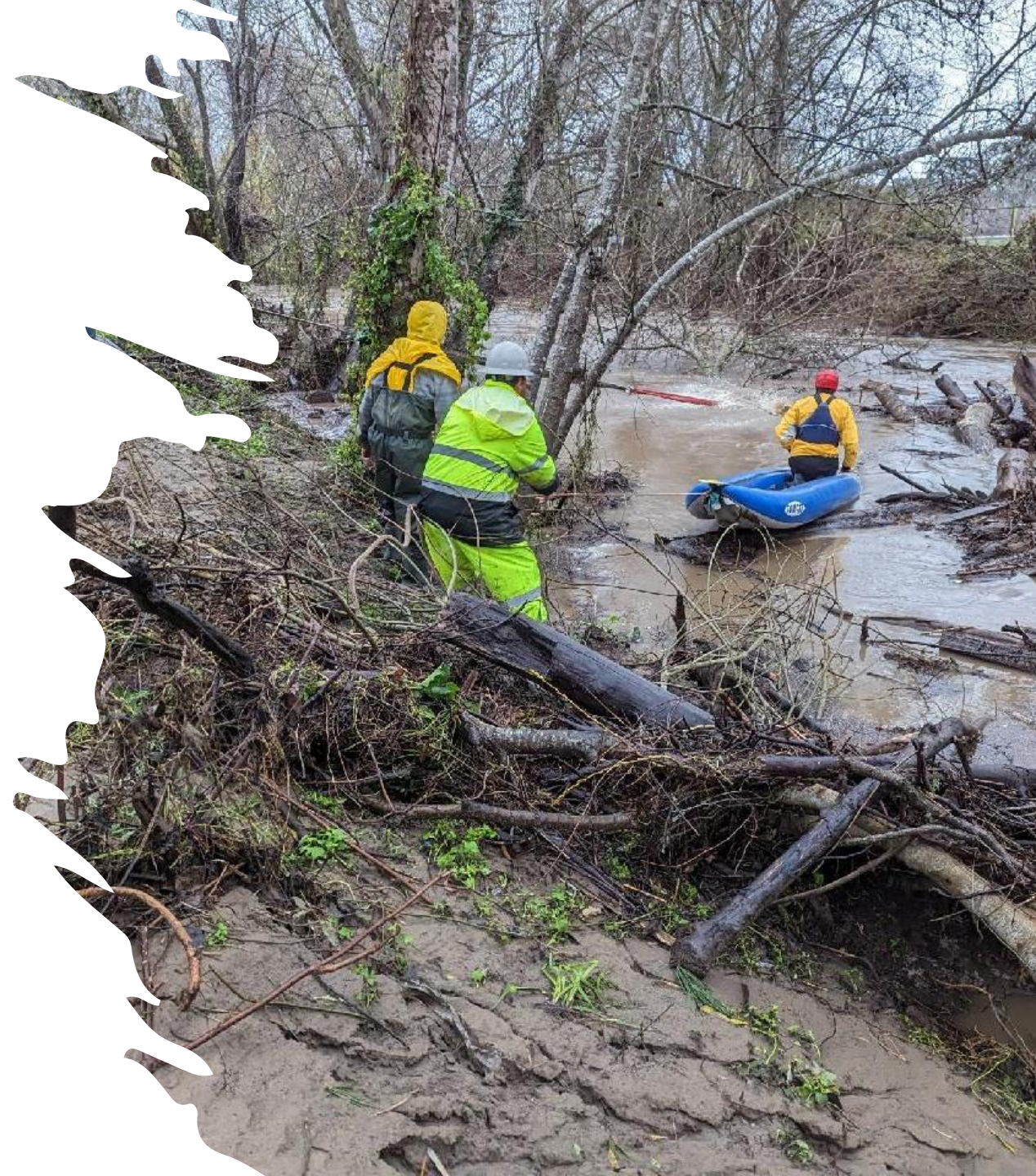
Logjams

Putting wood in creek vs
taking it out



RCD Response

- All-staff pivot
- Tracking sheet: in contact with 50-60 landowners
- Dozens of site visits to gather information and to provide technical assistance
- Main areas of service:
 - On-site technical assistance on individual properties
 - Collecting data about impacts to agriculture and seeking resources for relief
 - USDA Farm Service Agency Emergency Conservation Program, County list, etc.
 - Coordinating efforts to mitigate hazard trees and remove fallen trees
 - Team Rubicon, Coastal Conservancy grant
 - Logjam mitigation in Pescadero Creek



Partners' responses

- San Mateo County
 - Department of Emergency Management- coordinates preparedness, response and protection services for disasters; coordinates agencies that respond; mobilizes resources; etc.
 - Department of Public Works- road closures, repairing roads, removed logjam in Pescadero upstream of Stage Road Bridge, etc.
 - Extremely nimble \$200K funding to RCD for logjam mitigation through County Executive's Office
 - Support from Supervisor Mueller
- NRCS
 - Site visits and technical assistance, collaboration with partners in unified response, assessment of USDA financial assistance opportunities
- Team Rubicon USA
- Landowners who provided access



Logjam Mitigation: Dynamic

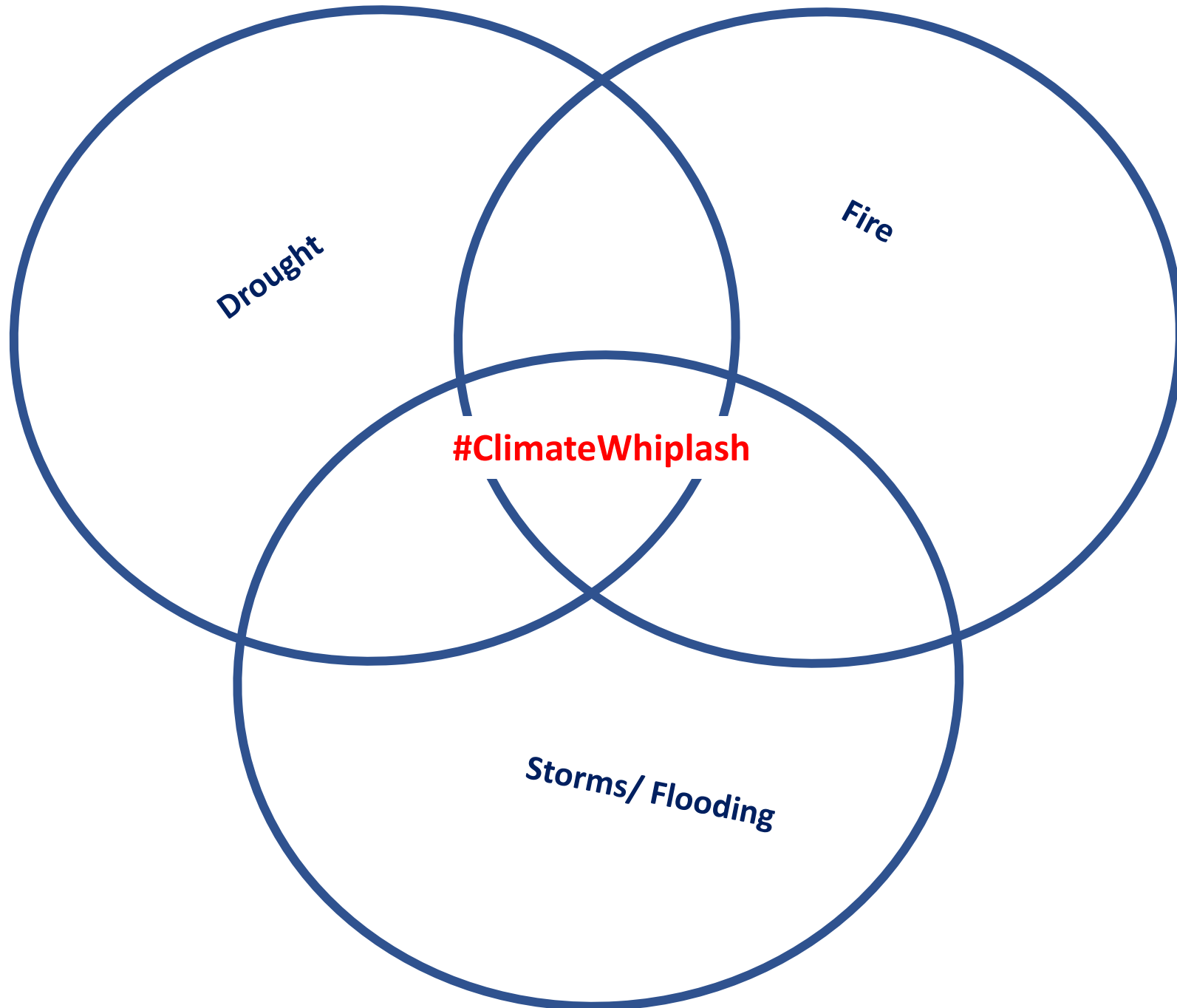
- Can change in size, shape, structure, location, and impact
- Site conditions may change as wood moves through system, from changes in storm and creek conditions, as trees continue to fall into or across creeks, and from work done upstream
- Potential implications include changes to
 - access location needed for work
 - types of equipment and crew required for work
 - level or type of threat- may increase, reduce, or not affect level of risk from the logjam, or may change what is being threatened
- Landowners preferences or requirements regarding access location, type of equipment, contractors, or philosophical approach to managing logjams and the creek.



Insights

- Affirms models
- Tested dredge and floodplain restoration projects
- Beneficial scour
- Catalyze conversations about watershed health with new or renewed partners and allies
- Lessons learned and renewed partnerships for fish monitoring
- Validate what we said would
- Built or enhanced community confidence
- Role of restoration projects in helping mitigate storm impact
 - Wood held back wood in some cases
 - Healthy soils reduced erosion
 - Ponds filled and didn't fail
 - Fish had refugia





Longer term solutions (hint: nature works)

- Continued water storage efforts
- Continued floodplain restoration
- Continued soil health projects
- Continue to pursue and advocate for integrated projects with co-equal benefits
- Wood in Creeks program

RESOLUTION 2023-1

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN MATEO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADOPTING THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN OCTOBER 2019 UPDATE

THE SAN MATEO RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT DOES HEREBY FIND AND RESOLVE:

Section 1. The State electorate approved multiple statewide bond measures since 2000 to fund water and natural resource projects and programs, including Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM); and

Section 2. The benefits of integrated planning for water resources management activities include increased efficiency or effectiveness, enhanced collaboration across agencies and stakeholders, and improved responsiveness to regional needs and priorities; and

Section 3. State statute and guidelines require that an IRWM Plan be adopted by the governing boards of participating agencies before IRWM grant funds can be provided for water resources management projects that are part of the IRWM Plan; and

Section 4. The Bay Area IRWM Plan was adopted by the Board previously; most recently in 2015 (SFCJPA Board Resolution No. 15.6.25) for the 2013 Update to comply with state statutes and guidelines that require that the Bay Area IRWM Plan be adopted before agencies may receive IRWM grant funding; and

Section 5. The 2019 Bay Area IRWM Plan update was accepted by the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) on March 21, 2020 and meets the requirements outlined in the DWR 2016 standards for Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) to maintain funding eligibility; and

Section 6. Adoption of the Bay Area IRWM Plan 2019 Update does not entail a direct commitment of resources and implementation of each project, as such will be the responsibility of the project proponent and any applicable project partners, and there is no joint commitment or responsibility by the Bay Area IRWM Plan participants to implement any or all of the projects; and

Section 7. Adoption of the October 2019 update to the Bay Area IRWM Plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15262 and §15306 because the IRWM Plan consists of basic data collection that would not result in the disturbance of any environmental resource and involves planning studies for possible actions that the participating agencies have not yet approved; and

Section 8. The IRWM Plan and Updates are meant to be complementary to participating agencies'

individual plans and programs and does not supersede such plans and programs, and adoption of the IRWM Plan does not prohibit or affect a participating agencies' planning efforts separate from the IRWM Plan; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the San Mateo Resource Conservation District does hereby adopt the October 2019 Update to the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the San Mateo Resource Conservation District Board of Directors on the 19th day of January, 2023.

Barbara Kossy, President

Date

Memorandum

Date: January 19, 2023
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation for Allocation to Employee 401K Plans

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve an allocation of 9% of calendar year 2022 earnings for each eligible employee to the RCD's Employer Sponsored 401K Plan. The estimated cost to the RCD would be \$121,176.

Background

The RCD participates in an Employer Sponsored 401K Plan through Paychex, with Fidelity Investments as the money manager. Eligible employees who enroll in the program can contribute to their 401K plan. In addition, the RCD offers a discretionary match (also with Paychex and Fidelity Investments) in which the employer contribution allocation can vary from year to year based on the RCD's financial position rather than a standard annual employer match or profit share. The discretionary match program was chosen as the most feasible option for the RCD to offer employees the benefit of an employer contribution to a 401K plan when the organization's revenues depend heavily on grants and contracts which are inherently uncertain. The Board of Directors annually determines the RCD's discretionary contribution allocation towards staff 401K plans for the previous calendar year. For calendar years 2020 and 2021 the Board approved a 7% allocation.

Staff recommends a 9% allocation for calendar year 2022 as a reasonable expense given:

1. Salaries were increased in the FY 22-23 budget but did not fully keep pace with rapid inflation.
2. The RCD's current financial position can afford this one-time expense and the structure of the retirement plan does not require a future commitment at this rate.
3. The RCD's strategic plan include goals to be an attractive workplace.

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for the 401K Plan, set by the financial institution and not by the RCD, are that participants must 1) be at least 21 years of age and 2) have been an employee of the RCD for 12 months and worked a minimum of 1,000 hours in that period. The employer contribution is available only to employees who are eligible and enrolled in the RCD's Sponsored 401K Plan. Employees are not required to contribute to the 401K Plan to receive

the employer contribution. For calendar year 2022, 18 people are eligible¹. Sixteen are current staff members; two are staff members who left the RCD in 2022; and four current staff members are not eligible.

¹ This does not include the Network Manager of the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network, who is also eligible. He will receive a separate allocation as determined by the network's leadership. The RCD is the fiscal sponsor of the network but does not make compensation decisions for the Network Manager.