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San Mateo Resource Conservation District to Design and Launch a Carbon Sequestration Farm Fund to Help Farmers Finance the Implementation of Climate-Beneficial Agricultural Practices

June 18, 2025



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STAFF REPORT. From [San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' meeting](#) on Tuesday, June 10th, 2025 at 9:00am, as a hybrid meeting. [Agenda](#). Staff Report for Consent Agenda [Item #126](#).

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jasneet Sharma, Director, Sustainability Department

Subject: Agreement with San Mateo Resource Conservation District for Carbon Farm Fund

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement with the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) to design and launch a carbon farm fund that will advance carbon sequestration efforts, for the term of June 10, 2025 through June 9, 2030, in an amount not to exceed \$395,000.

BACKGROUND

On October 18, 2022, the Board approved Resolution No. 079264, adopting the San Mateo County General Plan Climate Element and the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). As part of the CCAP's overall emissions reduction target of carbon neutrality by 2040, it sets forth a target to sequester 39,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) by 2030 and 166,000 MTCO₂e by 2045. To accomplish this goal, the CCAP recommends implementing a funding program to help farmers and ranchers implement and maintain climate

beneficial agricultural practices, or carbon farming. The CCAP also has a land management goal to “support ranchers and farmers to plan, implement, and scale climate beneficial practices on the County’s working lands to mitigate climate change and build agricultural resiliency.”

DISCUSSION

The proposed Carbon Farm Fund (Fund) would seek to establish a self-sustaining funding program to support producers in carbon sequestration. The Fund would advance progress on both the CCAP’s carbon sequestration and land management goals.

The proposed agreement consists of three key activities. First, the contractor will conduct extensive research, stakeholder surveying, and fund model analysis, development and testing, to create a Funding Pathways Memorandum with recommendations for a sustainable long-term Fund program. Second, the contractor will develop a complete program design for administering the Fund. Third, the contractor will implement the program and distribute the funds. Each phase will be evaluated by the County before the contractor is given approval to move on to the next phase. The grant fund will be implemented with oversight and approval by the County.

The Sustainability Department released a Request for Proposal (RFP) on June 20, 2024, for a contractor to conduct all aspects of the proposed project: background research, program design, and program implementation. The RFP was posted on OpenGov for four weeks and generated one response, from the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD). Following evaluation by the selection committee, the Department recommended moving forward with RCD’s proposal.

The County Attorney’s Office has reviewed and approved the resolution and agreement as to form.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE

Measure	Amount sequestered by end of contract period
MTCO2e sequestered	7,900 MTCO2e

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Work under this agreement will identify and address the agricultural community’s financial barriers to implementing climate-beneficial agricultural practices. The Fund will provide a sustainable model for supporting the agricultural community to help mitigate carbon emissions, provide cleaner air and promote a suite of agricultural practices that bring numerous ecological co-benefits.

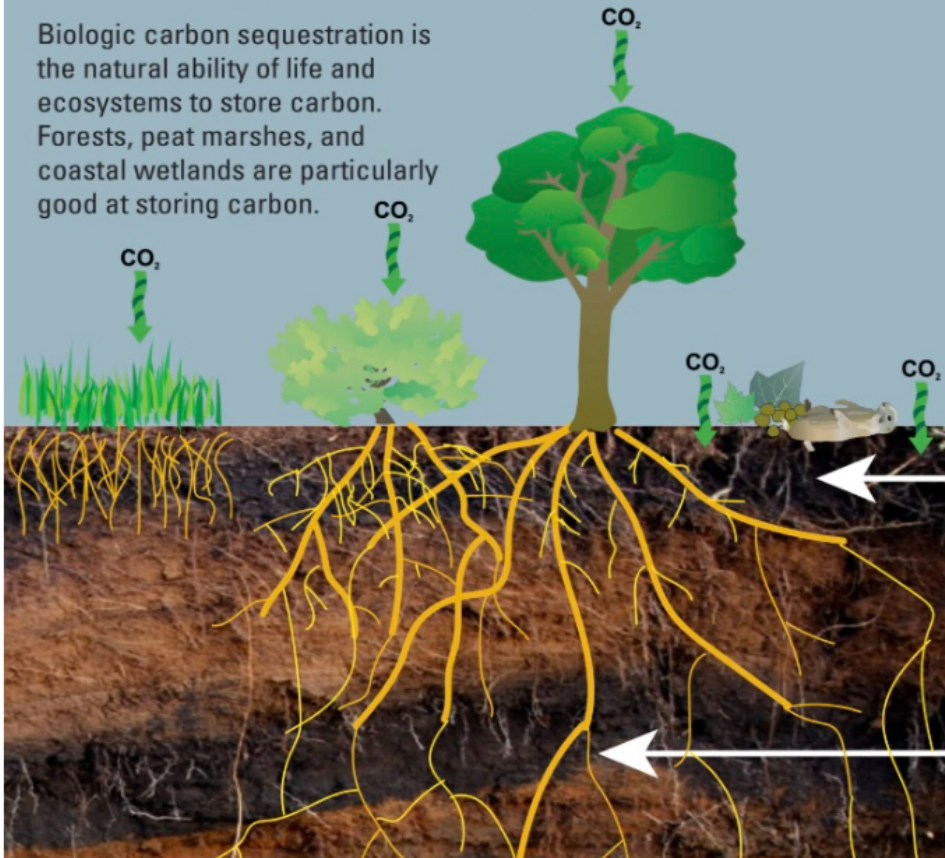
FISCAL IMPACT

The contract allocates \$195,000 for background research and program design, and \$200,000 for grant funding. Funding in the amount of \$395,000 is included the Sustainability Department’s FY 2024-25 Approved Budget and the FY 2025-26 Recommended Budget. There is no new Net County Cost associated with this agreement.



Biologic Carbon Sequestration

Biologic carbon sequestration is the natural ability of life and ecosystems to store carbon. Forests, peat marshes, and coastal wetlands are particularly good at storing carbon.



U.S. Geological Survey studies plants and animals. Scientists identify which ecosystems naturally store higher levels of carbon.

Microbes break down plants and animals through decomposition



Plants store carbon in their bark, tissues, and root systems



[More on the San Mateo Resource Conservation District on Coastside Buzz](#)

2025 Board of Supervisors



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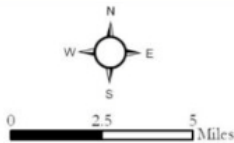
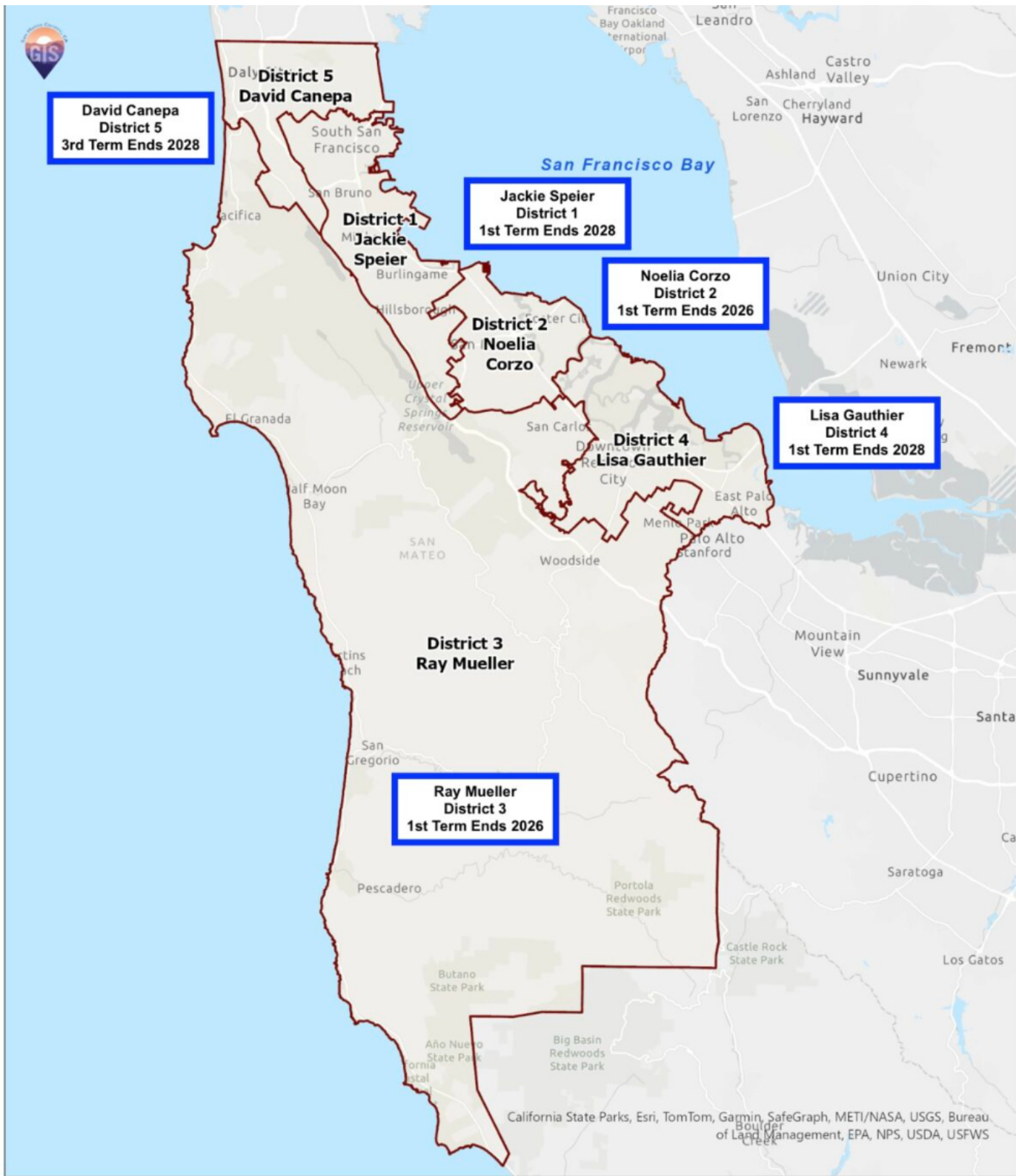
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SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO CA

**Supervisor boundaries approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, December, 2021*

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Related Buzz

Statement from the County of San Mateo Regarding Sheriff Corpus's \$10 Million Government Claim & Release of Full Report Transcript which Cost \$200k

PRESS RELEASE. From the San Mateo County Executive's Office on January 7th, 2025. Redwood City — The following is a statement...

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Rising Groundwater Will Be a Problem Before Sea Level Rise

VIDEO. Sewer Authority Mid-Coast (SAM) Director and City Councilwoman, Debbie Ruddock, reports back about the California State Assembly Select Committee...

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Montara Water (MWSD) Receives Report on "How to Reach a Sustainability Pumping Rate for the Alta Vista Well"

VIDEO. From the Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD) Director's meeting on Thursday, November 2nd, 2023 at 7:30pm, as a hybrid meeting....

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RECENT BUZZ



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July 9, 2025



Coastside Allies Collects 1,100 Signatures and Works with San Mateo County to Allocate Budget to Continue Firebreak Tree Mitigation in El Granada

July 9, 2025

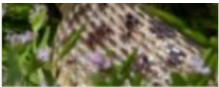


Midpen Open Space 2025 Annual Photo Contest ~ Deadline July 31st

July 9, 2025



Big Basin Redwoods State Park Fire Rebuilding Plan Summary Now Available ~ Webinar July 10th, 2025 to Learn More About the Plan and Preparation of Environmental Review



July 2, 2025



Document

July 3, 2025



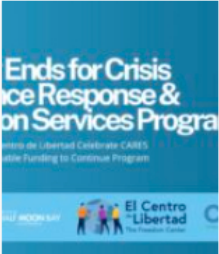
**Coastside Land Trust Presents ~
Wavecrest Coastal Trail Project
Update with Sara Polgar, Trail Project
Manager**

July 3, 2025



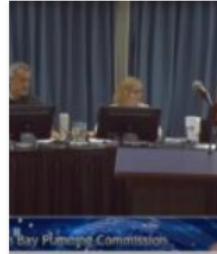
**San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury
Returned Accusation Against Sheriff
Corpus; Corpus Attorney's Release
Documents ("Keker Report") as
Measure A Removal Process
Continues**

July 3, 2025



**Half Moon Bay Ends Crisis Assistance
Response & Evaluation Services
(CARES) until New Funding is ID'd to
Continue Program; Now Call SMCo
Mobile Crisis Response Team (650)579-
0350 or 988**

July 3, 2025



**Apply to Serve on the Half Moon Bay
Planning Commission - One Vacancy
Available; Deadline August 4th, 2025**

July 2, 2025

