

**RESOLUTION OF THE
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF TEHAMA COUNTY
ADVOCATING FOR SUSTAINABLE FUNDING AND FULL COST RECOVERY FOR CALIFORNIA RCDs**

RESOLUTION #25-14

WHEREAS, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is a nonprofit, member-driven organization dedicated to advancing the needs of Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in California;

WHEREAS, RCDs, as independent special districts organized under Division Nine of the Public Resources Code, receive no statewide appropriation or other general funding from the State of California;

WHEREAS, while some RCDs may receive limited funding from property tax revenues, tax-increment funds, or occasional base funding from their home counties, most RCDs in California receive no consistent form of funding and rely primarily on indirect rates provided by state or federal grants, or, occasionally, contracts with local/state agencies or private parties;

WHEREAS, RCDs often depend on sufficient indirect rates from government grants to provide the majority of their operational funding, and these rates should be applied equitably across all funding sources to minimize risk and allow RCDs to evaluate grant opportunities based on their merits;

WHEREAS, RCDs, as public agencies, must undertake legally required activities not applicable to nonprofits or private organizations, including compliance with laws governing ethics and transparency, maintaining accessible websites, using public accounting methodologies consistent with GAAP standards, operating public offices, maintaining elected or appointed boards of directors, conducting outreach to residents, purchasing insurance, consulting with financial and legal professionals, ensuring staff compliance with mandated training and HR requirements, and participating in regional and statewide forums;

WHEREAS, RCDs are uniquely positioned as government bodies to provide non-regulatory conservation leadership, guidance, and assistance to landowners and land stewards due to their accountability to the public, transparent financial operations, and long history of success in conservation of soil, agriculture, water resources, forestry, and land stewardship;

WHEREAS, RCDs are leaders in identifying needs and advancing solutions for improved government efficiency, such as reducing permitting costs and complexities ("cutting green tape"), and in advocating for streamlined administrative processes with state partners;

WHEREAS, RCDs often compete for funding not only with other government agencies, but also with nonprofits that are not subject to the same government overhead requirements (e.g., audits, Brown Act compliance, and other public accountability standards), thereby placing RCDs at a disadvantage when funding agencies prioritize organizations with lower indirect cost structures;

WHEREAS, traditional indirect rate calculations are inconsistent across funding agencies, often excluding essential functions that RCDs must perform, even though the California Department of General Services implements a cost allocation program for all state agencies to recover full costs;

WHEREAS, inconsistent indirect cost rates create inequities across grant programs, whereby grants that allow higher indirect rates (or follow federal guidelines) are disadvantaged relative to others, resulting in certain state funders effectively subsidizing other programs;

WHEREAS, without sufficient indirect funding, RCDs face significant risks to their ability to function, maintain essential services, and, in some cases, even exist, leaving many RCDs facing year-to-year uncertainty about survival;

WHEREAS, indirect rates are provided in a variety of ways across grants and agreements, and it is recognized that no single methodology fits the wide range of RCD sizes and circumstances;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), as the membership organization formed to support RCDs statewide, should prioritize as a primary objective the advocacy for sustainable funding, including full cost recovery from state and federal granting agencies, in order to ensure that RCDs can operate smoothly, efficiently, and effectively in advancing the conservation of California's wild and working lands.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of Resolution #25-14, adopted on the motion of T. Kimler-Richards, seconded by V. Williams and duly passed at a regular public meeting held by the Board of Directors at 9:15 a.m. on September 2, 2025, at the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County Office, 206 Walnut Street, Red Bluff, California.

Roll Call was as follows:

AYES: T. Hamelberg, T. Kimler-Richards, L. Jennings, V. Williams

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: M. Vasey, T. Stroing

Submitted by,



Tricia Parker- Hamelberg

Board President