

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday June 19, 2025

4:00 – 6:00 pm

The hybrid meeting will be accessible 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.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Introduction of Guests and Staff
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.
<div>5. Consent Agenda</div> <div><div>The Board of Directors approves:</div><div>5.1. April 2025 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes</div><div>The Board of Directors receives into record:</div><div>5.2. April 15, 2025 California State Parks press release, “Pescadero Marsh Habitat Restoration and Resiliency Project”</div><div>5.3. April 17, 2025 San Mateo Daily Journal article, “San Mateo County’s Little Butano Creek gets restoration help”</div><div>5.4. May 8, 2025 Bay Nature article, “AmeriCorps Has Crumbled. What Are Nature-Oriented Young People to Do?”</div><div>5.5. May 9, 2025 RCD letter to Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Committees regarding Ensuring Equitable Access to Prop 4 Funds for Vulnerable Rural Communities</div><div>5.6. May 29, 2025 CalTrout News article, “Reflections from the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) Annual Conference”</div><div>5.7. June 12, 2025 Coastside Buzz article, “Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council Writes Governor to Ensure Equitable Access to \$4B Prop 4 Funds for their Vulnerable Rural Farmworking Community”</div><div>5.8. June 12, 2025 Coastside Buzz article, “Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside Receives 2024 ‘First Flush’ Report by San Mateo Resource Conservation District – Volunteer!”</div><div>5.9. June 17, 2025 Coastside Buzz article, “Midpen Open Space and San Mateo Resource Conservation District Team up for the Johnston Ranch Habitat and Agricultural Water Supply Improvement Project.”</div></div>
<div>6. Regular Agenda</div> <div><div>6.1. Board will consider approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Draft Financial Budget.</div><div>6.2. Executive Director’s report</div><div>6.3. Board will consider request for special meeting in early August to select contractor for Pescadero Creek County Park Forest Health Project.</div><div>6.4. Directors’ connection and reports</div></div>
<div>7. Adjourn Meeting</div> <div>The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be July 17, 2025.</div>

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 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

Thursday, June 19, 2025

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Location: 80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 100, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 and via Zoom

Directors: Barbara Kossy, Michelle Weil, Steve Stielstra, Troy Guy (On leave: Adrienne Etherton)

Associate Directors: Zahra Kassam (virtual) (Absent: Denise Phillips, Helen Wolter, John Wade)

RCD staff: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Amy Kaeser, Kati McHugh

NRCS staff: none attended

Guests: Krystle Reneer (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Item 4.1 (DRAFT April Meeting Minutes) was tabled to July.
- ACTION: Stielstra motioned to approve agenda as amended, Guy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introduction of Guests and Staff

All in attendance introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Consent Agenda

- ACTION: Stielstra moved to approve the consent agenda. Guy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Regular Agenda

6.1. Board will consider approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Draft Financial Budget

- Nelson reviewed the FY26 draft financial budget in detail. Some discussion focused on the following:
 - The RCD utilizes a zero-based budget (or service-based budget) built from anticipated activities and expenses each year. This is unlike many agencies and organizations whose budget rolls over from year-to-year with adjustments. The overall budget starts from staff entering each project's budget from scratch annually, rather than relying on a previous year as a baseline.

- Program Revenue (contracts, grants, and agreements for directly funded work), is aggregated from staff budgets for individual funded projects, including estimates of work to be done and expenses, billing rates, pass-through costs, and indirect costs if they are not included in billing rates. Projects may have multiple funders with different requirements or restrictions regarding allowable indirect costs and rates.
- An Operating Reserve allocation of \$350,000 would help meet the RCD's goal of increasing a 6-month reserve (the policy is for 3 months). As staffing and expenses grow, the amount needed in the reserve to sustain operations also increases.
- Some changes in category names
 - Agricultural Stewardship: previously Climate Mitigation. Our ag stewardship work encompasses more than climate mitigation, and climate mitigation occurs under other program areas, e.g. forest health and wetland restoration.
 - Water Resources & Conservation: previously Water for Farms Fish and People.
- Nelson reviewed the anticipated outcome of FY'25 compared to the budget.
 - A variance of around 25% is expected in both program expenses and program revenue, as they are typically paired. These reductions were largely due to some projects being delayed a year.
 - Other revenues were 11% higher than budgeted, mostly due to the All You Seed Is Love fundraiser.
 - Net revenues are anticipated to be positive but lower than anticipated, largely due to the deferment of large construction projects and their associated indirect billing.
 - Budgeted allocations to the operating reserve of around \$250,000 were met.
- Nelson compared the proposed FY26 Financial Budget to FY25, including:
 - Personnel costs increased significantly, from \$2.9 million to nearly \$4 million, due in part to staff expansion and cost of living adjustments.
 - With a \$20 million budget, relatively small percentages could translate to significant dollar fluctuations.
- Nelson noted that the RCD is entering the fiscal year in a strong cash position, with approximately \$8 million on hand and a healthy accounts payable-to-receivable ratio.
- Discussion included:
 - Budgeted net of \$2,500 is low but not of great concern; salaries are consistent regardless of grant billing rates; methods for budgeting salary and indirect for multi-year grants; significant level of effort for zero-based budgeting, which is more common for consulting firms than government agencies and requires skilled project staff with deep understanding of associated budget components; staff's active engagement in administrative aspects of the organization and commitment to organizational efficiency.
 - Unlike other public employees, RCD does not have a CalPERS or pension program. Instead, a proposed 9% allocation to 401(k) was built into the budget, but this is only an estimated contribution.

- Property tax revenue is less than the costs of requirements for the RCD to exist. The property tax rate was set by San Mateo County voters at the time the RCD was established. A vote of two-thirds of individuals living within the District in favor of increasing tax allocations would be required to increase the rate.
- Kossy praised the work put into the proposed budget and found it cohesive and easy to understand. She recognized the effort required for staff to understand the budget and that it should be noted as a point of pride for everyone involved.
- Nelson recognized Stielstra for his dedicated effort to research and pursue the California Local Agency Self-Insurance System (CLASS), a joint powers authority that provides investment and other financial services to public agencies. This significantly increased anticipated interest income while meeting the fund management restrictions that special districts and local government entities must comply with, is a safe investment vehicle, and earns much more than the RCD had been able to previously. Additionally, it is unrestricted revenue.
- Donation development and outreach have been a priority, the funding streams are surprising considering there has not been funding available for grant writing, advancement, or public relations staff.
 - Nelson’s (stretch) goal is to have sustainable funding for staff positions, which would allow grants to be associated entirely with projects. This would improve RCD’s ability to achieve the root mission to empower people to be stewards of the land, rather than the existing focus on restoration work.
 - “All restoration is deferred stewardship.”
- More detailed narrative and footnotes will be added at a later date.
- ACTION: Guy moved to approve the Draft FY26 Financial Budget. Stielstra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.2. Executive Director’s Report

- Approximately \$6 million of RCD funds were transferred into CLASS accounts, significantly increasing interest earnings.
- RCD staff presented at the Salmonid Restoration Federation conference, April 30-May 1
- Joe Issel, Jarrad Fischer, and Amy Kaeser coordinated a field tour on April 30, *The Gold Standard vs. Pragmatism: Threading the Needle to Accomplish Restoration at Scale*.
 - Guy reported attending, learning a lot about the RCD and having a lot of fun on the tour.
 - Nelson presented a keynote speech at the Plenary Session on May 1, [*The Humanity of Fisheries Restoration*](#). The presentation explored personal and partnership dynamics needed to scale restoration.
- RCD staff hosted and presented at Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network (SCMSN) Spotlight Stewardship Tour, June 6.
- RCD Donor Thank You Tour, June 8: included landowners and partners (LAFCo, Midpen Board members) who expressed deep support and interest in the RCD’s future work.
 - Discussion included that there was deep nuance and complexity to RCD projects, that the resources required to coordinate events of this type are very limited, how the tour was distinct from a consortium or conference tour—and that the “scrappiness” of the event (when compared to “polished” tours by other organizations) demonstrates that the quality of RCD work matters

more than the event planning and showcases the persona of the RCD authentically

- Due to the limited resources to coordinate tours and site visits, Nelson announced that she plans to invite Board members to “somewhat spontaneous” site visits and other opportunities over the summer, to increase their access to tangible knowledge of ongoing RCD projects
- RCD Staff tabled at community events
 - La Honda Art & Music Fair, June 7-8
 - TOGETHER Bay Area (formerly the Bay Area Open Space Council) Conference, May 14: San Mateo RCD staff coordinated a collaborative RCD tabling space at the event to other RCDs under a “pay what you can” arrangement to encourage other RCDs to increase their presence and visibility. It was fun for the participants and successful in the dual goals to generate buzz about RCDs and encourage other RCDs to do more collaborative outreach events to demonstrate regional impact and service capacity.
- Webinars:
 - Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside Meeting, April 28: [First Flush Results](#), presentation of 2023-2024 Water Quality Results, with Clifton Herrmann
 - Coastside Land Trust webinar, May 11: [Healthy Waters, Thriving Coast](#), focused on local water quality
 - Cutting Green Tape webinar, May 21: [Regulatory Strategies to Advance Restoration: The New Restoration Management Permit & Workshopping Different Permit Pathways](#)
 - CLSN Equity Leaders Speakers Series panel, June 12: [Mutual Aid Strategies Amidst the Climate Crisis](#) – explored reciprocity, resilience, and collaborative stewardship with Valentin Lopez (Chair & President of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band). RCD Engagement Officer Barb Kipreos moderated.
 - Kossy provided feedback that Kipreos was an excellent facilitator.
- Board members were invited to:
 - Table at the Pescadero Art & Fun Festival, August 16-17 (10 am-6pm):
 - Attend the CARCD Annual Conference (DoubleTree by Hilton, Sacramento), November 19-20: A budget is available to cover the Board members’ registration and lodging for this event.
- Project highlights:
 - Completed 47 acres of butterfly and grassland restoration on San Bruno Mountain
 - Completed 3.5 acres of weed removal and trash mitigation on Arroyo Leon Creek on Johnston Ranch
 - Butano Chute project mobilization is scheduled for June 30 at Little Butano Creek, with two fish passage projects to remediate barriers and improve fish habitat, enabling fish passage into Butano State Park and providing prime Coho habitat. Associated streamflow projects are also progressing upstream.
 - Two Forest Health projects, at Pescadero Creek County Park and YMCA Jones Gulch, are starting in August.
 - Three Habitat Enhancement projects (large woody debris installations) are scheduled for August, two on San Gregorio Creek and one on Butano Creek
 - North Marsh North Pond hydrology restoration at the northern end of Pescadero Marsh has begun.

- Stielstra commented that this is a much larger undertaking that he had imagined, with a lot of material, fisheries teams, traffic controls, and contractor presence on Highway 1
- CHIPPER Program is scheduled in Loma Mar and Dearborn Park for the week of June 22
- Butano State Park Forest Health Project is wrapping up – completed 450-acres of vegetation management, including oak woodland restoration. As a result of the mitigation work, a 150-acre prescribed burn was completed in partnership with State Parks and CAL FIRE
- Completed Middleton Tract Fuel Break – to improve fire access for the rural redwoods community.
- Projects are being submitted to the Santa Cruz Mountain Stewardship Network's Regional Prioritization Plan which we are co-facilitating and co-coordinating. It provides a region-wide planning effort across three counties for forest management and wildfire resiliency.
- Policy and Funding Issues
 - Concerns with Prop 4 funding allocation criteria that rely on income-averaged mapping, which undercounts vulnerable rural communities and excludes displaced Indigenous stewardship partners.
 - Prop. 4 will distribute \$10 billion statewide, with 40% reserved for vulnerable communities, as defined by the state mapping.
 - The state's draft maps rely heavily on census tract income averages, which can obscure need in places like San Mateo County, where a livable income skews much higher than in other regions of the state. Compounding this, high-wealth residents who live within the same census tracts as farmworkers mask the needs of those low-income populations.
 - People who are particularly vulnerable are the least likely to participate in census data.
 - In addition to sending the letter of concern, staff has engaged with Puente de la Costa Sur, Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council (PMAC), and others to ensure they were aware of this, as the issues concern resources that would be coming into the community.
 - The Governor's Office responded with a thoughtful reply recognizing there are more refined data sources not in the initial mapping tool.
 - This letter was copied to Senator Becker, Assemblymember Berman, and Supervisor Mueller. No responses were received, including after sending follow-up communications to ensure they had received the letter.
 - Wolter shared the [Disadvantaged Communities Explorer](#), a Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District GIS mapping tool that the City of Half Moon Bay utilizes for identifying vulnerable communities.
 - While somewhat difficult to navigate, she highlighted that selecting "low income" provides no results for San Mateo County, though selecting "Disadvantaged communities" results in a few identifiable locations, and "Under-Resourced Community" results provide further more results. She reported finding it to be a useful tool to be aware of, and that for spokespeople, it is important to know that the area is challenged with its

proximity to Silicon Valley and the way that high income earners masks the needs of vulnerable communities within the area.

- She pointed out that in legislation, each of these is a technical threshold terms, and in cases such as the area around Ocean Colony, representation can be masked in the results.
- Guy noted that on the presented mapping tool, areas in the northern end of San Mateo County were outlined in the results, but Pescadero and the surrounding area showed no results. Nelson confirmed that this highlighted the problems being advocated for and noted that the RCD is heavily engaged in the Pescadero area for this reason.
- Nelson discussed challenges with state indirect cost rules
 - Nelson reported success in including language in Prop. 4 to allow indirect costs to be included, but there are risks to it being further restricted.
 - Making lower indirect a competitive advantage in grant applications would harm those who are required to comply with the Brown Act and other laws
 - An active grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) under which the RCD has negotiated terms that include indirect costs, and received invoiced payments for those costs, has been altered and those indirect costs are no longer eligible, according to the DWR. The attorney who made this decision claimed that the guidelines for the grant program and contract say indirect costs are ineligible, even though there are exceptions that apply to the existing contract in question.

6.3. Board will consider request for special meeting in early August to select contractor for Pescadero Creek County Park Forest Health Project

- ACTION: Guy moved to approve the motion to hold a Special Meeting, at a date to be determined but approximately around August 7, 2025, to approve the selected contractor for Pescadero Creek County Park Forest Health project. Stielstra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6.4. Directors' connection and reports

- Kassam shared exciting progress on invasive species removal project (*Hypericum*)—four acres removed via mastication and planned experimental follow-up treatments planned for each acre separately. She recently took a trip to Panama and visited the Gamboa Rainforest Reserve and was encouraged to see the conservation work being done there.
- Wolter reported that she was recently awarded a permit for a solar array at the Half Moon Bay City Hall parking lot and was subject to Coastal Developments under the Local Coastal Program (LCP) which was difficult to navigate, taking 4-5 months in total to complete.
- Kossy reported participating in the California Invasive Plant Council (CalIPC) outreach team via her role as the CalIPC Facebook page. Discussion included the council's mission and how it can interact with the broader appeal of their Facebook page to guide individuals on how to deal with invasive species. She noted that CalIPC's mission does not include providing education, and the meeting included discussion on how to offer educational content and utilize volunteers to make it a valuable resource for the council. She shared about the National Association of Conservation Districts' "Conservation Clips," an amalgamation of media on conservation topics which she feels is a valuable resource to understand what

other RCDs are doing. She recently attended the CARCD Legislative Committee session as an alternate for Nelson and found it a valuable learning opportunity.

- Guy reported he attended the Salmonid Restoration Foundation conference, and greatly enjoyed talks from Nelson and others. He really enjoyed the Pescadero tour, and found that he was able to answer his neighbors questions about the marsh based on information gained at the event. He reported spending time at Cloverdale Ranch assisting with monitoring of San Francisco garter snakes. He also was regularly participating in Midpen docent tours and the Fifth Crow Pond overlook. He enjoyed being able to speak to the RCD's talking points on each site with tour guests. He also toured the Eel River, where two non-functional dams along a fault were set to be decommissioned. He reported that this would open up around 800 river miles of prime habitat by taking out the dams and removing Lake Pillsbury, while still providing water to the wine growers. The Wildlands Conservancy was also on the tour, and Guy reported that similar to the Klamath dam removal, all parties had come to an agreement and he was encouraged by the fact that it appeared that the project plans would go through, and that it would open up cold water, high elevation habitat. Nelson shared that Guy had received a shout-out at that day's RCD Staff Meeting, and that his insights as a Pescadero High School parent allowed for improved perspectives on RCD engagement there, and thanked him for his help.
- Phillips reported seeing beautiful wetlands and flamingos (!) in Italy through the Po Delta. She has appreciated the regular invitations to RCD tours and events.
- Stielstra reported attending CARCD meetings, including as the Regional Chair of the Central Coast Region RCDs, which ranged from San Mateo County to the Santa Monica Mountains. As the Regional Chair, this position also included a role as a voting member of the CARCD Board. He found the Central Coast region to be very diverse, and appreciated the opportunity to build relationships with other regional Board members, and found it to be a valuable opportunity to become better informed and effective in his field experience and in Board outreach conversations.

7. Adjourn Meeting

- Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.
- The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be July 17, 2025.



Pescadero Marsh Habitat Restoration and Resiliency Project



Project Overview

California State Parks and the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) are restoring how water and sediment move between Pescadero Creek, marsh areas, the lagoon estuary, and the ocean to reverse harm done by humans over many decades and ensure a healthier ecosystem. The project is also removing non-native invasive species and increasing habitat complexity to improve conditions for wildlife.

This work will improve water quality in the marsh and lagoon, increase freshwater and brackish (mixed salt and fresh water) habitat for multiple native fish and wildlife species, and will help the marsh be more resilient to sea level rise and a changing climate. The project will reconnect the Sequoia-Audobon Trail, parts of which have been inaccessible due to erosion.



Location

Work is taking place in the northern areas of Pescadero Marsh State Natural Preserve east of Highway 1.

The Sequoia Audubon Trail will be closed for the duration of the project.

The North Pond Trail, Butano Trail, and Round Hill Trail will remain open during the project.

Project Goals

1. Reduce potential for creation and transport of hypoxic to anoxic water into the lagoon during breach events. Address salinity, stratification, and drainage efficiencies that are relics of past land use
2. Reduce salinity and restore brackish to freshwater habitats in the North Marsh North Pond, where feasible.
 1. Lower levees, where possible, to increase freshwater flood inundation
 2. Reduce drainage efficiency from the northern and southern drainage ditches.
 3. Thin the eucalyptus forest to increase watershed inflows and reduce and evapotranspiration
3. Remove human-made infrastructure affecting the natural hydrology and sediment transport regime, where possible including levees, drainage ditches, and culverts.
4. Improve the ability of the lagoon to freshen during closure.
 1. Increase inflows into the lagoon from Pescadero and Butano Creek via streamflow protection measures.
 2. Reduce volume of “lagoon” during initial closure via hydrologic disconnection of North Marsh North Pond
5. Ensure that changes to the North Marsh North Pond do not impact the ability of the lagoon to scour and transport sand through the system and into the ocean.
6. Implement actions that will allow the process and function of the system to evolve naturally.
 1. Assess at two temporal scales: near term (0–25 years) and then long term (25–100 years) based on climate change predictions of sea level rise and possibly runoff/inflows.

Activities

1. Remove culverts in eight locations, six of which are defunct.
2. Excavate and lower some levees in key locations.
3. Fill channel and ditch with excavated material.
4. Install thirty-eight natural features (wood structures) on the surface of the marsh, in Pescadero Creek, and embedded in the filled channels and ditches.
5. Remove some invasive eucalyptus and iceplant.
6. Revegetate some disturbed areas with native plants.
7. Restore the Sequoia-Audubon Trail as a lower levee trail.

Related Pages



June 2025: in-water construction begins

October 2025: estimated time of project completion

For more information and photos, visit <https://www.sanmateorcd.org/project/pescadero-marsh-habitat-restoration-and-resiliency-project/>

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https://www.smdailyjournal.com/news/local/san-mateo-county-s-little-butano-creek-gets-restoration-help/article_b2c04d0a-3664-4a78-bd57-9bcd6c3a5e75.html

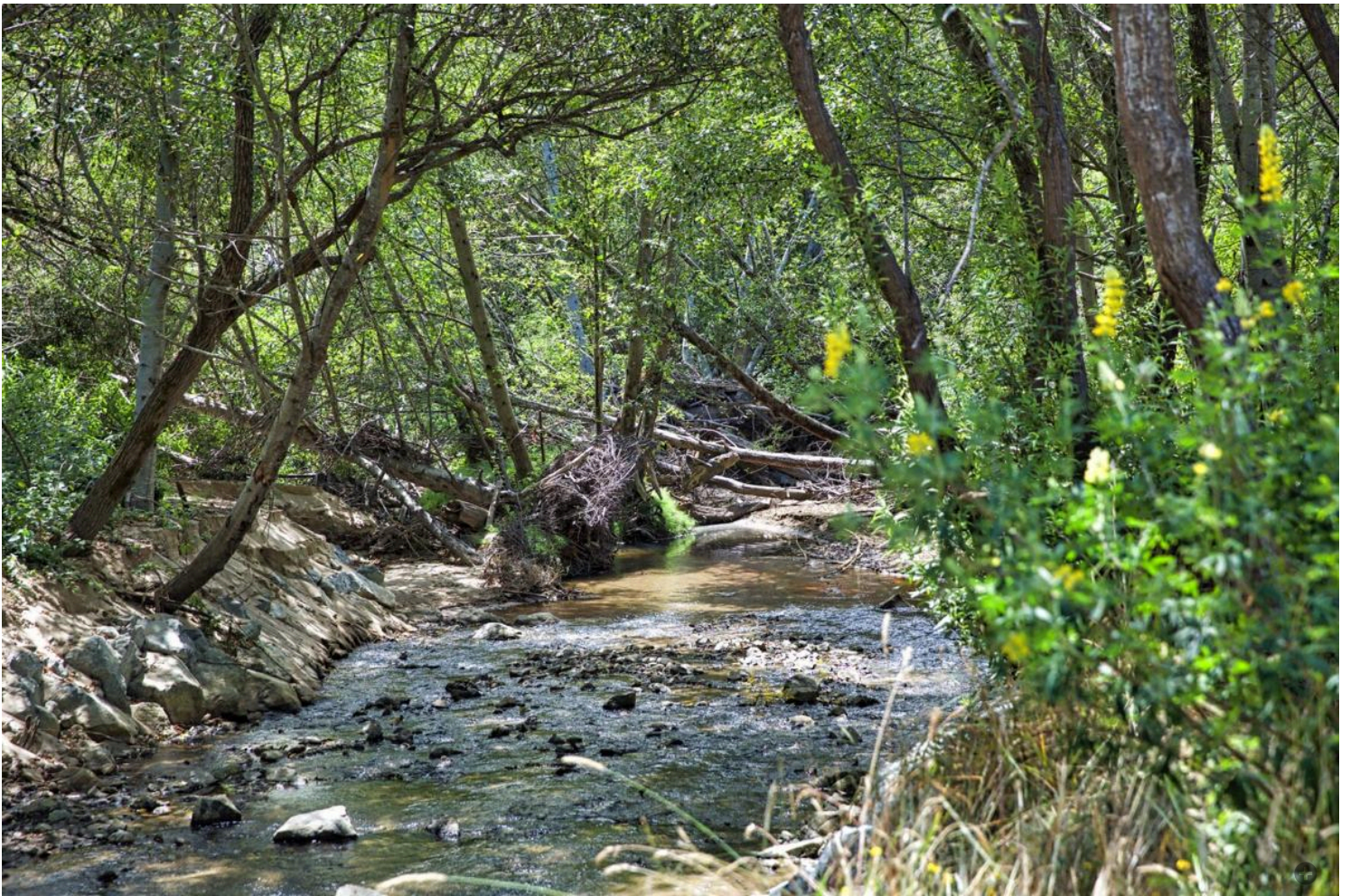
FEATURED

From the Daily Journal archives

San Mateo County's Little Butano Creek gets restoration help

Daily Journal staff report

Apr 17, 2025



San Mateo County's Little Butano Creek fish and habitat restoration project is the first in the state to benefit from a new streamlined permitting process designed to cut the red tape away from restoration projects.

According to an April 10 press release from Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office, California has been working to streamline environmental work through its “Cutting Green Tape” program since 2021.

The Butano Creek project — designed to restore fish passage at an existing 15-foot chute, enhancing access to the Butano Creek watershed — was granted the first restoration management permit to complete work.

The permit consolidates five of the most common California Department of Fish and Wildlife approvals needed for restoration projects, the press release said.

“Making it faster and easier to approve restoration projects has huge benefits for people and wildlife alike, which is why I’m excited we’ve issued our first restoration permit for the Little Butano Creek Project in the Pescadero watershed,” CDFW Director Charlton Bonham said in the press release.

When completed, the Butano Creek project will enhance 1,000 linear feet of aquatic habitat and 3.52 acres of wetland for coho salmon, steelhead trout and the California red-legged frog, including a variety of other species.

Various restoration efforts around Butano Creek — including restoration of the floodplain habitat to create flood protection and agricultural security for coho salmon — have long been priorities for the San Mateo Resource Conservation District.



MORE INFORMATION





New habitat for fish and farmers in Pescadero

Long-awaited Butano Creek restoration project finished

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YOUR LATEST

Art, news, op-eds, and observations from the natural world, updated weekly



May 8, 2025

AmeriCorps Has Crumbled. What Are Nature-Oriented Young People to Do?

Last week, AmeriCorps volunteer fellows stopped doing essential nature work across the Bay Area and beyond—leaving a hole that agencies, nonprofits, and

universities can't afford to fill. Aspiring young environmental professionals say they are struggling to figure out what's next. **Free Read »**

:: More Coverage of Green Jobs

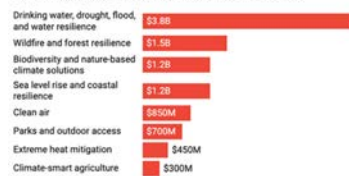


A Day Out with Civicorps

This local youth training program is modeled after the federal Civilian Conservation Corps from the 1930s. Civicorps' crews work across conservation, trailbuilding and maintenance, wildfire mitigation, and habitat restoration. *Fall 2023.* **Free Read »**

Where \$10 billion is going

Broad strokes, that is—the CA Legislature is debating the details.



Get In On Climate Bond Money

After Trump cutbacks, Prop 4's big money for climate adaptation in California is more important than ever. Here's what it can and can't fund, and how to get started. (TL;DR: start now!) *Spring 2025.* **Free Read »**

This Spring | Signs of the Season



Survival of the Flittest

One year ago, scientists schlepped some silvery blue butterflies from the central coast to the Presidio's dunes, hoping they could stand in, ecologically, for the extinct Xerces blue. Some of them stuck around long enough to reproduce! *Spring 2025.* **Free Read »**

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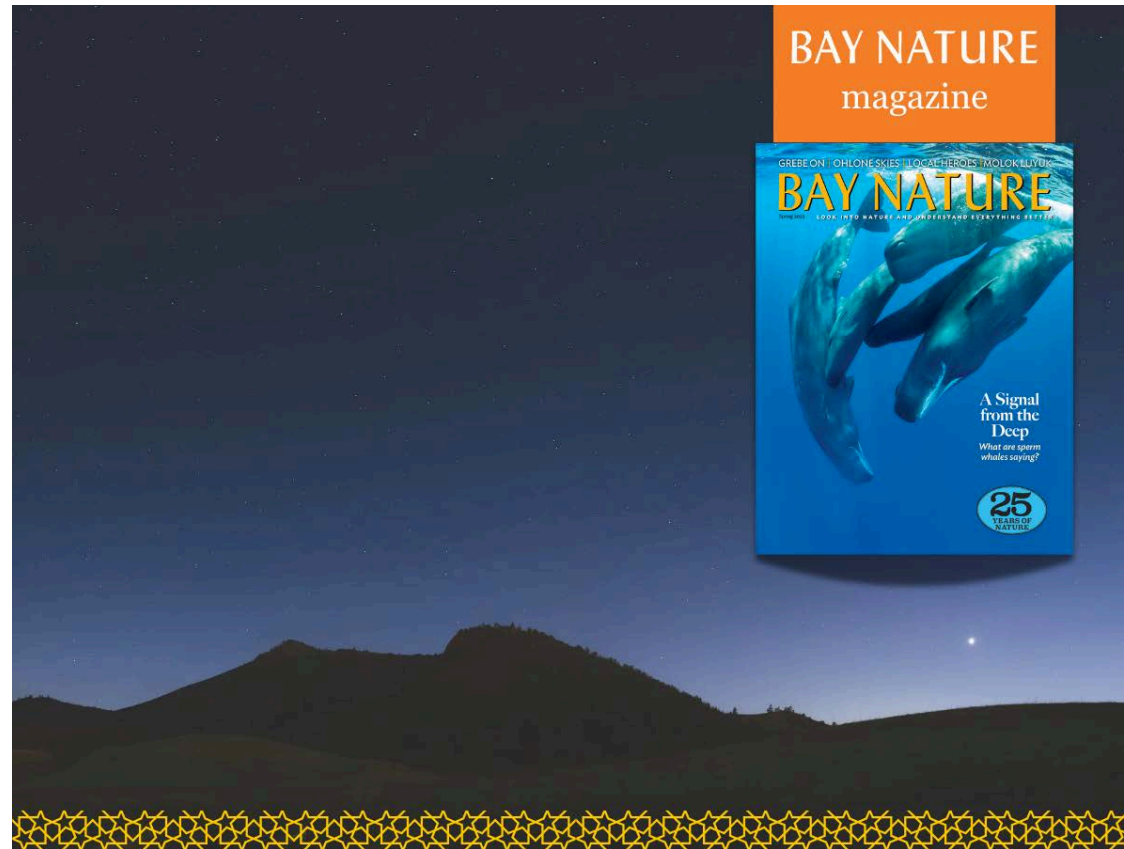


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Environmental journalism that informs and inspires



mur taraaxtak—Ohlone Skies

“Last spring, after more than a year of development with our Ohlone people and our fantastic partners at the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland, history was made.” Vincent Medina writes about creating the first-ever Ohlone planetarium show, and what it meant to see its premiere. *Mur taraaxtak*, in Chochenyo, means “the night sky.” **Free Preview »**



The Mating Rituals of Grebes

Clark's and western grebes are known for the "rushing ceremony," a paired dance that Sonya Bennett-Brandt describes as "part love song, part divine manifestation." But for all the attention these birds command, the secrets of their lives are well-guarded. **Free Preview »**



How Molok Luyuk Got Its National Monument Designation

At first it was labeled a wind resource area. Then all the wind energy companies walked away. Now, President Trump has directed federal agencies to open up public lands for energy development. **Free Preview »**

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YOUR BAY NATURE EVENTS

Educational talks and naturalist-led hikes that bring our stories to life



Explore Mount Diablo with Civicorps

Join Bay Nature and Civicorps for a hike at Mount Diablo State Park on **Saturday, May 17 from 9–11:30am**. Learn about Civicorps, a nonprofit organization training young people for conservation jobs, and the work their corpsmembers do to mitigate fire risk, improve climate resiliency, and keep communities safe. **Free for Members. Sign Up »**

Researchers Bruce Baldwin and Sarah Gordon will offer an online seminar about endangered plants in California and how scientists are working to conserve them on **Wednesday, May 14, from 12–1pm**. Learn about native plant hotspots that support their ecosystems and provide for a network of other species. **Free for Members, \$5 for Non-Members. Sign Up »**

Join researcher Floyd Hayes to learn about the behavior and ecology of grebes on **Tuesday, May 20, from 12-1pm**. This talk builds on our Spring 2025 story "Behold the Flamboyant Mating Rituals of Grebes" (see above). Floyd will dive deeper into the internal lives of grebes, looking at their behavior through his research on these much-loved birds. **Free for Members, \$5 for Non-Members. [Sign Up »](#)**

***Become a Bay Nature Member** to see the full upcoming event calendar.*

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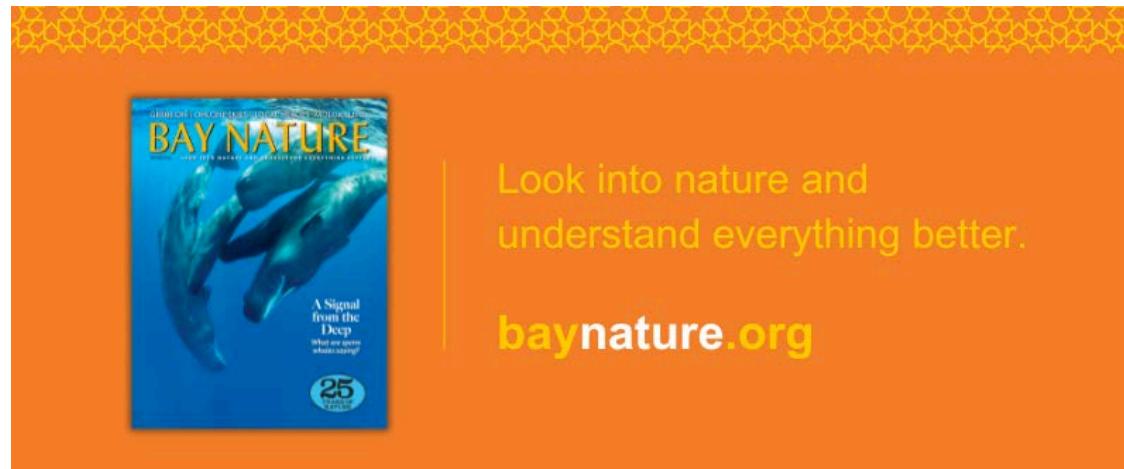
A Bay Nature dispatch from the field



Celebrating the Spring Issue in Palo Alto

Thank you to the 45 Bay Nature supporters who attended our Spring 2025 Issue Release Party in Palo Alto on April 30! We were grateful to gather with our Peninsula and South Bay friends at Susan Rosenberg's beautiful home and garden. It was an engaging evening spent meeting and mingling with fellow nature lovers—and we all got a good look at George the 27-year-old tortoise! Interested in attending a future issue release party? Consider joining the Bay Nature Publisher's Circle! [Learn More »](#)

Photo Credits: GrizzlyCorps volunteer by Nils Warnock; Civicorps crew by Laure Isabelle Andrillon; data visualization by Kate Golden/Bay Nature; Silvery blue butterfly by Gayle Laird © California Academy of Sciences; Mount Diablo and Venus by Jacob Saffarian; grebes by Kumiko Iwashita; Molok Luyuk by Bob Wick; Mount Diablo by Civicorps; and, issue release party photo by Don Weden.



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May 9, 2025

Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Ensuring Equitable Access to Prop 4 Funds for Vulnerable Rural Communities

Dear Ms.Doddanari,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Vulnerable Communities Map being developed by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation.

As organizations working closely with rural and climate-vulnerable communities on the south coast of San Mateo County, we are concerned that the current draft map does not accurately reflect conditions. The map indicates low to medium social vulnerability in this area, despite the well-documented presence of farmworker and low-income communities who face disproportionate risks from climate-related impacts.

This is particularly significant because Proposition 4—the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024—states that at least 40 percent of bond money must be used for activities that directly benefit communities that have lower incomes or are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. If vulnerable communities like ours are not accurately identified, they may be excluded from funding specifically intended to protect and support them.

We believe this disconnect may be due to several key issues:

- **Averaging effects mask disparity:** Based on the map's outcomes, it appears that local extremes in income may be averaged in a way that hides social vulnerability. In the community of Pescadero, for example, low-income farmworker families live in the same census tract as extremely wealthy Silicon Valley tech executives, many of whom have a second home in our region. This level of disparity can make it appear that the community is better resourced than it truly is for those most impacted by climate risk.
- **Census undercounts:** Farmworkers, lower-income residents, and Spanish-speaking immigrant community members—especially those living in employer or informal housing—are significantly underrepresented in data sources.
- **Access barriers:** It is well documented that this community lacks access to essential services—such as healthcare, transportation, food, and emergency response—which increases vulnerability to climate-related hazards. The closest health clinic to Pescadero, aside from a weekly pop-up clinic, is 18 miles away—and even farther (up to 20 miles) for those living near the county line. There is no public transportation connecting Pescadero to any other community. More information can be found in the report, [*San Mateo County's Forgotten South Coast Residents*](#).
- **Language and immigration-related risks:** Many residents face challenges related to linguistic isolation or immigration status, which further increase social vulnerability and limit access to resources and aid.

- Rural infrastructure fragility: The region faces frequent communication outages, road closures due to flooding or landslides, and limited power backup systems that increase exposure and hinder emergency response. It also experiences water system challenges and lacks basic infrastructure for essential services, such as a laundromat and even access to clean water at the high school. Additional community challenges and solutions are detailed in the 2019 report, [*Planning for Equity: Pescadero Town Planning Initiative*](#).

We have not been able to access a detailed explanation of the map's methodology, but based on outcomes, we are concerned that these dynamics may not be adequately accounted for. We are also curious how flood risk was derived, as the map appears inconsistent with site-specific models we've developed for the South Coast community using our own data. We were unaware of this process until recently—had we known earlier, we would have engaged sooner. We would welcome the opportunity to share locally informed data and perspectives that could improve the accuracy and equity of this important tool.

We respectfully recommend refining the methodology so that climate vulnerability designations—and the critical funding decisions tied to them—more accurately represent real-world conditions.

Thank you again for your leadership in developing tools to guide equitable climate investments, and for the opportunity to contribute to this process.

Sincerely,



Rita Mancera
Executive Director,
Puente de la Costa Sur
Rmancera@mypuente.org



Irma Rodriguez Mitton
Executive Director,
Arriba South Coast
Irma@arribasouthcoast.org

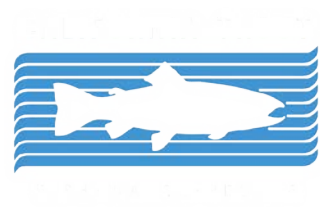


Kellyx Nelson
Executive Director,
San Mateo Resource Conservation District
kellyx@sanmateoRCD.org

Cc: Senator Josh Becker

Assemblymember Marc Berman

San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller



CALTROUT NEWS

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Reflections from the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) Annual Conference

🕒 May 29, 2025

Tags ▼ Categories ▼





By Ashley Shannon, North Coast Project Coordinator

Attending the 42nd Annual Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) Conference was a true treat. The week was full of inspiration, authenticity, and empowerment. As a young female professional, it can be challenging to fully identify with the traditional demographics of the scientific community. But this year felt different—so many young professionals were confidently showcasing their incredible work in the field and making their voices heard.

The conference offered rich opportunities for networking, community building, and genuine hope for the future—something we deeply need right now. The four-day conference focuses on issues impacting salmonids and their habitats through a mix of research presentations, field tours, technical workshops, and more.



Ashley Shannon (left) and Analise Rivero (right) from CalTrout and Carla Avila-Martinez from Surfrider (middle)



CalTrout's Christine Davis during her presentation focused on Eel River dam removal

Inspiring talks from leaders like Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director of San Mateo Resource Conservation District, and Frankie Myers, former Vice Chairman of the Yurok Tribe, helped frame where we've come from and where we're headed. Kellyx discussed how to humanely restore fisheries and Frankie discussed the significance of the Klamath dam removals. Hearing Ron Reed, cultural biologist of the Karuk Tribe, speak about the importance of fire and eco-cultural revitalization gave me chills—his message carried profound weight and passion. It's rare to tap into a brain trust as rich and engaged as the SRF community. Connecting with colleagues and friends from across the fisheries world was deeply rewarding.

There were countless standing ovations throughout the week—the spirit of camaraderie was alive and strong. That said, the absence of our federal partners was profoundly felt. While their missing presence brought sorrow, it also served as a powerful reminder of the need for unity in divisive times.

One of the most meaningful parts of the week was participating in SRF's mentorship program as a mentor. I learned so much not only about my mentee, but about myself. Supporting them and introducing them to this passionate, welcoming community was a true honor. I'd consider myself lucky to have met such a smart, talented, and driven individual. If anyone's looking to hire an emerging fisheries scientist, I know just the person!

It was also incredibly exciting to see so many CalTrout staff presenting. Attending my colleagues' sessions and witnessing the remarkable work we're doing across the state was nothing short of inspiring. It reminded me how impactful and far-reaching our efforts are, especially when it comes to expansive, landscape-scale projects.

I’m proud to be part of CalTrout, to represent such a prominent organization, and to contribute to the incredible work we do every day. I left the conference feeling energized and empowered to raise my voice even more next year. I want to continue showing up authentically, boldly, and passionately and contribute to a restoration community in which all folks feel seen and heard. Thank you, SRF—and your incredible staff—for showing up for this community year after year. The brain trust you nurture is fueling the future of restoration and lighting the way down the long road ahead.



CalTrout's Elizabeth Burns with her poster presentation

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UPCOMING EVENT

Iron Canyon Fish Passage Project Community Meeting

Butte County Library, Chico

June 10th, 2025 6:00pm

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Thu, Jun 12, 2025

 English**COASTSIDE BUZZ**

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Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council Writes Governor to Ensure Equitable Access to \$4B Prop 4 Funds for their Vulnerable Rural Farmworking Community

May 29, 2025



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AUDIO and MINUTES. From the [Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council](#) (PMAC) meeting on Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 6:00pm, as a hybrid meeting. [Agenda](#).

- PMAC [Letter to the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation](#).
- [Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation](#) and [Vulnerable Communities Platform](#) (VCP)
- [Climate Vulnerability Map Viewer](#) (PRE-RELEASE DRAFT COPY – FOR DELIBERATIVE, INTERNAL USE)
- 2017 [San Mateo County's Forgotten South Coast Residents](#).
- 2019 [Planning for Equity: Pescadero Town Planning Initiative](#).



[Audio for Item #4](#) begins at 1:17:50.
(no video to see map; need [ARC GIS](#) login)

4. Resource Conservation District Letter to Update Climate Maps (20 minutes)

The council will review a draft letter from the San Mateo Resource Conservation District to the State of California requesting the state update the climate change maps used by the state for funding purposes. The request is to include Pescadero as it is currently not included on the maps.

RCD Letter of support to update climate change maps:

- The GIS data looks like the maps covering the Pescadero area are not up to date or inclusive of the needed social vulnerability portion.
- W/o accurate data, Pescadero could be missing out or not eligible to receive some of the \$4B earmarked for [vulnerable communities via prop 4](#).
- Barb Kipreos (Engagement Officer from the [San Mateo Resource Conservation District](#)) shared screen shots of examples of the GIS mapping not intuitively showing Pescadero changing in the mapping over time like other Bay Area communities.
- Augustine read the draft letter out loud.
- Council discussed the letter structure and if changes need to be made.
- Puente, Arriba Southcoast and RCD have used this same letter with minor adjustments.
- **Public Comment:** Irma Rodriguez Mitton Founder / Executive Director of Arriba Southcoast expressed support to send this letter as is.

- Motion to send the letter as is made by Erridge – seconded by Talbot
- Approved by Augustine, Rose, Talbot, and Erridge – Skinner abstained – Motion passeu.



2025 Board of Supervisors

 English



District 1
Jackie Speier



District 2
Noelia Corzo
Vice President



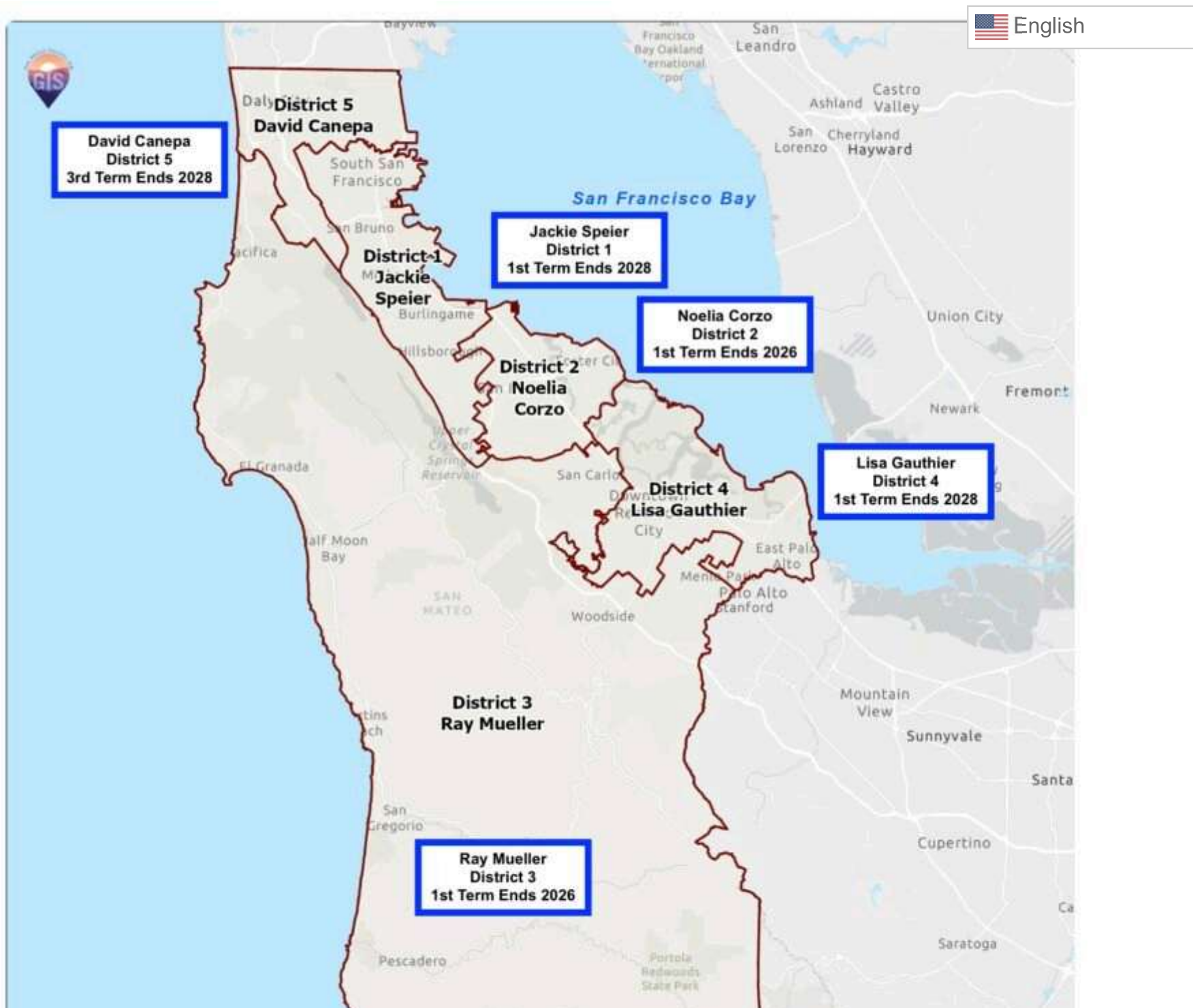
District 3
Ray Mueller



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David Canepa
President





← San Mateo County LAFCo Approves New Municipal Service Review Draft Policy for Public Access and Meeting Participation Including LiveStream Availability and Remote Public Comment

Granada Community Services District Interviews for → Vacant Board Seat ~ Longtime Local Matt Allen is Appointed; Board Hopes Others will Sign Up for Re-Lifed Parks Advisory Committee

Related Buzz

What Does Covid Contact Tracing Look Like in San Mateo County?

VIDEO. San Mateo County Health presents at the Tuesday, 12/1/2020 City Council Meeting. Many County employees have been re-trained as...

Coastside Fishing 2024 Chinook Salmon Smolt Inoculation Project at Mokelumne Hatchery ~ Stay Tuned for Pillar Point Harbor Delivery

VIDEO. From San Mateo County Harbor District Commissioner, Tom Mattusch, from the 2024 Salmon Smolt

Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside's Table Top Flow Analysis for Storm Events Recommends Using 2 Flow Meters to Confirm Findings

VIDEO. From the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) meeting on Monday, March 11th, 2024 at 7:00pm, as a hybrid meeting. Agenda. Staff...

Vaccination at the Mokelumne Hatchery...



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Supervisor Mueller Holds Study Session for the Moss Beach Seal Cove Residents Regarding Recent Landslide Activity with San Mateo County Public Works, Planning and Building and Montara Water and Sanitary District

June 12, 2025



Boys and the Girls Club of the Coastside Announces Athletic Field Improvements at Half Moon Bay High School Baseball Field and Cunha Soccer Complex this Summer

June 12, 2025



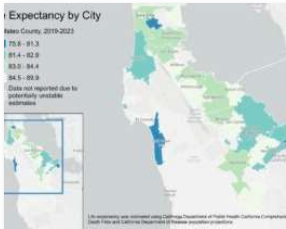
Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council Announces "Notice of Vacancy" and Calls for Candidate's Letters of Interest for Nomination ~ Deadline July 8th, 2025

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Supervisor [US Flag] English [US Flag] ose Funding to Restart a Human Trafficking Cybercrimes Program in San Mateo County with Superbowl and World Cup Coming in 2026

June 12, 2025



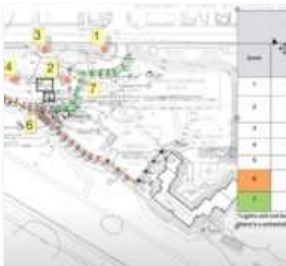
While San Mateo County May Have the Highest Life Expectancy in the State at 84-89 Years, Half Moon Bay's Life Expectancy is 75-81 Years

June 12, 2025



After 2800 Champs Elysee Lawsuit Settlement, Half Moon Bay Council Approves Permit After Additional Modeling of the Pullman Ditch Flooding

June 12, 2025



Midcoast Community Council Hears Latest Plans from Cabrillo Unified for El Granada Elementary Parking Lot Lighting with Worry

June 11, 2025



Half Moon Bay Issues Stop-Work Order for Caltrans Contractor's Permit Violation for Scraping Hwy 1 and Hwy 92 Property for Pilarcitos Bridge Scour Project Staging; Remediation and Mitigation to Follow

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Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside Receives 2024 “First Flush” Report by San Mateo Resource Conservation District ~ Volunteer!

May 15, 2025



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VIDEO. From the [Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside](#) meeting on Monday, April 28th, 2025 at 7:00pm, as a hybrid meeting. [Agenda](#). Item #4B [Staff Report](#). Become a Water Warrior [VOLUNTEER!](#)





Draw



English



[FirstFlush_2023_2024_WQPresentation_SAM](#)

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[More on SAM on Coastside Buzz](#)

Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) Meetings ~ 2nd & 4th Mondays @ 7:00pm

SAM [Agendas and Zoom Links](#)

[Subscribe to Agendas.](#) Watch remotely. Comments and question



SAM [Meeting Videos](#) via Pacific Coast TV

[Real Life Sewer Plant Tours](#)

[Where Does Your Poop Go ~ Virtual Video Tour!](#)

Interactive ["Story Map"](#) Tour

[Contact Us](#)

Our regular office hours are 7:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The Authority can be reached 24-hours a day at: (650) 726-0124.

Our Address is:

Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside
1000 Cabrillo Hwy N.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019



SAM Board from left. Paul Nagengast (HMB), Nancy Marsh (GCSD),  English, Debbie Ruddock (HMB), Barbara Dye (GCSD), Kathryn Slater-Carter (MWSD).

The Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) provides wastewater treatment services and contract collection maintenance services for a population of approximately 24,000 in the following areas:

- City of Half Moon Bay
- El Granada
- Miramar
- Montara
- Moss Beach
- Princeton by the Sea

SAM Directors

SAM is a joint powers authority (JPA) created by its three member agencies: City of Half Moon Bay (City), Granada Community Services District (GCSD), and the Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD).

The JPA is a separate, independent, public agency created by the member agencies to perform functions and share powers common to the member agencies. Those powers are outlined in a joint exercise of powers agreement (Agreement). The Agreement creating SAM can be found on the Documents page.

Each Agreement identifies how the independent agency will be governed. In the case of SAM, each member agency appoints two members from its governing board to represent it on the SAM Board of Directors, for a total of six directors.

The Agreement also establishes the weight of each director's vote. The vote by each representatives from the City is given the weight of two votes. The vote by each representative from GCSD and MWSD is given the weight of one vote. The total number of possible votes is eight. A quorum is a minimum of five votes and resolutions require at least six votes to pass.

Deborah Ruddock ~ Chair, Representing the [City of Half Moon Bay](#)

Kathryn Slater-Carter ~ Vice Chair, Representing the [Montara Water & Sanitary District](#)

Nancy Marsh ~ Secretary/Treasurer, Representing the [Granada Community Services District](#)

Barbara Dye ~ Director, Representing the [Granada Community Services District](#)

Paul Nagengast ~ Director, Representing the [City of Half Moon Bay](#)

Scott Boyd ~ Director, Representing the [Montara Water & Sanitary District](#)



← After Complicated Discussion on Due Process and Bias, San Mateo County Supervisors Adopt Steps for Consideration of Sheriff Corpus' Removal

Coast Commission Overrides Staff over → Hyatt Hotel Appeal Recommendation and Finds Substantial Issue with Degradation of Views Voting 5-4 to Bring Back Item as De Novo to Future Meeting

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Save the Jetty Ramp ~ A Moving Letter by Richard Moss's Dad, Read by Dan Stegnik at GCSD Special Meeting

The Granada Sanitary District was urged on by an emotional letter read by Dan Stegnik. Dan Moss eloquently described how...

500 People Respond to the GCSD Parks and Recs Survey

VIDEO / POWERPOINT. Coastside has a lot of young people and a lot of older people. They each have different...

SURVEY for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Trail Information Sharing System Pilot Project

NEWSLETTER. From the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) November 2021 Enews. This summer, we began a pilot project to...

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June 12, 2025



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Midpen Open Space and San Mateo Resource Conservation District Team up for the Johnston Ranch Habitat and Agricultural Water Supply Improvement Project

May 29, 2025



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01:02

STAFF REPORT. From the [Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District](#) on May 14th, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Senior Center in Half Moon Bay. In person only. Midpen [Staff and Board](#).

[Agenda](#). Item #10 [Staff Report](#). Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the San Mateo Resource Conservation District for the completion of a habitat restoration and agricultural water supply improvement project on Miramontes Ridge Open Space Preserve with a monetary contribution of \$287,270 to complete design and permitting.



Johnston Ranch Uplands, Miramontes Ridge Preserve

Trail (classes)

- Paved Road
- Unpaved All-Season Road
- Unpaved Seasonal Road
- Trail
- Abandoned / Unmaintained Road

--- Abandoned / Unmaintained Trail

Road Centerline (major)

- Arterial
- Highway
- Preserve Boundary (fill)

Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
(MROSD)



8/27/2024



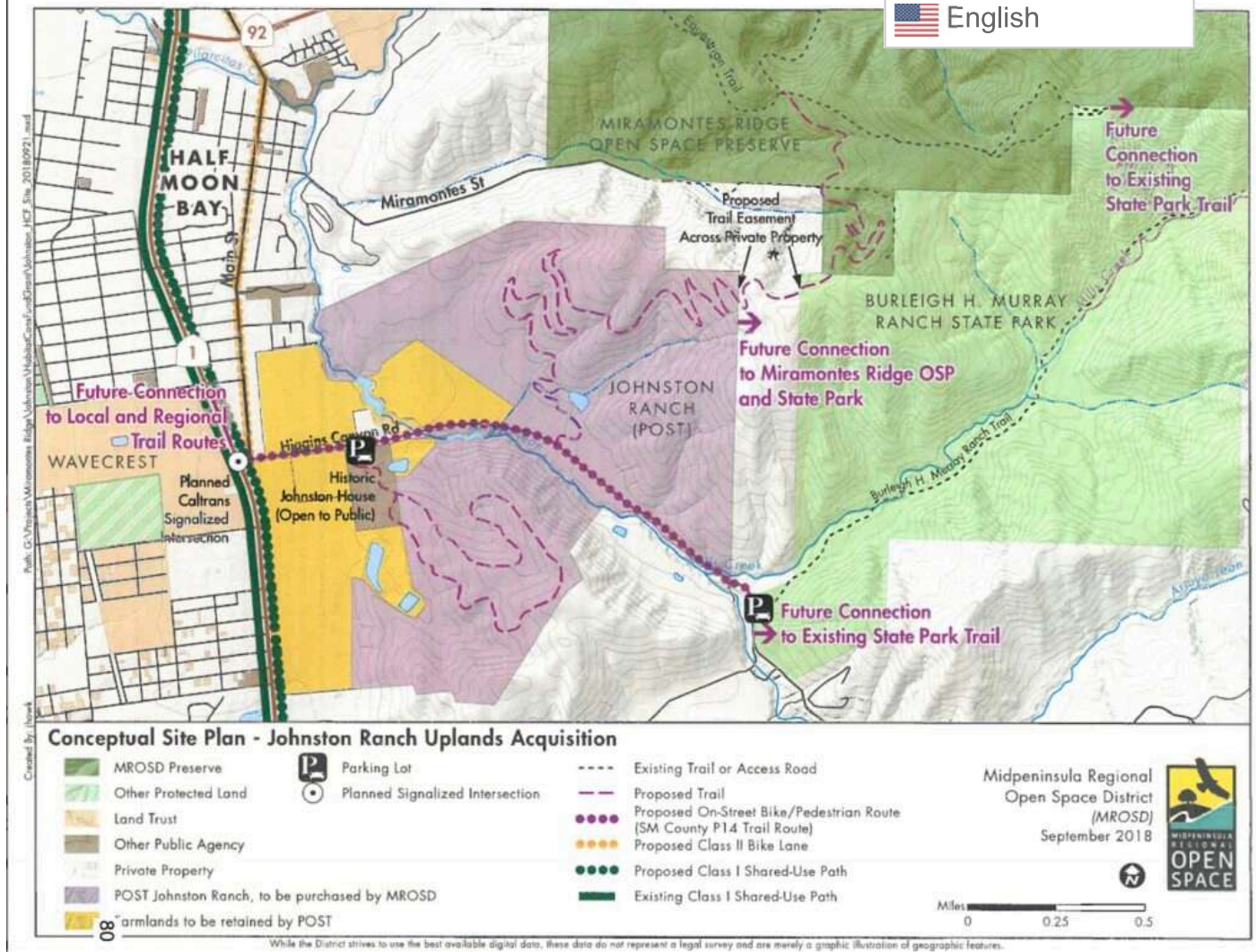
More on the [Midpen Open Space's Johnston Ranch](#)

[A New Chapter for the Iconic Johnston Ranch](#); June 5th, 2024

Fact Sheet on the [Johnston Ranch Property Interest Purchase](#)

[Midpen approves purchase of Johnston Ranch](#); November 11, 2021





[More on the Johnston Ranch on Coastside Buzz](#)

[More on Midpen Open Space on Coastside Buzz](#)

← SAM Sewer Force Main at Montara Replacement Project Proceeds on Schedule with Design and Guaranteed Maximum Price Ready by end of 2025

San Mateo County LAFCo Approves New → Municipal Service Review Draft Policy for Public Access and Meeting Participation Including LiveStream Availability and Remote Public Comment

Please Don't Flush "Flushable Wipes" 'Cos It Clogs Sewer System

VIDEO. In particular, sewer authorities statewide are battling "flushable" wipes. Specifically, AB 1672 (2020 legislation) addresses Wet Wipe Labelling. Flushable...

Supervisors Support the HEAL Project and the San Mateo County Farm School with \$1.2M to Continue to Educate Low Income Students with Farm Field Trips

CONSENT AGENDA. From the San Mateo County Supervisors meeting for Tuesday, May 21st, 2024. Agenda for 5/21/2024. Consent agenda item #21 ...

 English

Required, New Elections, Budget, 4th of July, Playgrounds...

LETTER June 23rd, 2020.
View as Webpage Dear Half
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ver esta carta en español,
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June 11, 2025



San Mateo Resource Conservation District

DRAFT FY 2026 Financial Budget

DRAFT

<u>Program Revenue</u>	
Agricultural Ombudsman	\$ 155,097
Agricultural Stewardship	\$ 1,204,412
Conservation Technical Assistance	\$ 360,093
Cutting Green Tape	\$ -
Erosion and Sediment Management	\$ 695,349
Fire and Forestry	\$ 3,594,615
Habitat Enhancement	\$ 8,324,536
Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network	\$ 719,458
Water Quality	\$ 630,192
Water Resources & Conservation	\$ 4,902,840
Subtotal Program Revenue	\$ 20,586,591
<u>Other Revenue</u>	
Donations	\$ 25,000
Interest Income	\$ 70,000
Misc. Income	\$ -
Property Tax	\$ 90,000
Subtotal Other Revenue	\$ 185,000
Total Revenue	\$ 20,771,591
<u>Operating Expenses</u>	
Personnel (Salaries & Fringe)	\$ 3,959,424
Other	\$ 447,000
Subtotal Operating Expenses	\$ 4,406,424
<u>Program Expenses</u>	
Agricultural Ombudsman	\$ 55,000
Climate Mitigation and Adaptation	\$ 824,750
Conservation Technical Assistance	\$ 64,465
Cutting Green Tape	\$ -
Erosion and Sediment Management	\$ 650,000
Fire and Forestry	\$ 2,617,222
Habitat Enhancement	\$ 7,118,403
Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network	\$ 547,300
Water Quality	\$ 291,325
Water Resources & Conservation	\$ 4,194,218
Subtotal Program Expenses	\$ 16,362,683
Total Expenses	\$ 20,769,107
NET	\$ 2,484
Operating Reserve Allocation	\$ 350,000