

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday August 21, 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>The Board of Directors approves:</div> <div>5.1. June 2025 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes</div> <div>5.2. July 2025 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes</div> <div>5.3. August 8, 2025 Draft Special Meeting Minutes</div> <div>5.4. Proposed Amendments to the 2025-2029 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Plan</div> <div>5.5. Recommendation to Contract with Bay Area Tree Specialists for the Wavecrest Fire Resiliency Project</div> <div>The Board of Directors receives into record:</div> <div>5.6. UC ANR Santa Cruz County post, “Santa Cruz Mountains Long Term Forest Stewardship Monitoring Program”</div> <div><div>• PDF on RCD web page</div><div>• Original source with embedded links</div></div> <div>5.7. June 18, 2025 Coastside Buzz article, “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”</div> <div><div>• PDF on RCD web page</div><div>• Original source with embedded links</div></div> <div>5.8. July 1, 2025 County of San Mateo Planning and Building article, “Permit Exemption for Hazardous Trees – Extended to July 1, 2026: Only applicable to the Coastal Zone”</div> <div><div>• PDF on RCD web page</div><div>• Original source with embedded links</div></div> <div>5.9. July 15, 2025 San Mateo County Parks article, “Pescadero Creek Park Forest Restoration Plans Set: Informational Hike Scheduled for August 16”</div> <div><div>• PDF on RCD web page</div><div>• Original source with embedded links</div></div> <div>5.10. July 31, 2025 Coastside Buzz article, “San Mateo Resource Conservation District Gives Update on Fire Mitigation and Fuel Reduction Projects for the Coastside to the Midcoast Community Council”</div> <div><div>• PDF on RCD web page</div><div>• Original source with embedded links</div></div> <div>5.11. September 10, 2025 Coastside Buzz announcement, “Help Monitor Coastal Water Quality with RCD's 2025 First Flush: Online Training and In Person Practice Run”</div> <div><div>• PDF on RCD web page</div><div>• Original source with embedded links</div></div>
<div>6. Regular Agenda</div> <div>6.1. Presentation and discussion about advancing carbon farming at scale in San Mateo County.</div> <div>6.2. Executive Director’s report</div> <div>6.3. USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) report</div> <div>6.4. Directors’ connection and reports</div>
<div>7. Adjourn Meeting</div> <div>The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be September 18, 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, August 21, 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 (Absent: Troy Guy; On Leave: Adrienne Etherton)

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

RCD staff: Kellyx Nelson (virtual), Lau Hodges, Kati McHugh, Eliza Milio, Barb Kipreos, John Martinez, Lindsay Edelmann (virtual), Clarissa Maciel (virtual)

NRCS staff: Allen Curry (virtual), Drew Mather (virtual)

Guests: Virginia Chang Kiraly (San Mateo County Harbor Commissioner, LAFCo Board member), Cassandra Matter (Sup. Mueller's Office; virtual), Cindy (Sierra Club volunteer; virtual)

1. Call to Order

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Item 6.3 (USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) report) was moved above 6.2 to accommodate NRCS staff availability.

ACTION: Weil motioned to approve agenda as amended, Stielstra seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introduction of Guests and Staff

All in attendance introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment

Chang Kiraly presented her candidacy for the SDRMA (Special Districts Risk Management Authority) and requested the RCD's support as an agendized item in the September meeting. She shared her experience and values regarding cost-effective insurance for public agencies and her financial background in risk management. She requested the RCD's vote in the upcoming election, with a voting deadline of September 22. Nelson explained that the RCD is a member of SDRMA, which is the RCD's insurer.

5. Consent Agenda

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

6. Regular Agenda

6.3. USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) Report

- Curry and Mather provided updates on NRCS staffing, continuity planning, and local project support. Nelson and board members discussed the importance of maintaining a consistent NRCS presence and point of contact.
- Mather is now the acting Agriculture District Conservationist for San Mateo County.
- He is serving multiple counties and will have limited availability in San Mateo County. Another NRCS staff member will maintain a regular presence at the office.
- Discussion included the importance of maintaining continuity in NRCS staffing, concerns about frequent personnel changes causing loss of institutional knowledge; that daily in-office NRCS presence was not necessary for the RCD
- Mather provided staffing updates, noting recent personnel changes and temporary appointments, including in the area forester, biologist, and conservationist roles. He highlighted continued support from additional NRCS specialists, including engineering, agronomy, range management, and program administration, despite an ongoing federal hiring freeze.
- Mather mentioned a recently funded large-scale forestry project and noted upcoming coordination on engineering and biological specifications.

6.1. Presentation and discussion about advancing carbon farming at scale in San Mateo County

- Eliza Milio, the RCD's agricultural stewardship program manager, described some challenges and opportunities related to scaling carbon farming (low-tech, nature-based practices that work with natural systems to improve soil health and sequester carbon).
 - Technical Expertise: Success depends on selecting appropriate species and practices for specific microclimates and ensuring long-term maintenance
 - Public Land Barriers: Bureaucratic hurdles and risk aversion among public landowners can make implementation difficult.
 - Long-Term Stewardship: Practices that require ongoing care, may deter participation due to time and resource commitments
 - Funding Limitations: State and federal programs often require upfront costs and reimbursements, which can be prohibitive for farmers
 - Equipment Access: Specialized tools are sometimes needed, and the RCD is exploring shared equipment models

- Discussion included what the RCD does (technical assistance, conservation planning, helping producers access resources, implementation projects, engaging with policy); the benefits of carbon farming; terminology, outreach, and stakeholder engagement; farmers' interests in carbon farming; the RCD's work with the County to develop a carbon farming fund; the role of Farm Bill; directors' interests in site visits; and land ownership dynamics.

6.2. Executive Director's Report

Nelson provided the following updates:

- Pescadero Marsh restoration of North Marsh North Pond complex: final phase of restoration completed, marking the conclusion of decades of planned estuary restoration work
- La Honda Shaded Fuel Break: completed except for portions on Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) property
- Little Butano Creek Fish Passage: removal of barrier underway
- San Gregorio Large Woody Debris: habitat enhancement project involving large wood installation at Repetto's Farm in San Gregorio begun, and a second phase on MROSD's Apple Orchard property will start soon
- Wavecrest Fuel Reduction Pilot: fuel reduction and monarch habitat protection will begin soon, anticipated public interest due to its location and being beloved
- Forest Health Regional Prioritization Plan (RPP): for forest health and fuel load reduction across San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara counties; generated significant attention; advances numerous projects
- First Flush: volunteer training on September 10; asked board members to help recruit volunteers and promote the community science event
- **Nelson reminded directors to read and share the RCD's newsletter, noting its value as a public engagement tool. She asked directors to check spam filters if they hadn't received the latest edition.**
- Intention to submit a contingent offer for the property at 0 Pescadero Road, pending board approval at the September meeting. The offer would allow for due diligence and hazard assessments prior to finalizing the purchase.
- She reported a minor injury sustained by a contractor using a chainsaw at a project site. She used the incident to highlight the physical risks faced by laborers and emphasized the importance of recognizing their contributions. She referenced the RCD's Nature Hero Award and the Ecological Workforce Initiative, which aims to train contractors in conservation values and safety.
- Nelson described a recent tour for MROSD staff of RCD's restoration work in the Pescadero watershed. The tour showcased process-based restoration.
- Nelson closed with a reflection on the importance of helping staff stay connected to their passion for conservation amid the administrative and logistical demands of their work. She emphasized the need to support staff in maintaining their sense of purpose and connection to nature.

6.4. Directors' connection and reports

- Stielstra reported on the upcoming regional RCD membership meeting, reconfirmed for October 23 in San Luis Obispo, and shared observations from the Pescadero Arts and Fun Festival, including community engagement and feedback on local projects.

- Weil reported on her participation at the Pescadero Arts and Fun Festival (PAFF), noting interactions with attendees and feedback on outreach materials. She reported updates on the RCD website redesign, which was nearing completion.
- Kossy reported on personal reflections related to generational perspective and expressed appreciation for the RCD's role in connecting people and fostering collaboration.

7. Adjourn Meeting

- Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.
- The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be September 18, 2025.



To: Board of Directors

From: Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

Date: August 12, 2025

Re: Proposed Amendments to the 2025-2029 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Plan

Staff recommends the board of directors approve the following amendments to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) plan that was adopted on November 21, 2024.

Staff considers the proposed amendments to be minor updates, as they do not fundamentally change any goals or statements of value. Rather, these changes are intended to help the RCD better communicate and apply our goals and values. In addition to correcting some of the numbering of goals, the following amendments are proposed.

Section	Issue or Rationale	Proposed Change
Our Plan: Goal 3	<p>This item was accidentally left out of the plan, even though it was in the implementation strategy, AKA the Action Table. The proposed change is to include this item.</p> <p>The correction ensures consistency across the plan and the implementation strategy and captures an existing commitment in our work.</p>	<p>Add the underlined language to the existing section:</p> <p>3. Bring equity to organizational systems and practices.</p> <p>3.1 Ensure that internal rewards systems (e.g. promotions and salary increases) express organizational values.</p> <p><u>3.2 Provide specialized gear that is required or necessary for staff to do their work.</u></p>

Our Plan: Goal 8.1	Changing the goal, “Expand and deepen relationships with farmworkers and Spanish speakers,” to “non-English speakers” would be more inclusive to other language communities.	<p>Replace “Spanish” with “non-English” so that the goal reads as follows, with the proposed change underlined:</p> <p>8. Foster equitable access to programs and services. 8.1 Expand and deepen relationships with farmworkers and <u>non-English</u> speakers.</p>
Our Plan: Goal 9	Goal 9 currently states, “Support the capacity of partner organizations that serve marginalized communities when needed.” It is better fitting for staff to make the determination as appropriate for the circumstances and the context rather than having to determine need, particularly as there will always be some degree of need in partner organizations. It also reflects our commitment to showing up consistently for partners, not just when they articulate a need.	<p>Replace “when needed” with “as appropriate” so that the goal reads as follows, with the proposed change underlined:</p> <p>9. Support the capacity of partner organizations that serve marginalized communities, <u>as appropriate</u>.</p>
Call to Action: White Environmentalism	Staff received comments on the DEIJ plan after its adoption from Puente de la Costa Sur, an organization focused on equity for people in the South Coast of San Mateo County. One comment regarded the high cost of land and limited housing being further compounded by land preservation for open space protection that has not included affordable or sustainable housing, as well as coastal environmental regulations.	<p>Add the underlined language to the existing section:</p> <p>Conservation in the United States has historically prioritized the activities, perspectives, and values of white environmentalists. This has narrowed the lens on the definition of conservation, often parsing environmental issues as separate from equity issues and viewing people as separate from nature...</p> <p><u>One unintended consequence of environmental protections in our area is that open space land preservation and regulations on development have compounded the high cost of land and limited housing.</u></p>

San Mateo Resource Conservation District Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Plan 2025-2029 ADOPTED 11/21/2024

Our Call to Action

Our vision is that coastal San Mateo County will be environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable. In support of that vision, our mission is to be a local hub for conservation, helping the people of San Mateo County build a more thriving natural environment for all. The health of the land and the wellbeing of people are deeply interconnected. This is why we help the land by helping people, and help people by helping the land.

These aspirations do not exist in a vacuum. They are undermined by broader societal structures, both historic and current. We are not truly sustainable while marginalized groups face unequal access to the benefits of nature or disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental degradation, including related natural disasters.

A successful approach to conservation is holistic and integrates multiple systems, e.g. ecology, hydrology, geology, policies and regulations, funding and finance. We believe that truly effective conservation must also consider systems of oppression and inequality. In this document, we identify some of those systems, our place in it, and chart a path forward for San Mateo Resource Conservation District to ensure diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) in our work.

We recognize that the threats posed by biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and other environmental harms affect some people more than others. Furthermore, the benefits of thriving ecosystems and a healthy environment are not experienced equally. Multiple barriers contribute to inequity, such as:

- **Land ownership.** Land ownership is a key factor in building intergenerational wealth, accessing natural resources, and having influence over land management decisions. This is particularly true in the work of resource conservation districts, which were largely created to serve landowners—a focus that remains embedded in our enabling legislation. Landowners can also make decisions regarding the management of their land that can affect others. Marginalized groups have faced disproportionate and systemic barriers to owning land through discriminatory laws, HOA covenants, and banks discriminating against people of color¹ by denying loans or offering predatory loans.^{2,3,4} Land ownership is a particular obstacle in San Mateo County, which has the highest cost of housing in the nine-county Bay Area and among the costliest in the state. This is exacerbated by San Mateo County having greater income inequality than any other county in California. The average income of the top 1% of residents is nearly 50 times greater than the average income of the bottom 99%.
- **Settler colonialism.** The land that today forms our district was stewarded by Native people for over 10,000 years. Since their arrival, colonizing settlers committed genocide, forced

assimilation, displaced, and enslaved the people who were indigenous to this area; fundamentally altered how natural resources are managed; and disrupted or lost much of the local indigenous knowledge of land management.

- **Power and influence.** People with more resources and capacity have more access to decision-making and decision-makers. As a result, they have more influence on setting community priorities and allocating resources. Barriers to participation can include language spoken, work schedules, childcare, competing priorities (often involving basic living needs), feelings of non-belonging in public forums, fear of retribution from landlords or employers, and more. In the area we serve, there are significant discrepancies between community demographics and representation in public leadership positions.
- **White Environmentalism.** Conservation in the United States has historically prioritized the activities, perspectives, and values of white environmentalists.^{5,6} This has narrowed the lens on the definition of conservation, often parsing environmental issues as separate from equity issues and viewing people as separate from nature. This dynamic has sometimes created tension between open space preservation and the need for affordable housing, particularly on the San Mateo County coast where land is limited. It has also shaped what is considered knowledge, prioritizing Western science and academic knowledge over lived experiences. People of color are not only underrepresented in conservation; they also report feeling uncomfortable in these overwhelmingly white spaces.⁷ Meanwhile, studies have found that people of color in the U.S. support environmental policy and can be more likely to care about climate change.⁸ One unintended consequence of environmental protections in our area is that open space land preservation and regulations on development and have compounded the high cost of land and limited housing.
- **Career pathways.** Expectations for college degrees, unpaid or low paying internships, and low-wage entry-level positions pose significant hurdles for people from traditionally low-income communities. Implicit biases in the hiring process, such as bias towards those who communicate similarly or are more relatable to the interviewer, can further exclude candidates from different backgrounds. People of Color face additional obstacles in advancing to leadership roles, with racial diversity often limited to lower-level and non-leadership positions.^{9,10} Frequently people of color are hired for administrative or outreach roles rather than delivering environmental programs. Retention rates for conservationists from marginalized groups are also lower.¹¹ Another barrier is that specialized trade workers who implement conservation projects are often not included in the conservation community or recognized in conservation career pathways. These careers are often overlooked, even though they can be accessed with lower barriers to entry and higher-level wages.
- **Discrimination in agriculture.** Farmers of color have historically faced barriers in receiving financial aid and technical support from the USDA^{12,13} and Agricultural Extension Service,^{14,15} in addition to discrimination from banks in lending for farm ownership.¹⁶ While many farms provide fair employment and good worker conditions, some do not. Many farmworkers experience unjust labor practices and unsafe housing. These impacts are compounded for farmworkers from more vulnerable communities with less access to services and resources due to issues such as language barriers and immigration status.

- **Climate justice.** Climate change disproportionately impacts people of color, Native American, low-income, and disabled communities.^{17,18} They also face greater challenges in recovering from climate-related impacts, often prolonging their hardship.¹⁹ For instance, during wildfires, those with more resources can afford to evacuate to other homes or hotels that remove them from hazardous conditions. Similarly, during floods some people can work remotely or have paid time off, while others (e.g. hourly laborers) risk losing income. Additionally, social inequality is predicted to compound with worsening climate conditions^{20,21}.

Our Responsibility, Our Opportunity

RCDs were born of systems of inequity, and we have perpetuated those systems. Primarily, we were envisioned as a resource for people who own land. This is clearly expressed in our enabling legislation (CA Public Resources Code, Division 9) and other documents and practices throughout our history. Furthermore, a key mechanism to ensure our community-led conservation is the requirement that our boards of directors be landowning residents of our districts. While there are notable exceptions to these requirements (RCDs are enabled to work with non-landowners and non-landowners can serve as directors if certain criteria are met), landownership is nonetheless “in our DNA” and frequently expressed as a core component of RCDs’ brand and identity.

Goal #3 of the RCD’s 2021-2024 Strategic Plan is, “People throughout our community equitably share the benefits of and connection to our natural resources.” A primary strategy identified to achieve that goal was to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan. It was later decided to include Justice.

RCDs are perfectly positioned to bring inclusive and equitable conservation to communities:

- We work across boundaries with diverse entities and diverse interests. We can bring services and resources (financial, technical, educational) to landowners, tenants, tribes, government agencies, non-profit organizations, farm owners, farm laborers, and community members alike.
- The collective impact of our work can benefit everyone- clean air, clean water, thriving wildlife, resilience to flooding and drought and wildfire, viable local food systems, and more. Furthermore, the environmental degradation that we reverse often disproportionately affects those who are most vulnerable.
- RCDs are enabled with authorities to provide diverse services and directly consider economic sustainability as a component of conservation. Collectively, this enables us to work on conservation justice where it is mission aligned.
- RCDs were formed with a keen awareness that thriving human communities and healthy natural resources depend upon each other. This is why we were created as conservation agencies that serve people. Our approach is to bring boots-on-the-ground solutions that benefit both the environment and people.

- We provide free, confidential, nonregulatory assistance in support of voluntary conservation. This positions us to offer government support to assist people of little economic means as well as those whose trust in government has been eroded.
- Our enabling legislation ensures that our board of directors is comprised of community members. If we are intentional about representation on our boards, it can advance equity and inclusion in conservation leadership.
- RCDs were designed to evolve with changing needs and priorities. This enables us to address emerging issues and opportunities that are of greatest concern to those we serve in support of thriving communities, landscapes, and economies.

Our Approach

The plan below is grounded in our purpose, call to action, responsibility, and opportunity described above as well as the following principles that guide how we understand and approach DEIJ work:

1. DEIJ is not a program or outreach. It does not occur solely or primarily outside of the organization. It is also not limited to one or a few members of the organization, regardless of their role. For meaningful and lasting impact, DEIJ must be embedded in all facets of our work for all staff and directors.
2. We are not alone in this work. We operate in a larger ecosystem of communities, nonprofits, government entities, working in their unique roles towards more just and equitable futures.
3. This work is nonlinear and iterative. It requires continuous reflection, adaptation, and improvement rather than following a straightforward path.²²
4. Real change will require new ways of working and thinking. Power and capacity must be shared, relationships built, and our understanding of conservation must be expansive.
5. Big changes often come from small actions. By embedding equity into every aspect of how we do this work and valuing incremental progress, we trust that these small actions will lead to significant and lasting outcomes.
6. The wellbeing of land and people are interconnected. While the systems that harm one harm the other, embedding DEIJ principles into our work benefits the land, people, and communities.

Our Plan

Organizational Excellence

1.Cultivate an inclusive work environment.

- 1.1. Offer tailored accommodations whenever feasible.

1.2 Provide different ways to give feedback and insights for different cognitive styles and preferences.

1.3 Align our language with our principles and be willing to change as many times as needed.

2. Foster a culture of learning, dialogue, and growth.

2.1 Create spaces for continuous learning, model a culture of growth that embraces open dialogue and grace, and set expectations for cultural humility. [Note: The Executive Director has a key responsibility for modeling and setting these expectations for culture.]

2.2 Provide learning opportunities for staff and directors.

3. Bring equity to organizational systems and practices.

3.1 Ensure that internal rewards systems (e.g. promotions and salary increases) express organizational values.

3.2 Provide specialized gear that is required or necessary for staff to do their work.

4. Demonstrate integrity and take appropriate risks when representing our values externally.

4.1 Demonstrate our DEIJ values publicly.

4.2 Stand behind our values when it involves some risk or cost.

Conservation Priorities and Services

5. Include people from disempowered, marginalized, underserved, vulnerable, colonized, and displaced communities as partners, advisors, consultants, and contractors.

5.1 Include these voices in priority-setting.

5.2 Recognize that resources for these groups to participate may be limited, invite them anyway, and create the conditions, as feasible, for effective and inclusive participation.

5.3 Support Native environmental stewardship.

6. Design and implement projects that directly benefit these communities.

7. Strengthen disaster resilience in communities vulnerable to climate change.

7.1 Collaborate with community-based organizations for disaster resilience.

7.2 Seek flexible funding for disaster response.

7.3 Hold accessible community meetings about natural resource management and natural disaster preparation.

7.4 Design and implement nature-based hazard mitigation projects that directly benefit vulnerable communities.

8. Foster equitable access to programs and services.

8.1 Expand and deepen relationships with farmworkers and non-English speakers.

8.2 Provide services to farms and community gardens that strengthen food access and sovereignty.

8.3 Foster access to information about RCD programs and services.

8.4 Identify and reduce barriers to funding work that benefits vulnerable communities.

9. Support the capacity of partner organizations that serve marginalized communities, as appropriate.

10. Foster diverse and inclusive leadership in conservation on the board of directors.

Conservation Workforce

11. Promote access to careers in conservation.

11.1 Implement equitable hiring practices.

11.2 Offer mentoring and information to a diversity of early career professionals and students.

11.3 Support paid opportunities for youth to gain conservation experience and be thoughtful about how unpaid internships can widen opportunity gaps.

11.4 Increase awareness of conservation careers.

12. Promote practices that are thoughtful and supportive of laborers employed by contractors completing RCD projects.

12.1 Ensure worker safety and wellbeing are integrated into project design and implementation.

12.2 Highlight and celebrate workers' contributions.

12.3 Support professional development and equitable opportunities for workers in conservation.

12.4 Recognize all roles in project planning and implementation as important and critical to project success.

Communities of Practice

13. Engage with others centering DEIJ in their work to learn, share, and collaborate.

¹ Our use of terms like POC, DEI, and others reflects our current understanding and intention. We remain open to adapting our language as we grow in this work, honoring the evolving nature of inclusive and respectful language. We also understand that there are differing opinions about which terms are most accurate or preferable.

² Moore, Eli, Nicole Montojo, and Nicole Mauri. "Roots, race, & place: A history of racially exclusionary housing in the San Francisco Bay Area." (2019).

³ Reft, Ryan. "How Prop 14 Shaped California's Racial Covenants." KCET website (September 20, 2017). <https://www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/segregation-in-the-city-of-angels-a-1939-map-of-housing-inequality-in-la> (2017).

⁴ Cyrus, R. (2023, June 2). Predatory Lending's Prey of Color. The American Prospect.

<https://prospect.org/economy/2023-06-05-predatory-lendings-prey-of-color/>

⁵ Purifoy, D. (2018, June 22). How environmentalism in academe today excludes People of Color (opinion). Inside Higher Ed | Higher Education News, Events and Jobs. <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2018/06/22/how-environmentalism-academe-today-excludes-people-color-opinion>

⁶ TAYLOR, D. E. (2016). The Rise of the American Conservation Movement: Power, Privilege, and Environmental Protection. Duke University Press.

⁷ Johnson, Stefanie K. "Leaking talent: How people of color are pushed out of environmental organizations." *Report published June* (2019).

⁸ Benegal, S., Azevedo, F., & Holman, M. R. (2022). Race, ethnicity, and support for climate policy. *Environmental Research Letters*, 17(11), 114060.

⁹ Sun, P. (December 17, 2020). "Structural racism is a barrier to leadership advancement in nonprofit organizations" *Race, Research & Policy Portal*. <https://rrapp.hks.harvard.edu/structural-racism-is-a-barrier-to-leadership-advancement-in-nonprofit-organizations/>

¹⁰ Green 2.0. (2023). *2023 NGO & Foundation Transparency Report*. <https://diversegreen.org/wp-content/uploads/green2.0-2023-report-card.pdf>

¹¹ Johnson, Stefanie K. "Leaking talent: How people of color are pushed out of environmental organizations." *Report published June* (2019).

¹² U.S. Department of Justice. (2010, February 18). Department of Justice and USDA Announce Historic Settlement in Lawsuit by Black Farmers Claiming Discrimination by USDA [Press release]. Retrieved July 30, 2024, from <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/departments-justice-and-usda-announce-historic-settlement-lawsuit-black-farmers-claiming>

¹³ Casey, A. R. (2021). Racial equity in U.S. farming: background in brief ([Library of Congress public edition]). Congressional Research Service.

¹⁴ Minkoff-Zern, LA., Sloat, S. A new era of civil rights? Latino immigrant farmers and exclusion at the United States Department of Agriculture. *Agric Hum Values* 34, 631-643 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1007/510460-016-9756-6>

¹⁵ Harris, C. V. (2008). "The Extension Service Is Not an Integration Agency": The Idea of Race in the Cooperative Extension Service. *Agricultural History*, 82(2), 193-219.

¹⁶ Daniel, P. (2013). *Dispossession: Discrimination against African American farmers in the age of civil rights*. UNC Press Books.

¹⁷ Berberian, A. G., Gonzalez, D. J., & Cushing, L. J. (2022). Racial disparities in climate change-related health effects in the United States. *Current Environmental Health Reports*, 9(3), 451-464.

¹⁸ Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. (2024, January 29). Indicators of climate change: Impacts on California tribes. OEHHA. Retrieved from <https://oehha.ca.gov/climate-change/general-info/indicators-climate-change-impacts-california-tribes>

¹⁹ EPA. 2021. Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States: A Focus on Six Impacts. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 430-R-21-003.

²⁰ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2024. Compounding Disasters in Gulf Coast Communities 2020-2021: Impacts, Findings, and Lessons Learned. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/27170>.

²¹ Islam, N. and J. Winkel (2017), "Climate Change and Social Inequality", UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) Working Papers, No. 152, UN, New York, <https://doi.org/10.18356/2c62335d-en>.

²²

Memorandum

Date: August 7, 2025
To: Board of Directors
From: Kellyx Nelson
Re: Recommendation to Contract with Bay Area Tree Specialists for the Wavecrest Fire Resiliency Project

RCD staff recommends the Board of Directors approve contracting with Bay Area Tree Specialists to implement the Wavecrest Fire Resiliency Project in Half Moon Bay.

The purpose of the project is to improve community fire resiliency while maintaining and improving monarch butterfly habitat, as well as serve as a demonstration and pilot for how both benefits can be achieved. It is a partnership between the RCD and Coastside Land Trust (CLT) on their Wavecrest property in Half Moon Bay.

The scope of work for this contract includes treatment of 4.5 acres of understory in a predominately eucalyptus stand to reduce the density and continuity of dead, dying, diseased, and overly dense vegetation, while improving monarch overwintering habitat.

RCD and CLT selected Bay Area Tree Specialists (BATS) as the contractor for the project for an amount not to exceed \$128,000. Staff from the RCD and Coastside Land Trust reviewed the contractor's proposal, determining it to be reasonable. BATS is a qualified contractor and has experience working with the RCD as well as extensive experience with local eucalyptus management, e.g. in Quarry Park and along Highway 92.

The Procurement and Subaward Policy adopted by the board on May 18, 2023 and amended by Board of Directors October 22, 2024 requires that contracting in an amount over \$75,000 for projects of this type on private property do not require a competitive bid process and do require board approval.

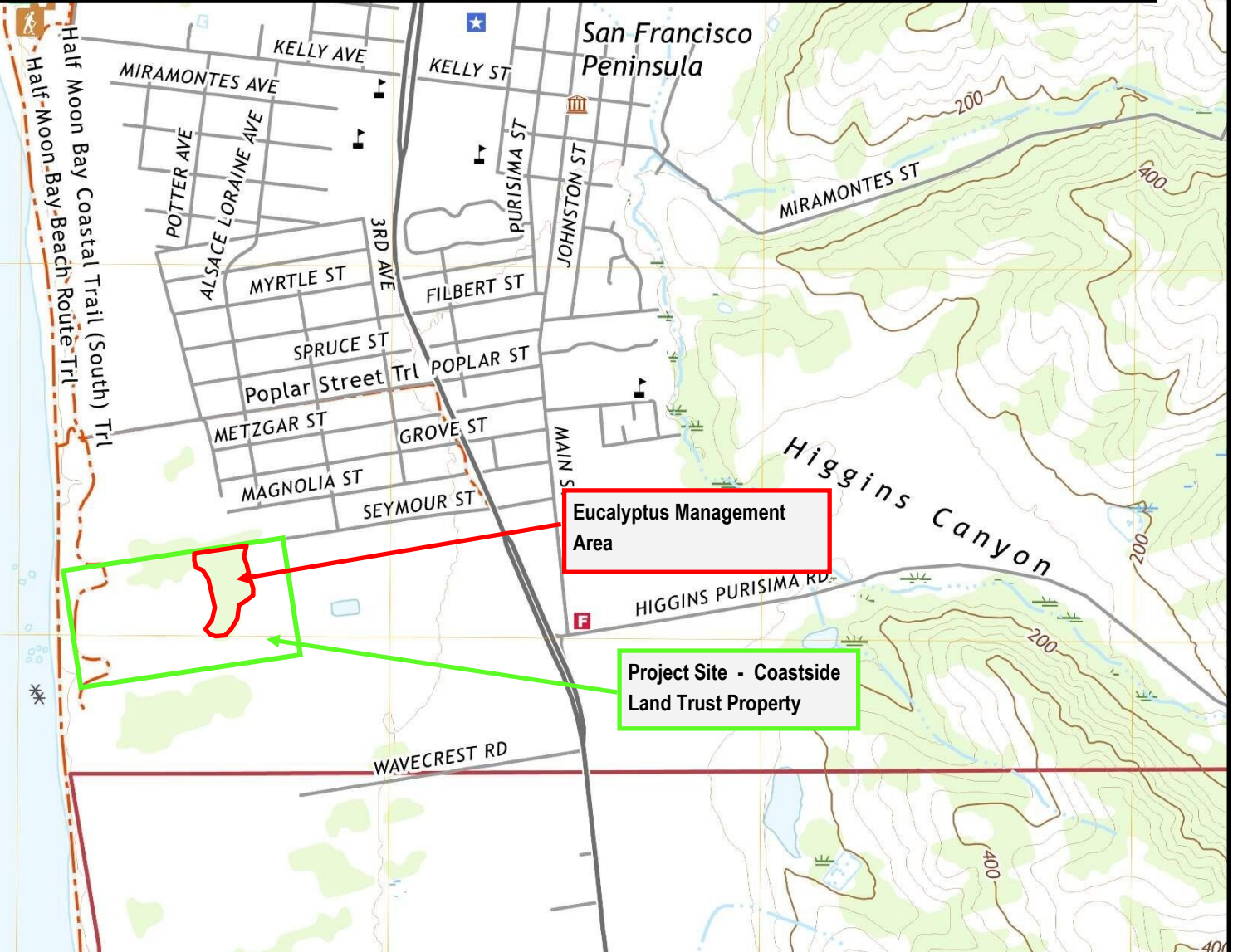
Wavecrest Fuel Reduction

Project Overview Map

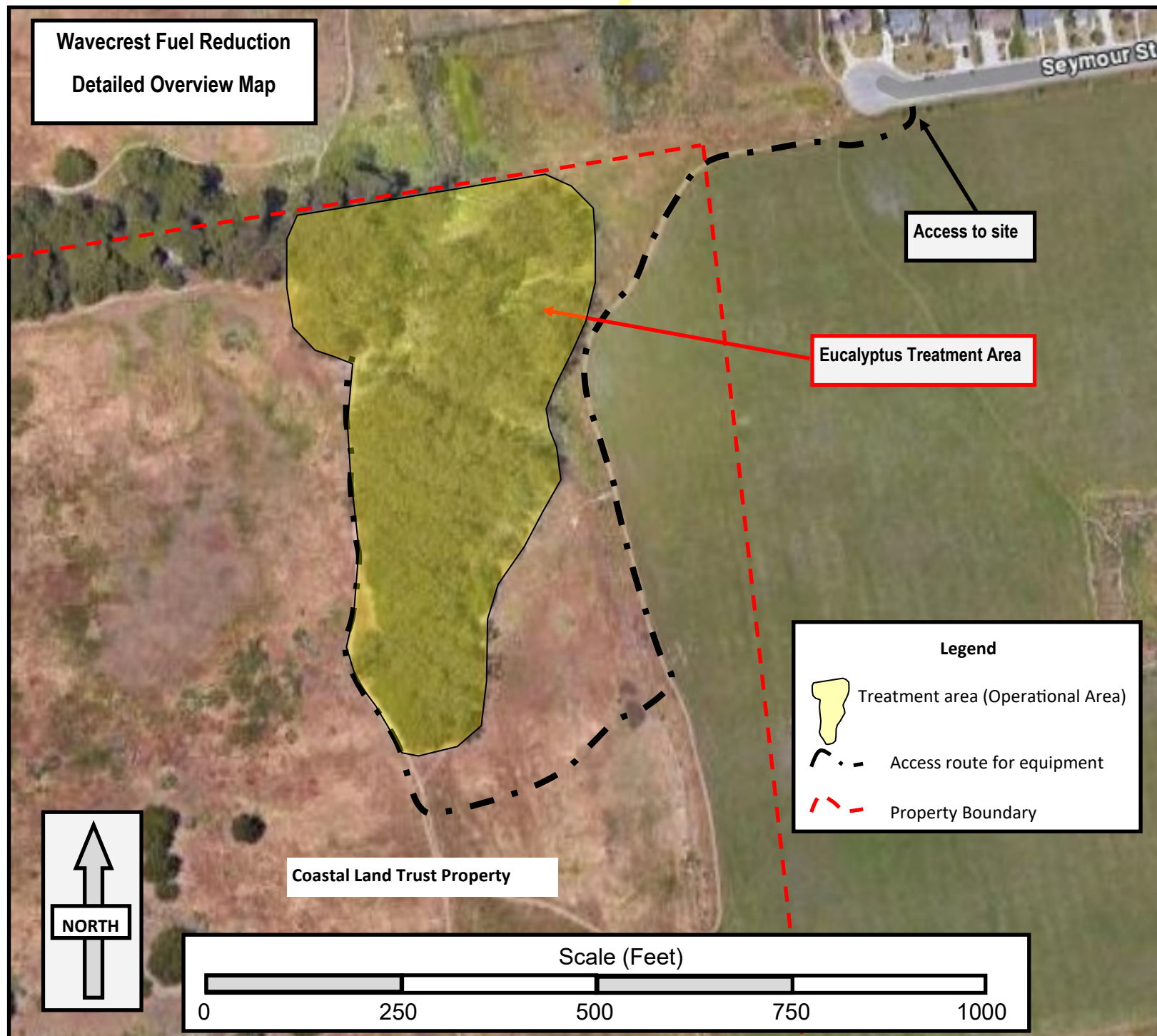
Half Moon Bay 7.5 Quad

ROAD CLASSIFICATION			
Expressway		Local Connector	
Secondary Hwy		Local Road	
Ramp		4WD	
Interstate Route		US Route	State Route

HALF MOON BAY, CA
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Wavecrest Fuel Reduction
Detailed Overview Map



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Santa Cruz Mountains Long Term Forest Stewardship Monitoring Program

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The **Santa Cruz Mountains Long Term Forest Stewardship Monitoring Program** is a partnership of managers, researchers, and landowners focused on standardized, long-term monitoring of forest stewardship activities in the coast redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains. By consistently

monitoring a wide range of forest stewardship projects and methods over time, we will provide science-guided information to inform future management decisions and improve our understanding of those methods that most effectively build forest resilience, protect and enhance biodiversity, and reduce wildfire risk and effects in coast redwood and associated forest systems.

Funded as a CalFire Forest Health Research Grant in 2024 to the San Mateo Resource Conservation District and University of California, Cooperative Extension, the program will:

- **establish a standardized forest stewardship monitoring protocol for the coast redwood region**, in collaboration with grant partners and ongoing monitoring efforts of managers and researchers working throughout the region;
- **create the *Santa Cruz Mountains Long-Term Forest Monitoring Plot***

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Network, a network of forest inventory plots spread strategically across Santa Cruz Mountains forest stewardship projects, disturbances, and undisturbed forests.

- **disseminate these resources** to increase the pace and scale of forest stewardship monitoring throughout the coast redwood region.

Plot network data will be made available on request to land managers, researchers, and students for future research applications that seek to understand the long-term influence of forest stewardship activities on biodiversity, forest health and growth, wildfire risk reduction, and more.



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ABOUT



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."

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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.



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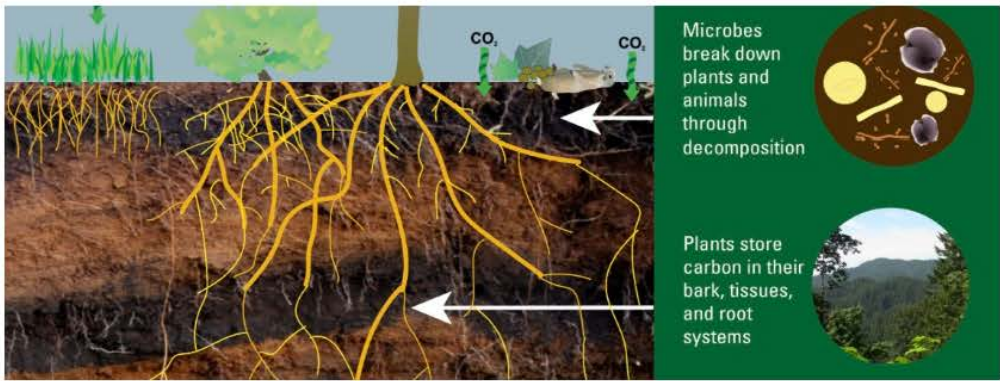
Biologic Carbon Sequestration

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.



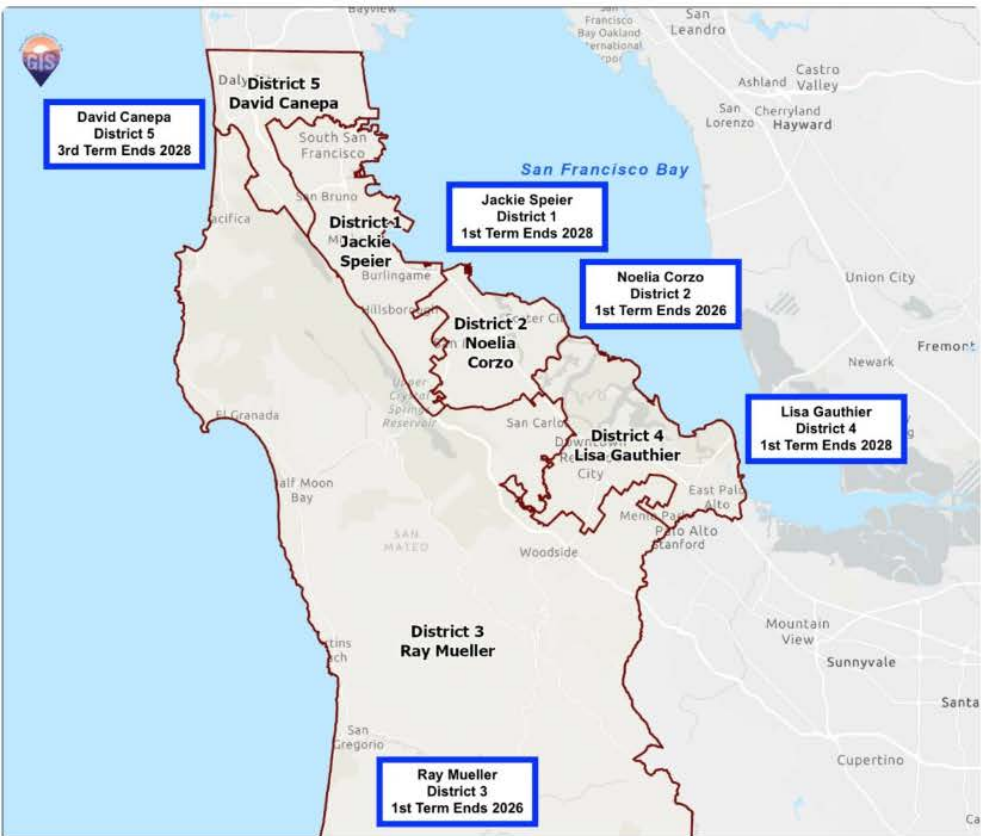


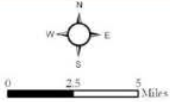
U.S. Geological Survey studies plants and animals. Scientists identify which ecosystems naturally store higher levels of carbon.



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

2025 Board of Supervisors





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

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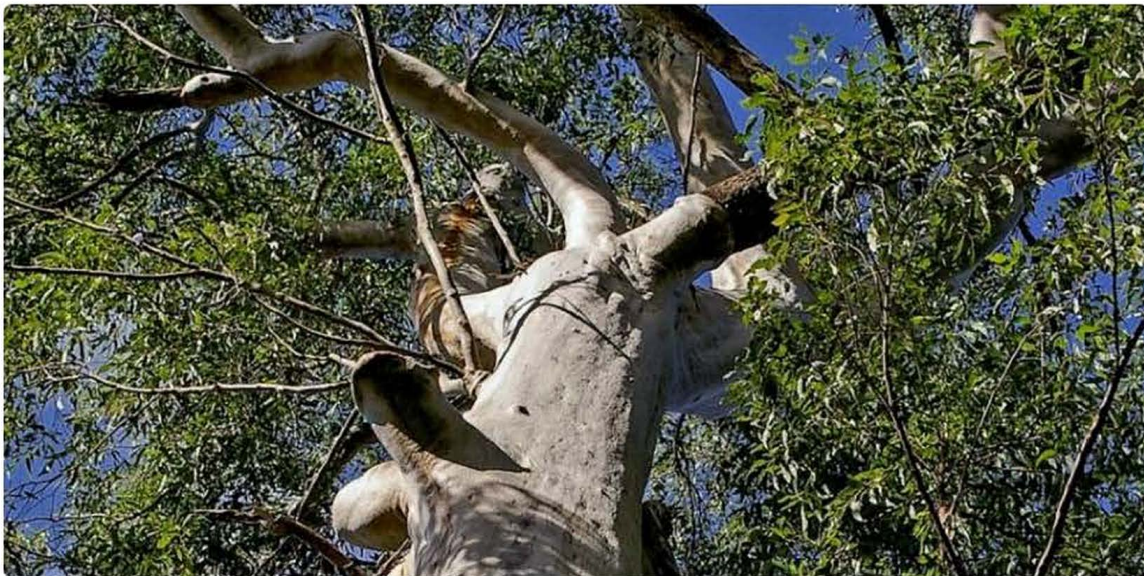
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Planning and Building



Permit Exemption for Hazardous Trees – Extended to July 1, 2026

Only applicable to the Coastal Zone

July 1, 2025

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In advance of fire season and drought conditions, the Director of Planning and Building, in consultation with the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit and the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, has issued a

[Notice Regarding Permit Exemption for Tree Removal](#) and a [based on a request from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection](#). As described in the notice, the County has waived permit requirements and fees for the responsible removal of hazardous trees that present a significant fire hazard risk and a hazard to life and personal property, as demonstrated by meeting the criteria and requirements listed below.

Criteria

1. The tree(s) are located within the unincorporated areas of the County of San Mateo (areas outside of any city limits).
2. The tree(s) are of the following species: Eucalyptus, pines, acacia, tan oak, and bay trees. If assistance is needed in determining whether a tree is of a species that is included in this exemption, please contact the Resource Conservation District at fire@sanmateoRCD.org and send them a photo of the tree(s).
3. Tree(s) are located: (1) within 100 feet of any habitable structure (including structures on properties adjacent to the property with the subject tree) or (2) within 30 feet of a public or private road necessary for emergency evacuations.
4. Such tree(s) meeting the above criteria must be removed during the period of July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026. No notice to the County is required.

Requirements for Tree Removal Work

1. Person(s) who remove such tree(s) must have written permission from the owner of the property(ies) on which the tree trunk is located.
2. Person(s) who remove such tree(s) shall be responsible for ensuring that all associated debris is chipped and retained on site and/or properly disposed of.
3. Person(s) who remove such tree(s) shall be responsible for minimizing erosion and sedimentation. The following erosion control measures are recommended:
 - a. Seed area of disturbance or use the chipped wood as chipped mulch over the area of disturbed soil. Make sure to keep much away from foundations to deter termites and other pests.
 - b. [Staked fiber rolls](#) may be used around the area of disturbance.
 - c. Maintain erosion control measures continuously between October 1 and April 30.
 - d. Additional Erosion Control Options for Sloped Lots:
 - i. Keep tree roots in place on a hillside.
 - ii. Inspect your downspouts. Check and redirect water flow. Check to see where your downspouts and surface runoff flow. Direct downspouts so water flows away from the slope. Disperse water onto lawns or landscaped areas as far from the slope as possible.
 - iii. Redirect runoff with a flexible pipe. Consider using flexible piping to transport down-spout runoff away from the slope. Consider using a dispersement tray at

the end of the pipe to distribute the water over a larger area instead of concentrating it at one point. This can help deter erosion or pooling of water elsewhere in the yard. **Note:** It is illegal to discharge stormwater onto a property you do not own, including public property and storm drains. Ensure the stormwater stays on your property.

- iv. Install weed barriers using highly-permeable landscape fabric across the slope face to ensure runoff can soak into the ground. If multiple rows are needed, place the first layer at the top of the slope and overlap the next row of fabric on top of the previous layer to allow water to flow under the downhill layers. This will prevent water saturation from concentrating at any one point.
- v. Plant new trees using native, non-invasive species.
- vi. Biodegradable Straw Blankets on low to medium slopes (3:1 or 2:1) or biodegradable Jute Netting (up to 2:1 slope) to slow runoff and reduce erosion.
- vii. If reseeding, use a native grass mix.

The San Mateo County Significant Tree Regulations (“Regulations”) generally require that a property owner secure a permit before removing a “significant tree,” which is defined as any tree with a trunk that has a circumference of thirty-eight inches (38”) or more when measured at four and one-half feet (4 1/2”) vertically above the ground. However, Section 12,020.1(c) of these Regulations provides an exemption from the requirement to secure a permit to remove a significant tree when a specified official, including the Community Development Director or an Officer of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, determines removal is necessary to “remove a hazard to life and personal property...”.

Property owners **must** still apply for a permit before removing “[significant](#)” redwood, Douglas fir, oaks (other than tan oaks), maples, buckeyes, and other trees not covered by the exemption.

Supporting Documents

PDF

[Hazardous Tree Removal Permit Exemption Notice 2024-25](#)

320.19 KB

PDF

[Request from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 2024-25](#)

225.88 KB

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Pescadero Creek Park Forest Restoration Plans Set

Informational Hike Scheduled for August 16

July 15, 2025

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Following approval by the Board of Supervisors on April 8, 2025, San Mateo County Parks, in partnership with the San Mateo Resource Conservation District, have developed implementation plans for a 541-acre forest management project in Pescadero Creek County Park. This project was identified as a priority forest restoration effort in the Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan. The overarching project goals are to improve the forest's health and habitat and enhance resiliency to wildfire.

The work entails thinning overly dense trees and shrubs growing beneath the forest canopy and selective thinning of trees between 19-to-30 inches in diameter in an overlapping 100-acre area comprised of dense, second growth redwood and Douglas fir trees. Reducing overgrown ground vegetation and small trees in areas like this will restore forest composition following historic logging

practices and allows retained trees to grow larger and healthier.

The project is scheduled to begin in early September 2025 and will continue through Fall of 2028.

Informational Hike, Aug 16

You can learn more about this project and hear from topic experts at an informational hike at Pescadero Creek Park scheduled for, Saturday, August 16, at 10 a.m.

- [Learn More & Register for the Informational Hike](#) →

Learn More

- [Pescadero Creek Park Climate & Habitat Resiliency](#) →

Related Documents

PDF

[Pescadero Creek Park Forest Restoration Project Work Areas](#)

1.8 MB

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San Mateo Resource Conservation District Gives Update on Fire Mitigation and Fuel Reduction Projects for the Coastside to the Midcoast Community Council

July 31, 2025



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VIDEO. From the [Midcoast Community Council](#) (MCC) meeting on Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025 at 7:00pm, as a hybrid meeting. Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director of the [San Mateo RCD](#), reports.



From Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director on [San Mateo Resource Conservation District](#).

We convened a Technical Advisory Committee last week to review the 107 wildfire resiliency and forest health projects submitted to the Regional Priority Plan being developed the RCDs of San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties in partnership with the Santa Cruz Mountains Stewardship Network. Project solicitation was open to FireSafe Councils, fire agencies, public land managers, land trusts, RCDs, timber companies, and others actively involved in in forest stewardship and community protection efforts across San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara counties. Of the 107 projects, about 55 are in San Mateo County including a number of projects on the Coastside from Pacifica to HMB, including:

- **Pedro Point Wildfire Resilience** – focused on fuel reduction and Eucalyptus removal in the Wildland Urban Interface of Pedro Point
- **Highway 1 Fuel Break** – focused on improving the evacuation route between tunnels and Pacifica by removing eucalyptus and other hazardous trees from the CalTrans ROW (*see below*)
- **Fuel Reduction Planning at McNee Ranch**
- **Grassland Restoration and WUI Fuel Reduction on GGNRA** lands at Rancho Corral de Tierra
- **Montara Moss Beach** CalTrans ROW
- Non-shaded fuel break along the **western boundary of Quarry Park** (and maintenance of existing fuel breaks).
- **Highway 92 Fuel Break phase 1** (East of 35). (*see below*)
- **Eucalyptus Removal from Open Space District** lands at Madonna Creek and Miramontes Ridge
- **Eucalyptus Removal at Burleigh Murray State Park**
- **Targeted fuel reduction along ingress and egress routes in residential canyons along the coast**

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- **Vegetation Management Assistance Program**, which would include our current Neighborhood Chipping Program, and aims to provide support to residents/landowners in the way of programmatic permits for fuel reduction and/or Eucalyptus removal, provide cost-sharing financial assistance to landowners removing hazard trees, Eucalyptus, or other fire hazards,

Project Specific Updates:

- **Chipper Program Update:** The RCD hosted neighborhood chipping events in the Midcoast in late May. This was preceded by substantial outreach including a presentation to MCC, posts to website and social media, posts on Coastside Buzz, consistent posting on NextDoor by Michele Dragony, and flyers mailed to every eligible home. We maximized the service area for El Granada and Montara due to requests from those communities related to the changing Fire Severity Hazard Map. Despite these requests for services, very low participation from El Granada.
- Overall ~59 Midcoast residents participated
 - Montara – 48
 - Moss Beach – 4
 - El Granada 7
- **Highway 1 Fuel Break:** About a mile long, from just north of the tunnels to Pacifica city limits. We are supporting CalTrans to get this project submitted to the Governor's Emergency Proclamation to suspend certain CEQA and Coastal Act Requirements for urgent wildfire resilience projects. If approved, implementation (funded by CalTrans) would begin no later than 10/15/2026.
- **Caltrans ROW Montara Moss Beach:** We are not currently involved in this project, but Caltrans staff reached out to us to discuss permitting this type of project in the Coastal Zone, and we provided them with information on the CalVTP and the RCD's Public Works Plan, which when paired can achieve long-term environmental compliance for veg management projects. This project has been included in our RPP development.
- **Highway 92 Fuel Break:** We are continuing to develop project plans and designs for this critical hazard tree and fuel reduction project on 92 between 35 and I280. We are on track to have final plans in place in time to begin implementing this project in late spring/early summer 2026. This project is funded by Measure K and the Coastal Conservancy
- **Wavecrest Wildfire Resiliency Project:** This Coastal Conservancy funded project in Half Moon Bay on Coastside Land Trust's Wavecrest property is designed and funded as a demonstration project to show how fuel reduction can be done responsibly in eucalyptus groves that have been known to harbor monarch butterflies. We worked closely with the Xerces Society to develop a treatment plan that would avoid impacts to overwintering monarchs. We look forward to demonstrating that effective fuel management in these areas not only reduces the risk of wildfire to neighboring homes, but can protect or enhance overwintering conditions preferred by the monarch. This project is slated to begin mid to late August and be completed by October 1st.

[More on the MCC on Coastside Buzz](#)

Midcoast Community Council (MCC) Meetings ~ 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

The MCC is an elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, representing unincorporated Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar.

Regular MCC meetings are on the **2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month** at 7:00 PM at Granada Community Services District (GCSD) meeting room, 504 Ave Alhambra, third floor, El Granada. Meetings are in hybrid format and the public is encouraged to attend remotely. All MCC meetings are open to the public, and are agendaized and posted according to the requirements of the Brown Act.

[MCC Agendas and Zoom Links](#)

Regular meeting agendas are posted 72 hours in advance.

Special meeting agendas are posted 24 hours in advance.

Comments by email, remotely or in person.

[Archived MCC meeting videos on PCTV](#)



The MCC has at-large elections.

Lots and Lots of Documents! Check out the menu bar. Thanks to exMCC's Lisa Ketcham (now on the San Mateo County Planning Commission) for an incredibly well curated website archive on local planning issues.

Subscribe to MCC agendas via email, send email to MCC-Agendas+subscribe@googlegroups.com

2025 Midcoast Community Councilmembers

MCC: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

P.O. Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038

Claire Toutant, Chair – 3rd Term Ends: Dec. 2026

Phone: 650-676-5847

Email: midcoast.claire@gmail.com

Kimberly Williams, Vice Chair – 1st Term Ends: Dec 2026

Email: midcoast.kimberlyw@gmail.com

Connie Santilli, Secretary – 1st Term Ends: Dec 2028

(just installed; email to come)

Kevin Sniecinski, Treasurer – 1st Term Ends: Dec 2028

(just installed; email to come)

Scott Bollinger – 1st Term Ends: Dec 2026

Phone: 650-773-4425

Email: scottbollingerMCC@gmail.com

Gus Mattammal – 1st Term Ends: Dec 2026

Phone: 650-451-5335

Email: midcoastgus@gmail.com

Chris Rogers – 1st Term Ends: Dec 2028

(just installed; email to come)



From the left: Kevin Sniecinski, Connie Santilli, Gus Mattammal, Claire Toutant, Kimberly Williams, Scott Bollinger and Chris Rogers

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← Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside Board Discusses if
There is a Need for Performing Inflow and Infiltration
Study at Plant and Gravity Lines Owned by SAM

Caltrans to Fix Hwy 92 "Horseshoe" Slip and Slide with →
New Culvert; Eastbound Right-hand Lane Closed
Starting 9:00am Monday, August 11th through Friday,
August 15th at 9:00pm

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Montara Water and Sewer District (MWSD) Discussion on Water Supply & Watershed Protection

VIDEO. From Montara Water and Sewer District's (MWSD) March 3rd, 2021 meeting. Two Strategic Discussions on: 1. Sewer: Treatment...

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Peninsula Open Space District (POST) Announces Public Search for New Board Members ~ Deadline 9/9/2022

PRESS RELEASE. From the Peninsula Open Space District (POST) Nonprofit Conservation Organization Invites Applications for Volunteer Leadership Positions (Palo Alto,...

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Coastal Commission Approves Another Radar "Golf Ball" for Pillar Point Space Force Base to Support Vandenberg's Rocket Launches; Locals Want Dark Skies Lighting

VIDEO. From the California Coastal Commission meeting on Friday, December 13th, 2024 held at the Newport Beach Civic Center as...

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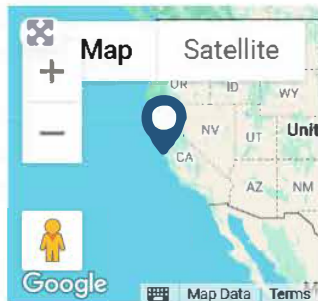


Help Monitor Coastal Water Quality with RCD's 2025 First Flush: Online Training and In Person Practice Run

Dates:

- ▶ September 10, 2025, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
- ▶ September 13, 2025, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Category: Education



zoom

Half Moon Bay, California
94019

[Visit their Website](#)

Volunteer for First Flush! [Sign up Here](#)

The San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) is looking for volunteers to help collect water samples during First Flush, the first big rain of the season, when pollutants wash into our creeks and ocean.

It's a one-time, hands-on way to protect our coast and do some real community science!

No experience needed – sites from Pacifica to Half Moon Bay.

TRAINING MEETING DETAILS:

Virtual Training on Wednesday September 10th, 2025 6:30pm. This virtual training outlines the background of the program, sampling methods, and First Flush sampling event logistics. This video will be recorded for those that cannot attend.

In-person (Practice Run) Training the morning of Saturday September 13th, 2025. This will be a hands-on

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August 7, 2025



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August 7, 2025

training to practice sampling methods before the First Flush sampling event. We have a video available for those that cannot attend this practice run. Time TBD after registration for 9/10/2025 training.

[Sign up Here](#)

Questions? Email: FirstFlush@sanmateoRCD.org

First Flush is another name for the first significant rain of the season, when pollutants that have accumulated across the landscape during the dry season can wash off the land and enter storm drains and creeks and eventually flow into the ocean. And it's not too early to think about volunteering with the [San Mateo Resource Conservation District](#) for the First Flush program, their biggest annual community science water quality event.

They are looking for adventurous volunteers to be a scientist for a day to help ensure clean creeks, beaches, and oceans. Once the program starts, tasks will include collecting water samples and recording data at sites from Pacifica to Half Moon Bay. These samples will be tested for bacteria, metals, total suspended solids, and nutrients, which can negatively impact humans and wildlife. This is a one-time volunteer event that will have a positive and long-term impact in our community.

The first big rains will likely arrive in November or December, but there is a short training that takes place in September.

Be sure to spread the word about this opportunity to your family, friends, network, and colleagues!

First Flush is open to all, so if anyone you know may like to join us during the first big rain of the year, they are most welcome!

[Sign up Here](#)

**Volunteer
for Clean Beaches**



**What Does Half Moon Bay
City Councilmember Paul
Nagengast Think? Have ...**

August 7, 2025



**New Study Finds
California Fire Season is
Starting 10 Weeks Earlie...**

August 7, 2025



**Pillar Point Harbor
Dredge and Surfers Beach
Pilot Restoration Pipeli...**

August 7, 2025



Share The Buzz



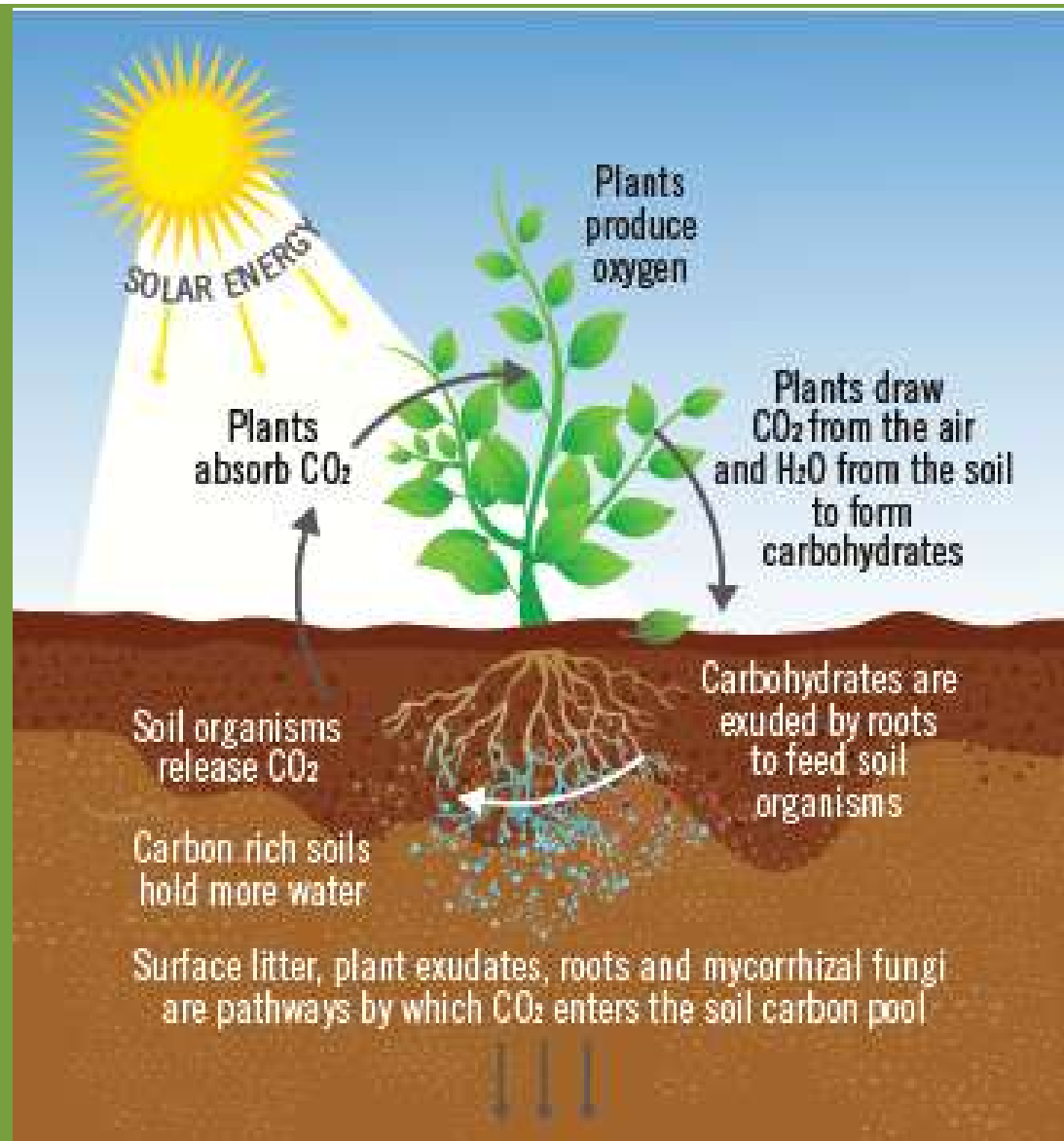
Understanding the Complexities of Advancing Carbon Farming at Scale in San Mateo County

RCD Board of Directors

August 21, 2025









Cover crops



Rotational grazing



Reduced tillage



Compost



Windbreaks



Mulch



Rangeland planting



Hedgerows



282,000 tonnes CO₂e by 2045 and more

- 62,392 cars on the road per year
- 708,000,000 miles driven
- 311,000,000 lbs coal burned

What We Do

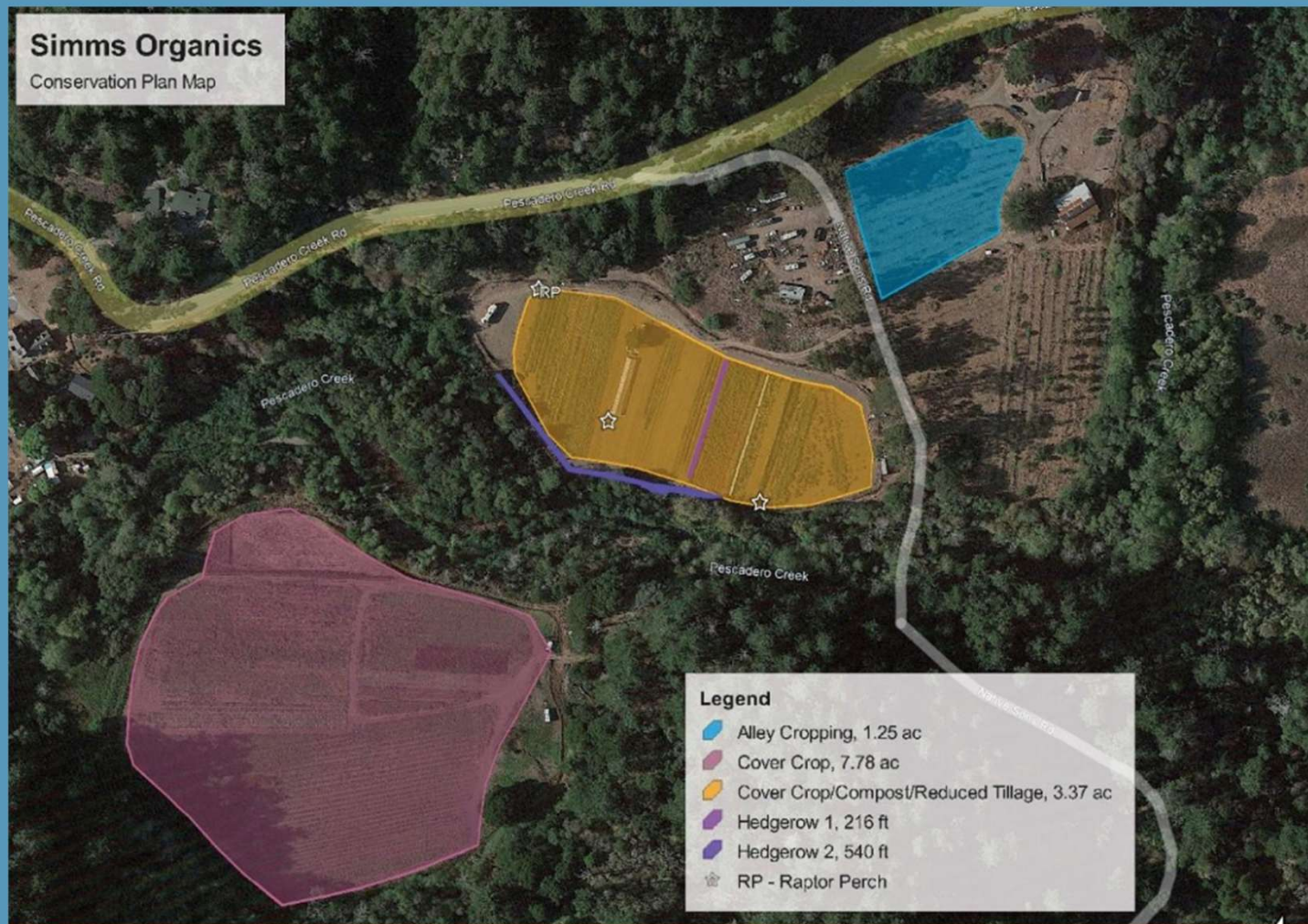
- Provide technical assistance
- Help farmers access funding opportunities
- Engage with policy



Carbon Farm Planning



Carbon Farm Planning



Community Climate Action Plan

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CA



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

SAN MATEO COUNTY | 2022

Policy L-1: Identify new financing to scale carbon farming

- L-1.1 **Carbon farming investments.** Implement a County funding program, such as Santa Clara County's Agricultural Resilience Incentive, for farmers and ranchers to implement and maintain climate beneficial practices.
- L-1.2 **External funding programs for carbon farming.**
- Support the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (SMRCD) and other land partners to leverage private, and regional, state, and federal funding for producers' implementation of climate beneficial agricultural practices.
 - Develop a program or mechanism for San Mateo County businesses, philanthropic institutions, and supportive community members to support local carbon farming projects.

Challenges



