

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Thursday October 16, 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. Convene Closed Session**

**3.1. Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8**

Property Under Negotiation: 0 Pescadero Creek Road, Pescadero, California 94060

Agency Negotiator: Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

Under Negotiation: Purchase of land

**4. Adjourn Closed Session**

**5. (4:30) Convene Open Session and Report on Closed Session**

**6. Introduction of Guests and Staff**

**7. 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.

**8. Consent Agenda**

The Board of Directors approves:

**8.1. [August 8, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes](#)**

The Board of Directors receives into record:

**8.2. [June 2025 San Mateo RCD newsletter, "Boots on the Ground"](#)**

**8.3. [August 8, 2025 Yuba Net article, "Placer RCD Launches Compost Cost-Share Pilot Program to Support Farmers and Ranchers"](#)**

**8.4. [August 26, 2025 letter from California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture regarding proposed USDA Reorganization Plan.](#)**

**9. Regular Agenda**

**9.1. Presentation about the compost broker program that is a partnership with San Mateo County, cities within the county, and local farms. Presenter: Doug Millar, RCD Conservation Technical Advisor.**

**9.2. Board will consider resolutions up for vote at the upcoming annual conference of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.**

**9.2.1. [To the CARCD Board of Directors to Reaffirm their Duty to Comply with the 2018 Adopted Bylaws](#)**

**9.2.2. [To Amend the CARCD Bylaws to Adopt Open Meeting Requirements Consistent with the Brown Act](#)**

**9.2.3. [To Reconvene the Policy Committee](#)**

**9.2.4. [To Establish and Convene a Standing Finance Committee](#)**

**9.2.5. [To Rescind and Reconsider Board Action to Change the Dues Structure for FY 24-25](#)**

**9.2.6. [Advocating for Sustainable Funding and Full Cost Recovery for All RCDs](#)**

**9.2.7. [To Move Antelope Valley RCD from the SOCAL Inland Region to the High Desert Region of CARCD](#)**

**9.2.8. [To Establish New Election Procedures](#)**

**9.2.9. [To Adopt Policies Recommended by the IRS for Charitable Organizations](#)**

**9.2.10. [To Direct the CARCD Board of Directors to Ensure Diverse Representation on the CARCD Committees](#)**

**9.2.11. [To Alter the Bylaws of the CARCD to Reflect Updated Region Membership](#)**

**9.3. Executive Director's report**

**9.4. Directors' connection and reports**

*[No report will be provided by the USDA NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) month due to the shutdown of the federal government at time of noticing.]*

**10. Adjourn Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be November 20, 2025.

*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, October 16, 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: Denise Phillips, John Wade, Zahra Kassam (Zoom)

RCD staff: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Kati McHugh, Joe Issel (Zoom), Doug Millar (Zoom)

NRCS staff: none present due to federal government shutdown

Guests (all virtual): Ryan Firestone, Amy Bono (UC Elkus Ranch), TJ Carter and Jack Steinmann (SMC Dept of Sustainability), Vicki Sherman (Redwood City Department of Public Works)

### **1. Call to Order**

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

### **3. Convene Closed Session**

**3.1.** Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to California Government Code §54956.8

Property Under Negotiation: 0 Pescadero Creek Road, Pescadero, California 94060

Agency Negotiator: Kellyx Nelson, Executive Director

Under Negotiation: Purchase of land

### **4. Adjourn Closed Session**

### **5. (4:30 p.m.) Convene Open Session and Report on Closed Session**

Kossy reconvened the open session at 4:30 p.m. and reported that no action was taken during the closed session.

### **6. Introduction of Guests and Staff**

All in attendance introduced themselves.

### **7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **8. Consent Agenda**

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

## **9. Regular Agenda**

### **9.1. Presentation about the compost broker program that is a partnership with San Mateo County, cities within the county, and local farms. Presenter: Doug Millar, RCD Conservation Technical Advisor.**

- Millar presented the attached PowerPoint giving an overview of the Compost Broker Program, a partnership among the RCD, San Mateo County, participating cities, and local farms intended to streamline compost sourcing and distribution in response to SB 1383. SB 1383 created new organic waste diversion and procurement requirements. The broker model helps jurisdictions meet those mandates while supporting local agriculture.
- AB 2346 is an amendment to SB 1383 that allows the purchase of equipment and infrastructure to count towards mandates. This may help address the shortage of compost facilities. San Mateo RCD implemented the first AB 2346 project in the state at UC Elkus Ranch using an aerated static pile system.
- Discussion included: how this program fits into a broader network of collaborating and innovating with County departments; scaling compost brokering to other RCDs; compost quality oversight; regional collaborative opportunities; the high administrative workload of the program; the RCD's decades of history with composting programs, e.g. with equestrian operations; and how market incentives and procurement requirements for lowest cost can result in low quality compost with plastics being spread on the land.
- Steinmann appreciated the partnership, acknowledged the administrative complexity, described the program as an effective solution for meeting SB 1383 and broader climate goals, commended the RCD for building an impactful model, recognized Millar's day-to-day efforts and thanked the RCD for its leadership.
- Bono appreciated the aerated static pile (ASP) system that was installed at UC Elkus Ranch for improving compost quality, addressing years of struggles to manage animal waste and plant material due to the lack of access to commercial compost services. She said the new system supports both operations and their educational program to teach children about the importance of waste diversion. She noted that the ranch is launching a new pilot field trip this fall called "Soil Stewards," which will focus on the compost bunker system.

### **9.2. Board will consider resolutions up for vote at the upcoming annual conference of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.**

- Nelson explained that the California Association of RCDs (CARCD) is a 501(c)(3) membership organization whose members bring forward resolutions at the annual November conference to guide the association's work.
- Stielstra was confirmed as the designated delegate.
- There was discussion of each proposed resolution to prepare Stielstra for negotiations and consideration at the conference. No vote was taken on any

position, as resolutions may be amended at the conference.

- Discussions included strengthening statewide governance of CARCD; the importance of consistent application of bylaws to maintain accountability and trust; a sense of hostility, mistrust, and document demands in some of the proposed resolutions that seem to come from the same impulse as public hostility towards government; a general lack of support for CARCD being obligated to Brown Act requirements; feasibility of some of the proposals and questions about whether people understood CARCD's 501(c)(3) status; a pattern of vague insinuation in some of the proposed resolutions from districts with longstanding grievances that are not representative of most RCDs; the redundancy of some of the resolutions with the status quo; member versus non-member access to CARCD privileges; support for the cost recovery resolution
- Stielstra shared his perspective and insights as a member of the CARCD board and notes that many of the governance topics raised in the resolutions are already being addressed in detail by CARCD. He also reflected on the role of CARCD regions as he is learning the responsibilities of a regional chair. He expressed concern about the potential disruption caused by contentious governance changes and noted that clarifying the role and purpose of the regions may help support more effective communication and coordination statewide.

### **9.3. Executive Director's Report**

- Current implementation season has been very busy, with numerous projects completed or nearly completed in the Forest Health and Fire Program, including work at Wavecrest, Mori Point in Pacifica, the 19-mile fuel break around La Honda, and Butano State Park, with many additional projects in planning.
- Fish can now pass through at the Little Butano Creek fish passage site (the chute), and additional instream habitat enhancement at Little Butano Creek near the Girl Scout camp, at Dave Repetto's farm in San Gregorio, and at MROSD properties.
- Water for Farms, Fish, and People program has advanced water storage projects, including tanks at Portola Redwoods State Park
- She shared photos from the recent First Flush monitoring event.
- Approximately 30 people were trained for First Flush but only seven volunteers participated, requiring staff and her family to backfill field teams. She hopes to increase volunteer participation in future years through earlier recruitment and improved retention. Discussion included how outreach is conducted, youth participation, and follow up with no-show volunteers.
- Nelson then shared photos from a recent visit to the chute project to highlight implementation crews, explaining that as part of the RCD's diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) plan, staff are working to recognize laborers as conservation heroes by awarding Nature Champion plaques to workers nominated by staff.
- Kossy commented that it was meaningful to meet the workers operating the machinery and doing the on-the-ground work and said it felt good to thank them directly.
- In response to a question about whether future awards would focus only on large projects, Nelson said the Nature Champion recognition is intentionally open-ended:

staff can nominate any worker or crew they feel should be recognized, on large or small projects, and the RCD can adjust the informal “rules” as needed.

- She emphasized that this worker recognition is a direct implementation of the Board-adopted DEIJ plan and noted that staff continue to bring amendments as they identify improvements.
- She reported that she has been participating in a community-based fundraising cohort focused on reframing annual appeals so that donors are treated as partners rather than saviors, and said the RCD is incorporating lessons about how “white environmentalism” has historically shaped both conservation and philanthropy into proposed updates to the DEIJ plan and the annual appeal.
- She shared that she asked Phillips to “buddy up” with her on the annual appeal due to the absence of development staff, and thanked her for agreeing to support the effort.
- Phillips commented that fundraising can be reframed as offering people an opportunity to make their world better rather than begging, noting that it is difficult to ask for money but that “if you don’t ask, the answer is always no.”
- She provided an update on Director Etherton, who faces a long recovery but is doing well overall after a very tough surgery, with additional surgery ahead.
- Nelson reported that the two-year impact report has been drafted after approximately 60 hours of her time and has been sent to a graphic designer for layout; she hopes to have printed copies ready for the annual appeal and to share at the CARCD conference.
- She then described ongoing challenges with the RCD’s business model, noting that the organization has roughly a \$20 million annual budget and about 100 active billing codes and grants but only 2.5 administrative staff and no dedicated development or grant-writing staff, while funders increasingly restrict overhead and indirect costs and the County has withdrawn operating support.
- She described cumulative strain from numerous “paper cuts,” including permitting burdens, increased labor and contracting compliance, expanding funder and requirements and restrictions, and the emotional burden staff carry when navigating partner risk aversion, and said that although she loves her job and has served nearly 20 years, she wants the Board to understand how difficult it has become.
- She reiterated that securing unrestricted funding is key to relieving pressure and linked this need to full cost recovery.
- Stielstra expressed strong appreciation for RCD staff, calling them one of the most admired teams he has worked with and reiterating his standing offer to assist however possible, including joining meetings with County supervisors, emphasizing the importance of restoring and increasing unrestricted operating support in a comparatively wealthy county.
- Nelson replied that prior County operating support had “taken the edge off” and that its removal has restored financial pressure on staff capacity.
- Phillips encouraged Board members to participate in the year-end appeal, noting that 100 percent giving by voting and associate directors sends a powerful message of support to staff and to other donors and funders and highlighted that such contributions provide unrestricted funding. She highlighted end of year giving.

#### **9.4. Directors' connection and reports**

- Kossy reported that she was deeply moved to visit the chute project site, shake workers' hands, and thank them personally, and she reflected on a recent ocean fishing trip where catching, killing, and eating fish gave her a profound awareness of the food chain, the tension between harm and nourishment, and her appreciation that the RCD's work helps make that relationship more honorable.
- Phillips noted her local connection through serving on the HEAL Project board, adding that she is enjoying the steep learning curve and her service on the RCD board.
- Stielstra reported that he is working through some administrative issues with the bank account, appreciated the fish passage field trip, and outlined upcoming CARCD obligations, including a regional Central Coast meeting in San Luis Obispo and a CARCD Board of Directors meeting on Zoom and at the annual conference, noting that he serves as regional chair and is still clarifying how to best define and optimize the role of regions and board-to-board communication across a large, busy network of RCDs.
- Weil reported that she missed the recent website meeting because she was returning from work travel, shared that she has spoken with Hodges about using low-cost software to streamline expense reporting and reduce administrative workload, and added that she is taking her children camping at Costanoa for the first time, hoping it will be the start of more camping and backpacking as they get older.
- Wade reported that he did not have much to add.
- Guy volunteered to help with fish relocation at the Chute site, is eager to see the project and the steelhead using it, and would like to see more of that kind of work.
- On behalf off Kassam, McHugh read a message that Kassam submitted before leaving the Zoom meeting, which stated that it was good to see everyone and hear about the great work, and that she is happy to donate and support however she can.
- Nelson reported that there will be a community tour of the North Marsh Restoration Project on November 2, likely mid-morning.
- The group discussed the November meeting conflicting with the CARCD conference and decided to cancel the November meeting.

#### **Adjourn Meeting**

- Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.
- The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be December 18, 2025.

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Boots on the Ground

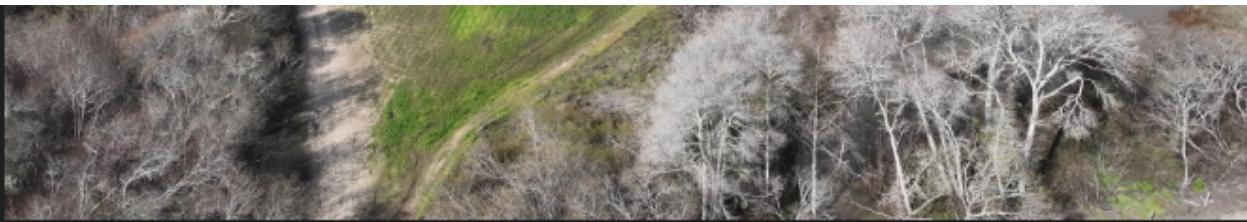
June 2025

This issue:

- Flooding by Design & Water When It Counts
- Cleaner Creeks, Cleaner Beaches
- Wildfire & Forest Health
- Water Security for a Community in Need
- Big Things on Small Farms
- Doug's Soiled Shorts
- Photos from the Field
- Welcome Aboard

### Flooding by Design & Water When It Counts





Remember the project that restored Butano Creek to spill across the land when it is full? The new floodplain on the right side of the photo provides habitat for wildlife while reducing flooding downstream that harms the community. But wait- there's more! We built a new pond (on the left) to store winter water and eliminate the need to draw from the creek when it is low. This land now provides prime conditions for salmon year-round while providing farmers with the water they need to grow crops. Check out this [drone video](#) and learn more about this conservation story on [NPR's All Things Considered](#) and [KQED's Morning Report](#). Many thanks to our partners at Fifth Crow Farms, Peninsula Open Space Trust, and NOAA Restoration Center.

## Cleaner Creeks, Cleaner Beaches



Want to help protect local creeks and beaches? Join us for two annual community science events to monitor water quality: **Snapshot Day (July 12th)** and **First Flush** (the first big storm of the year, typically in November). Register for [Snapshot Day here](#) and learn more about [First Flush here](#). Curious about local water quality and how scientists and volunteers are helping protect the environment and public health? Check out the [webinar on local water quality](#) we did for Coastside Land Trust.

## Wildfire & Forest Health





It's a wrap! We restored **450 acres in Butano State Park**, which was hit hard by the 2020 wildfires. Key ecological processes that were part of how the forest evolved had been removed from the landscape for over a century. Our work replicated these processes for a healthier forest, thriving biodiversity, and resilience to drought, pests, and fire. It also paved the way for a 150-acre prescribed fire in the park by State Parks and CAL FIRE to boost habitat, store more carbon, and protect nearby communities.

Speaking of community safety, we cleared overgrown vegetation along 2.7 miles of steep, narrow roads in the **Middleton Tract**, a remote area known for its history helping to stop clear-cut logging. The work makes it easier for residents to evacuate in an emergency as well as maintain their community water system. Stay tuned for future updates on the **19-mile fuel break around La Honda** that is nearly complete.

The **Neighborhood Chipper Program** helps residents create defensible space with free curbside chipping in wildfire-prone areas. You cut the brush and we chip it. Just pile it at your curb or designated drop-off spot on your neighborhood's scheduled day. A mobile chipper crew does the rest! [Click here](#) for dates and locations.

Did you miss the [Wildfire on the Coast webinar](#)? Coastsider Land Trust hosted us to talk about local wildfire, habitat, and climate resilience. Learn how fire has shaped the region, how local practices stack up, and what's next to reduce wildfire risk while protecting monarch butterflies.

## Water Security for a Community in Need





Dozens of homes in the small, rural area of Loma Mar depend on a local creek for water. In this water stressed region, every drop counts. The RCD collaborated with the community to develop water storage and fix leaks, improving **community water security**. We recently updated their pipelines to work with tanks we installed in 2019. The final step is for landowners to connect to the new system. Bonus: the improvements to water conservation keep **more water in the creek for salmon** and steelhead trout that need it.

## Big Things on Small Farms



We're proud to support local farms as stewards of soil, water, and wildlife. Since 2022, we've brought over **16,000 tons of compost to 60 farms** to improve soil, conserve water, and reduce erosion. [Click here](#) to sign-up. With funding from California Department of Food and Agriculture, we are **upgrading irrigation systems** on five farms this year, installing tools such as soil moisture sensors and solar panels to cut **18.7 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions** per year and save over **1.3 million gallons of water** per year.

We also wrapped up "Regenerative Grazing 101," an 8-month long workshop series for farmers and ranchers to learn about the benefits of regenerative grazing.

for farmers, ranchers, and land managers to bring **regenerative grazing practices** to over 118,000 acres of rangeland! It was not only educational; it was fun and a great collaboration with TomKat Ranch, Point Blue, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and FarmLink.

## Doug's Soiled Shorts

Short films  
about  
soil health



Yes, you read that right! "Doug's Soiled Shorts" are here to help you discover the wonders of soil. Doug is our soil expert, and he is excited to share his knowledge with you about compost, microbes, and all things soil health. Check out [the first of the series](#) on our [Instagram](#)- where Doug gives a run down on the importance of soil structure.

## Photos from the Field



[Click here](#) for **recent photos and videos**: habitat survey on Butano Creek, chatting about floodplain benefits, workshop for regenerative ranching, and more. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for regular updates!

**Welcome Aboard**



#### **Denise Phillips- Associate Director**

Denise is passionate about community organizing with decades of experience with environmental nonprofits, education and social work. She chaired and served on numerous boards for local educational programs, environmental protection and recreation, and reproductive health. As a Master Food Preserver, she teaches classes about safe food preservation. Originally from St. Louis, Denise earned her degree in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University and then studied restaurant management at The Restaurant School in Philadelphia. She's lived on the San Mateo County Coast for over 30 years where she and her husband have raised both of their children.

#### **Troy Guy- Director**

Troy is a retired fisheries biologist and the current caretaker of his family's third-generation plumbing business. He studied marine and freshwater fishes across the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, and collaborated with the commercial fishing industry to reduce bycatch of seabirds in both hemispheres. When he is not screwing pipes together, he can be found collecting data as a volunteer on local studies or exploring patterns of biogeography and natural history with his family. He is proud to live and stay connected to conservation efforts in Pescadero where his great-great grandparents emigrated from the Azores in the early 1900s.

Did someone forward you this newsletter? You can subscribe [by clicking this link](#).



We are grateful to the following funders who have made this work possible.

*Habitat and Water Security:* Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), San Mateo County, California

Department of Water Resources, NOAA, USFWS, POST

*Water Quality:* City of Pacifica, Sewer Authority Mid Coastsid, Pillar Point Harbor District, and Rose Foundation.

*Wildfire Resilience:* CAL FIRE, CA State Parks, San Mateo County, CA Fire Safe Council, Coastal Conservancy

*Agriculture and Ranching: CDFA, POST, San Mateo County, City of San Mateo, CalRecycle,  
NRCS*

*Copyright (C) 2025 San Mateo RCD. All rights reserved.*

*Want to change how you receive these emails?*

*You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)*

## Everything Builds 2025-26 SEASON

JOIN IN THE *music*  
THE *momentum*  
THE *magic!*



**InConcert SIERRA**  
Classical Music to Rock Your World

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! [InConcertSierra.org](http://InConcertSierra.org) • 530-273-3990

## Placer RCD Launches Compost Cost-Share Pilot Program to Support Farmers and Ranchers

by **Placer RCD** Published on: 4 hours ago



**Auburn, California** – The Placer Resource Conservation District (Placer RCD), in partnership with the City of San Mateo, has launched a new compost cost-share pilot program that will deliver affordable, high-quality compost directly to local farms and ranches.



Our regional  
advertisers



Nevada County Fairgrounds

We're looking for enthusiastic  
volunteers to help out at this year's  
Draft Horse Classic!



The program provides cost-share assistance of up to \$67 per ton, covering most, if not all, of the compost and delivery costs. Compost can be used on rangeland, cropland, orchards, vineyards, and pastures, and is a proven way to improve both productivity and long-term soil health.

"Compost is one of the most practical tools we have for improving soil health," said Brian Pimentel, Agriculture Program Manager at Placer RCD. "By increasing water-holding capacity and drought resilience, supporting soil biology and nutrient cycling, and enhancing soil structure and infiltration, continuous compost applications can make a real difference for both farmers and the long-term sustainability of our working lands."



Half of the compost available through the program is reserved for small farms of 25 acres or less. To qualify, farms and ranches must be actively engaged in agricultural production and able to accept a minimum of 20 tons (about 3 acres worth). Applications are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 2025 funds are exhausted.

Farmers and ranchers interested in applying can visit [www.placerrcd.org/compost](http://www.placerrcd.org/compost) or call Placer RCD at (530) 390-6680 for more information.

Draft Horse Classic & Harvest Fair, happening September 18–21 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds! 🌟  
Volunteer Positions: – Grandstand Ushers – Building Hosts If you'd like to be part of this unique and exciting event, check out the available shifts and sign up today! Whether you can help for one shift or a few, we'd love to have you on the team. 👏

[https://www.nevadacountyfair.com/...](https://www.nevadacountyfair.com/)  
our-team Tag a friend who might want to volunteer with you! 🙌 Thank you for helping make this incredible community event possible!  
#DraftHorseClassic #HarvestFair  
#VolunteerOpportunity  
#NevadaCountyFairgrounds

**Be among the first to know, sign up for our free Monday newsletter.**

[Sign up](#)



**It's Monday!**  
**Make a fresh start.**



■ **More Regional News**

**Firefighters responding to lightning fires on Plumas National Forest**

**Peace Lutheran Announces New Recycle Drop-Off Program to Benefit Interfaith Food Ministry**

**Local fire departments stand up task force in anticipation of elevated fire weather concerns**

**Load more posts**

[Contact us](#)  
[Advertising](#)  
[About YubaNet](#)  
[Editorial policy](#)

[Your account](#)

Search ...





# Compost Broker Program

October 2025

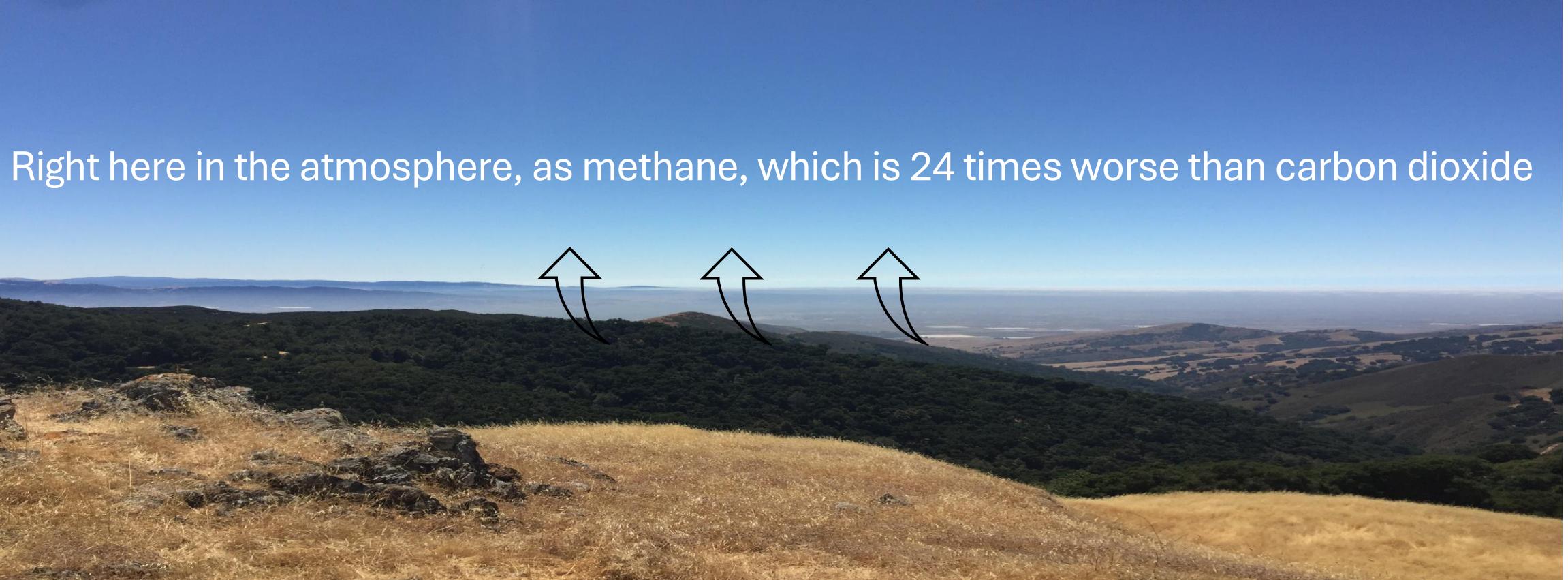
---

This work funded by San Mateo County Jurisdictions.

All work copyright SMRCD 2025



# Where do organic materials go when not composted?



Right here in the atmosphere, as methane, which is 24 times worse than carbon dioxide



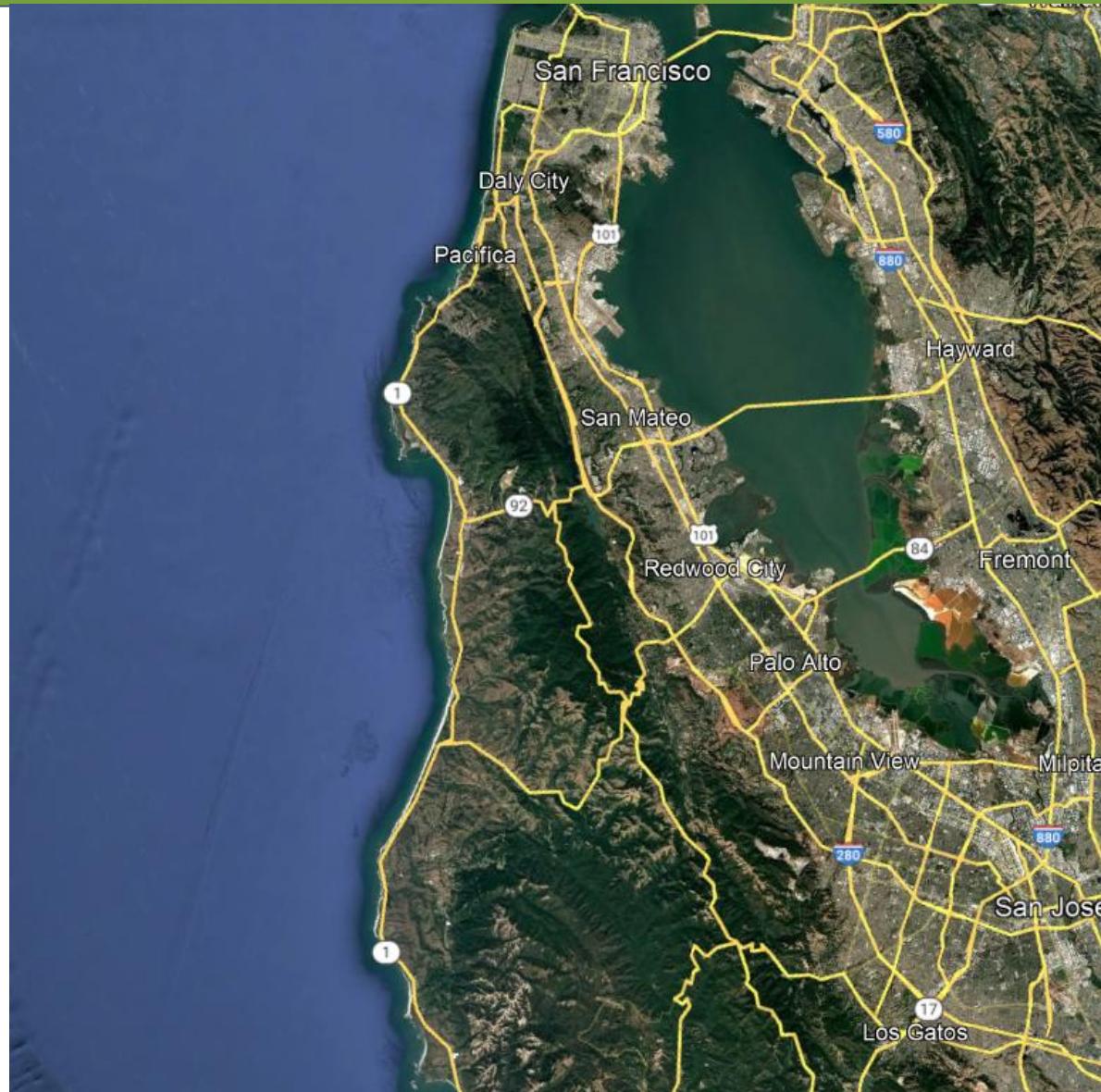
# SB 1383: jumpstarting the compost economy

- CA cities and counties must divert organics from landfills



# Bayside has cities, Coastside has farms

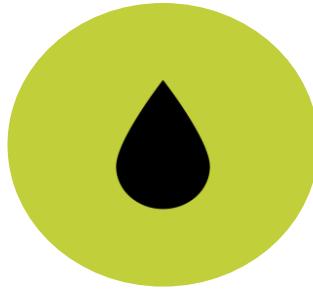
- SMC Sustainability Department
- 20 jurisdictions
- In the fourth year of program



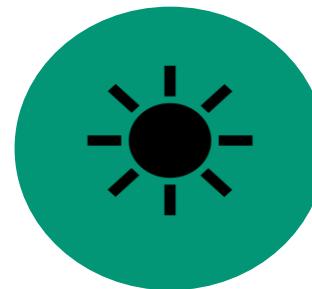
# Why add compost to the land?



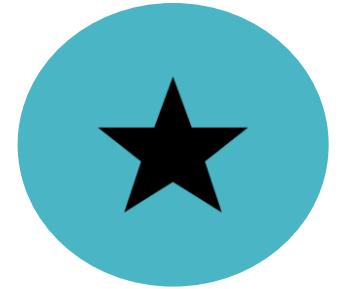
SOIL HEALTH AND  
STRUCTURE



IMPROVES WATER  
HOLDING  
CAPACITY



INCREASES  
PHOTOSYNTHESIS;  
DRAWING CARBON  
DIOXIDE DOWN  
FROM THE  
ATMOSPHERE



ADDS ORGANIC  
MATTER WHICH  
ACTS LIKE GLUE,  
PREVENTING  
EROSION



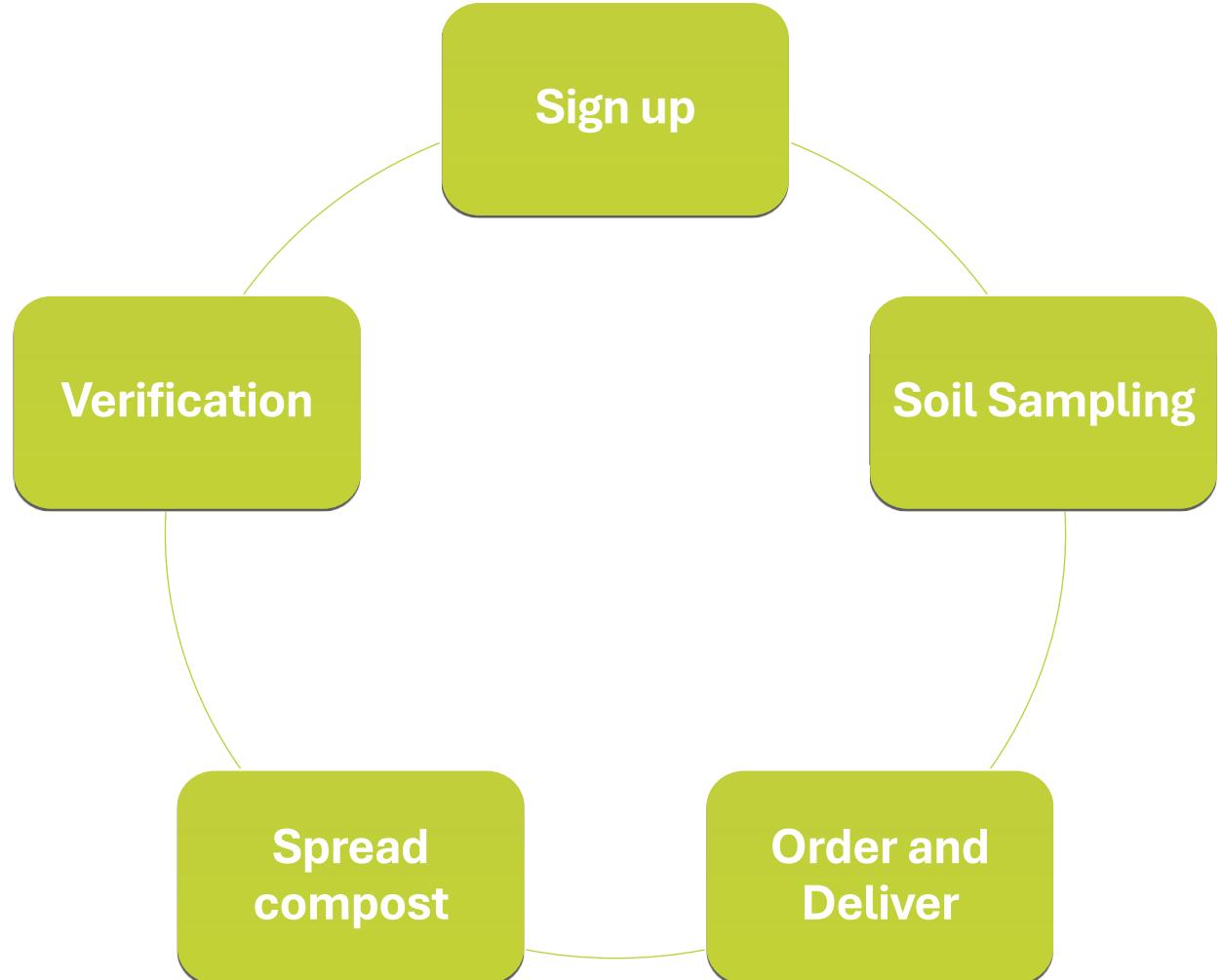
# Compost makes happy farmers!



# Why RCDs



# How the program works



# Compost quality



# Farms



# Rangeland



# AB2346



# Amplifying Impact

- Leveraging other RCD programs
- Leveraging other funding
- Scaling up to other RCDs



# Compost is the word of the day



## Let's spread the word!



August 26, 2025

Hon. Brooke Rollins  
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

On behalf of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed USDA Reorganization Plan. In California, ninety-five (95) Resource Conservation Districts work in partnership with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and communities to deliver technical assistance, financial support, and conservation education. We recognize the intention to streamline federal operations, but we are deeply concerned that aspects of the reorganization risk undermining USDA's ability to achieve its stated goals and could negatively impact the people and lands we serve.

We feel strongly that such a far-reaching proposal merits more time for consideration and more details - including information on costs and benefits of the proposed changes - so that California producers and the organizations that work to serve them have the opportunity to evaluate potential impacts and provide constructive feedback.

#### **California's Unique Role in U.S. Agriculture**

California is the nation's agricultural leader, delivering nearly \$60 billion in production value annually across 24 million acres. Our state accounts for approximately 11% of total U.S. agricultural output and produces over 400 commodities, far more diverse than any other state. This sector also generates at least \$4.4 billion in tax revenues that support local, state, and federal budgets. California's agricultural diversity, combined with serious natural resource challenges such as drought, wildfire risk, and water scarcity, requires USDA programs that are responsive, flexible, and locally informed.

We are concerned that relocating USDA regional oversight outside California (e.g., NRCS oversight shifting to Salt Lake City and Forest Service oversight to Fort Collins) could reduce the responsiveness of USDA programs to California's unique agricultural systems, specialty crop producers, and forest management challenges. Local USDA staff in Service Centers and district offices are trusted partners, but they need strong, in-state leadership to ensure maximization of programs and best use of taxpayer dollars.

## **Impacts on Resource Conservation Districts and Local Partnerships**

RCDs partner closely with USDA agencies, particularly the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forest Service, to deliver technical and financial assistance that supports soil health, water quality, wildfire resilience, habitat restoration, and agricultural productivity.

The proposed reorganization poses several risks:

- Consolidating regional offices out-of-state will reduce access to technical expertise and timely decision-making.
- Centralizing grant and contracting functions far from California could delay financial assistance to farmers and ranchers.
- Forest and watershed coordination may be weakened, despite California's agricultural viability being directly tied to healthy upland forests and effective post-wildfire recovery.
- California-specific research and innovation capacity could be diminished if ARS priorities are set nationally rather than regionally.

Without adequate support, RCDs will face greater difficulty meeting already high demand for assistance from those adapting to water shortages, wildfire impacts, and other resource challenges.

## **Recommendations**

Respectfully, we urge USDA to do the following:

- Extend the comment period and provide additional details about consolidations and other proposed changes so that producers and other affected organizations have the opportunity to provide constructive feedback.
- Provide a cost-benefit analysis with a focus on how proposed changes can actually benefit US producers, including those in California.
- Maintain California-based USDA leadership capacity within NRCS and Forest Service to ensure program decisions reflect California's agricultural and forest realities.
- Preserve strong local technical assistance and grant administration to avoid delays in getting resources to producers who urgently need them.
- Formalize and strengthen state-level partnerships with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), University of California Cooperative Extension, and

CARCD to improve program delivery.

- Ensure flexibility in program design so that specialty crop producers, small-acreage farms, and forestland owners are well-served, not disadvantaged by uniform national models.

## **Conclusion**

California's agricultural and forest systems are not only vital to our state but to the nation's food security, economy, and environmental health. CARCD strongly supports USDA's goal of efficiency, but we believe that consolidation and centralization must not come at the expense of responsiveness to local needs. We urge USDA to recognize the unique role of California and its RCDs in ensuring that federal investments in conservation achieve the greatest possible return for farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and the American public.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with USDA to advance conservation, agricultural viability, and community resilience.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Gomez

President, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

**Resolution 2025- (1)**

**A Resolution for the Members of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to Direct the CARCD Board of Directors to Reaffirm Their Duty to Comply with the Duly Adopted and Effective Bylaws**

WHEREAS, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law of the State of California, as set forth in the California Corporations Code; and

WHEREAS, the CARCD Board is required to manage the affairs of CARCD consistent with the powers and purposes of CARCD, the provisions of the Bylaws, and policies established by resolution of the general membership; and

WHEREAS, the CARCD Board is required to keep the Member Districts currently informed of CARCD's affairs and activities; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the CARCD Officers and Board of Directors have not been operating in compliance with the CARCD bylaws adopted by its Member Districts and currently effective for a period greater than one year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CARCD Membership does hereby direct the CARCD Board of Directors to reaffirm their duty to comply with the duly adopted and effective bylaws at all times and immediately take action to do so.

**Resolution 2025- (2)**

**A Resolution for the Members of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to Establish Minimum Standards for Conducting Association Business to Ensure Transparency and Accountability in Operations**

**WHEREAS**, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Association or CARCD) bylaws (Article I, Section 3, "Purposes") state that "the Association has the purposes for which it is authorized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California. The bylaws further state the CARCD is "an instrumentality of member districts in carrying out the natural resources and soil and water policies of the State of California, insofar as those functions have been delegated to the districts by statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the CARCD President has indicated that CARCD is not legally required to comply with the Brown Act's open meeting requirements because it is a statewide private corporation, not authorized by statute and not exercising delegated authority from its member districts;

**WHEREAS**, regardless of any legal mandate under the Brown Act, CARCD purports to represent all RCDs, which are local agencies subject to the Brown Act, and there is therefore an expectation that all RCDs should have opportunities to be informed of and provide feedback on issues affecting their districts and the constituencies they represent, including, but not limited to, legislation and funding opportunities, regardless of an RCD's membership in CARCD;

**WHEREAS**, CARCD's member districts expect to be informed of the CARCD's operations and initiatives so they can provide the essential feedback needed to guide the Association's actions and priorities consistent with the districts' powers and responsibilities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CARCD Membership does hereby direct the CARCD Board of Directors to publish and notice all meetings, minutes, and records of the association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any RCD, regardless of membership, will be allowed to attend and provide comments at any meeting of the Association, including but not limited to meetings of the Board, Executive Committee, standing committees, special committees, and general membership.

**RESOLUTION 2025- (3)**

**A Resolution for the Members of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to Direct the CARCD Board of Directors to Reconvene the Policy Committee in Accordance with the Bylaws**

WHEREAS, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law of the State of California, as set forth in the California Corporations Code; and

WHEREAS, The CARCD Board is required to manage the affairs of the CARCD consistent with the powers and purposes of the CARCD, the provisions of the Bylaws, and policies established by resolution of the general membership; and

WHEREAS, The CARCD Board is required to keep the Member Districts currently informed of the CARCD's affairs and activities; and

WHEREAS, The Article VIII, Section I of the Bylaws (effective 2018) states, "[t]here shall also be a Policy Committee, which is responsible for prioritizing and managing all legislative and CARCD policy issues that may affect RCDs, including but not limited to reviewing and making recommendations on proposed resolutions or protests at the annual meeting"; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws also prescribe the membership of that committee; and

WHEREAS, CARCD only recently convened the Policy Committee to perform the duties and responsibilities set forth in the Bylaws.

WHEREAS, the membership of the Policy Committee as currently convened is not in compliance with the Bylaws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CARCD Membership does hereby direct the CARCD Board of Directors to adhere to the Adopted Bylaws with regards to appointing members to the Policy Committee.

**Resolution 2024- (4)**

**A Resolution for the Members of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to Direct the CARCD Board of Directors to Establish and Convene a Standing Finance Committee**

WHEREAS, The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law of the State of California, as set forth in the California Corporations Code; and

WHEREAS, The CARCD Board is required to manage the affairs of the CARCD consistent with the powers and purposes of the CARCD, the provisions of the Bylaws, and policies established by resolution of the general membership; and

WHEREAS, The CARCD Board is required to keep the Member Districts currently informed of the CARCD's affairs and activities; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws establish five (5) Standing Committees: Nominating, Policy, Forestry, Land and Soil, and Water; and

WHEREAS, Per the Bylaws the CARCD Board may establish other standing committees and define their functions; and

WHEREAS, there is a fiduciary duty and need for a Standing Finance Committee for the purposes of:

- Developing and Managing an Operating Budget;
  - Establishing Financial Goals and Objectives;
  - Presenting Financial Goals to Board of Directors;
  - Establishing and Managing Funding Strategies;
  - Complying with Federal, State, and Local Reporting Requirements

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CARCD Membership does hereby direct to CARCD Board of Directors to take the following actions:

- a. Direct the CARCD Policy Committee to determine whether a Standing Finance Committee currently exists; and, if so, to initiate the process for soliciting and appointing Resource Conservation District representatives from throughout the state to serve on the committee and to develop policies and procedures governing all CARCD financial matters; or
- b. If no Standing Finance Committee exists, follow the procedures set forth in the Bylaws to establish such a committee and appoint member district representatives with demonstrated interest, knowledge, and expertise in nonprofit financial management.

**Resolution 2025- (5)**

**A Resolution for the Members of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to Direct the CARCD Board of Directors to Rescind and Reconsider Board Action to Change the Dues Structure for FY 25-26**

WHEREAS, The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law of the State of California, as set forth in the California Corporations Code; and

WHEREAS, the CARCD Board is required to manage the affairs of the CARCD consistent with the powers and purposes of the CARCD, the provisions of the Bylaws, and policies established by resolution of the general membership; and

WHEREAS, the CARCD Board is required to keep the Member Districts currently informed of CARCD's affairs and activities; and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2024, CARCD Accounting issued notice to the membership of changes to the dues structure and process for FY 25-26;

WHEREAS, said action was taken without appropriate notice to and opportunity for discussion by the RCD members; and

WHEREAS, the new dues structure may be a financial burden upon a number of existing RCD members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CARCD Membership does hereby direct to CARCD Board of Directors to take the following actions:

- a. Immediately refer the issue of membership dues and the dues process to the Policy Committee for review and recommendation; and
- b. Require the Policy Committee to solicit and consider feedback from all RCDs—regardless of membership status—on the dues structure and process before submitting its recommendation to the CARCD Board of Directors for review and approval.

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

**RESOLUTION #25-14**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### CERTIFICATION

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

Roll Call was as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: M. Vasey, T. Stroing

Submitted by,



Tricia Parker- Hamelberg

Board President



## Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District

RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION

Neal Weisenberger, President  
Dan Munz, Vice President  
Jeffery Rankin, Treasure  
Keith Deagon, Director  
Vacant, Director  
Executive Director, Kathleen Burr

To promote conservation and restoration of natural resources for our area by providing plant materials, educational programs, and expertise in conservation

---

**Board of Directors**  
**Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District**  
**State of California**  
**Resolution #20250805**

Resolution Adopted August 5, 2025

A resolution requesting the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) bylaws be changed to move Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District from the SOCAL Inland Region to the High Desert Region of California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD).

**WHEREAS**, the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District would like to become more involved with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), and

**WHEREAS**, the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District has more common conservation issues with other RCDs in the High Desert Region, such as climate, plant materials, wildlife and soils, and

**WHEREAS**, the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District over the last several years has worked with other RCDs in the High Desert Region on conservation projects.

**WHEREAS**, the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District has enjoyed being part of the SOCAL Inland Region, and other RCDs in this region have assisted the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District in policy and procedural issues. The Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District is geographically better situated with other RCDs in the High Desert Region, making it easier to attend regional meetings and any other activities, and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND DECLARED** by the Board of Directors of the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District are requesting the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) bylaws be changed to move Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District from the SOCAL Inland Region to the High Desert Region of California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD).

Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District  
Resolution #20250805

**MOTION TO ADOPT**

YEAS: Deagon, Rankin, Murray, Weisenberger

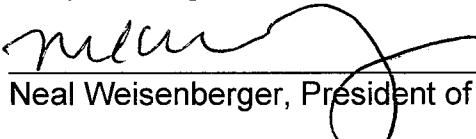
NAYS:

ABSTAINED:

ABSENT:

VACANT:

Adopted: August 5, 2025

  
Neal Weisenberger, President of AVRCD Board

Attest:

  
Kathleen Burr, Executive Director of AVRCD

**Resolution 2025- (6)**

**A Resolution for the Members of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to Establish New Election Procedures**

WHEREAS, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law of the State of California, as set forth in the California Corporations Code; and

WHEREAS, The CARCD Board is required to manage the affairs of the CARCD consistent with the powers and purposes of the CARCD, the provisions of the Bylaws, and policies established by resolution of the general membership; and

WHEREAS, the President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and RCD Director positions for the CARCD Board are filled by elections among member RCDs; and

WHEREAS, the District Manager/Executive Director (DM) positions for the CARCD Board are filled by elections among the DMs for the member RCDs in three (3) regions; and

WHEREAS, the ex-officio member positions for the CARCD Board are filled by appointment by the CARCD Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and/or Treasurer positions for the CARCD Regions are filled by elections among member RCDs of those regions; and

WHEREAS, the CARCD Bylaws have inconsistent, incomplete, and/or missing elections procedures for these positions.

WHEREAS, the CARCD Bylaws call for elections for Board Officers to be conducted in person at the annual business meeting.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CARCD Membership does hereby direct the CARCD Board of Directors to

- 1) Establish comprehensive election procedures for electing and/or appointing Board officers, Directors, District Managers, and ex officio members, including procedures for resolving tied elections;
- 2) Establish regional election procedures, as outlined in Attachment A, for electing officers of CARCD's regions, including procedures for resolving tied elections;
- 3) Provide a transparent and inclusive notice and nomination process for all elected and appointed positions on the Board, regional bodies, and committees;
- 4) Provide a method for candidates to submit written statements in support of their candidacy for all elections;
- 5) Allow for the online submittal of ballots using a secure online voting tool, such as "Simply Voting" used by the California Special Districts Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CARCD Policy Committee is charged with developing draft election procedures and submitting them to member districts for review, followed by a final recommendation to the CARCD Board of Directors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final election procedures shall be submitted to the membership for approval no later than June 30, 2026.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Proposed Regional Election Procedures**

*Unless otherwise noted, these procedures could be implemented now because they are interpreting discretion left under the Bylaws and do not directly conflict with express requirements of the Bylaws.*

1. The election for Regional Chair and Vice Chair will be held during even numbered years, regardless of whether incumbent Regional Chair or Vice Chair have served a full two (2)- year term.
2. The election will not be administered by any person who is a candidate in the election or who is a director or employee of the same member-RCD as a candidate.
3. The region will select a member-RCD delegate from a different region to administer the election procedures.
  - a. At least [*twenty (20) days*] prior to the day of election, the Regional Chair will issue a ten (10)- day notice for a special meeting of the region. The purpose of the special meeting will be to select the election administrator and an alternate. [*Selection could be from pool previously established by the Board or from specific recommendations by SoCal member-RCDs*]. Once the selection is made, the Regional Chair will provide the election administrator and alternate with at least seven (7)-days' notice that they have been selected to serve. The alternate will serve if the primary election administrator is unable or unavailable to serve.
4. Once the governing board of a member-RCD has designated its delegate and alternate pursuant to Bylaws Article IV, Section 4, that delegate and alternate shall serve in *all* CARCD membership and regional votes, including elections, for a given year, unless sooner removed by the governing board of the member-RCD they represent.
5. Only duly appointed delegates from member-RCDs will be entitled to vote in an election.
6. In the event of a tie vote for any elected office, the meeting will be continued for a period not to exceed seven (7) days and then reconvened to resume voting for the tied position(s). If no candidate receives a majority vote in that reconvened meeting, then the meeting will be continued for a second period not to exceed seven (7) days. This cycle will be repeated until one of the candidates receives a majority of votes.
  - a. [*Subject to amendment of the Bylaws*] If the tie is not resolved following [XX] rounds of voting, then the election administrator (or the alternate in event the election administrator is not available) shall cast the tiebreaking vote before the meeting is adjourned.
7. If requested by a given region, the Board will appoint election inspector(s) to oversee that region's elections in the same manner described for CARCD officer elections under Bylaws Art. VII, Section 3, except that the election inspectors will not be an officer of the Board or a director or employee of a member-RCD within the region holding the election.

**Resolution 2025- (7)**

**A Resolution for the Members of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to  
Adopt Policies Recommended by the IRS for Charitable Organizations**

WHEREAS, The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law of the State of California, as set forth in the California Corporations Code; and

WHEREAS, the CARCD Board is required to manage the affairs of the corporation in accordance with the California Corporations Code and the United States Internal Revenue Code, and in a manner consistent with its powers and purposes, the provisions of the Bylaws, and policies established by resolution of the general membership; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recommends that charitable organizations adopt a conflict of interest policy, a whistleblower policy, and a records retention policy; and

WHEREAS, CARCD has consistently indicated on its annually required Form 990s that it has not adopted these policies.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CARCD Board of Directors be directed to adopt a conflict of interest policy, a whistleblower policy, and a records retention policy, as recommended by the IRS, prior to filing the 2026 Form 990.

**RESOLUTION 2025- (8)**

**A Resolution for the Members of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to Direct the CARCD Board of Directors to Ensure Diverse Representation on CARCD Committees**

WHEREAS, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law of the State of California, as set forth in the California Corporations Code; and

WHEREAS, the CARCD Board of Directors, Executive Committee and various committees have multiple officers and/or representatives elected or appointed from the same RCDs; and

WHEREAS, to encourage diversity in representation of ALL RCDs, it would be beneficial to require the Board President and Board of Directors to consider greater representation in appointments of voting members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CARCD Membership that the CARCD Membership hereby directs the Board President and the Board of Directors to appoint no more than one voting representative from the same RCD to any committee, regardless of whether the committee is standing, ad hoc, special, or otherwise constituted.

BE IT FURTHER Resolved, that the CARCD Membership does hereby directs the Board President and the Board of Directors to develop a process allowing RCD voting members to designate one or more alternates to act in their absence, except for RCD voting members serving on the Executive and Policy Committees.



# INLAND EMPIRE

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Resolution No. 2025-04

A Resolution to alter the Bylaws of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to reflect updated Region membership.

WHEREAS, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts is a 501c3 organization organized into ten regions consisting of Bay-Delta, Central Coast, Central Sierra, High Desert, Modoc Plateau, North Coast, Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, SoCal Inland, and Southern Baja; and

WHEREAS, these regions consist of multiple individual district members organized according to geographic continuity, common resource concerns, and overlapping partners, and meet at least annually to discuss regional business items; and

WHEREAS, Resource Conservation Districts occasionally move between regions based on changing trends in collaboration and partnership with other districts; and

WHEREAS, the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District has established and expanding contractual relationships with multiple districts in the Southern Baja Region; and

WHEREAS Southern Baja districts have expressed interest in IERCD moving from SoCal Inland to Southern Baja; and

WHEREAS such movement would enable further collaboration between IERCD and partner districts including increased grant partnership, enabling increased funding and capacity to provide resource conservation services in respective service areas; and

WHEREAS Article I, Section 4 – Regions addressed region membership in CARCD.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Board of Directors, on behalf of Resource Conservation Districts in the State of California, recognizes that the existing Bylaws, Article I should be revised to reflect the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District as a member of Southern Baja rather than SoCal Inland Region.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Directors of the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, San Bernardino County, State of California, on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

Signed by:



3AE9590B1A88454...

Richard Gomez, Board President



1928855054E9D4BC...

Nancy Sappington, Vice President

Submitted by the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

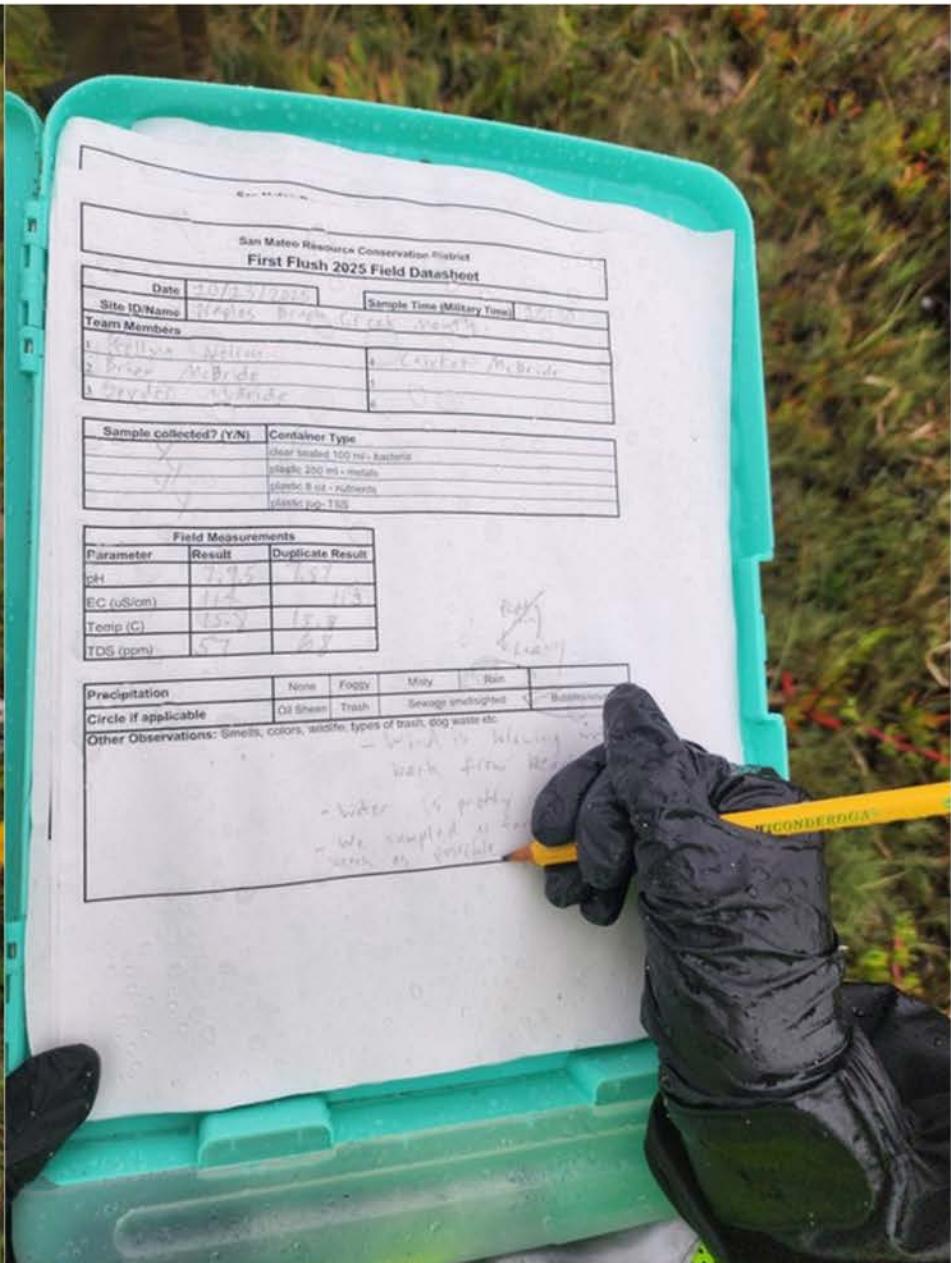
# First Flush

October 13, 2025

















# Nature Hero Award: Hanson Crew

October 16, 2025







