



S O N O M A
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019

MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Friends of the RCD,

In our increasingly busy lives, we rarely have the chance to reflect on our successes, and connecting with others to share our reflections is even rarer. We offer this annual report as a moment of connection with you; letting you know what we've been up to this past year and sharing our pride in the work we've accomplished.

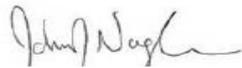
Sometimes our culture of busy glosses over our labors, focusing on instant satisfaction rather than recognizing how the scenery slowly changes from the impactful work we do. In this report we are remembering to acknowledge that our most satisfying work is deep, impactful and lasting to the people we help and educate.

This year's report is all about pausing to reflect on the context of our work: where we came from, the progress we're making, and the future we're building through connections with the land and those that work and tend to the land. Thank you for taking a moment to learn more about the RCD's durable work through the pages of this report, and we hope it inspires you to take a moment and reflect on your own larger context.

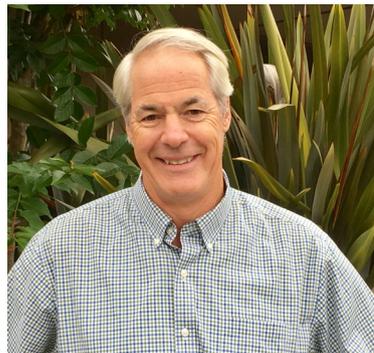
In Partnership,



Valerie Minton Quinto
Executive Director



John Nagle
Board Chair



ANNUAL REPORT CONTENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| CONSERVATION AT WORK | 3 |
| TRUE TO OUR ROOTS | 4 |
| HARVESTING NEW BOUNTY | 6 |
| SOWING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE | 8 |
| FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHT 2018-2019 | 10 |
| STAFF AND BOARD | 10 |
| MEET OUR TEAM | 11 |

CONSERVATION AT WORK



FORESTS MAKE UP OVER 50% OF SONOMA COUNTY ALONE AND HELP FILTER WATER, SEQUESTER CARBON OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE, PROVIDE VITAL SPECIES HABITAT, AND PROVIDE WOOD AND FIBER TO OUR COMMUNITIES.



THERE IS A "WHY" BEHIND EVERY PROJECT WE DO. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE REASONS DRIVING OUR PROGRAMS' FOCUS.

1% OF ORGANIC MATTER IN THE TOP SIX INCHES OF SOIL HOLDS APPROXIMATELY 27,000 GALLONS OF WATER PER ACRE



SONOMA COUNTY'S LAND IS OVER 90% PRIVATELY OWNED, MAKING THE PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS ESSENTIAL TO ANY WATERSHED CONSERVATION EFFORT.



ALMOST ALL OF SONOMA COUNTY'S MAJOR WATERSHEDS ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE EPA AS HAVING TOO MUCH SEDIMENT POLLUTION, MAKING EROSION CONTROL PROJECTS KEY TO WATERSHED HEALTH.

TRUE TO OUR ROOTS



THE RCD HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. WHEN WE FORMED IN 1946, OUR NATURAL RESOURCE FOCUS WAS SOIL CONSERVATION. SINCE THEN, OUR FOCUS HAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SOIL, WATER, FISH AND WILDLIFE, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND MORE. ALWAYS AT THE FOUNDATION OF OUR WORK ARE OUR CORE STRENGTHS AS AN ORGANIZATION: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CONSERVATION PLANNING, AND OUR FAVORITE, MAKING THINGS HAPPEN ON THE GROUND.



“AS RESIDENTS OF A SOMEWHAT WATER SCARCE AREA, WE WERE THRILLED TO HEAR ABOUT THE RCD PROJECT TAKING PLACE ON THE SONOMA COAST AND WERE EAGER TO PARTICIPATE. WE HAVE A SMALL ORCHARD AND GARDENS THAT HAVE BENEFITED GREATLY FROM THIS EXTRA WATER.”

- JOHN AND MARY ENTRIKEN, RURAL LANDOWNERS
SONOMA COUNTY COASTAL RAINWATER CATCHMENT AND
FORBEARANCE PROGRAM



WORKED WITH LANDOWNERS ON OVER 40 LANDSMART FARM CONSERVATION PLANS

A LandSmart Plan is a roadmap, developed in partnership with the landowner, which identifies strategies for better resource management, and prioritizes those strategies into actionable steps.



INSTALLED 6 RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS

These projects include the plumbing, tanks, and pumps needed to capture rainwater off a roof and store that water for use during the dry season, when water in our local streams is most scarce.



PROVIDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO OVER 100 LANDOWNERS

Technical assistance is a fancy way of saying that we help answer people's tough resource conservation questions, from how to stop erosion, to what permits might be needed for an in-stream project, to how to get rid of invasive weeds.



REACHED OVER 7K STUDENTS THROUGH OUR YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Education is at the heart of our mission, and this year we reached students from elementary school through high school with a combination of on-the-ground experiential learning, and participation in community events.



CELEBRATED THE 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDSMART PROGRAM

LandSmart is a regional conservation program that connects us with our neighboring RCDs, allowing us to provide conservation services more efficiently and consistently across District Boundaries. Our partnerships are such an important part of our success, and we're grateful for this one!



CELEBRATED 20 YEARS OF SERVICE FOR 2 OF OUR DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is a core element of our organization. They are volunteers that help keep the RCD transparent, accountable, and connected to the community. This year, Dennis Murphy and Ron Roller both celebrated 20 years of service as RCD Directors.



HARVESTING NEW BOUNTY



WHILE HOLDING FAST TO OUR CORE MISSION AND SERVICES, WE ALSO LIKE TO KEEP IT FRESH, PROVIDING NEW SERVICES TO RESPOND TO EMERGING NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES AND COMMUNITY NEEDS. THIS YEAR, WE STRETCHED OURSELVES TO SERVE EVOLVING NEEDS, HARVESTING THE BOUNTY OF NEW PROGRAMS THAT WILL BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME.



“THE PROSPECT OF GETTING THE GRANT WAS THE BOOST I NEEDED TO RENEW MY COMMITMENT TO THIS LAND AFTER THE FIRE. I’VE LIVED HERE FOR 35 YEARS, BUT I’VE NEVER FELT MORE SUPPORTED OR MOTIVATED TO DO THE WORK. THIS RCD PARTNERSHIP HAS TAUGHT ME HOW I CAN MAINTAIN THIS PROPERTY FOR THE FUTURE, AND I’M THRILLED TO GET STARTED.”

- LYNN GARRIC, FIRE IMPACTED LANDOWNER
POST-FIRE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND
SEDIMENT REDUCTION FOR COHO RECOVERY

DEVELOPED OUR FIRST 3 LANDSMART FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS



These plans are an important tool to help owners or forested lands identify management priorities such as fuel load management and road improvements, and to garner public cost share dollars to implement those priorities. Now that we've got the first few of these plans under our belts, we're off and running!

COMPLETED OUR FIRST LANDSMART FOR VINEYARDS CARBON FARM PLAN



Carbon Farm Plans identify practices that would allow agricultural operations to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We only recently began Carbon Farm Planning on rangeland and dairy sites, and this year we expanded to vineyards.

LAUNCHED A NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM: FARMS ADVANCED



While celebrating 20 years of Sonoma County FARMS Leadership last fall, we announced piloting a new program, a second year Advanced experience for our alumni. This program has a conservation and agricultural career pathway focus, which builds on the lexicon and foundation created in year one. We collaborate with numerous local partners to expose students to the many possible careers offered within agricultural industries, while giving them the tools to be successful as they transition out of high school. We aim to inspire youth to become leaders in agriculture and the environment.

LAUNCHED A NEW LEARNING SITE FOR OUR TEAM PROGRAM



Who doesn't love an on-farm field trip? With support from Sonoma Ag + Open Space we launched a second learning site in our district at Open Field Farm in Petaluma, a protected agricultural property. This special property provides guided hands-on experiences to 5th graders and became the program's fourth farm site in the suite of TEAM offerings for elementary students throughout Sonoma County in partnership with Gold Ridge RCD.

DEVELOPED OUR FIRST "SLOW IT. SPREAD IT. SINK IT. STORE IT!" FOCUSED PLAN



We love our Slow it. Spread it. Sink it. Store it! Guidebook and brochures (available for free download on our website). This year we decided to amplify the impacts of these resources by providing individual planning assistance on the same topic. Our first "S4 Plan" was created for a site that burned in the Tubbs fire, where the landowner plans to improve stormwater management as part of their rebuild.



SOWING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE



WE'RE ALWAYS KEEPING AN EYE TOWARD TO FUTURE, KNOWING THAT TOMORROW'S BOUNTY DEPENDS ON THE SEEDS WE SOW TODAY. NURTURING OUR PARTNERSHIPS IS KEY TO PREPARING FOR THE WHAT LIES AHEAD. HAND-IN-HAND WITH OUR PARTNERS, WE SOWED MANY NEW SEEDS THIS YEAR THAT WE HOPE WILL HELP GROW A MORE RESILIENT FUTURE FOR OUR WATERSHEDS AND COMMUNITY.



“WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE MUCH SMARTER DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT PROJECTS CAN MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT THE BETTER. PROJECTS SUCH AS PROTECTION OF INFILTRATION BASINS, RAIN WATER CATCHMENT, AND RECHARGE PROJECTS ARE EXPENSIVE PROPOSITIONS. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE ARE MAKING THE BEST USE OF THESE PROJECTS TO MAKE THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE SYSTEM FOR ALL - FISH AND PEOPLE.”

- PENNY SIROTA, CO-CHAIR, FRIENDS OF THE MARK WEST WATERSHED
MARK WEST HYDROLOGY STUDY

SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO FORMALIZE COLLABORATION WITH TEN OTHER NORTH COAST RCDS



This new collaborative framework will enable us to work together to achieve conservation objectives at a regional scale in pursuit of improved water quality, water quantity, soil health, and forest health, for the benefit of communities, watersheds, and wildlife on the North Coast.

CONTINUED WORK ON HYDROLOGY STUDIES OF THE MARK WEST AND MILL CREEK WATERSHEDS



These studies will help us understand the complex hydrology of each watershed and identify opportunities for streamflow improvement. This information will help us to be more strategic and effective with our on-the-ground project work.

WORKED WITH THE NORTH COAST SOIL HEALTH HUB TO LAUNCH DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOIL HEALTH INDEX



Through this effort, local partners will work with Oregon State University to analyze a diverse set of soil samples to understand what healthy soils look like in our north coast vineyards. When the index is fully developed, we will use it to provide better technical assistance to growers in our region.

FORGED NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS



CALFIRE We began discussions of how the RCD can support vegetation management projects in our area by assisting with environmental analysis of these projects.

SONOMA COUNTY REGIONAL PARKS We were selected as one of several organizations that will provide engineering support over the next several years for projects on Regional Parks land.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS We launched a new partnership wherein the RCD's forester will assist with planning for fuels management on State Parks land.

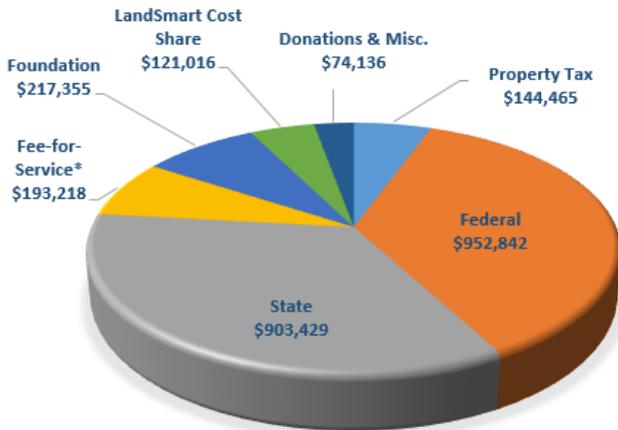
SONOMA AG + OPEN SPACE We were selected as one of several organizations that will provide environmental services over the next several years for projects on Ag + Open Space land.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS | 2018-2019

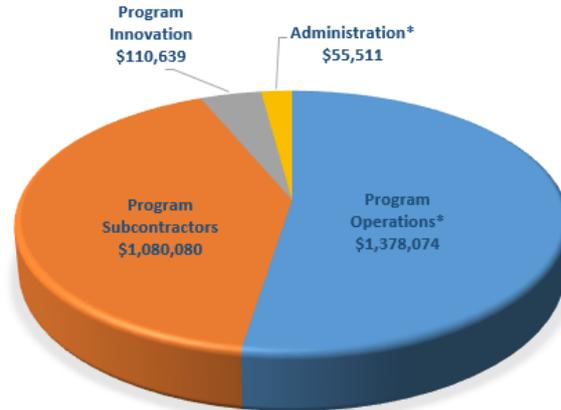
SONOMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS A SPECIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND, AS A GOVERNMENT ENTITY, IS AN EXEMPT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF IRC § 115 AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISTRICT ARE DEDUCTIBLE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF IRC § 170(c)(1). THE CONDENSED FINANCIAL DATA FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2019 PRESENTED BELOW IS SUBJECT TO AUDIT.

DIVERSIFIED REVENUE SOURCES



*Fee-for-Service income includes local government and private contracts.

OPERATING EXPENSES



*Administration expense is post-allocation of indirect expenses totaling \$399,369 to programs. This allocated indirect is reflected in the Program Operations total.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALICE LIDDELL | DAVID MURPHY | RABO AGRIFINANCE |
| ANONYMOUS | EARLE & SUSIE CUMMINGS | SAN MATEO RCD |
| BASILINE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING | G3 ENTERPRISES, INC. | SONOMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU |
| CAMELBAK PRODUCTS, LLC | MICHAEL HARAN | THERESA J. HOUSE |
| CLOVER STORNETTA FARMS, INC. | NANCY AND TONY LILLY | WORLD CENTRIC |
| CVV HEALDSBURG, LLC | | |

RCD STAFF AND BOARD

VALERIE QUINTO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 ADRIENNE PETTIT, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
 MARGIE BEATTY, STAFF ACCOUNTANT
 CHRISTINE KUEHN, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
 AARON FAIRBROOK, PROGRAM MANAGER
 ERICA MIKESH, PARTNER ENGINEER
 JESSICA POLLITZ, ENGINEER

STAFF THAT DEPARTED THE RCD - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

BECKY TILLMAN, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR | JEFF SCHREIBER, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

KEITH ABELES, SOIL AND WATER SPECIALIST
 JASON WELLS, FORESTER
 KEVIN CULLINEN, PROJECT MANAGER
 KARI WESTER, PROJECT MANAGER
 ANYA STAROVOYTOV, PROJECT MANAGER
 KATIE ROBBINS, PROJECT MANAGER
 SHANNON DREW, PROGRAM ASSISTANT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 WALTER RYAN, VICE CHAIR
 VICKIE MULAS, DIRECTOR
 DENNIS MURPHY, DIRECTOR
 RON ROLLERI, DIRECTOR
 BRUCE ABELLI-AMEN, DIRECTOR
 JENNIFER KUSZMAR, DIRECTOR
 EARLE CUMMINGS, EMERITUS
 DELMAR FRIEDRICHSEN, EMERITUS

MEET OUR TEAM



JOIN US

ATTEND A LANDSMART WORKSHOP TO LEARN ABOUT THE LATEST IN RESOURCE CONSERVATION.

PARTICIPATE

IN DEVELOPING A CONSERVATION PLAN OR ON THE GROUND PROJECT TO PROTECT SOIL, WATER AND WILDLIFE HABITAT.

INVEST

IN YOUR LOCAL RCD WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION PROGRAMMING.

SIGN UP

TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY E-NEWS TO GET THE LATEST UPDATES ON RCD PROGRAMS, FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, AND EVENTS.

FOLLOW US

ON INSTAGRAM AND FACEBOOK TO SEE WHAT WE'RE UP TO IN THE FIELD!

1221 FARMERS LANE, SUITE F, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405 | TEL. 707.569.1448 | SONOMARCD.ORG



THE SONOMA RCD'S MISSION IS TO EMPOWER AND PARTNER WITH LANDOWNERS AND THE COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS SONOMA COUNTY'S MOST PRESSING NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS.