

### Resource conservation director shares thanks

I am an elected member of the Marin Resource Conservation District Board of Directors. The district's mission is to improve environmental quality in Marin County.

We employ Marin youth to restore streams by fencing out grazing livestock, as well as planting willows, alders and other riparian plants. These projects attract a huge diversity of wildlife, including songbirds, newts, frogs and hawks. These projects sequester huge amounts of carbon as the trees grow. It makes a real contribution to reducing the impacts of climate change.

We finance water-quality improvements, prevent erosion, repair eroding gullies, move roads and a wide variety of other projects which meet state water quality goals.

Our soil conservation programs are designed to retain and improve the life-giving quality of our Marin County soils. These projects help the soil sequester carbon, again reducing climate change.

We work to improve Marin County creeks. We coordinate efforts to restore salmon in San Geronimo Creek and its tributaries, and help landowners comply with stream ordinances.

Our work is carried out on public and private lands. We are glad to work with the agricultural community to make their operations more friendly to environmental quality.

Marin County voters generously approved Measure A for park, recreation, agricultural and environmental programs. We are grateful to receive an allocation of funds from Measure A.

We work closely with a wide variety of governmental and nonprofit organizations, such as the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, neighboring resource conservation districts in Sonoma County, Marin Agricultural Land Trust and many others.

Much of our work is paid by state and federal grants. We need to explore other funding options to continue our programs of improving environmental quality in Marin County.

— Jerry Meral, Inverness