



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

PLACE: **Marin Farm Bureau Conference Room, 520 Mesa Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

REMOTE OPTION: Members of the public may participate remotely by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87864206727> or by phone: +16699009128,,87864206727# meeting ID: 878 6420 6727. Please contact Elise Suronen at (415) 663-1170 ext. 314, or sarahs@marinrcd.org if you have concerns about accessibility.

(Note that we may move agenda items in this meeting to meet time constraints of participants.)

1. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m.** Roll call, introduction of guests.

ACTION ITEMS: 9:45 a.m.

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
- C. Board approval of new Marin RCD Associate Director roles. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

3. MARIN BIOMASS STUDY

- A. Request that Board execute an amendment to Professional Services Agreement #C05-2022 (CDW LLC) that adds \$89,980 to the contract and extends the term of this contract for Marin Biomass project management services. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Chad White, Biomass Program Project Manager*

4. MEASURE A

- A. Board decision to request the County authorize the use of Measure A tax proceeds on National Park lands. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

5. FORESTRY AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

- A. Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the North Coast RCDs to cooperatively implement the State Coastal Conservancy North Coast Wildlife Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program, awarded to Humboldt County RCD. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

6. CARBON FARMING/MARIN CARBON PROJECT

- A. Board approval to execute a \$160,454 contract agreement between the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and Marin RCD to support the North Coast Soil Hub Director. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*

7. INFORMATIONAL: 10:45 a.m.

Partner Updates: 5 min each

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)– Petaluma Field Office Staff
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – MALT Stewardship Staff
- Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)– Point Blue Staff
- Audubon Canyon Ranch - Jim Jensen, Tomales Bay Land Steward and Preserve Mgr

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **District Funding Research** - A look at a potential parcel tax to generate revenue for district programs.
- **Marin Water Expansion Alternatives** - Water District is analyzing water expansion alternatives, one of which includes increasing the capacity of Soulajule which would impact many ranching families.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW CCAF, phase VII of the COW program, has wrapped up. The final report and invoice has been submitted to the Water Board, and a summary of achievements is listed in the staff report. COW MILC, phase VIII, has begun. The agreement for \$1,000,000 is executed and applications for projects in the Stemple Creek watershed are being solicited through the end of February. The grant also funds practices in Drakes Bay watershed of the National Seashore and scoping for those projects is expected to begin later this spring. An application for COW GIRL phase IX was submitted to the Water Board in early January and is in review.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The next restoration site visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and STRAW is to be determined in early spring. David Escobar will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** No articles specifically related to the RCD. Many related to Seashore Ranches. George informed PRLight of the Federal Funding Freeze and Nancy is providing updates.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project has drafted its fifth and final chapter and has solicited feedback from the Marin Biomass Collaborative for review and feedback. Each technical report provided by the technical consultants is now being reorganized and revised into chapters of the Final Study. All planned technical work on the project has now been completed. Any remaining work will be related to preparing for chapter for integration into the Final study.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project is moving through design towards CEQA. SPAWN has completed its road decommissioning project. As of April 2024, Black Mountain culvert project is in the PCP and might be constructed next year.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC carried out four (4) site visits to assist landowners with various support, all relating to the health of Marin's streambanks. Spawner surveying with Marin Water has begun and will continue through February, 2025. USC coordinated and carried out a successfully attended Soil Bioengineering workshop in San Anselmo in mid-January as well as a training for staff at the Gallagher Ranch in late January. USC coordinated and led the annual Lagunitas TAC field trip and assisted on a prescribed burn with Pepperwood Preserve staff. Finally, USC has been helping various watershed groups with fish identification upon sightings with photos, supporting Gallinas Watershed Council with meetings at the Civic Center re: Lagoon water quality, walking Miller Creek with Marinwood CSD to offer guidance, and

continuing communications with Supervisor Rodoni's office regarding the preparation of a study to assess the removal of tires from Tomales Bay.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) implementation season is underway for 5 hedgerow/windbreak projects funded by WCB/Measure A. The team is working towards completing 7 carbon farm plans by mid-June. The team is working on a website and marketing materials associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with Ag Institute of Marin, Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs. Year 1 compost and rangeland seeding Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded and implemented via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah P. closed out this project with CDFW. The project team will regroup in the near future to discuss SCC as a potential funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** No update on Possible Tomales Bay grant to remove tires. Gerhard is looking into a new water quality grant opportunity. MALT/RCD are looking into grants to fix one of the Pine Gulch Instream Enhancement Project ponds.
- **Finance Committee:** The next finance committee will be held on Tuesday, February 18 at 10 am. The landlord has submitted a lease amendment for the office spaces we occupy. That amendment will be presented at the next finance committee meeting. An optional expansion into another office suite is on hold.
- **District:** Executive Director has been focused on meetings and communications related to the Federal Funding freeze and following up on the Point Reyes Seashore Buy-out. We have also been following up on securing a strategic planning consultant which we anticipate happening in February/March.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams (Dec.+ Jan.): 4 site visits, 25 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 98 landowners and/or partners were educated.
 - COW: 3 or 4 ranchers have received consultation, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation
 - CF: 10

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Our priority funding window for projects implemented in Fall 2025 has closed, but Marin RCD is always accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment for any matter not listed on this agenda, provided that no Board action is to be taken. All statements that require a response will be referred to staff to be placed on the next agenda.

10. MEETING ADJOURNED



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, December 11th, 2024**

PLACE: **Marin Farm Bureau Conference Room, 520 Mesa Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

- 1. A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Sally Gale, President, at 9:05 a.m.**
Roll call of Directors: Sally Gale, Mike Moretti, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood and Terry Sawyer
Associate Directors: George Clyde, Guido Frosini, Paul Ingle
Staff: Nancy Scolari, Marcus Meggett, Gerhard Epke, Preston Duncan, Lee Farese, Sarah Phillips, Cora Richard, Fiona O'Neill and Sarah Skinker
Additional Attendees: Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Joe Deviney (Marin Co Ag Commissioner), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Morgan Williams (SF Bay Water Board), David Lewis (County Director University of CA Co-op Extension), Orlena Yee (Marin Carbon), Rick Holland (Agroforestry), and Jim Jensen (Audubon Canyon), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident).

PRESENTATION:

- 2. University of CA Cooperative Extension Update:
Presented by David Lewis, County Director**

The Marin County branch of the UC Cooperative Extension aims to help sustain agriculture and environment by providing University of CA research-based information. Due to an amazing amount of support, the Marin Cooperative Extension is bigger than David ever thought it could be. Some of the exciting programs they offer are: Marin Master Gardeners (many classes given on gardening knowledge), Agritourism in Marin (the chance to stay a night or two on a working farm in Marin and learn about their approach to agriculture), Environmental Horticulture, and Marin County 4-H! They will be adding community groups this year that are open to youth.

For more information about the Cooperative Extension in Marin and the programs and groups they offer please visit <https://cemarín.ucanr.edu/>

ACTION ITEMS

3. DISTRICT

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: David, Sally, Jerry, Terry and Mike; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve November 2024 Board minutes.
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Mike; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, Terry and David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve the Financial Report.

4. Marin Carbon Project

- A. Board approval of Contract Amendment #2 to Orlena Yee Contract #C10-2022 in the amount of \$60,000 to extend the contract and coordination services of the Marin Carbon Project. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Jerry, Mike, Sally, Terry and David; NOES: None; ABSENT: None; to approve Contract Amendment #2 for Contract #C10-2022

5. INFORMATIONAL

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agriculture-** Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner
Joe gave us an update about the weed cost share program, the pilot program has one year left. As there is still money remaining Joe would like to expand the program or extend it or both. Joe also let us know that regarding sudden oak death the county does inspect all nurseries or incoming plant material to try and prevent SOD.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
No NRCS report this month.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Scott shared that MALT is winding down the monitoring season. Monitored 83 of 93 ranches. Getting ready for round 4 of the small grants program. Always looking for new grant program ideas. MALT is about to close Parks Home Ranch in Tomales, the 98th easement!
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
Jessie Ditmore presented and shared that STRAW spent December working on student restorations at SoMar Farms (windbreak planting + silvopasture planting), willow installation at Moretti, and prepping for January/February restorations at Barinaga, Moreda, and True Grass. There has been extensive work taken on by staff to help prevent the spread of phytophthora and they would be happy to act as a resource for anyone with questions. They welcome all partners to come attend their restorations in January and February as well!
- **Audubon Canyon Ranch** – Jim Jensen
Right now grazing is best tool in managing landscapes (to prevent wildfires). Audubon is working with public lands partners where applicable. They now have communications staff, and social media is a great tool for getting information out. They also host trainings on burns.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Division 9 of the Public Resources Code** - Jerry will keep us updated on the effort to revise Division 9 of the CA Public Resources Code, removing the requirement that RCD Directors be landowners. Jerry is attending these meetings as an individual, not as a representative of the MRCD board.
- **UPDATE! Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** Two phases of the COW program are in progress and the next is in development. COW MILC (phase VIII) has been awarded a grant of \$1,000,000 from the State Water Board. The agreement has been finalized and is being circulated for execution. This grant applies to the Stemple Creek and Point Reyes areas which requires thoughtful planning. COW CCAF (phase VII) completed its original scope with seven management practices implemented. The final report has been drafted and sent to the funder. Before December 31, 2024 close-out, staff will be doing small jobs to spend remaining construction funds and conducting post-implementation monitoring. The State Water Board has opened the application period for additional 319h funding; therefore staff is preparing an application for projects in the Tomales Bay watershed.

- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The next visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria is to be determined in January and will be located at a local ranch. David Escobar will soon meet with the JEDI Committee to review our implementation process. Sarah will reach out to JEDI committee members with an update.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** New newsletter was sent out! Focus was on fisheries and the urban streams program. North Coast Soil Hub newsletter highlighted Healthy Soils Projects in the region: <https://conta.cc/4igHa4a>
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is revising its greenhouse gas analysis chapter and its economic analysis chapter, which are respectively the third and fourth chapter of the Biomass Utilization Study. Work is underway to develop findings and recommendations from the Study and to draft the fifth and final chapter of the Study.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** SPAWN has completed its road decommissioning project. As of April 2024, Black Mountain culvert project is in the PCP and might be constructed next year.
- **Urban Streams Program:** The USC carried out 1 site visit to assist a landowner in Sausalito with creek bank erosion. USC continues to communicate with Supervisor Rodoni's office regarding the preparation of a study to assess the removal of tires from Tomales Bay. Spawner surveying with Marin Water has begun and will continue through February, 2025. USC coordinated and carried out a successfully attended Lagunitas TAC meeting. Finally, USC is planning 2 soil bioengineering workshops for January, 2025; one for staff and one for landowners.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) riparian restoration monitoring and maintenance season is complete. The team is almost finished with the current round of Carbon Farm Plan meetings with producers this fall. The team is working on a website and marketing materials associated with USDA Climate Smart Commodities in partnership with, Ag Institute of Marin, Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs. Year 1 compost and rangeland seeding Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded and implemented via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Sarah P. closed out this project with CDFW. The project team will regroup in the near future to determine another funding source to apply for implementation funds.
- **Funding Opportunities:** Possible Tomales Bay grant to remove tires.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2024. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed human resources, the office lease, the audit and the content of meeting minutes.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on financial audit (federal spending), HR audit and investigating health insurance options. Nancy will attend a Day at the Capitol with the other North Coast RCDs on December 9th. The Strategic Planning Request for Proposals was sent out and we are waiting for proposals.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 1 site visit, 9 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 65 landowners and/or partners were educated.
 - COW: Aside from the grant recipients, 1-2 landowners assisted
 - CF: 3 landowners assisted

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- Marin RCD is accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Martha Davis, Nicasio resident, announced that Marin County is developing a drought plan for West Marin, but there is no focus on planning for the rural areas who are dependent on wells. She's on the water committee for the Nicasio landowners' association. She encourages folks to follow along or attend the county's public meetings on this matter so that we are as resilient as possible.

8. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:50 a.m.

Marin Resource Conservation District
Monthly Financial Summary
as of 2/5/2025

CASH			
Wells Fargo*			
		February	January
Checking - Operating Account	\$	316,992	\$ 491,755
No-till Drill Account	\$	14,595	\$ 14,595
Total Wells Fargo	\$	331,587	\$ 506,350
County of Marin**			
Checking	\$	545,897	\$ 604,733
Total Cash	\$	877,484	\$ 1,111,083

OTHER WORKING CAPITAL DETAILS			
Grants Receivable - Open grant invoices - (see page 3)	\$	566,682	\$ 579,675
Retention Receivable - Due from Grantors	\$	9,456	\$ 9,180
Prepaid Grant Funds Received:			
Measure A - less-costs/Adm fees	\$	(1,065,835)	\$ (1,072,168)
Ombudsman Fund	\$	(19,793)	\$ (19,793)
Current Bills To Pay (see page 4):			
Administrative Expenses	3.25%	\$ (7,073)	\$ (10,613)
Grant Expenses	96.75%	\$ (210,442)	\$ (73,197)
Net Working Capital	\$	150,480	\$ 464,234

* - Wells Fargo bank balances are reported as of 2/05/2025. However, they are reconciled with the most recent activity through 1/31/2025. As a result, there could be adjustments but those adjustments are not expected to be significant.

** - The County account is reported as of 2/05/2025. However, it is reconciled with the most recent "preliminary" statement through 12/31/2024. There will be adjustments as current statements become available and they could be significant.

Marin Resource Conservation District Monthly Financial Summary

Grants Receivable - Money coming in. The RCD submits invoices to our grantors. Our work is paid on a reimbursable basis. The expected turnaround time for reimbursement varies but is usually 60-90 days.

Retention Receivable - Money coming in after grant is finalized. Some funders require a withholding of 10% of each invoice until the entire project is completed and approved. Once the funder is satisfied with the overall grant, the project is deemed complete and the remaining 10% is paid in full to the RCD.

Prepaid Grant funds - Received money upfront. This funding has been paid in advance of work being completed and is held in our accounts where, upon board approval, it is deducted from the balance.

Current Bills To Pay - Pay these bills now. These are bills where 1) the funder has provided payment, 2) the landowner/contractor cannot wait 60-90 days or 3) they support RCD operating expenses.

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Open Invoices

2/5/2025

Grantor	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 and over	Total
CA OPR Biomass	73,580				73,580
CA SCC Carbon			8,445	16,751	25,196
Carbon Cycle Institute				166	166
CCAF Conserving Our Watershed (COW)	89,741	8,983			98,724
CDFA-2021 Healthy Soils	16,155				16,155
CDFA-CAPGP		13,489			13,489
Marin County Urban Streams	65,556				65,556
MMWD	2,939				2,939
NACD - Soil Hub Director	14,145				14,145
North Coast Resource Conservation (UCOP)	12,012				12,012
Straus Home Ranch LLC	226				226
USDA Climate Smart Commodities (SMACCC)	67,395	55,469			122,863
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)	1,970	4,549		5,410	11,929
Wildlife Conservation Board 2022	109,703				109,703
TOTAL OPEN INVOICES	\$ 453,421	\$ 82,489	\$ 8,445	\$ 22,327	\$ 566,682
Retainers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,456	\$ 9,456
TOTAL DUE	\$ 453,421	\$ 82,489	\$ 8,445	\$ 31,783	\$ 576,138
	79%	14%	1%	6%	100%

Total due 91 days and over

	91 and over
CA SCC Carbon	09/30/2024 16,751
Carbon Cycle Institute	10/01/2024 166
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)	06/30/2024 5,410
Sub-total	\$ 22,327
Retainers	9,456
TOTAL	\$ 31,783

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Bills to Pay

February 2025

Name	Date	Memo	Aging	Open Balance
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>				
California Special Disrticts Assn	12/31/2024	Dues	36	\$ 837
Duncan, Preston	1/31/2025	Reimbursement	5	\$ 538
Farese, Lee	1/31/2025	Reimbursement	5	\$ 403
Horizon Cable TV	1/31/2025	Internet	5	\$ 134
Meggett, Marcus	1/31/2025	Reimbursement	5	\$ 60
O'Neill, Fiona	1/31/2025	Reimbursement	5	\$ 491
Pt Reyes 4th Investors LLC	3/1/2025	March Office Rent	N/A	\$ 1,529
Richard, Cora	1/31/2025	Reimbursement	5	\$ 24
Scolari, Nancy	1/31/2025	Reimbursement	5	\$ 714
SDRMA	12/30/2024	Certificates	37	\$ 48
Skinker, Sarah	11/30/2024	Reimbursement	67	\$ 1,172
Smile Business Products	11/17/2024	Copier	80	\$ 131
US Bank Corporate	1/22/2025	Dreamhost	14	\$ 156
US Bank Corporate	1/22/2025	Fireflies	14	\$ 34
US Bank Corporate	1/22/2025	Office Water	14	\$ 47
US Bank Corporate	1/22/2025	Marin Independent Journal	14	\$ 14
US Bank Corporate	1/22/2025	QuickBooks Online fee	14	\$ 99
US Bank Corporate	1/22/2025	RingCentral	14	\$ 312
US Bank Corporate	1/22/2025	SpringAhead	14	\$ 330
Total Administrative Expenses				\$ 7,073
<i>Grant Expenses</i>				
Loamist	1/31/2025	OPR Biomass	5	\$ 42,500
Phillips, Sarah	1/31/2025	Reimbursement	5	\$ 1,393
Point Blue Conservation Science	12/31/2024	WCB - Design, hedgerows, etc.	36	\$ 121,087
Point Blue Conservation Science	12/31/2024	SCC Carbon Restoration	36	\$ 13,712
Spatial Infomatics Group	1/31/2025	Biomass Study Consultant	5	\$ 12,778
White, Chad	1/31/2025	OPR Biomass Project Management	5	\$ 13,125
Winfield, Emilie	1/31/2025	Reimbursement	5	\$ 493
Yee, Orlena	1/31/2025	SMACCC Carbon Finance Contractor	5	\$ 2,054
Yee, Orlena	1/31/2025	Marin Carbon Project Coordinator	5	\$ 3,300
Total Grant Expenses				\$ 210,442
Total Bills to Pay				\$ 217,515

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES

December 2025

Name	Date	Memo	Paid
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>			
Destination HR Consulting Inc	12/31/2024	Human Resources Consulting	\$ 779
Duncan, Preston	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 542
Epke, Gerhard	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 480
Farese, Lee	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 1,369
Horizon Cable TV	12/31/2024	Internet	\$ 134
Meggett, Marcus	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 60
O'Neill, Fiona	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 153
Pt Reyes 4th Investors LLC	2/1/2025	December Office Rent	\$ 1,529
Richard, Cora	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 106
Scolari, Nancy	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 3,556
Skinker, Sarah	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 992
Smile Business Products	12/17/2024	Copier	\$ 131
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	Office Water	\$ 41
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	Quickbooks Online fee	\$ 99
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	RingCentral	\$ 312
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	SpringAhead	\$ 330
Total Administrative Expenses			<u>\$ 10,613</u>
<i>Grant Expenses</i>			
North Coast Area of CARCD	12/31/2024	Dues	\$ 100
Phillips, Sarah	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 655
Point Blue Conservation Science	12/31/2024	SCC Carbon Restoration	\$ 33,739
Sonoma RCD	12/31/2024	CCAF	\$ 1,657
Spatial Infomatics Group	1/31/2025	Biomass Study Consultant	\$ 13,764
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	AMS - Sampling	\$ 712
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	Chico State - Workshops	\$ 1,150
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	Matrix Sciences - Ag Testing	\$ 578
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	University of CA - Workshops	\$ 456
US Bank Corporate	12/22/2024	Wine Country Ranch Equip - Zanardi Ranch	\$ 232
White, Chad	12/31/2024	OPR Biomass Project Management	\$ 16,600
Winfield, Emilie	12/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 435
Yee, Orlena	12/31/2024	Marin Carbon Project Coordinator	\$ 2,444
Yee, Orlena	12/31/2024	SMACCC Carbon Finance Contractor	\$ 675
Total Grant Expenses			<u>\$ 73,197</u>
Total Bills Paid			<u>\$ 83,810</u>

Marin RCD Grants

Done	Grant	Funding	Status	Lead	Purpose
	1 SWRCB 319h Water Quality on the ranches-dairies	\$ 800,000	Awarded 2020	Marin RCD	Implement projects on the ranches in TBay and Stemple watersheds
X	2 Campbell Drawdown Marin	\$ 10,000	Declined	Marin RCD	Fund participation in Drawdown Marin
X	3 CA Wildlife Cons Board Pacific Flyway	\$ 400,000	Declined	CARCD	Fund Corda restoration
X	4 CDFW Walker Creek Estuary	\$ 350,000	Awarded 04/2020	Marin RCD	Study Walker estuary for fisheries enhancement
n/a	5 Halleck Creek Horse Stables	TBD	directed to grant	Marin RCD	Manure composting
X	6 COM Keys Creek @ Highway 1 Road Project	\$ 7,100	Awarded 2020	Marin RCD	Work with STRAW and Colliss Ranch to stabilize landslide with willow stakes
X	7 CDFA Restore California - Stemple	\$ 3,126	Awarded 2020	Marin RCD	Work with stemple creek ranch to implement carbon project
n/a	8 Devils Gulch Restoration	TBD	On hold	Marin RCD	Work with CA State Parks on fisheries enhancement
X	9 Cambria/Jackson Wines	\$ 25,000	Awarded 02/2020	Marin RCD	MCP Coordination
X	10 Carbon Farm Plan Implementation	\$ 500,000	Declined	MRCD/STRAW	Implement wildlife projects in carbon farm plans
X	11 GrizzlyCorps Member	\$ 20,000	Awarded 10/2020	Marin RCD	College intern to help with outreach/education in the ag community
X	12 CA Wildlife Cons Board Technical Assistance	\$ 55,000	Declined	CARCD	Technical assistance to producers for carbon farming
X	13 CDFW Lower Lagunitas Assessment	\$ 26,000	Declined	SPAWN	Work with lower Lagunitas landowners and TAC on salmon enhancement opps
X	14 USDA Rancher to Rancher	\$ 25,000	Declined	CARCD	Soil monitoring for 1 ranch, training for staff, 1 rancher to rancher workshop
X	15 NACD TA2020 Regional Soil Health Hub Coordinator	\$ 109,000	Awarded 07/2020	Marin RCD	North Bay Soil Health Coordinator for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
	16 DOC Riparian Restoration Corridor/Cons	\$ 430,000	Awarded 12/2020	Marin RCD	Stemple Creek Riparian Project at Rhigetti Ranch
X	17 MWMA Pyrphytic Plants from Marshall - Inverness	TBD	cancelled	Marin RCD	Remove broom, eucalyptus, jabada grass with 12 properties around the Bay.
	18 PRNS Tech Assist for Ranchers	\$ 69,847	Awarded 03/2020	Marin RCD	Assistance to seashore ranchers for RDM sampling, conditional waivers, planning
X	19 Shovel Ready Projects	\$ 1,000,000	cancelled	NoCoRCDs	Provide legislators with a list of shovel ready projects in prep for stimulus \$
X	20 COVID	\$ 5,000	Awarded 07-2020	CARCD	Provide grants to producers for covid protection
	21 SWRCB 319H Water Quality in Lower Lagunitas	\$ 30,000	Awarded 05/2021	SPAWN	Assist with 2 road projects on ranches
X	22 GrizzlyCorps Member	TBD	Awarded 04/2021	Marin RCD	Intern to help with outreach, monitoring and DEI
	23 CDFA Technical Assistance	\$ 60,000	Awarded 08/2021	Marin RCD	Assist producers in applications to Healthy Soils Program
X	24 NACD TA2021 Regional Soil Health Hub Coordinator	\$ 114,000	Awarded 04/2021	Marin RCD	North Bay Soil Health Coordinator for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
	25 COM Support for Carbon Farm Plans	\$ 50,000	Awarded 03/2021	Marin RCD	Development of 5 carbon farm plans plus match for grant #29
	26 NFWF Monarch Habitat	TBD	Awarded 11/2021	Gold Ridge RCD	Support monarch habitat with landowners
	27 SCC Prop68 Climate Grant	\$ 1,000,000	Awarded 12/2021	Marin RCD	Farm plans, implementation, designs, ed workshops, no till drill and FIGR collaboration
	28 Beaver Dam Analogues	TBD	On hold	TBD	Install Beaver Dam Structures at select locations in the Walker Cr watershed
	29 Lagunitas Restoration @ Coast Guard	TBD	On hold	TBD	Potential collaboration to enhance Lagunitas at the Coast Guard reach
	30 MCF-Kurland Marin Carbon Project Coordinator	\$ 50,000	Awarded 05/2021	Marin RCD	coordinate and scale carbon farming in Marin county
	31 MRCD Internship/Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,000	Awarded 07/2021	Marin RCD	support young disadvantaged interns wishing to learn on-the job-skills
X	32 Edwards Mother Earth Foundation	\$ 592,000	Declined	CARCD	[Soil Hub] expand agroforestry component of carbon farm plans in the north coast region
	33 PRNS Tech Assist for Ranchers	\$ 48,285	Awarded 09/2021	Marin RCD	Assistance to seashore ranchers for RDM sampling, conditional waivers, planning
	34 OPR Marin Biomass Project	\$ 500,000	Awarded 06/2022	Marin RCD	Develop recommendations for biomass recovery and utilization processes, infrastructure, and investment
	35 MALT Carbon Farming	\$ 90,000	Awarded 03/2021	Marin RCD	2 carbon farm plans and carbon farming implementation
	36 COM Support for Carbon Farming	\$ 125,000	Awarded 12/2021	Marin RCD	support project development
X	37 UC Western SARE Soils Training	\$ 78,167	Awarded 03/2022	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] Soil Health Assessment/Management Through California's North Coast Soil Hub
	38 WCB Monarch Pollinator Habitat	\$ 250,000	Awarded 09/2022	CARCD	Install and monitor monarch/pollinator plants in riparian or hedgerow areas
	39 USDA Climate Smart Commodities	\$ 3,585,745	Awarded 09/2022	Sonoma County	Plan, design, install, monitor GHG reduction and carbon sequestration projects
X	40 NACD TA2022 Regional Soil Health Hub Coordinator	\$ 124,000	Awarded 09/2022	Marin RCD	North Coast Soil Health Coordinator for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
X	41 Planning Drought Resiliency	\$ 286,239	Declined	Marin RCD	Work with UCCE-MALT on drought resiliency watershed planning for producers
	42 NRCS Grazing Lands	\$ 25,000	Awarded 04/2023	Gold Ridge RCD	[Soil Hub] Staff training on prescribed grazing/ grazing mgmt plans, workshops and education for produce
	43 CDFA Conservation Planning (CAPGP)	\$ 182,000	Awarded 02/2023	Marin RCD	Carbon farm plans, grazing management plans, soil health management plans
	44 SWRCB 319h Water Quality on the ranches-dairies	\$ 739,872	Awarded 07/2023	Marin RCD	Implement projects on the ranches in PRNS and Stemple watersheds

Marin RCD Grants

45	FHA Anadromous Organism Passage (AOP) grant	TBD	Due 2/6/23	Mill Valley	Support Mill Valley StreamKeepers & City of Mill Valley with proposal for barrier retrofit for fish passage
46	OPR Marin Biomass Project	\$ 250,000	Awarded 05/2023	Marin RCD	Develop recommendations for biomass recovery and utilization processes, infrastructure, and investment
47	UC SAREP CA Farm Demonstration Network	\$ 53,730	Awarded 07/2023	UC SAREP (Conser	[Soil Hub] Development and monitoring of field trials, education and outreach on soil health and climate-
48	DOC Capacity Building	\$ 681,445	Declined	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] Tools and technology for program and project management - Salesforce integration; outreach
49	CDFA Healthy Soils Block Grant w/Zero Foodprint	\$ 22,500	Awarded 09/2023	Zero Foodprint	[Soil Hub] CDFA Healthy Soils Program technical assistance and implementation - block grant pilot
50	NOAA Fisheries	\$ 8,000,000	Declined	Marin RCD	habitat restoration and coastal resilience. Focus on salmon restoration.
51	MCF-Kurland Marin Carbon Project Coordinator	\$ 50,000	Awarded 06/2023	Marin RCD	coordinate and scale carbon farming in Marin county
52	NACD TA2023 Regional Soil Health Hub Director	\$ 73,950	Awarded 01/2024	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] North Coast Soil Health Coordinator for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
53	OPR Enhancing Climate Resilience in North Bay	\$ 127,000	Declined	Gold Ridge RCD	Urban rebate program to construct rainwater catchment systems
54	OPR Community Economic Resilience Fund	TBD	cancelled	Marin RCD	Feasibility study to build out biomass-related climate jobs (high road jobs)
55	MC Measure A FARE PRNS Weed Mgmt	\$ 100,000	Declined	Marin RCD	Comparative methods of removal of Scotch Broom on PRNS rangeland
56	North Coast Wildfire Resilience Block Grant	\$ 200,000	Awarded 05/2024	Humboldt RCD	Equipment, fire prevention, training/workforce development, CEQA-NEPA permitting
57	NRCS Soil Hub Director	\$ 75,000	Awarded 06/2024	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] Continuation of North Coast Soil Hub Director position
58	NACD TA2024 Regional Soil Health Hub Director	\$ 161,540	Awarded 12/2025	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] North Coast Soil Health Director for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
59	Tomales Bay Tire Removal	TBD	In Progress	Marin RCD	Possible contract with the county to remove old tires in Tomales Bay

ACTION: DISTRICT/MINUTES/FINANCIALS:**2C. Board approval of new Marin RCD Associate Director roles.****Background:**

In November 2024, two new Marin RCD Associate Directors were appointed: John Dolcini and Paul Ingle however their roles with the Marin RCD were not identified. Guido Frosini (since 2020) and George Clyde (since 2012) already have roles identified with the district.

Policy

According to our policy, a five-member Board of Directors governs the Marin RCD. To help complete specific parts of the RCD program, Directors solicit assistance from agencies, groups and individuals. Individuals may assist the Marin RCD by becoming cooperators, volunteering through NRCS "Earth Team" and/or by becoming an Associate Director.

Associate Director Duties

As stated above, The Marin RCD Board may seek Associate Directors to perform specific tasks as needed. In order to qualify, the person must show a sincere interest in resource conservation and be willing to commit the time required to actively assist the RCD in meeting its short and long term goals. The Marin RCD Board of Directors approves duties or tasks to be accomplished by Associate Directors. The following duties are performed by current Associate Directors:

George Clyde

George will assist the Marin RCD with media communications and press releases to local papers that highlight the RCD's work and provide more public exposure. George will attend Marin RCD meetings and receive Board packets to remain updated on Marin RCD programs. He will follow up on subject matter which he deems newsworthy by contacting the ED and the appropriate staff person. Conversely, staff will contact George when a new grant or project comes up which may be of interest. Staff will also forward any press releases and articles to the Board.

Guido Frosini

Guido will work with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and its tribal members. Guido will establish relations with the Tribe, learn ways to support mutual interests and share collected information with Board and staff so that knowledge may be incorporated into programs or shared with the greater public. One example is the connection through native plants and ways to enhance restorations which are inclusive of plants used in basketry by the tribe. Other ways may be through cultural ecology, food sovereignty, prescribed burns, use of tools, medicines, shelter, etc. Learning may include understanding the history of native Coastal Miwoks and finding tribal members or other local historical resources to provide that history.

Paul and John offer an expansion of the RCD's technical expertise including hydrology, engineering and farming. The following are the duties identified by our new Associates and staff:

John Dolcini

John is using his expertise in mechanical and pipeline engineering to advise the Marin RCD on projects that require alternative water development. He is also following the Marin Water District's plan to increase its water supply and providing regular updates to the Marin RCD.

Paul Ingle

Paul will use his education and experience in watershed hydrology and fluvial geomorphology to assist Marin RCD staff with issues related to water quality protection and stream and riparian enhancement and restoration. Paul will attend Tomales Bay Foundation meetings alongside Marin RCD's Water Quality Program Manager, follow water monitoring trends within the District's watersheds, and assist with photo monitoring whenever necessary. At times he may be asked to accompany staff with on-site creek evaluations and landowner visits and regional watershed workshops and conferences.

Today's Action:

3D. Board approval of new Marin RCD Associate Director Roles for the district.

Available Budget: N/A.

ACTION: MARIN BIOMASS PROJECT

- 3A.** Request that Board execute an amendment to Professional Services Agreement #C05-2022 (CDW LLC) that adds \$89,980 to the contract and extends the term of this contract for project management services. These changes are proposed to align the project management schedule and funding with Marin RCD's contract with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, as revised on January 29, 2025.

Urgency: Urgent

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has revised its agreement with Marin RCD. This revision revises the budget and schedule of deliverables for the Marin Biomass Project. The proposed amendments fund additional professional services contracts needed to fulfill core functions and complete core objectives of the Marin Biomass Project.

Background:

Driven by a rapidly changing climate, both the wildfire prevention activities overseen by the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) and the landfill diversion efforts overseen by Zero Waste Marin (ZWM) are generating increasing amounts of biomass in Marin. The Marin Biomass Project (Project) seeks to study and advise on the most economical and most environmentally responsible processing and use of these growing flows of organic material.

The Project is in the process of completing Biomass Utilization Study (Study) that analyzes a range of existing and potential pathways for processing and utilizing biomass. It is doing so in a collaborative manner to build cooperation among the public and private stakeholders that oversee and operate the biomass utilization economy and so that optimal solutions can be quickly implemented. Marketable uses of biomass being explored include, among others, compost, mulches, and biochar as ground cover and soil amendments; biochar for industrial application; green hydrogen for electricity and transportation; renewable natural gas for electricity and pipeline injection; and diversified wood products. The specific objectives and deliverables of the Study include the following:

- Confirmation of biomass feedstock amounts, types, and characterization in Marin, both current and projected.
- Identification of the most promising biomass utilization pathways in Marin.
- Analysis of the economic feasibility and development potential of the pathways most promising for Marin.
- Analysis of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction and carbon sequestration potential of the pathways most promising for Marin.

- Recommendations for pathways, practices, and infrastructure that improve biomass utilization in Marin and that could apply elsewhere in urbanized coastal regions of California.

The Study process has been designed to facilitate institutional cooperation among the following stakeholders: MWPA and ZWM, two joint powers authorities that oversee the bulk of biomass flows in Marin; their member jurisdictions; private biomass haulers and processors; and the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD), which promotes carbon farming on working lands. The Project is an endorsed solution of MarinCAN, a nonprofit working to spur countywide “drawdown” of GHG emissions below zero by 2045. A number of other public and private organizations are also involved, providing the broad network of relationships necessary for success.

Marin RCD Board Actions:

On April 12, 2023, the Board approved a revision to [OPR Agreement No. 21121](#) for the Marin Biomass Project, and this fully executed by OPR and the Executive Director on May 12, 2023. On January 29, 2025, OPR and the Executive director signed a revision to this agreement that changes the project’s schedule of deliverables and reallocates the budget to extend the project. The total project budget remains at \$900,000 – a combination of \$750,000 under OPR Agreement No. 2121. and \$150,000 under OPR Agreement No. SPPD 23176.

Today’s Actions:

The Board is being asked to amend existing Contract #05-2022 with CDW LLC and increase its funding from \$ \$210,020 to \$300,000 and to extend the contract to March 31, 2026. (The current contract ends on March 31, 2025.) It also combines the labor and the materials and travels budgets into a single consulting services budget.

This increase in budget funds the following services: (i) previously unbudgeted project management from November 2024 through March 2025, (ii) project management from April 2025 through March 2026, (iii) technical support on chapters of the Biomass Utilization Study, and (iv) document production for the 200-page report and a shorter summary report.

Available Budget: Yes. The proposed increase \$89,980 in professional services funding is available in the remaining budget of \$750,000 under OPR Agreement No. 21121 and the allocation in the budget OPR Agreement No. SPPD 23176.

MARIN BIOMASS PROJECT

sponsored by the
MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CDW LLC
MRCO Contract #C05-2022
Contract Amendment No. 2

February 4, 2025



PO Box 1146 – POINT REYES STATION, CA 94956 – TEL: 415 – 663-1170

Amendment No. 2 to MRCD Contract C05-2022

This amendment, when signed, shall become an addition to **MRCD Contract #C05-2022**, between the MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, P.O. Box 1146, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, hereinafter referred to as "MRCD" and CDW LLC, hereinafter referred to as "Contractor."

This amendment will be reincorporated by reference into Contract #C05-2022 as Exhibit C. The effective date of Amendment No. 2 to Contract C05-2022 will be the date thereafter that MRCD's Executive Officer executes it.

Terms and Conditions of Amendment No. 2

1. Contractor's budget shall be modified from \$210,020 to \$300,00.
2. The original contract creates separate budgets for Personnel and for Materials and Travel. This amendment shall eliminate that distinction and combine all remaining funds into a single Consulting Services budget.
3. For accounting purposes, changes to the budget shall be retroactive back to December 1, 2024.
4. The Contractor's Scope of Work shall be left unchanged.
5. The term of this contract is extended until March 31, 2026.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement between MRCD and Contractor shall remain in effect, except as modified by this change order.

MRCD:

BY: _____
PRESIDENT, Board of Directors

DATE: _____

CONTRACTOR:

BY: _____
Chad White, Managing Member
CDW LLC
Tax ID No. 88-3487745
Phone: (415) 378-9954

DATE: _____

ACTION: MEASURE A: PARKS, AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Board decision to request the County authorize the use of Measure A tax proceeds on National Park lands.

BACKGROUND:

The Marin RCD has been the recipient of Measure A sales tax funding since 2014. Marin County Ordinance No. 3586, the Marin Parks, Open Space, and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance, also known as Measure A, earmarked 20 percent of its annual revenues for a "Farmland Preservation Program". Of that 20 percent, a maximum of 5 percent was dedicated to providing matching grants to the Marin RCD for the purpose of assisting ranchers and farmers to enhance the agricultural and natural resource values on lands encumbered with an agricultural conservation easement. The program required a 1:1 match. A variety of natural resource projects have been supported with this funding. Eighteen+ ranches received Measure A funds in addition to the funding supporting a renewed permitting program.

In June, 2022 Measure A was renewed by the voters by nearly 75% voting in favor. The Parks, OpenSpace, and Farmland Preservation one-fourth cent (1/4 cent) sales tax ("Measure") is estimated at current collection levels, to generate approximately \$16,000,000 per year for 9 years. The Sustainable Agriculture Program will receive 20 percent of the proceeds. The new Measure is similar to the original measure with some clear variations for the Marin RCD allocation.

- Twenty percent (previously 5%) of the Sustainable Agriculture Program's annual amount shall provide matching grants to the Marin Resource Conservation District for the purpose of implementing carbon farm plans and similar projects on working agricultural lands which will support and enhance water quality and soil health, biodiversity, wildlife corridors, riparian zones, erosion control, climate resiliency, and safeguard wildlife habitat and pollinators.
- Marin RCD shall ensure that all Landowner Authorization Agreements are recorded with the Marin County Assessor Recorder.
- Marin RCD shall spend funds on easement and non-easement properties and **shall not spend funds on projects within State or National Park lands.**
- A portion of the funding may be used for administrative expenses.

The Marin RCD now has a signed contract with the County of Marin which includes the variations described above and has been using this funding to leverage support of its agricultural programs. Measure A generates over \$600,000 per year and requires a 1:1 match. Marin RCD has been successful in securing outside state and federal funding to fulfill the match requirement.

Over the years, MRCD has partnered with PRNS to fund several implementation projects in PRNS. MRCD has mainly done this through phases of the Conserving Our Watersheds Program funded by the EPA 319(h) grant program through the State Water Board. In May 2023, Simone Albuquerque presented to the MRCD BOD that the objectives of a recent 319(h) proposal were limited within the Seashore due to the lack of matching funds that are available.

In January 2024, the Board entertained the idea of expanding Measure A to Park lands but decided postpone the idea and instead, invite PRNS staff to a Marin RCD Board meeting to discuss funding prospects further. They did not respond at the time.

In January 2025, 12 out of 14 PRNS ranches reached a settlement agreement that involves ceasing their operations and ending their leases within 15 months. A total of 9 ranches will continue at PRNS and Golden Gate National Recreation Area: Seven historic ranches located within GGNRA will receive new 20-year leases to support agricultural operations with continued protection of park natural and cultural resources. The NPS will negotiate long-term leases for the two remaining ranching operations within the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Measure A funding could help provide matching stewardship funds to those remaining ranches as they strive to meet the terms of their new 20-year leases. The ranches would still have to apply competitively for MRCD programs but with Measure A qualification, they will have equal footing with other applicants to our programs.

TODAY'S ACTION

The Board is being asked to once again consider the expansion of the program into National Park lands to address invasive weed, erosion control and other natural resource projects on working ranches.

ACTIONS:

Option 1: Board approves requesting this change to the County-MRCD contractual agreement.

Option 2: Board decides to delay decision.

Option 3: Board requests more information.

IMPACT: (Describe alliance with [RCD strategic plan](#) and grant goals)

The following Strategic Plan goals are related to this action:

GOAL STATEMENT: Active support of our district's agricultural economy, viability and cultural heritage

STRATEGY:

- 3. Improve and enhance natural resources on agricultural lands.
- 5. Secure more funding for dairy program implementation.
- 9. Support ranchers in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

GOAL STATEMENT: Protect and improve water quality and quantity

STRATEGY:

- 1. Support landowners in the planning, design, permitting and implementation of construction projects that protect water quality and conserve water quantity.

2. Support dairy producers in complying with the San Francisco Bay and North Coast General Orders by providing assistance with planning and the implementation of water quality projects.
4. Support landowners with the implementation of water conservation and stormwater runoff measures such as rainwater storage tanks, dry wells, rain barrels and rainwater catchment basins.

GOAL STATEMENT: Maintain and improve soil health and air quality

STRATEGY:

1. Support agricultural producers in conserving and improving soil health to support healthy productive farms and ranches.
3. Assist landowners in the development of carbon farm plans
4. Work with partners to continue monitoring of soil health and advances in soil science.

GOAL STATEMENT: Conserve and enhance flora and fauna

STRATEGY:

1. Conserve coastal prairies, grasslands, croplands, wetlands, upland and riparian forests to enhance biodiversity and economic sustainability.
2. Implement projects that conserve and enhance habitats for threatened, endangered and local species of importance.
4. Improve fish habitat through erosion control, range management, nutrient management, fish passage and riparian restoration.
6. Identify and implement stream enhancement projects in all watersheds.

GOAL STATEMENT: Provide outreach and education

STRATEGY:

1. Continue to foster everlasting partnerships with landowners, agencies and organizations to accomplish enduring environmental improvements.

AVAILABLE BUDGET:

This Measure A agreement provides 9 years' worth of critical funding that will be used to leverage state and federal funding to further MRCD programs which currently is limited to our Carbon Farming and Conserving Our Watersheds programs. It will help Agricultural producers meet the County's Climate Action Plan goals. Expansion of the program into the Point Reyes National Seashore will expand the use of funds into other parts of the county.

GRANT AGREEMENT FOR DISBURSEMENT OF TAX

PROCEEDS BETWEEN

COUNTY OF

MARIN AND

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

This Grant Agreement (hereinafter "AGREEMENT") made and entered into this 8th day of November, 2022, by and between the County of Marin, a political subdivision of the State of California (hereinafter "COUNTY"), and the Marin Resource Conservation District, (hereinafter "DISTRICT"), a special district of California, collectively hereinafter the "PARTIES".

Whereas, DISTRICT, created by action of the Marin County Board of Supervisors on the 19th day of May, 1959, is a resource conservation district in the unincorporated territory of COUNTY; and

Whereas, the Marin Parks, Open Space, and Sustainable Agriculture Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance 3760 (hereinafter "MEASURE A"; attached as Exhibit A) was approved by Marin County voters on June 7, 2022; and

Whereas, MEASURE A levies a one-quarter of one-cent sales tax in Marin County and is estimated to generate approximately Sixteen Million Dollars (\$16,000,000) per year for the nine year life of the measure; and

Whereas, upon becoming operative on October 1, 2022, AGREEMENT applies to any unspent fund balance from the Marin Parks, Open Space, and Farmland Preservation Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance 3586, which became effective April 1, 2013, held by DISTRICT.

Whereas, the MEASURE A Expenditure Plan provides that 20 percent of revenues generated annually from MEASURE A shall be dedicated to a Sustainable Agriculture Program (hereinafter "PROGRAM"); and

Whereas, COUNTY will provide 20 percent of the revenues generated annually for the PROGRAM to the DISTRICT, less any amount deducted from the administrative allowance related to the PROGRAM; and

Whereas, DISTRICT desires to make beneficial use of said revenues in a manner consistent with its own mission and the requirements of MEASURE A; and

Whereas, COUNTY is charged with the fiduciary duty to administer sales tax proceeds consistent with applicable laws; and

Whereas, the objective of this AGREEMENT is to continue a mutually beneficial relationship between PARTIES to disburse and account for MEASURE A fund expenditures.

Therefore, PARTIES are entering into this AGREEMENT.

Statement of Agreement

1. It is mutually agreed and understood that, upon signing of this Agreement:
 - a. COUNTY is responsible for allocating, managing, accounting for, and disbursing all PROGRAM funds.
 - b. COUNTY will disburse PROGRAM funds to DISTRICT semiannually (two times per fiscal year), as follows:
 - i. Disbursement 1 will occur on or about the first Monday in July each year, conditional upon receipt by Marin County Parks of an Annual Measure A Work Plan prepared by DISTRICT, in the form attached as Exhibit B, by June 1 of the same calendar year. Disbursement 1 will consist of PROGRAM funds from Measure A revenue received from the Board of Equalization during the preceding January 1 through June 30 period and allocated to the DISTRICT according to the ALLOCATION METHOD. If DISTRICT submits its Annual Measure A Work Plan after June 1, Disbursement 1 shall occur approximately 30 days subsequent to submittal.
 - ii. Disbursement 2 will occur on or about the first Monday in January, conditional upon receipt by Marin County Parks, by September 15th of the same fiscal year, of an Annual Measure A Expenditure Report prepared by DISTRICT, in the form attached as Exhibit C, describing actual expenditures for the preceding fiscal year. Disbursement 2 will consist of PROGRAM funds from Measure A revenue received from the Board of Equalization during the preceding July 1 through December 31 period and allocated to the DISTRICT according to the ALLOCATION METHOD. If DISTRICT submits its Annual Measure A Expenditure Report after September 15, Disbursement 2 may be delayed. Late Expenditure Reports will delay annual reporting on Measure A, and the work of the Measure A Community Oversight Committee. DISTRICT is encouraged to produce Expenditure Reports on time.
 - iii. COUNTY will make every effort to make disbursements within the time periods specified above, and shall not willfully delay or withhold PROGRAM funds for reasons other than those stated in this AGREEMENT, but shall not be responsible for the consequences if disbursements are delayed for any reason. Disbursements will occur by electronic transfer.
 - iv. DISTRICT work plans and expenditure reports shall account for any

unspent revenue and unreported expenditures from Ordinance 3586.

- c. DISTRICT will expend the sum total of its annual allocations by 10 years after the date MEASURE A expires. On that date, PROGRAM funds not expended by DISTRICT shall revert and be due to COUNTY.
- d. For DISTRICT's budgeting purposes, COUNTY will provide an estimate of DISTRICT'S annual allocation for the coming fiscal year on or about April 1, for as long as the tax is in effect. COUNTY will base the estimate on the annual budget approved by the Board of Supervisors and account for an estimated delay in payment from when the sales tax is assessed to the time a payment is made to COUNTY of three (3) months. Actual allocation may be higher or lower than the estimate due to variability in annual tax receipts and the use of up to 5% of funds for COUNTY administrative purposes.
- e. DISTRICT is required to match PROGRAM funds at a 1:1 ratio.
- f. DISTRICT will develop or use established procedures and criteria to identify appropriate projects. COUNTY will approve projects submitted for PROGRAM funds through the annual Measure A Work Plan process.
- g. COUNTY will assist DISTRICT to establish practices and procedures as necessary to facilitate DISTRICT'S fulfillment of its responsibilities pursuant to this AGREEMENT.
- h. COUNTY will require DISTRICT projects to comply with reporting requirements outlined in the Annual Expenditure Report.
- i. DISTRICT is responsible for ensuring that environmental review and permitting requirements are fulfilled, if applicable, for all projects receiving PROGRAM funds.
- j. DISTRICT shall require the landowner, through a Landowner Authorization Agreement with the DISTRICT, which shall be in substantial conformance with the form of Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit D, to use, manage, maintain and operate the real property and any planted or installed project elements consistent with the purposes for which the PROGRAM was made. The term of such Landowner Authorization Agreements, shall be no less than the term of this Agreement. DISTRICT shall ensure that all Landowner Authorization Agreements are recorded with the Marin County Assessor Recorder. Landowner Authorization Agreements will be provided to COUNTY upon request.
- k. DISTRICT will spend PROGRAM funds solely on direct project costs. Direct project costs are defined as costs associated with staff, contractors, consultants or materials directly related to projects identified in the annual Work Plan.
- l. COUNTY may conduct an audit of DISTRICT's expenditures of PROGRAM funds. DISTRICT shall retain all PROGRAM records and shall provide any PROGRAM documentation requested by COUNTY as part of an audit in a timely manner.

- m. DISTRICT shall keep complete and accurate PROGRAM records in accordance with all applicable generally-accepted accounting principles and record retention requirements. DISTRICT shall permit authorized representatives of COUNTY and its agents, to inspect, copy, and audit all data and records of DISTRICT relating to this Agreement.
- n. DISTRICT shall not spend PROGRAM funds on projects within State or National Park lands.

2. Insurance Indemnification

DISTRICT shall defend, indemnify, hold harmless, and release COUNTY, its elected and appointed officials, officers, agents, and employees, from and against any and all actions, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses (hereinafter "LIABILITY") that may be asserted by any third party arising out of or in connection with DISTRICT's performance under or the making of this AGREEMENT, except to the extent that LIABILITY is caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of COUNTY.

COUNTY shall defend, indemnify, hold harmless, and release DISTRICT, its elected and appointed officials, officers, agents, and employees, from and against any and all actions, claims, damages, liabilities, or expenses (hereinafter "LIABILITY") that may be asserted by any third party arising out of or in connection with COUNTY'S performance under or the making of this AGREEMENT, except to the extent that LIABILITY is caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of DISTRICT.

3. Replacement

Beginning on October 1, 2022 this AGREEMENT replaces the Ordinance 3586 agreement signed by DISTRICT on December 3, 2013 related to the administration of PROGRAM funds.

4. Duration and Termination

The terms of this AGREEMENT shall remain in full force and effect for 10 (ten) years from the date adopted and signed. This AGREEMENT may be renewed by the mutual consent of all PARTIES. Any party may terminate this AGREEMENT by notifying the other party a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance.

5. Contacts and Notices

All notices under this AGREEMENT shall be in writing (unless otherwise specified) delivered to the parties by hand, by commercial courier service, or by United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below or such other addresses as the parties may designate by notice.

For County:

Director
Marin County Parks
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260
San Rafael, CA 94903

Phone: (415) 473-6387
Fax: (415) 473-3795
Email: MKorten@marincounty.org

For District:

Executive Director
Marin Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1146 Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
Phone: (415) 663-1170
Fax: (415) 663-0421
Email: nancy@marinrcd.org

6. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES

Nothing contained in this agreement shall be construed to create, and the PARTIES do not intend to create, any rights in third parties.

7. EXPENSES

Except as otherwise provided in Section 2 of this AGREEMENT, each party shall be solely responsible for and shall bear all of its own respective legal expenses in connection with any dispute arising out of this AGREEMENT and the transactions hereby contemplated. PARTIES may not use PROGRAM funds for the aforementioned purpose.

8. INTEGRATION

This AGREEMENT, including Exhibits A, B, and C which are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, represents the entire AGREEMENT of the PARTIES with respect to the subject matter thereof. No representations, warranties, inducements or oral agreements have been made by any of the parties except as expressly set forth herein.

9. AMENDMENT

Except as otherwise provided herein, this AGREEMENT may not be changed, modified or rescinded except in writing, signed by all PARTIES hereto, and any attempt at oral modification of this AGREEMENT shall be void and of no effect.

10. SEVERABILITY

Should a court of competent jurisdiction rule or declare that any part of this AGREEMENT is unconstitutional, invalid, or beyond the authority of either party to enter into or carry out, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this AGREEMENT, which shall continue in full force and effect; provided that the remainder of this AGREEMENT can, absent the excised portion, be reasonably interpreted to give effect to the intentions of the PARTIES.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the PARTIES hereto have executed this AGREEMENT on the day and year above written.

DISTRICT


Board President


Attest:


Clerk of the District

Approved as to Form:
DISTRICT BOARD

By: 

COUNTY OF MARIN


President, Board of Supervisors

Attest:


for Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form:
COUNTY COUNSEL

By: 

TABLE OF EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A

Marin County Ordinance No. 3760

EXHIBIT B

Form of Annual Measure A Work Plan

EXHIBIT C

Form of Annual Measure A Expenditure Report

EXHIBIT D

Marin Resource Conservation District Landowner Authorization Agreement

ORDINANCE NO. 3760
AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF MARIN, STATE OF
CALIFORNIA, RE-IMPLEMENTING A ONE-QUARTER OF ONE
PERCENT TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX TO BE ADMINISTERED
BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND FEE
ADMINISTRATION FOR PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MARIN ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the **Marin Parks, Open Space, and Sustainable Agriculture Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance**. The County of Marin hereinafter shall be called "County." This Ordinance shall be applicable in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the County.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE; OPERATIVE DATE; ADMINISTRATION

- A. This Ordinance relates to the levying and collecting of the County transactions and use taxes and shall take effect immediately ("Effective Date").
- B. This Ordinance shall become operative on October 1, 2022 or the start of the earliest quarter thereafter, on the first day of the first calendar quarter commencing more than 110 days after the adoption of this Ordinance, consistent with California Department of Tax and Fee Administration requirements ("Operative Date"); provided, however, that the Marin Parks, Open Space, and Sustainable Agriculture Expenditure Plan ("Expenditure Plan"), attached hereto as Exhibit "A," shall commence on the Effective Date of this Ordinance.
- C. Upon becoming operative, this Ordinance shall apply to any unspent fund balance from Ordinance 3586, which became effective April 1, 2013.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE

This Ordinance is adopted to achieve the following, among other purposes, and directs that the provisions hereof be interpreted in order to accomplish those purposes:

- A. To re-implement a retail transactions and use tax in accordance with the provisions of Part 1.6 (commencing with Section 7251) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code and Section 7285.5 of Part 1.7 of Division 2, which authorizes the County to adopt this tax Ordinance which shall be Operative if a (2/3) majority of the electors voting on the measure vote to approve the imposition of the tax at an election called for that purpose.
- B. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that incorporates provisions identical to those of the Sales and Use Tax Law of the State of California insofar as those provisions are not inconsistent with the requirements and limitations contained in Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- C. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that re-implements a tax and provides a measure therefor that can be administered and collected by the

California Department of Tax and Fee Administration in a manner that adapts itself as fully as practicable to, and requires the least possible deviation from, the existing statutory and administrative procedures followed by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration in administering and collecting the California State Sales and Use Taxes. To adopt a retail transactions and use tax ordinance that can be administered in a manner that will be, to the greatest degree possible, consistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, minimize the cost of collecting the transactions and use taxes, and at the same time, minimize the burden of record-keeping upon persons subject to taxation under the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. EXPENDITURE PLAN: LIMITATION OF EXPENDITURES: FISCAL OVERSIGHT

Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code §50075.1, (1) the Expenditure Plan constitutes the statement of the specific purposes for which the revenue generated by this Ordinance may be expended, (2) the expenditure of the revenue generated by this Ordinance shall be restricted to the purposes stated in Exhibit "A," (3) the revenue generated by this Ordinance shall be deposited into the "Parks, Open Space, and Sustainable Agriculture Special Tax Account," and (4) the County Department of Finance shall prepare and file with the Board of Supervisors reports meeting the requirements of Government Code §50075.3.

SECTION 5. CONTRACT WITH STATE

Prior to the Operative Date, the County shall contract with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration to perform all functions incident to the administration and operation of this transactions and use tax ordinance; provided, that if the County shall not have contracted with the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration prior to the Operative Date, it shall nevertheless so contract and in such a case the Operative Date shall be the first day of the first calendar quarter following the execution of such a contract.

SECTION 6. TRANSACTIONS TAX RATE

For the privilege of selling tangible personal property at retail, a tax is hereby re-implemented upon all retailers in the incorporated and unincorporated territory of the County at the rate of one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) of the gross receipts of any retailer from the sale of all tangible personal property sold at retail in said territory on and after the Operative Date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. PLACE OF SALE

For the purposes of this Ordinance, all retail sales are consummated at the place of business of the retailer unless the tangible personal property sold is delivered by the retailer or his agent to an out-of-state destination or to a common carrier for delivery to an out-of-state destination. The gross receipts from such sales shall include delivery charges, when such charges are subject to the state sales and use tax, regardless of the place to which delivery is made. In the event a retailer has no permanent place of business in the State or has more than one place of business, the place or places at which the retail sales are consummated shall be determined under rules and regulations to be prescribed and adopted by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration.

SECTION 8. USE TAX RATE

An excise tax is hereby re-implemented on the storage, use or other consumption in the County of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer on and after the Operative Date of this Ordinance for storage, use or other consumption in said territory at the rate of one quarter of one-percent (0.25%) of the sales price of the property. The sales price shall include delivery charges when such charges are subject to state sales or use tax regardless of the place to which delivery is made.

SECTION 9. ADOPTION OF PROVISIONS OF STATE LAW

Except as otherwise provided in this Ordinance and except insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, all of the provisions of Part 1 (commencing with Section 6001) of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code are hereby adopted and made a part of this Ordinance as though fully set forth herein.

SECTION 10. LIMITATIONS ON ADOPTION OF STATE LAW AND COLLECTION OF USE TAXES

In adopting the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code:

- A. Wherever the State of California is named or referred to as the taxing agency, the name of this County shall be substituted therefore. However, the substitution shall not be made when:
 1. The word "State" is used as a part of the title of the State Controller, State Treasurer, State Board of Control, State Board of Equalization, State Treasury, or the Constitution of the State of California;
 2. The result of that substitution would require action to be taken by or against this County or any agency, officer, or employee thereof rather than by or against the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, in performing the functions incident to the administration or operation of this Ordinance.
 3. In those sections, including, but not necessarily limited to sections referring to the exterior boundaries of the State of California, where the result of the substitution would be to:
 - a. Provide an exemption from this tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not otherwise be exempt from this tax while such sales, storage, use or other consumption remain subject to tax by the State under the provisions of Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, or;
 - b. Impose this tax with respect to certain sales, storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property which would not be subject to tax by the state under the said provision of that code.
 4. In Sections 6701, 6702 (except in the last sentence thereof), 6711, 6715, 6737, 6797 or 6828 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
 - a. The word "County" shall be substituted for the word "State" in the phrase "retailer engaged in business in this State" in Section 6203 and in the definition of that phrase in Section 6203.
 - "A retailer engaged in business in the County" shall also include any retailer that, in the preceding calendar year or the current calendar year, has total combined sales of tangible personal property in this state or for delivery in the State by the retailer and all persons related to the retailer that exceeds five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). For purposes of this section, a

person is related to another person if both persons are related to each other pursuant to Section 267(b) of Title 26 of the United States Code and the regulations thereunder.

SECTION 11. PERMIT NOT REQUIRED

If a seller's permit has been issued to a retailer under Section 6067 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, an additional transactor's permit shall not be required by this Ordinance.

SECTION 12. EXEMPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

- A. There shall be excluded from the measure of the transactions tax and the use tax the amount of any sales tax or use tax imposed by the State of California or by any city, city and county, or county pursuant to the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law or the amount of any state-administered transactions or use tax.
- B. There are exempted from the computation of the amount of transactions tax the gross receipts from:
 - 1. Sales of tangible personal property, other than fuel or petroleum products, to operators of aircraft to be used or consumed principally outside the County in which the sale is made and directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property under the authority of the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government.
 - 2. Sales of property to be used outside the County which is shipped to a point outside the County, pursuant to the contract of sale, by delivery to such point by the retailer or his agent, or by delivery by the retailer to a carrier for shipment to a consignee at such point. For the purposes of this paragraph, delivery to a point outside the County shall be satisfied:
 - a. With respect to vehicles (other than commercial vehicles) subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle Code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section 21411 of the Public Utilities Code, and undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code by registration to an out-of-County address and by a declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, stating that such address is, in fact, his or her principal place of residence; and
 - b. With respect to commercial vehicles, by registration to a place of business out-of-County and declaration under penalty of perjury, signed by the buyer, that the vehicle will be operated from that address.
 - 3. The sale of tangible personal property if the seller is obligated to furnish the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the Operative Date of this Ordinance.
 - 4. A lease of tangible personal property which is a continuing sale of such property, for any period of time for which the lessor is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by the lease prior to the Operative Date of this Ordinance.
 - 5. For the purposes of subparagraphs (3) and (4) of this section, the sale or lease of tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.
- C. There are exempted from the use tax imposed by this Ordinance, the storage, use

or other consumption in this County of tangible personal property:

1. The gross receipts from the sale of which have been subject to a transactions tax under any state-administered transactions and use tax ordinance.
 2. Other than fuel or petroleum products purchased by operators of aircraft and used or consumed by such operators directly and exclusively in the use of such aircraft as common carriers of persons or property for hire or compensation under a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to the laws of this State, the United States, or any foreign government. This exemption is in addition to the exemptions provided in Sections 6366 and 6366.1 of the Revenue and Taxation Code of the State of California.
 3. If the purchaser is obligated to purchase the property for a fixed price pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the Operative Date of this Ordinance.
 4. If the possession of, or the exercise of any right or power over, the tangible personal property arises under a lease which is a continuing purchase of such property for any period of time for which the lessee is obligated to lease the property for an amount fixed by a lease prior to the Operative Date of this Ordinance.
 5. For the purposes of subparagraphs 3. and 4. of this section, storage, use, or other consumption, or possession of, or exercise of any right or power over, tangible personal property shall be deemed not to be obligated pursuant to a contract or lease for any period of time for which any party to the contract or lease has the unconditional right to terminate the contract or lease upon notice, whether or not such right is exercised.
 6. Except as provided in subparagraph 7, a retailer engaged in business in the County shall not be required to collect use tax from the purchaser of tangible personal property, unless the retailer ships or delivers the property into the County or participates within the County in making the sale of the property, including, but not limited to, soliciting or receiving the order, either directly or indirectly, at a place of business of the retailer in the County or through any representative, agent, canvasser, solicitor, subsidiary, or person in the County under the authority of the retailer.
 7. "A retailer engaged in business in the County" shall also include any retailer of any of the following: vehicles subject to registration pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 4000) of Division 3 of the Vehicle Code, aircraft licensed in compliance with Section 21411 of the Public Utilities Code, or undocumented vessels registered under Division 3.5 (commencing with Section 9840) of the Vehicle Code. That retailer shall be required to collect use tax from any purchaser who registers or licenses the vehicle, vessel, or aircraft at an address in the County.
- D. Any person subject to use tax under this Ordinance may credit against that tax any transactions tax or reimbursement for transactions tax paid to a County imposing, or retailer liable for a transactions tax pursuant to Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code with respect to the sale to the person of the property the storage, use or other consumption of which is subject to the use tax.

SECTION 13. USE OF PROCEEDS

The proceeds of the taxes imposed by this ordinance shall be used solely for the projects and purpose set forth in the Expenditure Plan attached as "Exhibit A" and for the administration

thereof.

SECTION 14. AMENDMENTS

All amendments subsequent to the Effective Date of this Ordinance to Part 1 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code relating to sales and use taxes and which are not inconsistent with Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, and all amendments to Part 1.6 and Part 1.7 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, shall automatically become a part of this Ordinance, provided however, that no such amendment shall operate so as to affect the rate of tax imposed by this Ordinance.

SECTION 15. ENJOINING COLLECTION FORBIDDEN

No injunction or writ of mandate or other legal or equitable process shall issue in any suit, action or proceeding in any court against the State or the County, or against any officer of the State or the County, to prevent or enjoin the collection under this Ordinance, or Part 1.6 of Division 2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, of any tax or any amount of tax required to be collected.

SECTION 16. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 17. PUBLICATION

Within thirty (30) days of its passage, this ordinance shall be published with the names of the supervisors voting for and against the same in the MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Marin.

SECTION 18. TERMINATION DATE

The authority to levy the tax re-implemented by this Ordinance shall expire nine years from the Operative Date of this Ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on February 15, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Dennis Rodoni, Judy Arnold, Damon Connolly,
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Katie Rice
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE



PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:



CLERK

Exhibit A

PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE EXPENDITURE PLAN

A. Summary

It is proposed that the voters in Marin County be presented at the June 7, 2022 Primary Election, the opportunity to vote to re-implement an existing tax that funds the preservation of Marin County parks, open space preserves, and farmland. The Parks, Open Space, and Sustainable Agriculture one-fourth cent (1/4 cent) sales tax ("Measure") is estimated, at current collection levels, to generate approximately \$16,000,000 per year. This level of revenue may change during the life of the Measure due to the variability in annual receipts. All revenue projections described below are approximate and will be subject to changes in annual receipts.

This Expenditure Plan ("Plan") outlines three programs for spending the sales tax proceeds. In Part B of the Plan, each program is described by its funding allocation, and types of projects and activities that the funding would support. Part C of the Plan contains administrative provisions, including a Community Oversight Committee and public process for determining annual expenditures.

B. Program Descriptions

1. **Parks and Open Space Program (65%)**

The purpose of this Program is to protect or restore natural resources, maintain existing county parks and open space preserves, and preserve natural lands. Sixty five percent (**65%**) of revenues generated annually by this Measure shall be made available for the following uses.

a. Protect or Restore Natural Resources and Maintain Existing County Parks and Open Space Preserves.

The purpose of this element is to protect or restore natural resources and maintain our existing county parks and open space preserves. Sixty five percent (**65%**) of the Parks and Open Space Program's annual amount shall be used for the following purposes.

- i. Enhance biodiversity, and control populations of invasive, non-native weeds in communities throughout Marin.
- ii. Repair, maintain, and/or replace deteriorating recreation facilities and infrastructure in county parks, on county regional pathways, and locally through partnerships. Facilities and infrastructure include, but are not limited to, children's playgrounds, bathrooms, water fountains, water lines, picnic areas and tables, the swimming pool at McNear's Beach Park, signs, sea walls, kayak and canoe launches, fishing piers, paved multiuse pathways such as Mill Valley/Sausalito bike path and Corte Madera Creek bike path, tennis courts, basketball courts, the skate park at John F. Mcinnis Park, landscape plantings, parking lots, irrigation systems, and ball fields.
- iii. Implement trail projects to protect water quality, sensitive habitats and natural areas (including habitat for rare and endangered species); reduce erosion; avoid unstable slopes; improve trail safety and sustainability; improve trail enjoyment and recreation opportunities; and reduce maintenance costs, in accordance with the Marin County Parks

Road and Trail Management Plan. Project types may include, but are not limited to, rerouting existing trails; decommissioning (closing) unauthorized and redundant trails with concurrent habitat restoration; converting redundant or unnecessary fire roads to trails (in consultation with Marin fire agencies); building new or modifying existing trails when necessary to improve trail safety and/or achieve connections to other trails or destinations; and entering into arrangements with private landowners for essential trail connections.

- iv. Protect and restore wetlands along Marin's coastline and bay shoreline to protect wildlife habitat, including habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, and endangered wildlife such as the California clapper rail and salt marsh harvest mouse.
- v. Protect water quality and fish habitat by reducing erosion and sedimentation, and/ or engaging in restoration projects in streams and creeks within county parks and preserves including, but not limited to, Coyote Creek, Miller Creek, Lagunitas Creek, Corte Madera Creek, Rush Creek, Novato Creek, and Las Gallinas Creek.
- vi. Repair, maintain, and/or replace deteriorating facilities and infrastructure in open space preserves that orient and inform visitors, enable public access, protect natural resources, enhance safety, and prevent slope instability and flooding affecting downstream areas. Facilities and infrastructure include, but are not limited to, signs, gates, fences, flood prevention and drainage improvements, slope stability improvements, culverts, retaining walls, and bridges.
- vii. Augment current visitor services for parks and open space preserves - via rangers, programming, and partnerships - to protect natural resources; support visitor safety and enjoyment; and support volunteerism and environmental education.

b. Reduce the Risk of Wildfire In County Parks and Open Space Preserves.

The purpose of this element is to reduce the risk of wildfire on and adjacent to county parks and open space preserves. Twenty five percent (**25%**) of the Parks and Open Space Program's annual amount shall be used for direct services to fund fuels reduction crews made up of Parks staff or through a contractor, fire department or other partner to provide on the ground fuels reduction services to reduce the risk of wildfire in county parks and open spaces throughout Marin in close consultation with fire agencies, and while protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services including the following:

- i. Reducing flammable fuels in the wildland urban interface in accordance with the priorities described in the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- ii. Conducting prescribed burns in partnership with local fire agencies.
- iii. Maintaining defensible space in Park and Open Space lands adjacent to nearby communities

Staff will develop an annual fuels reduction work plan with input from the community and local fire agencies and in partnership with the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority ("MWPA"). The outcomes of this work will be published and reviewed by the Board of Supervisors each year. Staff will partner with MWPA through an MOU to maximize coordination and joint-decision making for vegetation management and evacuation route clearing, to delineate non-

overlapping areas of responsibility, to identify and prioritize the most urgent projects impacting community/public safety, and to reduce costs. Any unspent funds below the annual required spending within this allocation will be accumulated, carried over, and accrued for expenditure in future years, not to exceed ten (10) years after the termination date of the sales tax.

c. Preserve Natural Lands

The purpose of this element is to enable fulfillment of the Marin County Parks Strategic Plan goals related to the permanent preservation of land for public open space, community separators, wildlife corridors, greenbelts, and habitat. Ten percent (**10%**) of the Parks and Open Space Program's annual amount shall be used for the following purposes; however, the annual amount or its balance may be accumulated, carried over, and accrued for expenditure in future years, not to exceed ten (10) years after the termination date of the sales tax extension.

- i. Acquire land or conservation easements from willing sellers through direct purchase or partnerships for the purposes of permanently protecting and/or restoring natural areas, streams, bay lands, and native ecosystems with high natural resource values; or to improve access to parks and recreation facilities.
- ii. Implement public access, safety, and environmental protection improvements on lands and conservation easements purchased under this program on or after April 1, 2013.
- iii. To the extent possible, these funds would be used to leverage matching funds from public and private partners.

2. Sustainable Agriculture Program (20%)

The purpose of this Program is to support and enhance ecosystem services, climate resiliency, and the protection, restoration, and sustainability of Marin County agricultural working lands and food systems. Twenty percent (**20%**) of revenues generated annually by this Measure shall be made available for the following uses.

- a. Thirty percent (30%) of the Sustainable Agriculture Program's annual amount shall provide competitive matching grants to qualified organizations to support work on sustainable food systems, climate beneficial management, and improving natural resource values on Marin's working lands, including: carbon capture farming practices, environmental restoration, regenerative agriculture, improving ecosystem services for water quality and soil health, local food supply sustainability and community gardens, wildlife corridor and habitat improvements, providing for public access, increasing access to low-cost farmland and farming for low-income and underserved communities.
- b. Twenty percent (20%) of the Sustainable Agriculture Program's annual amount shall provide matching grants to the Marin Resource Conservation District for the purpose of implementing carbon farm plans and similar projects on working agricultural lands which will support and enhance water quality and soil health, biodiversity, wildlife corridors, riparian zones, erosion control, climate resiliency, and safeguard wildlife habitat and pollinators.
- c. Fifty percent (50%) of the Sustainable Agriculture Program over the life of the measure shall be used for the purchase of perpetual agricultural conservation easements (including those on land already encumbered by agricultural

conservation easements) and purchase of additional real property interests to protect and permanently preserve Marin County farms and ranches for productive agricultural use through voluntary transactions with landowners, and monitoring and enforcing existing easements.

- d. This program's annual amount, or its balance, may be accumulated, carried over, and accrued for expenditure in future years, not to exceed ten (10) years after the termination date of the sales tax.

2. City, Town, and Applicable Special District Program (15%)

The purpose of this Program is to assist Marin's municipalities and applicable special districts in managing their parks, open space preserves, recreation programs, and vegetation to promote biodiversity and reduce wildfire risk. Fifteen percent (15%) of the revenues generated annually by this Measure shall be made available for the following uses.

- a. Provide grants to cities, towns, and applicable special districts (special districts that provide for parks, open space and/or recreation in unincorporated areas), to maintain, restore, and/or renovate existing parks, preserves, and recreational facilities; to construct new parks and recreational facilities or acquire parklands; or to engage in vegetation management to reduce wildfire risk, promote biodiversity, or control invasive non-native weeds on private, municipal, or district lands.
- b. Funds shall be available through a grant allocation process that will be designed in concert with the cities, towns, and applicable special districts. The grant allocation process, but not the individual projects, shall be subject to approval by the Marin County Board of Supervisors. This program's annual amount, or its balance, may be accumulated, carried over, and accrued for expenditure in future years, not to exceed ten (10) years after the termination date of the sales tax.

C. Administrative Provisions

1. Community Oversight Committee

- a. The Community Oversight Committee formed by the Marin County Board of Supervisors within 6 months following the passage of Ordinance No. 3586 in 2012 shall be continued. The responsibilities of this committee shall continue to be to review Plan expenditures on an annual basis to ensure they conform with the Plan and oversee an annual audit and prepare an annual report describing how funds were spent.
- b. Members of the committee shall be appointed by the Board. The role of the committee shall be to advise the Board and staff on these matters. The committee shall report to the Director and General Manager of Marin County Parks.
- c. Members of the Community Oversight Committee shall be county residents who are neither elected officials of any government, nor employees from any agency or organization that either oversees or benefits from the proceeds of the sales tax. The committee shall consist of seven at-large members.
- d. The committee shall continue to operate under existing bylaws approved by the Board of Supervisors related to the conduct of committee meetings and business, which may be updated by the Board of Supervisors.
- e. Meetings of the committee shall be open to the public and shall be held in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California's open meeting law.

- f. The committee shall dissolve after all revenue collected from this Measure is expended and a final report is submitted.

2. Re-implementation Requirements

Implementation of the plan shall be guided by the following procedures to ensure that the revenue generated by the Measure continues to be spent in the most efficient and effective manner possible, consistent with serving the public interest in Marin County, and the desires of the voters of Marin County.

- a. The Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission shall conduct a public meeting annually to gain public input on selection of projects to expend the sales tax revenues, as part of County's annual budget development process.
- b. The County of Marin is charged with the fiduciary duty to administer sales tax proceeds in accordance with applicable laws. Disbursement of funds as grants shall be subject to terms and conditions that may include, but are not limited to, the County's right to 1) require grantees to enter into funding agreements with the County; 2) require matching funds; and 3) audit a grantee's use of tax proceeds.
- c. Actual revenues generated by the Measure may be higher or lower than estimates in this Plan due to variability in annual tax receipts. County shall annually estimate revenue from the Measure.
- d. County may accumulate revenue over multiple years so that sufficient funding is available for larger and long-term projects. All interest income shall be used for the purposes identified in this Plan and shall accrue proportionately to the programs identified in this Plan. Ten (10) years after the termination date of the sales tax re-implementation, unused funds and accrued interest from the Sustainable Agriculture Program and the City, Town, and Applicable Special District Program shall be available for any purpose consistent with this Plan, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.
- e. Sales tax proceeds are intended to augment annual County of Marin General Fund support for Marin County Parks. Any reduction in the annual net county costs below the 2022-23 allocation to Marin County Parks from the General Fund will be within the range of reductions being required from other county departments.
- f. To enhance local workforce development and employment opportunities, and involve youth and young adults in caring for our natural resources, the county will reach out to local community based, not-for-profit, and/or for-profit businesses and consider these entities for the provision of new contracted services funded by this measure.
- g. No more than five percent (5%) of the Parks and Open Space Program's annual amount may be used for administrative expenses by the county.
- h. No more than five percent (5%) of the Sustainable Agriculture Program's annual amount may be used for administrative expenses by the county.



Work Plan

**Measure A Sustainable Agriculture Program
Marin Resource Conservation District Matching Grant Program
Proposed Expenditure of Measure A Funds for Fiscal Year _____**

Timely and accurate completion of this report is a condition of receiving Measure A funds.

Instructions:

- This work plan must be completed by an authorized representative of the recipient.
- Please complete and submit this work plan to Kevin Wright, Marin County Parks Government and External Affairs Manager (kwright@marincounty.org), by July 1st, YEAR.
- Contact Mr. Wright by e-mail (kwright@marincounty.org) or phone (415) 497-3553 if you have any questions, or if you have suggestions to improve this form.
- Marin County Parks will review this plan within one month of its receipt to ensure that proposed expenditures are consistent with Marin County Ordinance 3760 (Measure A).
- Recipient must provide Marin County Parks with 30-days prior notice of any project additions or substitutions that are proposed while a work plan is in effect.
- Total actual Measure A project expenditures may not exceed recipient's actual Measure A funding for any given fiscal year, plus any balance remaining from previous years, unless the recipient is borrowing money to be paid back by Measure A funding and has indicated this in their work plan.

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A. RCD's representative and contact information: (Please print all information)

Name: _____
 (Print)

Title: _____
 (Print)

Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

B. Total estimated funds for Fiscal Year _____:

i. Estimated carry-over balance of RCD's Measure A funds from previous fiscal years	ii. Estimate of RCD's Measure A funds for FY _____. (This information will be provided by Marin County Parks)	iii. Total estimated available funds for FY _____. (i + ii).
\$	\$	\$

D. Recipient's Measure A Work Plan for Fiscal Year _____:

Project Name	Primary purpose of work or project.	Project Description (what will be accomplished)	Measure A funds needed.	Matching funds anticipated (Source: amount / Total match)	Other funds anticipated (Source: amount / Total match)	Total project expenditures anticipated in next fiscal year.
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$	\$
Total			\$	\$	\$	\$

****Project types generally allowable under this program include carbon farm plans and similar projects on working agricultural lands which will support and enhance water quality and soil health, biodiversity, wildlife corridors, riparian zones, erosion control, climate resiliency, and safeguard wildlife habitat and pollinators.**

E. Certification

I certify that the information contained herein is true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Title

Print Name

Date

Expenditure Report

Measure A Sustainable Agriculture Program Marin Resource Conservation District Matching Grant Program Expenditure of Measure A Funds for Fiscal Year _____

Timely and accurate completion of this report is a condition of receiving Measure A grant funds and is necessary to fulfill financial reporting requirements pursuant to Marin County Ordinance 3760 (Measure A). Information contained in this report is subject to examination and will be presented in a Measure A Annual Report prepared by Marin County Parks.

Instructions:

- This report must be completed by an authorized representative of the recipient and signed by both the authorized representative and the chief fiscal officer.
 - Please complete and submit this report to Kevin Wright, Marin County Parks Government and External Affairs Manager (kwright@marincounty.org), by November 15th, YEAR.
 - Contact Mr. Wright by e-mail (kwright@marincounty.org) or phone (415) 497-3553 if you have any questions, or if you have suggestions to improve this form.
 - Recipient is encouraged to accompany reports with photos of finished work and projects funded in full or in part by Measure A. Please include the project name and other pertinent information in the photo file name. If you plan on submitting a large number of photos, please contact Mr. Wright if you need help facilitating the file transfer.
-

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A. RCD's representative and contact information:

Name: _____ Title: _____
 (Print)
 Address: _____ City, Zip Code _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

B. RCD's total actual allocation of Measure A funds for Fiscal Year _____ (sum of disbursements received):

\$ _____

C. Balance of RCD's Measure A funds on June 30, YEAR

i. Beginning balance as of July 1, _____ (prior year)	ii. Total Measure A disbursements received in FY _____ (Item C. above)	iii. FY _____ Total Interest Income	iv. FY _____ Total Measure A expenditures (Item E. below)	v. Ending balance as of June 30, YEAR
\$	+\$	+\$	-\$	=\$

E. RCD's total expenditures for Fiscal Year _____. Attach a list of itemized expenditures or general ledger summary and summary of any staff time and description of work billed to Measure A for each project as backup information. You are required to maintain adequate records for audit purposes. Please refer to the Measure A Audit Document Retention list that has been provided to you for a summary of records that may be requested when you are audited.

Project Name	Primary purpose of work or project.	Project Description (what was accomplished)	Measure A funds used.	Matching funds used (Source: amount / Total match)	Other funds used (Source: amount / Total match)	Total project expenditures in reporting year.
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			\$	\$	\$	\$
Total			\$	\$	\$	\$

F. Certification

I certify that the information contained herein is true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Title (Print)

Date

Print Name

Signature, Chief Fiscal Officer

Date

Print Name, Chief Fiscal Officer

RECORDING REQUEST BY:

EXHIBIT D

Marin Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1146
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

WHEN RECORDED, MAIL TO:

Marin Resource Conservation District
P.O. Box 1146
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

THIS SPACE FOR RECORDERS USE ONLY
(must be 2.5" margin)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS: Exempt from Recording Fees Pursuant to California Government Code 27383

DOCUMENT TITLE

Marin Resource Conservation District's
Landowner Authorization Agreement

NOTE

DO NOT INCLUDE ANY PLANS, PHOTOS or DIAGRAMS instead say... “ drawings, diagrams, and plans are able to be viewed at: Marin RCD, 80 Fourth St, Suite #202, Point Reyes Station, CA, 94956.”

ACTION: FORESTRY AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

- A. Board approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the North Coast RCDs to cooperatively implement the State Coastal Conservancy North Coast Wildlife Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program, awarded to Humboldt County RCD. ~
Nancy Scolari, Executive Director

URGENCY:

- A. Moderately Urgent. The sooner we can enter into an MOU, the sooner we can enter into a contract and bill for our RCD staff working on fire and forestry related issues.

BACKGROUND:

This MOU, amongst 11 North Coast RCDs, lays out a governance structure for the implementation of the \$6M North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program. The goal of the program is to select, award, and oversee grants to public entities, California Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations to conduct planning, community outreach, permitting, environmental review, and implementation of projects that will increase wildfire resilience through improved management of natural lands and open space, increased collaboration among land managers, and capacity building in CA's coastal watershed counties.

The MOU establishes an Executive Committee, its purpose, selection of representatives, meeting schedule, and decision-making process (See Exhibit A).

The Marin RCD currently does not have a fire/forestry resiliency program. In recent years the district has partnered with the North Coast RCDs where fire resilience is a priority. Many of the North Coast RCDs are well equipped with forestry staff and work crews and are ready to implement a variety of practices that range from vegetation management to prescribed burning. Marin RCD is able to learn from our northern RCD partners.

RCDs are also well equipped to be the lead on CEQA authorization for projects which is the case for Marin RCD's contractual relationship with Audubon Canyon Ranch.

The Marin RCD's soon to be released Marin Biomass Study may also provide recommendations in which the Marin RCD can play a key role in forestry and fire resiliency within the county.

The \$250,000 grant contract will be presented at a future RCD meeting. This will be the start of a more robust forestry and fire resiliency program. This grant will allow us to begin work on the following:

- Staff training – Fire Forward trainings program and others
- Equipment - TBD
- Education/outreach/workshop for rural landowners/ag producers
- Participation in county fire resiliency meetings

- CEQA authorizations using the CA Vegetative Treatment Plan
- The integration of fire into existing planning efforts (Biomass)
- Identification of treatment areas
- Implementation - TBD

PAST RCD ACTIONS:

- March 2019. The Marin RCD Board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the Joint Exercise of Powers to increase coordination and collaboration, to improve work quality and efficiency, expand program impacts, and better support regional dialogue and information exchange while respecting local autonomy in the North Coast RCD Region.
- December 2021. Marin RCD's Marin Biomass Study is awarded funding by the CA Dept of Office, Planning and Research to assess biomass flows and utilization opportunities in Marin County.
- February 2022. The North Coast RCDs finalize the North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program which identifies 16 RCD action goals ranging from forest stand improvement and prescribed fire implementation across land ownerships to the encouragement of biomass markets and support for local Fire Safe Councils.
- November 2022. Marin RCD enters into contract with Audubon Canyon Ranch to act as CEQA lead and begin staff training related to the California Vegetation Treatment Program and work with CalFire.
- March 2024. North Coast RCD members jointly submit a grant application to the CA State Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program, with Humboldt County RCD as the lead applicant to implement actions identified in the North Coast Wildfire Resilience Plan.
- April 2024. The CA State Coastal Conservancy awarded \$6,000,000 to the North Coast RCD Region under their Wildfire Resilience Program.

TODAY'S ACTIONS: (* recommended action)

Option 1*: Board approves MOU.

Option 2: Board does not approve MOU and requests more information or county counsel review.

IMPACTS: (Describe alliance with [RCD strategic plan](#) and grant goals)

Goal 3. Maintain and improve soil health and air quality

Strategy 2. Support private landowners and agricultural producers with the implementation of practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon and support resiliency to climate change

AVAILABLE BUDGET:

Yes. This is a grant that will provide funding for staff to undertake training and allow the Marin RCD to pay for implementation.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

State Coastal Conservancy North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”), effective as of the last date signed below (“Effective Date”), is entered into by and among the following public agencies (organized and existing under the Constitution and laws of California): the Del Norte Resource Conservation District, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Lake County Resource Conservation District, Marin Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Napa County Resource Conservation District, Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District, Siskiyou Resource Conservation District, Sonoma Resource Conservation District, and Trinity County Resource Conservation District. Each party to this MOU may be referred to herein individually as a “Member” and collectively as the “Members.”

RECITALS

WHEREAS, each of the Members is a Resource Conservation District (hereinafter referred to as an “RCD”) created and functioning pursuant to Division 9 (commencing with Section 9001) of the Public Resources Code (hereinafter referred to as “Division 9”); and

WHEREAS, the Members entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the Joint Exercise of Powers on July 1, 2019 to increase coordination and collaboration to improve work quality and efficiency, expand program impacts, and better support regional dialogue and information exchange while respecting local autonomy in the North Coast Region (hereinafter referred to as “Region”); and

WHEREAS, the Members developed and jointly submitted a grant application for funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy (“Conservancy”) Wildfire Resilience Program, with Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (“HCRCD”) identified as the lead applicant; and

WHEREAS, HCRCD and the Conservancy entered into Grant Agreement No. 23-163 with the effective date of April 29, 2024, (“Grant Agreement”) and attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as Exhibit “A;” and

WHEREAS, the Grant Agreement commits \$6,000,000 in funding to establish the North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (“Grant Program”) to select, award, and oversee grants to public entities, California Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations to conduct planning, community outreach, permitting, environmental review, and implementation of projects that will increase wildfire resilience through improved management of natural lands and open space, increased collaboration among land managers, and capacity building in the Region; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Program will include both subgrants to Members (“Member Grants”) and subgrants to Members or other entities (“Regional Fund Grants”) to fund programming consistent with the Grant Agreement, in the amounts set forth in the budget attached hereto as Exhibit B, and

WHEREAS, HCRCD intends to administer the Grant Program in coordination with the other Members to advance the common objectives of implementing the Grant Program through activities related to planning, capacity building, and regional coordination,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Members hereby confirm their mutual understanding of their intent to implement the Grant Program, as follows:

1. **Term of the Agreement.** This MOU takes effect on the Effective Date and shall expire on Feb 1, 2029, unless extended by mutual agreement or terminated pursuant to the terms herein.
2. **Grant Program Implementation.**
 - a. HCRCD. As the contracting party to the Grant Agreement, HCRCD is contractually bound to the Conservancy to comply with the Grant Agreement. For this reason, HCRCD retains exclusive control of administrative decisions related to the Grant Agreement and Grant Program. And as further set forth below, HCRCD also retains its discretion to make final decisions regarding award of subgrants.
 - b. Executive Committee.
 - i. *Purpose.*
 1. The Members agree to create an Executive Committee to evaluate and recommend award of Regional Fund Grants and material reallocation of any Member Grant funds not spent as set forth in Section 2(c), below.
 2. The Executive Committee will make recommendations to HCRCD, and HCRCD intends to award or modify grants based on those recommendations, subject to HCRCD's obligations under the Grant Agreement. HCRCD will have ultimate discretion in awarding grants with Grant Program funds.
 3. The Executive Committee may recommend that HCRCD change the budget set forth in Exhibit B.
 4. At HCRCD's discretion, material changes to grants already awarded will be brought back to the Executive Committee for further recommendations.
 - ii. *Representatives.* Each Member shall have one (1) seat on the Executive Committee and shall appoint one (1) Representative and one (1) Alternate to serve on the Committee.
 - iii. *Meetings.* Executive Committee meetings will be held quarterly or as determined necessary by the Committee. Meetings will take place via video conference unless otherwise agreed upon by the Members.
 - iv. *Procedures.*
 1. At its first meeting, the Executive Committee will adopt procedures to govern its decision-making. The procedures will encourage consensus and set forth a process for receiving and considering proposals.
 2. If consensus cannot be achieved, the Executive Committee may adopt recommendations by a 2/3 majority vote of a quorum of the Committee. A quorum is 6 Members present.

- c. Member Grants.
- i. HCRCDD will enter a Member Grant agreement with each other Member to grant amounts as set forth in Exhibit B.
 - ii. The Member Grant agreements will set forth a procedure for Members to propose projects to be funded by the Member Grant, which proposal is subject to Conservancy approval, and include other terms appropriate to a grant agreement.
 - iii. No Member Grant funds may be expended except pursuant to the terms of a Member Grant agreement.
3. **Amendment.** This MOU may be amended only pursuant to a written agreement executed by all the Members.
4. **Notices.** All notices required or authorized by this MOU shall be in writing and shall be delivered in person or by deposit in the United States mail, by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or may be sent via email. Any mailed notice, demand, request, consent, approval, or communication that a Member desires to give the other Members shall be addressed to the other Parties at the address set forth below. Any Member may change its address by notifying the other Members of the change of address. Any notice sent by mail in the manner prescribed by this paragraph shall be deemed to have been received on the date noted on the return receipt or five days following the date of deposit, whichever is earlier. Any notice sent by email shall be deemed received the following day after the email is sent. Notice shall be given as follows:

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District:

Jill Demers, Executive Director
 5630 South Broadway
 Eureka, CA 95503
 (707) 296-3992
 jill@hcrccd.org

Del Norte Resource Conservation District:

Linda Crocket, District Manager
 241 W. First Street, Suite B
 Smith River, CA 95567
 (707) 487-7630
 delnortercd@yahoo.com

Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District:

Brittany Jensen, Executive Director
 2776 Sullivan Road
 Sebastopol, CA 95472
 (707) 823-5244
 brittany@goldridgercd.org

Lake County Resource Conservation District:

Julia Sullivan, Executive Director
 889 Lakeport Blvd

Lakeport, California 95453
413-244-3558
Julia.sullivan@lakercd.org

Marin Resource Conservation District:
Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
80 Fourth Street, Suite 202, P.O. Box 1146
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
(415) 663-1170
nancy@marinrcd.org

Mendocino County Resource Conservation District:
Stephanie Sierra, Executive Director
410 Jones St. Suite C-3
Ukiah, CA 95482
512-496-4559
Stephanie.Sierra@mcrd.org

Napa County Resource Conservation District:
Lucas Patzek, Executive Director
1303 Jefferson Street, Suite 500B
Napa, CA 94559
(707) 690-3119
lucas@naparcd.org

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District:
Rod Dowse, District Manager
215 Executive Court, Suite A
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 572-3120
rdowse@svrcd.org

Siskiyou Resource Conservation District:
Evan Senf, Project Manager
450 Main Street, P.O. Box 268
Etna, CA 96027
(530) 467-3975
evan@siskiyourcd.com

Sonoma Resource Conservation District:
Christine Kuehn, Executive Director
1221 Farmers Lane, Suite F
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 569-1448
ckuehn@sonomarc.org

Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Kelly D. Sheen, District Manager
30 Horseshoe Lane, P.O. Box 1450

Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-6004
ksheen@tcrd.net

- 5. **Third Party Beneficiaries.** Nothing contained in this MOU shall be construed to create any rights in third parties, and the Members do not intend to create such rights.
- 6. **Counterparts.** This MOU may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which shall constitute a single agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this MOU was executed by the Members as of the date first above written.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

DEL NORTE COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

GOLD RIDGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

LAKE COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

MARIN COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

MENDOCINO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

SHASTA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

SISKIYOU RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

SONOMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

TRINITY COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

By: _____ Date: _____

Exhibit A. Grant Agreement No. 23-163 between the State Coastal Conservancy and the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District to establish the North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program.

Exhibit B. Proposed allocation of North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program funds.

Member	Amount
Del Norte RCD	\$250,000
Gold Ridge RCD	\$250,000
Humboldt County RCD*	\$1,374,715
Lake County RCD	\$250,000
Marin RCD	\$250,000
Mendocino County RCD	\$562,585
Napa County RCD	\$250,000
Shasta Valley RCD	\$452,160
Siskiyou RCD	\$428,532
Sonoma RCD	\$388,804
Trinity County RCD	\$543,204

Additional Fund Designations	Amount
Regional Fund ^t	\$1,000,000

Total \$6,000,000

* Humboldt County RCD includes \$800,000 for Program Management, Administration, and Staffing Support

^t Regional Fund projects will be determined by RCD Members as defined by MOU

AGREEMENT NUMBER 23-163	AM. NO.
TAXPAYERS FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO. 68-0343035	

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into this 29th day of April, 2024 in the State of California, by and between:




AGENCY State Coastal Conservancy	and
GRANTEE'S NAME Humboldt County Resources Conservation District	

I. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

Pursuant to Section 31113 of Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code, the State Coastal Conservancy (“the Conservancy”) hereby grants to the Humboldt County Resources Conservation District (“the grantee”) a sum not to exceed \$6,000,000 (six million dollars) (“funds”), subject to this agreement.

(Continued on the following pages)

The provisions on the following pages constitute a part of this agreement. This agreement has been executed by the parties as shown below.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA		GRANTEE		
AGENCY State Coastal Conservancy		GRANTEE <i>(If other than an individual, state whether a corporation, partnership, etc.)</i> Humboldt County Resource Conservation District		
BY <i>(Authorized Signature)</i> 		BY <i>(Authorized Signature)</i> 		
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING Amy Hutzel, Executive Officer		PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON SIGNING Jill Demers, Executive Director		
ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER 1515 Clay Street, 10 th Floor Oakland, CA 94612 Phone: (510) 286-1015		ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER 5630 South Broadway Eureka, CA 95503-6905 Phone: (707) 442-6058 #5		
AMOUNT ENCUMBERED BY THIS DOCUMENT \$6,000,000.00	PROGRAM/CATEGORY Local Assistance	FUND TITLE/PROP NO. General Fund		
PRIOR AMOUNT ENCUMBERED FOR THIS AGREEMENT \$-0-	FUND ITEM 3760-102-0001(B)	CHAPTER 12	STATUTE 2023	FISCALYEAR 23/24
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCUMBERED TO DATE \$6,000,000.00	PROJECT NAME North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Program			
I hereby certify upon my own personal knowledge that budgeted funds are available for the period and purpose of the expenditure stated above.				
NAME AND SIGNATURE OF <u>ACCOUNTING</u> OFFICER 		DATE 4/29/2024		

I certify that this agreement is exempt from Department of General Services' approval.

Erika Gomez

Erika Gomez
Procurement and
Contracts Manager



North Coast Wildfire
Resilience Planning and
Implementation Grant
Program Project Location

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
April 18, 2024

North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program

Project No. 24-015-01
Project Manager: Lilly Allen

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$6,000,000 to Humboldt County Resource Conservation District to undertake the North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program, which will provide grants to public entities and nonprofit organizations for planning, community outreach, environmental review, permitting, and implementation of projects that will increase wildfire resilience through improved management of natural lands and open space, increased collaboration among land managers, and capacity building in northern California’s coastal watershed counties.

LOCATION: Within the jurisdiction of North Coast Resource Conservation District (RCD) Collaborative (Del Norte RCD, Gold Ridge RCD, Humboldt County RCD, Lake County RCD, Marin RCD, Mendocino County RCD, Napa County RCD, Shasta Valley RCD, Siskiyou RCD, Sonoma RCD, and Trinity County RCD).

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution and findings.

Resolution:

The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes a grant of an amount not to exceed six million dollars (\$6,000,000) to Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (“HCRCD”) to undertake the North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (Program), which will provide grants to public entities and nonprofit organizations for planning, community outreach, permitting, environmental review and implementation of projects that will increase wildfire resilience through improved management of natural lands and open

space, increased collaboration among land managers, and capacity building in northern California coastal and coastal watershed counties.

1. Prior to commencement of the Program, HCRCD shall submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy (Executive Officer) the following:
 - a. A detailed work program, schedule, and budget.
 - b. Names and qualifications of any contractors to be retained in carrying out the Program.
 - c. A plan for acknowledgement of Conservancy funding.
2. Prior to HCRCD's disbursement of Conservancy funds to a project grantee, HCRCD shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Officer a work program, schedule, budget, sign plan for the project, and, if the project grantee does not own the land underlying the project site, evidence that the project grantee has entered into agreements sufficient to enable the grantee to implement the project.
3. HCRCD shall not disburse Conservancy funds for any project unless the Conservancy has authorized HCRCD to fund the project, which authorization may be by the Executive Officer if the Executive Officer determines that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
4. In selecting projects for funding under the Program, the HCRCD shall prioritize projects that:
 - a. Address high wildfire risk areas identified in Community Wildfire Protection Plan or other wildfire resilience/prevention plans.
 - b. Are outlined in the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.
 - c. Provide significant public benefit.
 - d. Benefit disadvantaged or underserved communities.
 - e. Lead to longer term resilience or more sustainable benefits.
 - f. Benefit public or protected lands.
 - g. Leverage resources through coordination across jurisdictions.

If the HCRCD determines, in coordination with the members of the North Coast Resource Conservation District Collaborative, that an HCRCD project should be selected for funding under the Program, and the Executive Officer or Conservancy board authorizes a Program grant for that project, the Program may fund the HCRCD project provided that the HCRCD enters into a grant agreement with the Conservancy for that project, which grant agreement may be an amendment to the grant agreement for the Program. The amount granted for the Program will be reduced by the amount of the grant to the HCRCD.

Findings:

Based on the accompanying staff recommendation and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding the Climate Ready Program.
 2. The proposed project is consistent with the current Conservancy Project Selection Criteria.
-

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Staff recommends the Conservancy authorize disbursement of up to \$6,000,000 to the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD) to undertake the North Coast Wildfire Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program (the program), which will provide grants to public entities including California Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations for planning, community outreach, permitting, environmental review and implementation of projects that will increase wildfire resilience through improved management of natural lands and open space, increased collaboration among land managers, and capacity building in northern California coastal and coastal watershed counties.

Global climate change, 100 years of fire suppression, suppression of tribal burning, and development in wildland urban interface continue to increase wildfire hazard throughout the region. There is an urgent need to increase the pace of wildfire resilience work in response to the ongoing wildfire crisis. The Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program supports local partners to develop and implement projects to increase wildfire resilience through improved management of natural lands and open space, increased collaboration among land managers, and capacity building. Conservancy grants support a wide range of activities to accelerate future project implementation, including planning, compliance, and capacity building. An overarching goal of the Wildfire Resilience Program is to build organizational capacity at the local and regional level to implement vegetation management and fire risk reduction projects. Healthy natural lands are less likely to burn and projects that increase fire breaks or clear ladder fuels help prevent isolated fires from becoming catastrophic wildfires.

The proposed program is a grant program proposed for funding under the Conservancy's Wildfire Resilience Program that is a significant opportunity to improve wildfire resilience in the North Coast.

In carrying out the proposed program, HCRCD will work with other members of the North Coast Resource Conservation District Collaborative (Collaborative), a group of 11 Resource Conservation Districts (RCD's) who entered into the "Memorandum of Understanding for the Joint Exercise of Powers" (MOU) on July 1, 2019. The MOU, which does not establish a separate legal entity, focuses on increasing coordination and collaboration among member RCDs to improve work quality, efficiency, expand program impacts, and better support regional dialogue and information exchange in the North Coast Region. The member RCD's are Del Norte RCD, Gold Ridge RCD, Humboldt County RCD, Lake County RCD, Marin County RCD, Mendocino County RCD, Napa County RCD, Shasta Valley RCD, Siskiyou RCD, Sonoma RCD, and Trinity County RCD. This Collaborative has a long history of working together on regional planning and conservation projects and has collectively achieved several notable programs including the

North Coast Soil Hub, the North Bay Forest Improvement Program, and the Statewide RCD Project Tracker. The Collaborative has shared technical staff, program templates and joint funding agreements from private, state and federal funding which have included a seven-county USDA Resource Conservation Partnership Program to address fuel reduction and fire resiliency, the North Coast Resource Partnership has a Technical Assistance agreement with the Collaborative to provide technical assistance for project development, several CALFIRE block grants for the North Bay Forest Improvement Program, several more grants to support climate resiliency and carbon farm planning in the North Coast Soil Hub, and a Department of Conservation grant for a regional Watershed Coordinator.

This program will be a collaboration between these 11 RCD's to address areas of high wildfire risk; implement actions identified in state, regional, and local wildfire resilience plans; provide public benefit; benefit disadvantaged or underserved communities and public lands; lead to longer term resilience or more sustainable benefits; and leverage resources through coordination across jurisdictions. This program can fund members of the Collaborative for administrative work associated with project development, selection, and management.

The proposed program will address the wildfire crisis in the North Coast by:

- Building local wildfire resiliency capacity.
- Building expertise in wildfire resiliency for project development, planning, community outreach, permitting, environmental review, and implementation.
- Catalyzing additional stewardship and restoration in each region.

The proposed program will grant funds for projects that meet criteria prepared by the Collaborative members within the Conservancy's jurisdiction. This criteria may include projects that:

- Address high wildfire risk area, such as those identified in the CalFire Fire Hazard Severity Zones or the FRAP Priority Landscape Maps.
- Implement the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.
- Provide significant public benefit.
- Benefit disadvantaged or underserved community.
- Lead to longer term resilience or more sustainable benefits.
- Are identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan or other wildfire resilience/prevention plan.
- Benefit public or protected lands.
- Leverage resources through coordination across jurisdictions.

This proposed program will increase the pace and scale of wildfire resilience projects in the North Coast while developing capacity at local RCD's. The HCRCDC will work with the North Coast Resource Conservation District Collaborative members to select projects. The Collaborative will propose a transparent, collaborative decision making and prioritization process on how projects will be selected. Once projects are selected, depending on the project, HCRCDC might grant the funds to the entity undertaking the project or it might grant the funds to a member of the Collaborative which will then grant the funds to the entity undertaking the project. The Conservancy will approve all proposed grants to be made under the program. Grants for CEQA exempt projects may be approved by Conservancy staff. Grants for projects that are not CEQA exempt must be approved by the Conservancy's Board.

Site Description: Projects may be located within coastal watersheds and Sonoma, Marin, and Napa Counties where they overlap with the North Coast RCD Collaborative's jurisdiction. The North Coast RCD Collaborative's jurisdiction consists of the management areas of the Del Norte RCD, Gold Ridge RCD, Humboldt County RCD, Lake County RCD, Marin RCD, Mendocino County RCD, Napa County RCD, Shasta Valley RCD, Siskiyou RCD, Sonoma RCD, and Trinity County RCD.

Grant Applicant Qualifications: The HCRCDC has successfully managed over \$25 million in state and federal contracts for similar projects within the last 10 years. During this same period, the HCRCDC has successfully managed eight Conservancy grants, including two grants obtained in partnership with the USFWS and two wildfire resiliency projects. Current RCD staff have successfully managed and completed the required environmental compliance documentation. HCRCDC has successfully managed a regional grant on behalf of the collaborative.

The Collaborative is a successful collaboration of RCD's with a track record of collaborative decision making and its members are qualified to work together on a regional, multi-organizational grant. In 2015, the RCD's of the Collaborative developed their first strategic plan, which is currently under revision, anticipated mid-2024. In 2018, the HCRCDC was awarded funding on behalf of the Collaborative through the Department of Conservation Forest Health Watershed Coordinator Program. While officially housed at the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, the Forest Health Watershed Coordinator worked across the North Coast region and operated on the following two levels: (1) to support the unique forest health work of individual North Coast RCDs within their respective districts; and (2) to support the forest health work of North Coast RCDs as a regional collaborative. As a result of this grant, the Forest Health Watershed Coordinator developed a North Coast Forest Health Watershed Improvement Plan for the region, finalized in 2022.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA:

The proposed program is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria, last updated on September 23, 2021, in the following respects:

Selection Criteria

1. Extent to which the project helps the Conservancy accomplish the objectives in the Strategic Plan.

See the “Consistency with Conservancy’s Strategic Plan” section below.

2. Project is a good investment of state resources.

The proposed program is a good investment of state funding. The program is feasible and addresses demonstrated needs. The program will implement many statewide wildfire and forest resiliency goals. The program is consistent with several state plans, and specifically with the following:

- California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan (Governor’s Forest Management Task Force, January 2021), which calls for activities such as fuels reduction, forest thinning, vegetation management, prescribed fire, shaded fuel breaks, defensible space, and enhancement of fire-prone habitats to reduce fire risk.
- The California Forest Carbon Plan (CNRA, 2018), which calls for restoration of natural fire regime and forest composition through a multitude of approaches including thinning, prescribed burns, invasive vegetation management, and shaded fuel breaks.
- The Community Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Report (Cal Fire, 2019), which urges state and local agencies to implement the goals of the Carbon Forest Plan and lays out recommendations to agencies to increase the scale and pace of management and mitigation actions to improve forest health and resiliency.

3. Project includes a serious effort to engage tribes. Examples of tribal engagement include good faith, documented efforts to work with tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated to the project area.

The Conservancy will undertake additional tribal consultations for ground-disturbing projects funded through this program. Ground-disturbing projects will include archaeological and cultural resource surveys to avoid and minimize impacts to tribal cultural resources. The HCRCD will continue its practice of working with Tribes and tribal entities to select and implement wildfire resilience projects. The HCRCD and other RCDs in the North Coast RCD Collaborative are currently partnering with multiple Tribes and tribal entities on wildfire resilience projects. For example, the HCRCD’s Wildfire Resiliency Planning for Mail Ridge project includes Tribal partners and activities such as securing funding for Tribal organizations to create an Indigenous-led fuels reduction and cultural fire crew.

4. Project benefits will be sustainable or resilient over the project lifespan.

This program will help increase the pace and scale of wildfire resilient project development, which will ultimately reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire impacts to communities. Projects will be selected for funding because they are multi-benefit projects that will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire impacts to communities. Added benefits of these projects will include:

native habitat restoration, workforce training, public education, and development of data and plans to support future vegetation management.

5. Project delivers multiple benefits and significant positive impact.

The proposed program will help increase fire resiliency in the context of anticipated climate change. Fire resilience is a critical issue due to increased average temperatures, reduced marine fog, and longer and more severe droughts. California is facing unprecedented fire risk due to climate change, a growing populace, and an increasing number of people living in high fire risk areas, including areas adjacent to wildlands. While 2022 and 2023 had a relatively mild wildfire season, both the 2020 and 2021 fire seasons broke numerous records. Enhanced wildfire resilience will have multiple benefits, including reducing the loss of life and economic losses, reducing public health impacts from wildfire, protecting fish and wildlife habitat, and preventing the loss of sequestered carbon.

6. Project planned with meaningful community engagement and broad community support.

The HCRCD and the North Coast RCD Collaborative members have always worked closely with community groups and residents in implementing projects, a practice they will continue in selecting and managing wildfire resilience projects funded under this program. Many of the projects to be funded through this authorization will implement Community Wildfire Prevention Plans. The HCRCD and other members of the North Coast RCD Collaborative are currently partnering with multiple community groups on wildfire resilience projects. Local fire safe councils and volunteer fire departments will be important partners, and many projects will include landowner outreach and community engagement.

PROJECT FINANCING

Coastal Conservancy	\$6,000,000
Project Total	\$6,000,000

The anticipated source of funding is the Fiscal Year 2023-24 appropriation from the General Fund to the Conservancy for the purpose of wildfire risk reduction (The Budget Act of 2023, SB 101 (2023)). The proposed program is consistent with this funding source because it will help increase the pace and scale of wildfire resilience projects and ultimately reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. It is anticipated the project grants through this program will leverage additional funding and in-kind support.

Unless specifically identified as “Required Match,” the other sources of funding and in-kind contributions described above are estimates. The Conservancy does not typically require matching funds or in-kind services, nor does it require documentation of expenditures from other funders or of in-kind services. Typical grant conditions require grantees to provide any funds needed to complete a project.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

This program would be undertaken pursuant to Section 31113 of Chapter 3 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, which authorizes the Conservancy to address the impacts and potential impacts of climate change on resources within the Conservancy's jurisdiction (Section 31113(a)).

Pursuant to Section 31113(b), the Conservancy is authorized to award grants to public agencies to undertake projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address extreme weather events, sea level rise, flooding, and other coastal hazards that threaten coastal communities, infrastructure, and natural resources.

Pursuant to Section 31113(c), the Conservancy must prioritize grants for projects that maximize public benefits and have one of several purposes, including reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and preserving natural lands.

Consistent with these sections, this program will restore the health and resilience of California forests, grasslands, and/or natural lands and reduce fire risk to communities. The program will help California's natural lands to be more resilient to catastrophic wildfires which may ultimately reduce greenhouse gas emissions released from increased wildfires due to climate change.

The proposed program addresses the impacts of climate change on natural resources within the Conservancy's jurisdiction because it will fund wildfire resilience projects in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area (Chapter 4.5 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code) and/or will improve forests, grasslands, and other natural lands and reduce the risk of wildfire that would adversely impact water quality and habitat in coastal watersheds (Chapter 5.5).

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S [2023-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN](#):

Consistent with Goal 4.2 Wildfire Resilience, the proposed program will fund multiple wildfire resilience planning and implementation projects.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The proposed program will select and award grants for planning and implementation projects that will enhance wildfire resilience in the project area. As described above, the parties to the North Coast Resource Conservation District Collaborative will work to identify projects for potential funding and will carry out CEQA review before authorizing funding of any project. In light of this process, at the time of this authorization, the Conservancy does not know which projects will be recommended for funding, no particular projects are authorized for funding, and there is not sufficient information to provide meaningful environmental review of projects. Further, the proposed authorization does not foreclose alternatives or mitigation measures for any particular project. Therefore, considering the balancing described in the CEQA Guidelines at California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15004, it is appropriate to undertake CEQA compliance at the time projects are selected rather than at the time of this authorization. All

proposed grants under this program must be approved by the Conservancy, which will comply with CEQA prior to deciding whether to approve a proposed grant for any specific project.

Marin RCD Staff Report

Dec/Jan, 2024

District

- **ED Report**
 - Draft Employee Handbook on hold
 - Completed all personnel reviews
 - DRAFT Conflict of Interest Policy was received by CoCounsel.
 - Reviewed Strategic Planning Proposal, met with AdHoc Committee, arranged follow up meet up between Consultant and Committee.
 - Followed Federal Funding Freezes, met with partners and staff to plan accordingly. Signed outstanding Federal contract with EPA/State Water Board for new Conserving Our Watersheds Program (\$1M)
 - Followed PRSeashore buy out and met with rancher to ID opportunities for partnership for projects
 - Organized/facilitated weekly staff finance meetings and check-ins with staff.
 - Attended meetings: Audubon Fire, North Coast RCD Leg planning, North Coast RCD, RCD Finance, NRCS, Ag Mental Health Training, LAFCO
 - Contract Approvals under \$50,000:
 - Audubon Canyon Ranch Contract Extension. No cost amendment
 - Ascent Project Management for Soil Symposium event assistance. \$6,750

- **New Grants:** *(See [grant status spreadsheet](#) for a full list of out-standing grants)*
 - **A "Funding Opportunities for Working Lands" spreadsheet:** informs local producers about cost-share and grant programs they can apply to for conservation projects. For most programs on the list, you do not need to have a Carbon Farm Plan to apply or qualify. Spreadsheet will be updated semi-annually. [Find at this link](#) or on the Carbon Farming page at marinrcd.org.

- **District Operations & Financials:** *(FC: David Sherwood, Sally Gale, Terry Sawyer, Marcus Meggett, Nancy Scolari)*
 - The next finance committee will be held on Tuesday, February 18 at 10 am.

- The landlord has submitted a lease amendment for the office spaces we occupy. That amendment will be presented at the next finance committee meeting. An optional expansion into another office suite is on hold.

- **Staff Development**

- We are re-evaluating health insurance options with an HR consultant.
- A complete list of staff training and take-aways can be [found at this link](#).
- A new MRCD Employee Handbook is being prepared.

- **Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Justice**

- The Carbon Farming team has hired David Escobar as a JEDI consultant, funded by the SCC grant. David continues to meet with MRCD staff and will soon meet with the JEDI committee to discuss our implementation process.
- Marin RCD worked with FIGR on 4 design plans for which implementation is complete. The team is planning follow up visits with the Tribe for Fall 2024: 2 designs were re-visited with FIGR on 9/24, and 2 more are being planned for early spring 2025.
- MRCD Carbon Farm Team and Michelle Katuna developed a scope of work with FIGR that outlines a workflow between the two parties and other partners such as STRAW. The draft was approved at the August 2023 board meeting. The final draft is currently going through the FIGR legal team channels for approval.
- MRCD JEDI Committee has met twice and will continue to hold meetings regarding various JEDI topics as it relates to the Carbon Farming Program once the FIGR partnership picks back up in early spring.
- Nancy and Elise drafted a DEI analysis associated with RCD programs which David Escobar is currently reviewing.
- Through the North Coast Soil Hub, RCDs are collaborating on Spanish language education and outreach on soil health and climate-friendly ag and creating a regional outreach plan for small and underserved producers.

See below for Marin RCD Studies, Programs & Project updates:

Walker Creek Study (Sarah Phillips, PM)

- **Lower Walker Creek Estuary Study (100% complete):** Closed on March 31, 2024. This grant from CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) was to study the Walker Creek estuary and evaluate opportunities for fisheries enhancement.
 - Phillips connected with the Bay Area grant manager at SCC to gauge interest in funding the lower Walker projects. The interest is there.

Biomass Project (Chad White, PM)

The Marin Biomass Project was developed in response to increasing biomass flow generated by wildfire prevention activities and by landfill diversion efforts in the County overseen, respectively, by the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) and by Zero Waste Marin (ZWM). It was also developed in response to the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD)'s work to advance carbon farming and advance climate-smart practices as a member of the Marin Carbon Project. MWPA's work generates biomass flows. ZWM's work guides diversion of biomass flows from landfill and Marin's compost procurement responsibilities. MRCD's staff work with agricultural producers in west Marin whose operations are potential sites of compost application to land. The project looks for synergy across the work of these organizations and the capacity to create a shared platform for sustainable utilization, rather than waste, of a range of biomass types: woody biomass from forests and woodlands, source-separated organics, and mixed construction and demolition materials, food scraps, yard trimmings, and agricultural biomass. The goal is to ensure that biomass utilization pathways support wildfire prevention and landfill diversion, while also reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The Project is designed to foster cooperation among stakeholders in biomass utilization, particularly the public authorities who oversee and the private organizations that manage biomass management infrastructure and processes. A forum called the "Marin Biomass Collaborative" was created to support rapid implementation of recommendations developed through the Study. The Marin Biomass Project is also in a cohort of five pilot projects selected in 2021 by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). It has been awarded \$900,000 in grant funding to identify solutions that overcome barriers to biomass feedstock utilization. Technical analysis and project management funded under this grant have been awarded through RFPs for consulting contracts.

Activity in the last month:

- **Findings and Recommendations.** The final chapter has been drafted, reviewed, and revised by the Steering Committee. It has now been sent to the Marin Biomass Collaborative for review and feedback.
- **Final Study.** Each of the technical reports provided by the technical consultants are being reorganized and revised into chapters of the Final Study. All planned technical work on the project has now been completed. Any remaining work will be related to preparing for chapter for integration into the Final study.

*Conserving Our Watersheds Program
Gerhard Epke PM*

- **COW (UDRS) Phase V funded by 319(h) Water Board (99% complete)**
 - Final Report and invoices submitted to Water Board 1/31/2022 for completed projects. The project is almost done - the various components need to be hooked up, and the contractor that was going to do it is no longer available. Bivalve Dairy is pending inspection - delayed due to drought and pandemic. John Taylor manages sub-grant from AAMP now that the bulk of matching funds have been spent. UCCE staff are assisting John with wrapping up this project.
- **COW (CCAF) Phase VI funded by 319(h) Water Board (100% complete)**

Final report and invoice sent to Water Board in Dec and January

A summary of achievements completed through the grant:

 - 4 Confined Animal Facilities (CAFs) and 3 livestock ranches were assisted by this program. Three of the CAFs are dairies, one is a horse boarding facility
 - 4 sites were in the Stemple Creek/Estero de San Antonio watershed and 3 were in the Tomales Bay watershed
 - 12 Management Practices and 37 NRCS Conservation Practices implemented
 - 31,500 square feet of heavy use area protection constructed across three CAFs
 - 81,750 square feet of riparian area was protected with fencing at four sites
 - Approximately one mile of fence was constructed across five sites
 - Together these MPs help manage an estimated 3.5 million pounds of manure every year, split evenly between the two watersheds
 - MPs will reduce pollutant loading of Stemple Creek watershed by an estimated 355 tons of fine sediment and 45,500 lbs. of nitrogen annually
- **COW (MILC) Phase VII funded by 319(h) Water Board (2% complete)**
 - Contract has been finalized and being circulated for execution
 - MRCD's scope of work includes Management Practices toward the attainment of

- the Stemple Creek-Estero de San Antonio Hydrologic Area Sediment & Nutrients TMDL and towards enhancing the high water quality of Drakes Bay Watershed.
- Staff have begun soliciting interest from dairies in Stemple Creek and are accepting applications through February. Technical Advisory Group meetings are scheduled for March.

Marin Permit Coordination Program
Gerhard Epke PM

The Marin RCD created an easier and faster way for landowners and ranchers to apply for permits for restoration projects. The Marin Permit Coordination Program (PCP) is designed to help ranchers plan, permit, fund, and implement practices that will minimize impacts to wildlife and water quality. Marin RCD has operated the program for the past 13-years with considerable success; it has incentivized restoration projects throughout west Marin. The program provides streamlined environmental review for 44 conservation practices that meet certain criteria including size limitations. On an annual basis, the RCD submits projects into the program for CEQA review, and then applies and pays for permits to assist landowners wanting to construct conservation projects. The term of this ten-year program ends in 2027. Start fundraising plan in mid 2025.

- 2025 project list has not been compiled. The 2024 project list was presented at the August board meeting and constitutes hedgerow planting projects for which a categorical exemption has been filed.
- Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) Sediment Reduction Projects are complete as of October
- **Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) CA Vegetation Treatment Program Plan**
 - MRCD was contracted by ACR to act as CEQA Lead on a field management plan funded by the CALFIRE and managed by ACR. MRCD scope of work is limited to CEQA document drafting, review and submission.
 - ACR has started their Project Specific Analysis Draft 1 and are in touch with MRCD staff as they develop a plan for Coastal Commission permits.
- **Green Gulch Streamflow Enhancement Project**
 - MRCD was contracted by Green Gulch to act as CEQA Lead on a streamflow enhancement project funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board and managed

by Green Gulch and Prunuske Chatham Inc (PCI). Project involves a Section 1707 Water Rights change, pond installation, pond enhancement and pond decommissioning/restoration. All permitting will be conducted by PCI.

- MRCD conducted a site visit with FIGR.
- Designs at 95% designs, construction cost estimates, and draft specifications - end of February/early March 2024
- Met with Cutting the Green Tape (2).
- Suronen, on behalf of MRCD, sent a formal request to consult with FIGR on the project in 08/2023. A CEQA consultation meeting was held with FIGR, PCI and Green Gulch Farms, and FIGR gave their support along with next steps for coordinating with them as PCI moves forward with the permitting of the project.
- PCI is developing the draft Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) then they will send draft SERP for MRCD and CDFW Cutting the Green Tape staff review, then present SERP Findings to MRCD Board for approval to submit for CDFW concurrence
- Hunt for implementation dollars continues - they hope to apply to WCB in 2025/26.
- Designs have changed due to seismic concerns a/o April 2024.
- Another meeting is planned with FIGR March 27 to present the design changes

Carbon Farming Program (Sarah Skinker, Lee Farese, Preston Duncan, Fiona O'Neill)

- **MALT Stewardship Assistance Program (SAP-100% complete):** The MRCD interacts with the SAP program funding in two ways which is through interagency projects or through conflict of interest projects. 4 projects have been completed and the partnership is currently on an indefinite pause.
 - 4 MALT SAP projects have been completed and documented (Little Wing Farm, Moreda Dairy, Blake's Landing, Straus Home Ranch)
- **Restore CA by Zero Footprint (ZFP):** ZFP's Restore CA program will generate funds from restaurants charging diners with a 1% donation to support regenerative agriculture. Local producers can apply for the grant on their own, but must designate a local RCD as their technical assistance provider. Please contact Marin RCD well in advance of the application deadline to discuss our technical assistance budget. Past applications have been ranked by the "total carbon removal per dollar" which is calculated as the requested grant amount divided by the total metric tons of modeled CO₂e (calculated

using COMET Planner). Priority also given to historically underserved applicants. Currently, Marin RCD staff are coordinating with other North Coast RCDs to discuss improvements to grant process with ZFP.

- Marin RCD provided TA on 1 additional ZFP application, completed
 - Marin RCD participated in submitting a CDFA Healthy Soils block grant, alongside 8 additional RCDs, with ZFP serving as the administrative grantee. 6 projects at 4 ranches were approved by CDFA for implementation this fall. Implementation on these projects is complete, with several pushed to next fall.
 - Zero Foodprint now also runs a Compost Connector program. [More information can be found here.](#)
- **Marin Carbon Project (ongoing):** The MCP now has a new Strategic Plan and Charter to guide overall coordination of carbon farming activities in the county and beyond.
 - MCP is working on the following topics:
 - Carbon farm plan accessibility
 - Carbon farming practice implementation
 - Monitoring and verification
 - MCP has created a Compost Working Group to ID barriers to composting.
 - Orlena is also working on Climate Financing
- **State Coastal Conservancy – SCC (60% complete):** This grant funds the Carbon Farming (CF) technical support team for the RCD while building county-wide capacity to accelerate adoption of the Marin County CF Program. The RCD and eight partners will expand Marin County’s existing CF Program by: implementing 15-20 shovel-ready CF practices on 6–8 ranches, designing 15–20 more CF practices (planning for future implementation), and writing 6 new CF plans (CFPs) on newly participating farms (planning).
 - Carbon Farm Planning and Design update(s)
 - The team completed baseline forage and soil sampling for current carbon farm plans and is awaiting lab results to interpret with producers.
 - Tribal collaboration Buffy McQuillen and Matthew Johnson attended October 2023s board meeting for an open discussion about the collaboration. The CF Team met with STRAW and FIGR representatives in late June 2024 to discuss upcoming opportunities for collaboration. On Sept 24, 2024 MRCD and STRAW staff reconnected with land owners and managers, and Tribal staff and citizens to re-visit implemented collaborative riparian restoration design projects at SoMar and True Grass Farms, and to receive input on new designs. Tribal staff expressed interest in another site visit to Straus Home and Toluma in the near future, and

to continuing collaboration. We received news Matthew Johnson will be returning to his position with the cultural resources department in January, and will likely resume being our Tribal staff contact. We look forward to having a Board Member out at the next collaborative site visit, likely to happen before the end of the year!

- Guido Frosini, MRCD Associate Director wrote of the 9/24 site visit on his land:

- “I thought and told Sarah this already that it was a great success and proves that patience, listening, perseverance and openness to a slow process have been crucial to this outcome.

This was shown in our circle at the end of our walk of the land by everyone, sharing their hopes and takeaways in a very genuine, comfortable and inspiring way.

That was one of the goals here, to build trust, where everyone feels welcomed, at home, and be able to express their opinion in safety, knowing that it will land on open ears and inspired hearts.”

- Other partners - STRAW contract completed, UCCE contract completed.
- 4 of 6 WCB design recipients were implemented last fall/winter: TrueGrass, Straus, Toluma, Cohen. Planting has begun. Mahrt is not moving forward with implementation due to the current avian flu conditions. Torliatt has chosen not to move forward with implementation in this grant, but rather implemented herself last winter.
- **WCB 2022 (20% complete):** MRCD staff will collaborate with PB STRAW to implement and maintain 3-5 hedgerow/windbreak projects, work with Walker Creek Ranch to construct an ADA accessible pollinator and planting garden, and complete 1 Carbon Farm plan.
 - Carbon farm plan in development
 - Hedgerow/windbreak designs complete. MRCD Board heard design and plant palette updates in August 2024. STRAW continues on through implementation season on all projects.
 - Sarah continues to meet with Walker Creek Nursery team, including WCR naturalists and contract designers.
 - WCR did not receive the FARE grant from Marin County so they’re rethinking their strategy to staff the nursery and what types of programming they can offer, which will inform the design.

- STRAW nursery team met with WCR nursery designer onsite in September to discuss infrastructure considerations. The next meeting will take place in mid February.
 - Educational resources will be developed in coordination with Emilie and regional RCDs (North Coast Soil Hub)
- **USDA Climate Smart Commodities – SMACCC (15% complete)**
 - Emilie is a member of the Regional Carbon Finance Working Group. This group is evaluating current Carbon Farming finance mechanisms and producing policy recommendations for improving the efficiency and efficacy of funding streams.
 - EW, SS, LF and PD are part of Implementation and MMRV project teams. EW is serving as lead for the MMRV team.
 - The Implementation Team has established Technical Advisory Committees for a Marin/Sonoma joint range/dairy TAC and joint Crop/Specialty Crop TAC.
 - Sarah is leading the Dairy/Range TAC across 3 RCDs and finalized the review criteria in October.
 - Pasture-based projects (planting, stream restoration, compost application etc.) application window has closed as of January 31st, and we received 12 new applications containing over 30 practices. Ag team is reviewing applications to determine SMACCC eligibility before ranking and presenting to TAC in late February. The team will present rankings for approval by the board in March.
 - Measure A is funding all implementation, SMACCC provides staff time
 - EW is serving on the SMACCC Crop Support Organization Working Group for small and underserved producers.
 - The implementation team met in person in December to prepare for upcoming project solicitation and grant updates.
- **CDFA Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program – CAPGP (40% complete)**
 - This grant will fund 7 Carbon Farming Plans (CFPs), 7 grazing management plans, and 7 soil health management plans currently underway
 - This grant began on 7/1/23 and the MRCD Carbon Farm Team is in the process of writing all conservation plans.
 - Marin RCD staff are meeting regularly with North Coast RCD planners to develop templates together and share resources/tools around planning. 🙌
- **No-Till Drill**
 - Rentals of the No-Till Drill are paused until fall 2025. We are grateful that it is housed at Mike Moretti's place.

- The drill was rented for a total of 7 days in the fall of 2024. We are adjusting our outreach strategy in 2025 to contact more producers.
 - In an attempt to get more users, we reduced the cost in 2024 from \$250/day to \$200/day, a rate consistent with other local RCDs.
- **Technical Capacity Building and Training**
 - Fiona will be participating in the Chico State Center for Regenerative Ag and Resilient Systems Technical Assistance Provider certification program through the end of August 2025.
 - Members of the Carbon Farm team attended regenerative ranching workshops (hosted by Point Blue Conservation Science & TomKat Ranch) in Petaluma, San Juan Bautista, and Pescadero this fall. The team continues to rotate monthly attendance for different topics offered until April 2025.

North Coast Soil Hub & Carbon Farming Network (Emilie Winfield)

- **National Associated of Conservation Districts (NACD) North Coast Regional Soil Hub (88% complete for 4th year):**

Emilie is continuing to meet regularly with Soil Hub RCDs to identify needs and discuss challenges and opportunities for soil health and carbon farming work. The Soil Hub is revising their current 5-year strategic plan.

Outreach/communications/events:

- Coordinating outreach and education deliverables for the region through WCB Implementation Grant, NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grant, UC SAREP CA Farm Demonstration Network grant, and Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.
- Working on education and outreach for the Soil Hub. Currently developing a series of implementation stories for carbon farming practices. The goal is to have a series of stories showcasing regional implementation activities for the purpose of informing other farmers and ranchers and being a source of inspiration and empowerment.
- Working with Hub members to assemble information on soil testing labs, soil sampling protocols, sources of compost and compost spreaders, native plants, equipment, etc. to share on the Hub website.
- Working with Marin, Sonoma, and Gold Ridge RCDs, and Point Blue Conservation Science to plan an event with Rancher to Rancher in 2024.

- Writing an article on NRCS CSP program for North Coast farmers and ranchers.
- Planning a regional Soil Symposium for March-April 2025 that will foster connections among producers, TA providers, and researchers and provide a platform for collaborative learning about soil health and climate-friendly agriculture. Currently 6 events are planned for March 12-April 3, 2025 in Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino.
- Attended CARCD Conference in Sacramento in December, EcoFarm Conference in Monterey in January, and statewide CA Farm Demonstration Network gathering in Monterey in January.
- Attended the North Coast Resource Partnership Climate Resilience meeting at Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria event center in January.

Partnerships and working groups:

- Facilitating a North Coast carbon farm planning peer learning group with regional RCDs to build technical capacity for CF planning. Hosted one meeting in January.
- Facilitating a Soil Health Management Planning committee with North Coast RCD planners.
- Serving on Humboldt RCD Carbon Farm and Soil Health Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee
- Participating in statewide ag and climate hubs cohort group with other regional coordinators and CARCD. Attended 1 meeting in January.
- Participating in statewide policy workgroup for RCD Ag & Climate program advancement. Attended one working group meeting in January.
- Serving on the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan: NWL Technical Stakeholder Group.
- Met with new UCCE Livestock Advisor and UCCE Area Water and Soil Advisor to discuss coordination and opportunities for partnership.

Technical capacity building and training:

- Exploring a potential prescribed grazing training with Humboldt County RCD, Point Blue Conservation Science, and NRCS.

Hub Governance:

- Hub governance committee met in December.

Funding opportunities:

1. The Soil Hub RCDs are exploring a collaborative application to a NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant later this year (funding announcement has not been released yet).
2. Submitted an application to the NACD TA and Outreach Program for a 5th year of funding for Emilie's position in October. - *Awarded*
3. Supported GRRCD to submit a proposal to the NACD TA and Outreach Program for a regional CRM position to support North Coast RCD ag programs. - *Awarded*
4. The Soil Hub is invited to submit a small proposal to a local foundation in early 2025 to support regional climate-smart ag efforts.

Urban Streams Program (Sarah Phillips, PM)

Sarah has been working mostly full time with a week each month of part time to handle family affairs, as needed.

- Phillips provided assistance on the following during the months of December and January:
 - Site Visit: met with a landowner to deliver willow stakes, harvested from a County ROW area, and to demonstrate how to position and stake them in.
 - Site Visit: assisting Marinwood CSD with post-storm guidance along their large section of Miller Creek.
 - Workshop/Site Visit (19 attended): Gallagher Ranch to prepare then execute soil bioengineering training, assisting landowners.
 - Workshop/Site Visit (10 attended): Draper Farms to lead a workshop that in turn benefits the landowners' creek area.
 - Field Trip (60 attended): Annual Lagunitas TAC field trip to review recent projects completed such as County's Roy's Redwoods and Marin Water's Phase I project at Irving Picnic Area.
- Supported and learned with Pepperwood Preserve with a controlled burn in Sonoma.
- Attended the annual UC Berkeley's Restoration Symposium to learn about newer techniques and new projects.
- Ongoing communications with Supervisor Rodoni's aide about the study to assess the potential removal of tires from Tomales Bay.

- Working with Supervisor's aide to develop a Tomales Bay TAC for agencies to convene and work collaboratively to improve the health of the bay. Attended and facilitated the first meeting with the new group as well as supported with taking notes.
- Supporting Gallinas Watershed Council at meetings with BOS aide and County staff regarding the health and water quality of the Civic Center lagoon.
- Rescheduled the staff-focused workshop on soil bioengineering at Gallagher Ranch.
- Assisted Marin Water with spawner surveys; record year (!!!), second best over 30 years of monitoring.
- Attended monthly MPC meeting with local, state, and federal regulators.
- Met with MSCTOPPP to brainstorm partnering in workshops and borrowing supplies for an upcoming workshop.
- Met with Salmonid Restoration Federation staff to help name and place abstracts for the upcoming conference in 2025.
- Worked with Jennifer Michaud on a report for a landowner's regulatory monitoring requirements.
- Met with Ag Commissioner, Joe D., to strategize Weed Management Area funding and future projects to consider.
- Assisted many landowners and partners with various questions around providing contact information to partners, supporting DPW with erosion control seed mix selection and distribution, identifying fish species for watershed groups sending photos, assisted MALT with culvert guidance and permitting info., checked on a property for landowners out of town with fallen tree, multiple landowners with creek bank failures and slides into waterways, and assisted Marin Water's WSP members with brainstorming their service project sites and partners to work with in 2025.

Stemple Creek Project (Preston Duncan)

Department of Conservation Riparian Restoration at Lazy R Ranch (90% complete): Marin RCD, in collaboration with Point Blue Conservation Science's Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW) program, received funding from the Department of Conservation to restore approximately 4,260 linear feet of degraded riparian area along Stemple Creek at the Lazy R Ranch (Righetti). STRAW is a key subcontractor and will be responsible for implementation, plant establishment, and monitoring.

- Implementation phase and the first year of monitoring and maintenance is complete. Second year of monitoring and maintenance is underway. Plants are looking fantastic!
- 4 invoices have been paid.
- Contract Amendment #3 has been approved by DOC, which updated Preston's billing rate and added Fiona to the list of personnel, as she will be handling Project Tracker tasks.
- Contract Amendment #1 with STRAW has also been approved.
- We are now in the maintenance and monitoring phase of this grant, and will be invoicing 1x per year.

Pine Gulch Project (Gerhard Epke)

- All ponds are working except for: Pond 1A is leaking at Peter Martinelli's farm and Pond 2 is leaking at New Land Fund.
- Peter Martinelli has hired Stetson Engineering and identified installation of an impervious liner as the preferred solution to abate the leaks. He has met with regulators and is planning to move ahead with permits and construction. MALT and MRCD staff are helping Peter locate potential grants to offset construction costs.
 - "The bentonite application we did to the pond bottom in 2018 worked well, however once the water goes above that bottom area (about 1-2 ft.) it quickly seeps out." - Peter M.

Monitoring and Project Tracking (Preston Duncan)

- **PRNS Monitoring:**
 - Fiona and Preston are beginning the RDM monitoring season with PRNS. This year includes soil monitoring to try to inform a UC Berkeley study to improve Ecological Site Descriptions for this region
- **Project Tracker:**
 - Fiona has been updating Project Tracker entries 🚀
- **Wildlife Monitoring:**

- Marin County Breeding Bird Atlas has completed it's monitoring window for this edition 🦉
- Preston has continued to attend Marin Monarch Working Group meetings when possible
- **GIS:**
 - Preston has been updating GIS data across programs (COW, CF, SAP) to reflect what projects and practices are occurring and have occurred on the ground. He hopes to be able to accurately quantify RCD project footprints across programs.
 - GIS is being updated to reflect the narrative portions of 3 outstanding Carbon Farm Plans. All maps are being developed and created for these CFPs in order to get them in producers' hands. *On hold*
 - As development of CFP updates continues, Preston is developing automated calculations from COMET emission reduction coefficients, in order to increase ease of reporting and writing/updating CFPs into the future.
 - CFP team is meeting regularly for GIS Training sessions, with other Staff to join soon. Fiona and Lee have been onboarded
 - MRCD has 2 iPads for data collection with an app called Field Maps, which connects directly back to our GIS remotely. MRCD staff can update spreadsheets, maps, and photos in the field, and all of those data connect back to our Google Drive or ArcGIS Online.
 - Preston has been meeting with MALT to identify areas where we can get standardized and consistent data structures to more easily share data across organizations.
 - Preston is building out more system updates to increase our efficiencies on the user end- Fiona is assisting with standardizing our data and narrowing down our data fields to be more useful
- **CFP Monitoring:**
 - 2/7 sites have mostly complete soil data in from the lab, and the other 5 are incomplete
- **COW Monitoring:**

- Preston and Gerhard are closing out COW CCAF.

Staff serving on committees or attending regular meetings

Nancy Scolari

- Marin Carbon Project Steering Committee, Implementation Working Group
- Ag Lands Emergency Response Team (Host)
- MRCD Finance Committee
- North Coast RCD Durable Collaboration
- Sonoma-Marín Climate Smart Commodities

Marcus Meggett

- MRCD Finance Committee (Facilitator)

Sarah Phillips

- Marin Prescribed Burn Cooperative
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Chair)
 - Large Woody Debris Subcommittee
 - Membership Subcommittee (Chair)
 - Aquatic Toxicology Subcommittee
 - Marin Water's TUCP (Temporary Urgency Change Petition) Subcommittee
 - Marin Water Stewardship Plan Subcommittee
 - Prop 68 Lagunitas Watershed Enhancement Study Subcommittee
- Sonoma-Marín Weed Management Area Meetings
 - WMA Steering Committee
- Marin County Permit Coordination Program
- Gallinas Watershed Council (Advisor)
- Technical Advisory Group San Geronimo Commons Restoration (former golf course)
- Tomales Bay Foundation Advisory Committee
- MKAT (Marin Knotweed Action Team)

Sarah Skinker

- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- Marin Carbon Project (MCP) Implementation Working Group
- SMACCC Implementation and TAC Working Groups
- California Farm Demonstration Network

Gerhard Epke

- Regional Water Quality Control Board Grazing Waiver Technical Advisory Committee

- Tomales Bay Foundation Advisory Committee
- Petaluma TMDL Technical Advisory Committee
- Sonoma Farm Bureau Animal Resource Committee
- Marin Prescribed Fire Cooperative
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Alternate MRCD Rep to SP)
- County Marin Project Coordination Meeting (Backup to SP)
- A-Team

Preston Duncan

- A-Team
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Alternate MRCD Rep for Sarah P)
- North Coast Soil Hub
- Marin Monarch Working Group
- Marin Prescribed Fire Cooperative
- Carbon Farm Planning Portal Advisory Group

Emilie Winfield

- North Coast Soil Hub (Coordinator)
- CARCD Ag Technical Assistance Task Force
- Regional Carbon Finance Core Working Group
- Western Cover Crops Council CA State Cover Crops Selection Tool Committee
- California Farm Demonstration Network
- RCD Statewide Ag & Climate Hubs Coordinators Cohort
- RCD Ag & Climate Hubs Partnership Policy Workgroup
- Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan: NWL Technical Stakeholder Group

Chad White (special consultant)

- Marin Biomass Steering Committee/Collaborative (Project Manager)

Orlena Yee (special consultant)

- Marin Carbon Project (Coordinator)

Elise Suronen

- Regen Score (Stakeholder Board)

Lee Farese

- Sonoma-Marin Weed Management Area Meetings
- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- Marin Carbon Project (MCP) Implementation Working Group

Fiona O'Neill

- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- California Farm Demonstration Working Group

INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY

February 5, 2025

Securing consistent and reliable funding for the Marin RCD

For Board discussion: no action required at this time.

Previously, the board received a presentation on the possibility of asking voters to approve a parcel tax to fund MRCD programs. The Board was reluctant to expand its boundaries, which would allow for a larger taxing district but might require expanding the board size.

Taking board input into account, the MRCD could investigate the possibility of asking voters within existing district boundaries to approve a parcel tax to increase funding for MRCD operations. The recent questions about continued federal funding emphasize MRCD's need for more stable, reliable funding to continue and expand MRCD programs.

Measure C was approved by 70% of Marin County voters (excluding Tiburon and Belvedere) in 2020. The purpose was to create the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority and reduce the risk of wildfire in Marin County. Measure C imposes a parcel tax of \$.10 for each square foot of occupiable space in each building. This does not include unheated space such as basements or attics, or any outbuildings such as barns. Measure C taxes undeveloped parcels at \$100 per parcel. Revenue from Measure C (Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority parcel tax) in our area of jurisdiction is approximately \$800,000 per year.

Revenue from a similar parcel tax measure placed on the ballot within the boundaries of our district could be used for any purpose MRCD is presently authorized to undertake.

Santa Cruz RCD was included in a similar measure recently, which was approved by the voters. It was an initiative measure.

If this measure is placed on the ballot by MRCD, it must be passed by a two-thirds vote. If it is placed on the ballot by initiative, it only needs to pass by a majority vote. It would take around 350 valid signatures to place this measure on the ballot. MRCD could not spend funds in support of the initiative, although the board could take a position on it.

Here are the steps that would need to be taken, along with a timeline:

February

Explore interest in the measure with organizations within the district, such as MALT, Marin County Farm Bureau, SPAWN, EAC, Inverness Association, California Native Plant Society Marin Chapter, Marin Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Point Reyes Village Association, Coastal Villages Association, Supervisor Rodoni, the other members of the Board of

Supervisors, Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers, Tomales Bay Watershed Foundation, Albert Straus and other agricultural leaders, and others.

Determine cost to retain counsel to help draft the measure and guide the process.

March

Obtain email addresses of as many voters as possible in the district. MRCD has 3541 voters. Conduct an internet poll to determine possible voter support for the measure.

Continue exploration of the measure with interest groups.

Retain counsel to help draft the measure and guide the process.

Presentation by Santa Cruz RCD on their ballot measure.

April

Work with County Counsel and Elections Department to determine steps which must be followed for a measure to appear on the ballot.

May

Continue exploration of the measure with interest groups.

End of involvement by MRCD. Beginning of initiative process.