



## AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, April 9, 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](mailto: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: 9:15 a.m.**

**2. DISTRICT:**

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report and update on Federal Funding Freeze. ~*Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager, Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*
- C. Board approval to send Congressman Huffman a letter in support of extending the deadline to relocate the Point Reyes National Seashore ranches.

**3. TOMALES BAY TIRE SALVAGE PROJECT:**

- A. Request Board approval to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a \$49,900 Professional Service Agreement with the County of Marin to complete Tomales Bay Tire Removal Assessment/Study. ~ *Karen Reyna, NOAA Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuaries and Sarah Phillips, Urban Stream Program Manager*

**4. INFORMATIONAL: 9:50 a.m.**

- **Overview of Point Blue/Marin RCD Planting Projects** - *Point Blue Crew*
- **North Coast Soil Hub** - *Emilie Winfield, North Coast Soil Hub Director*

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):

- **Marin Water Expansion Alternatives** - New maps show new water levels for Nicasio
- **Funding Opportunities Current/Future:** Chleno Creek Restoration, Zone 10 Flood Control, COWGIRL, Carbon Cycle Inst.(approved!), Prop 4/Climate Bond, Mitigation Funds, Ballot Initiatives and Measures

- **September Strategic Plan Retreat** - Pick a day in Sept!
- **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 six applications have been received for projects in the Stemple Creek watershed. The Technical Advisory Group has been meeting to review selection criteria, conduct site visits, and rank projects. 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.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** The next visit with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria will take place in May. David Escobar is working on several projects and will soon meet with the JEDI Committee after the next FIGR site visit.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Several National articles are pointing out the difficulties with the federal funding freeze associated with our USDA Climate Smart Commodities grant.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is revising its findings and recommendations chapter. All technical work has been completed. Work is now underway to incorporate all technical reports into the final Biomass Utilization 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 watersheds. Smolt surveying has begun with Marin Water and will continue through late May, 2025. USC along with Lee and Preston completed the tests and other requirements associated with recertifying as RT-130 Fire Fighters (Type II). USC led the quarterly Lagunitas TAC meeting, carried out a Site Assessment per Stream Conservation Area Ordinance, met with a funder and MALT at the Martinelli pond project site, and carried out a preliminary investigation to sediment issues in Zone 10 area of Inverness along fire roads. USC played an instrumental role in supporting Olema Campground with addressing immediate flooding needs with the emergency permitting process and securing an engineer to assist. Finally, USC has been helping various watershed groups, as requested.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW) continues with their implementation season on 5 hedgerow/windbreak projects funded through WCB. Year 1 compost and rangeland seeding Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded and mostly implemented via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant. The 7 carbon farm plans funded by SCC, WCB, CDFA CAPGP and Marin County are almost complete, and the team aims to have drafts available for landowners by late May.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** The project team will regroup in the near future to discuss SCC as a potential funding source to apply for implementation funds. USC reached out to partner USFWS about additional funding in support of the project.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2025. At the last Finance Committee meeting the members discussed federal funding, budgeting, indirect cost rates, State Controller Financial Transaction report, the office lease, and the financial statement and Measure A audits.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on budget projections, fundraising.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**

Urban Streams: 4 site visits, 14 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 50 landowners and/or partners were educated.

COW: 1 or 2 ranchers have received consultation, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation

CE: 64

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- May 14. Grazing Waiver Board Hearing

6. 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.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED



## MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, March 12th, 2025**

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, Gerald Meral, Terry Sawyer and David Sherwood. Mike Moretti was absent.

Associate Directors: Paul Ingle and John Dolcini

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Marcus Meggett, Preston Duncan, Sarah Phillips, Cora Richard, Fiona O'Neill, Elise Suronen, Gerhard Epke and Lee Farese

Additional Attendees: Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Libby Kennedy (STRAW), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Liat Wilde (STRAW), Scott Dunbar (MALT), Sonya Hammonds (MALT), Rick Holland (Agroforestry), Martha Davis (Nicasio resident) Chad White (Biomass PM), Alex Cunha (North Coast RCD), Chase Garcia (NRCS Petaluma), Morgan Williams (SF Bay Water Quality Board) and Jim Jensen (Audubon Canyon Ranch)

**2. PRESENTATION:** Marin County Flood Control District Zone 10 ~ *Sarah Phillips, Urban Streams Program Manager*

The Flood Control District has an allocation of funds (roughly \$30,000) they would like to transfer over to Marin RCD and the Urban Streams program before the fiscal year is over. This presentation was to gauge the interest in this topic from the MRCD board before making it an action item and moving forward with County Counsel to transfer the money. There will be an agreement to review and sign at the April Board meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**3. DISTRICT:**

A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*

MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: David; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve February 2025 Board minutes.

B. Board approval of the Financial Report and update on Federal Funding Freeze. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager, Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve the Financial Report.

C. Board approval of amendment to office lease agreement. ~ *Marcus Meggett, Fiscal and Ops Manager*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve the amendment to office lease agreement.

D. Board approval of MRCD Conflict of Interest Policy. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve the MRCD Conflict of Interest Policy.

- E. Board approval to provide \$600 to California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to pay for federal lobbyists to represent California interests at the federal level. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*  
MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to provide \$600 to CARCD to pay for federal lobbyists.
- F. Board decision to hire attorney to investigate the legality of the Marin Resource Conservation District being eligible for a ballot initiative. ~ *Jerry Meral, Director*  
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve hiring an attorney to investigate a potential ballot initiative.

#### 4. FIRE RESILIENCY

- A. Board approval to execute \$250,000 Member Grant Agreement with Humboldt County Resource Conservation District for the North Coast Wildlife Resilience Planning & Implementation Grant Program. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*  
MOTION: Jerry; SECOND: Terry; AYES: Sally, Terry, Jerry & David; NOES: None; ABSENT: Mike; to approve executing the \$250,000 Member Grant Agreement with Humboldt County RCD.

#### 5. INFORMATIONAL

**Notice of opportunity to comment on Grazing Waiver Renewal.** SF Regional Water Board has a hearing on May 14th and public comment is open until March 24th on expansion of grazing waiver to Point Reyes National Seashore. ~*Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager* more info at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public\\_notices/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/public_notices/)

Partner Updates:

- **Marin Agriculture**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner  
Not present this month.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff Chase Garcia was present for this meeting and started by apologizing for USDA and the federal funding problems, though everything that is happening is out of his control. No agreements have officially been cancelled, and Chase is following up on grant payments at least once a week. The staff at NRCS is barely getting any information from the federal gov. There have not seen any layoffs at NRCS Petaluma, but he did hear of layoffs which have happened at NRCS Napa. Aside from the federal problems, the deadline for EQIP grants is this Friday (3/14). There are currently 189 EQIP applications for over \$20 million in financial assistance. 16 EQIP applications are pre-approved.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff  
Scott Dunbar and Sonya Hammond, MALT's new Director of Conservation Programs, were present. Scott shared that the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the Small Grants Program is closing soon. MALT held office hours a few weeks ago, which Sarah Skinker attended. MALT is also planning to hire another Stewardship Associate.
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff Libby shared that there are 3 days left in the restoration season this year. The Moreda/Poncia project is wrapped up. There is a new project at Hydron. Isaiah shared that recently STRAW has been working with Lee in conjunction with MRCD's carbon farming program. The STRAW group brought with them Liat Wilde to the board meeting today, their new Conservation Social

Scientist. In April they will bring a recap of their projects with photos to share at MRCD's board meeting.

- **Audubon Canyon Ranch** – Jim Jensen

ACR recently were awarded a fish and wildlife grant at Marks Ranch. They did a Walker Creek Estuary clean up last summer which aligns with Marin RCD's work in the watershed.

- **Marin Water Expansion** – John Dulcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)

At the last Marin Municipal Water District meeting on February 25th John attended there was unanimous agreement to do an environmental study for the pipeline. Marin Water will be continuing with alternatives, as Soulajule was de-prioritized. The pipeline is a \$168 million project, and it would be 13 miles long.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **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. Other alternatives are currently of higher priority.

- **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 eight applications have been received for projects in the Stemple Creek watershed and the Technical Advisory Group had its first meeting. 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.

- **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:** *Federal Funding Freezes and cuts start hitting West Marin, PRLight.*

- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is revising its findings and recommendations chapter. All technical work has been completed. Work is now underway to incorporate all technical reports into the final Biomass Utilization 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 two (2) site visits to assist landowners with various support, all relating to the health of Marin's watersheds. Smolt surveying is soon to begin in late March with Marin Water and will continue through late May, 2025. USC has been attending Pepperwood Preserve's Learn and Burn (LAB) days for more experience with fire and is in the process of being recertified as Type II Fire Fighter. As well, USC attended and provided comments on Marin Water's designs for their Phase II habitat enhancement project sites on Lagunitas Creek. USC has been working closely with Supervisor Rodoni's aide, Morgan, to support efforts within Tomales Bay. USC has also been meeting with County Flood Control regarding a transfer of funds from Zone 10. Finally, USC has been helping various watershed groups, as requested.

- **Carbon Farming Program:** Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed's (STRAW)

continues with their implementation season on 5 hedgerow/windbreak projects funded through WCB. Year 1 compost and rangeland seeding Healthy Soils Projects have been awarded and mostly implemented via the ZeroFoodPrint Block Grant. The 7 carbon farm plans funded by SCC, WCB, CDFA CAPGP and Marin County are 75% complete, and the team aims to have drafts available for landowners by late May.

- **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:** Tomales Bay Tire Removal, Chileno Creek Restoration, Zone 10 Flood Control, COWGIRL, Carbon Cycle Inst., Prop 4/Climate Bond, Mitigation Funds.
- **Finance Committee:** The next finance committee will be held on Tuesday, March 18 at 10 am.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on budget projections, fundraising.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**  
Urban Streams: 2 site visits, 14 partners and/or landowners were assisted with information and 7 landowners and/or partners were educated.  
COW: 3 or 4 ranchers have received consultations, aside from the outreach happening in Stemple Creek related to COW MILC solicitation  
CF: 6 landowners assisted

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- Marin RCD is accepting applications for projects. [Apply here](#) at our website or call Sarah Skinker at (415) 780-2854.
- March 26. Stemple Creek Ranch. Resilient Rangelands Workshop.
- May 14. Grazing Waiver Board Hearing

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Holland let us know that the Agroforestry Network has had federal funding paused for them.

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

**Marin Resource Conservation District**  
**Monthly Financial Summary**  
as of 4/3/2025

<b>CASH</b>			
<b>Wells Fargo*</b>			
		<b>April</b>	<b>March</b>
Checking - Operating Account	\$	498,653	\$ 407,849
No-till Drill Account	\$	14,597	\$ 14,596
<b>Total Wells Fargo</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>513,250</b>	<b>\$ 422,445</b>
<b>County of Marin**</b>			
Checking	\$	579,039	\$ 656,347
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,092,289</b>	<b>\$ 1,078,792</b>

<b>OTHER WORKING CAPITAL DETAILS</b>			
<b>Grants Receivable</b> - Open grant invoices - (see page 3)	\$	414,330	\$ 520,221
<b>Retention Receivable</b> - Due from Grantors	\$	9,456	\$ 9,456
<b>Prepaid Grant Funds Received:</b>			
Measure A - less-costs/Adm fees	\$	(982,855)	\$ (1,065,835)
Ombudsman Fund	\$	(19,793)	\$ (19,793)
<b>Current Bills To Pay</b> (see page 4):			
Administrative Expenses	4.73%	\$ (10,583)	\$ (12,218)
Grant Expenses, current to be be paid	95.27%	\$ (213,313)	\$ (38,750)
Grant Expenses, to be paid when funded	0.00%	\$ -	\$ (244,993)
<b>Net Working Capital</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>289,531</b>	<b>\$ 226,880</b>

\* - Wells Fargo bank balances are reported as of 4/03/2025. However, they are reconciled with the most recent activity through 3/31/2025. As a result, there could be adjustments but those adjustments are not expected to be significant.

\*\* - The County account is reported as of 4/03/2025. However, it is reconciled with the most recent "preliminary" statement through 2/28/2025. 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**

**4/3/2025**

<b>Grantor</b>	<b>1 - 30</b>	<b>31 - 60</b>	<b>61 - 90</b>	<b>91 and over</b>	<b>Total</b>
CA OPR Biomass	99,653				99,653
CA SCC Carbon				58,438	58,438
Carbon Cycle Institute				166	166
CDFA - HSP Block Grant (ZFP)	3,930				3,930
CDFA-CAPGP			13,489		13,489
Conserving our Watershed - MILC	30,783				30,783
Department of Conservation	75,830				75,830
MMWD		2,939			2,939
NACD - Soil Hub Director		14,145			14,145
North Coast Resource Conservation (UCOP)	12,590				12,590
Straus Home Ranch LLC	226				226
USDA Climate Smart Commodities (SMACCC)	90,212				90,212
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)	1,970			9,959	11,929
<b>TOTAL OPEN INVOICES</b>	<b>\$ 315,194</b>	<b>\$ 17,084</b>	<b>\$ 13,489</b>	<b>\$ 68,563</b>	<b>\$ 414,330</b>
Retainers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,456	\$ 9,456
<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$ 315,194</b>	<b>\$ 17,084</b>	<b>\$ 13,489</b>	<b>\$ 78,019</b>	<b>\$ 423,786</b>
	74%	4%	3%	18%	100%

Note: Aging is based upon the date payments are expected.

<b>Total due 91 days and over</b>	<b>91 and over</b>
CA SCC Carbon*	7/31/2024 31,210
CA SCC Carbon*	8/31/2024 27,228
Carbon Cycle Institute	10/01/2024 166
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)**	06/30/2024 5,410
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)**	9/30/2024 4,549
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$ 68,563</b>
Retainers	9,456
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 78,019</b>

\* - Cora and Sarah S. are in contact with the grantor to resolve the open balances.

\*\* - Payment from the federal government is frozen.

## MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Bills to Pay

April 2025

Name	Date	Memo	Aging	Open Balance
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>				
Destination HR Consulting Inc	3/31/2025	Human Resources Consulting	2	\$ 475
Duncan, Preston	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 728
Epke, Gerhard	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 598
Farese, Lee	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 757
Horizon Cable TV	3/31/2025	Internet	2	\$ 134
Marin County Farm Bureau	3/31/2025	Dues	2	\$ 250
Meggett, Marcus	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 1,485
O'Neill, Fiona	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 375
Pt Reyes 4th Investors LLC	5/1/2025	May Office Rent	N/A	\$ 2,373
Richard, Cora	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 154
Scolari, Nancy	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 630
Skinker, Sarah	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 1,284
Suronen, Elise	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 126
Smile Business Products	11/17/2024	Copier	136	\$ 150
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	DocuSign	9	\$ 300
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	Office Water	9	\$ 22
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	QuickBooks Online fee	9	\$ 99
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	RingCentral	9	\$ 313
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	SpringAhead	9	\$ 330
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>				<b>\$ 10,583</b>
<i>Grant Expenses</i>				
Ascent Project Management	3/31/2025	Soil Symposium	2	\$ 3,691
Gonzalez, Manuel	3/31/2025	Soil Hub interpreter	2	\$ 300
Phillips, Sarah	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 669
Point Blue Conservation Science	1/31/2025	DOC Lazy Riparian Monitoring	61	\$ 71,815
Point Blue Conservation Science	1/31/2025	WCB Hedgerow Planting	61	\$ 54,059
Point Blue Conservation Science	2/28/2025	SCC Carbon Planting	33	\$ 1,815
Spatial Infomatics Group	3/31/2025	Biomass Study Consultant	2	\$ 11,230
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	ESRI	9	\$ 600
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	Symposium/conference registrations	9	\$ 865
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	USPS	9	\$ 230
US Bank Corporate	3/24/2025	Firefighting equipment	9	\$ 61
CDW LLC	2/28/2025	OPR Biomass Project Management	33	\$ 29,378
CDW LLC	3/31/2025	OPR Biomass Project Management	2	\$ 28,867
Winfield, Emilie	3/31/2025	Reimbursement	2	\$ 3,363
Yee, Orlena	3/31/2025	Marin Carbon Project Management	2	\$ 6,370
<b>Total Grant Expenses</b>				<b>\$ 213,313</b>
<b>Total Bills to Pay</b>				<b>\$ 223,896</b>

# MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES**

March 2025

Name	Date	Memo	Open Balance
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>			
Drew Consulting	2/17/2025	Indirect Cost Rate Consultant	\$ 2,500
Duncan, Preston	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 805
Epke, Gerhard	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 27
Farese, Lee	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 1,226
Horizon Cable TV	2/28/2025	Internet	\$ 134
Marin County Farm Bureau	2/15/2025	Dues	\$ 250
Meggett, Marcus	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 60
O'Neill, Fiona	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 949
Pt Reyes 4th Investors LLC	4/1/2025	March Office Rent	\$ 2,373
Richard, Cora	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 24
Scolari, Nancy	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 689
Skinker, Sarah	11/30/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 1,111
Suronen, Elise	10/31/2024	Reimbursement	\$ 227
Smile Business Products	11/17/2024	Copier	\$ 131
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	CA Native Grasslands Conference	\$ 350
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	Fireflies	\$ 68
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	Microsoft	\$ 198
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	Office Water	\$ 28
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	Marin Independent Journal	\$ 14
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	QuickBooks Online fee	\$ 99
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	RingCentral	\$ 625
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	SpringAhead	\$ 330
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>			<b><u>\$ 12,218</u></b>
<i>Grant Expenses</i>			
Phillips, Sarah	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 627
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	ACE Hardware - tools	\$ 95
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	Shredder	\$ 61
US Bank Corporate	2/24/2025	CRAM Wetland Conference	\$ 1,923
CDW LLC	1/31/2025	OPR Biomass Project Management	\$ 16,600
CDW LLC	2/28/2025	OPR Biomass Project Management	\$ 13,125
Winfield, Emilie	2/28/2025	Reimbursement	\$ 680
Yee, Orlena	2/28/2025	SMACCC Carbon Finance Contractor	\$ 1,375
Yee, Orlena	2/28/2025	Marin Carbon Project Coordinator	\$ 4,264
<b>Total Grant Expenses</b>			<b><u>\$ 38,750</u></b>
<b>Total Bills to Pay</b>			<b><u>\$ 50,968</u></b>

## 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

## Marin RCD Grants

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
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	\$ 250,000	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 12/2024	Marin RCD	[Soil Hub] North Coast Soil Health Director for RCDs. Coordinate programs and staffing
59	Tomaes Bay Tire Removal	\$ 50,000	In Progress	Marin RCD	Possible contract with the county to remove old tires in Tomales Bay
60	Zone 10-Inverness Flood Control	\$ 30,000	In Progress	Marin RCD	Possible contract with county to address flood issues in Zone 10
61	COWGIRL	\$ 724,000	In Progress	Marin RCD	Continuation of COW water quality program
62	Prop4-Climate Bond	TBD	In Progress	TBD	TBD
63	Carbon Cycle Institute	\$ 24,440	Awarded 03/2025	Marin RCD	Contract for North Coast Soil Hub director involvement in Bay Area Regional Climate Planning and statew
64	WRA Mitigation	\$ 250,000	Submitted	Marin RCD	Possible funding source for Chileno Creek Restoration Project
65	West Marin Compost-Biomass Hub	TBD	In Progress	TBD	Revisit MOUs and agreements for West Marin Compost site

Dear Congressman Huffman:

Straus Family Creamery, Clover Sonoma, and Organic West have joined together to help save San Francisco's North Bay dairy farming community. In the last decade we've lost 25 dairy farms in the North Bay milk shed, a place where 60% of the state's organic milk is produced. Our three companies contract roughly 80% of the milk supply in the North Bay. Reversing the loss of local dairy farms is an urgent matter for our businesses and local farming industry. This is an urgent situation, and with your help, we can stop the decline and begin to revitalize, rebuild and support our dairy farming community.

California's Bay Area is the largest natural and organic market in the country and Sonoma and Marin Counties lead the way. Your constituents enthusiastically support a healthy local food system. They care about our farmers and our food shed, as we know you do. The community's dedication to our dairies was demonstrated in the overwhelming defeat of Measure J in Sonoma County just a few months ago, but it's not enough. More must be done to secure our local milk supply.

Establishing new dairies is important, and immediate aid is needed to relocate the 5 dairy farms operating in the Point Reyes National Seashore who were recently forced into a leave settlement. The 15-month timeline given by the PRNS for their removal is too short to successfully relocate these farms locally. To meet this timeline, the dairy farms must stop milking operations before October 2025 so that they can maintain manure management compliance under regional water quality control board regulations. Therefore, all milking cows will need to be out of PRNS before October and the existing farms must have identified new dairy operations before that time. Instead of 15-months, these dairy farms actually have less than 9-months to identify, acquire, permit, modernize, fund, and start new dairy operations. These farmers need to decide by May whether or not to stop dairy farming permanently or try to relocate elsewhere. This is an untenable timeline.

We are working with MALT, Sonoma Land Trust and Sonoma Ag and Open Space to identify farms in Sonoma and Marin that might work for these dairies. Despite our best efforts, all parties agree that we simply do not have enough time to successfully relocate these farms within the North Bay. **We are asking for your immediate help to get that timeline extended to July 31, 2027 to support the successful relocation of these farming operations.** While addressing the crisis in Point Reyes is a top priority, we would also like to meet with you to discuss policies that will protect local dairy farmers from frivolous lawsuits in the future.

We appreciate your efforts for sustainable agriculture and for our environment and look forward to finding workable solutions to the complex issues before us. Please let us know when you might be available to meet with us to discuss these pressing concerns.

Sincerely,

Albert Straus  
Founder & Executive Chair



John Coletta  
CEO



Jason Henderson  
CEO



Cc: Secretary Burgum of the Department of the Interior  
Director Bowron of the National Park Service  
Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent Anne Altman  
Assemblymember Damon Connolly  
State Senator Mike McGuire  
Marin Board of Supervisors  
Sonoma Board of Supervisors  
The Nature Conservancy, CEO Jennifer Morris  
Sonoma Land Trust  
Sonoma Ag and Open Space  
Marin Agricultural Land Trust



**ACTION: URBAN STREAMS COORDINATION PROGRAM (USC Prgm)**

- A. Board approval to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a \$49,900 Professional Services Agreement with County of Marin for Marin RCD to contract a consulting firm to assess/study the removal of tires from Tomales Bay.

**URGENCY:**

- A. High Priority. The County has been working with Sarah and another partner to get a budget and scope of work together since October and it is finally drafted. Sarah would like to get the front end of work carried out prior to June, 2025.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Max Delaney, Resource Protection Specialist with Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, reached out to the County to find and secure an entity able and willing to contract a consultant to conduct an assessment. Marin RCD was recommended by the local Tribe to carry out this request.
- Marin RCD would develop a Request for Proposals to enter into an agreement with a consulting firm to do the following; assess site conditions (habitat and wildlife potentially impacted), location of tires, quantity of tires, determine materials/composition of the tires, consideration for accessing and removing the tires (including equipment needs), identification of parcel ownership, and the identification of community stakeholders, agencies, and tribe(s). The consultant would include these findings in the final assessment.
- Max's agency will take the assessment and based on the assessment, may implement the removal of the tires, mitigation of associated impacts, and permitting needed with implementation. His agency would fund the permitting and implementation, should the assessment determine that removal of the tires is feasible, with minimal impacts.

**PAST BOARD ACTIONS:**

- The Board has previously heard about this potential project in recent meetings.

**TODAY'S ACTIONS:**

- A. **Option 1:** Board approves the authorization for Executive Director to enter into an agreement between Marin County and Marin RCD to contract a consultant to produce the assessment.
- Option 2:** Board does not approve the authorization to enter into an agreement.
- Option 3:** Board postpones decision.

**IMPACTS:**

**Goal** Work with the contracted consultant to oversee the successful completion of the scope of work to carry out this assessment with the anticipation that this assessment will result in the removal of tire waste from Tomales Bay.

**AVAILABLE BUDGET:**

Yes. The contracted amount is a total of \$49,900 with approximately \$10,000 to Marin RCD.

CAO Contract Log # \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY OF MARIN  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT  
2015 - Edition 1**

**THIS CONTRACT** is made and entered into this TBD day of April, 2025, by and between the COUNTY OF MARIN, hereinafter referred to as "County" and Marin Resource Conservation District, hereinafter referred to as "Contractor."

**RECITALS:**

**WHEREAS**, County desires to retain a person or firm to provide the following service: Initiate and manage a feasibility study for removal of Tomales Bay Tires; and

**WHEREAS**, Contractor warrants that it is qualified and competent to render the aforesaid services;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the Contract made, and the payments to be made by County, the parties agree to the following:

1. **SCOPE OF SERVICES:**

Contractor agrees to provide all of the services described in **Exhibit A** attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.

2. **FURNISHED SERVICES:**

The County agrees to:

- A. Guarantee access to and make provisions for the Contractor to enter upon public and private lands as required to perform their work.
- B. Make available all pertinent data and records for review.
- C. Provide general bid and Contract forms and special provisions format when needed.

3. **FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

The fees and payment schedule for furnishing services under this Contract shall be based on the rate schedule which is attached hereto as **Exhibit B** and by this reference incorporated herein. Said fees shall remain in effect for the entire term of the Contract. Contractor shall provide County with his/her/its Federal Tax I.D. number prior to submitting the first invoice.

4. **MAXIMUM COST TO COUNTY:**

In no event will the cost to County for the services to be provided herein exceed the maximum sum of **\$49,900** including direct non-salary expenses. As set forth in section 14 of this Contract, should the funding source for this Contract be reduced, Contractor agrees that this maximum cost to County may be amended by written notice from County to reflect that reduction.

5. **TIME OF CONTRACT:**

This Contract shall commence on TBD, and shall terminate on TBD. Certificate(s) of Insurance must be current on day Contract commences and if scheduled to lapse prior to termination date, must be automatically updated before final payment may be made to Contractor. The final invoice must be submitted within 30 days of completion of the stated scope of services.

6. **INSURANCE:**

Commercial General Liability:

The Contractor shall maintain a commercial general liability insurance policy in the amount of \$1,000,000 (\$2,000,000 aggregate). The County shall be named as an additional insured on the commercial general liability policy.

Commercial Automobile Liability:

Where the services to be provided under this Contract involve or require the use of any type of vehicle by Contractor, Contractor shall provide comprehensive business or commercial automobile liability coverage, including non-owned and hired automobile liability, in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

Workers' Compensation:

The Contractor acknowledges the State of California requires every employer to be insured against liability for workers' compensation or to undertake self-insurance in accordance with the provisions of the Labor Code. If Contractor has employees, a copy of the certificate evidencing such insurance, a letter of self-insurance, or a copy of the Certificate of Consent to Self-Insure shall be provided to County prior to commencement of work.

Errors and Omissions, Professional Liability or Malpractice Insurance.

Contractor may be required to carry errors and omissions, professional liability or malpractice insurance.

All policies shall remain in force through the life of this Contract and shall be payable on a "per occurrence" basis unless County specifically consents to a "claims made" basis. The insurer shall supply County adequate proof of insurance and/or a certificate of insurance evidencing coverages and limits prior to commencement of work. Should any of the required insurance policies in this Contract be cancelled or non-renewed, it is the Contractor's duty to notify the County immediately upon receipt of the notice of cancellation or non-renewal.

If Contractor does not carry a required insurance coverage and/or does not meet the required limits, the coverage limits and deductibles shall be set forth on a waiver, **Exhibit C**, attached hereto.

Failure to provide and maintain the insurance required by this Contract will constitute a material breach of this Contract. In addition to any other available remedies, County may suspend payment to the Contractor for any services provided during any time that insurance was not in effect and until such time as the Contractor provides adequate evidence that Contractor has obtained the required coverage.

**7. ANTI DISCRIMINATION AND ANTI HARASSMENT:**

Contractor and/or any subcontractor shall not unlawfully discriminate against or harass any individual including, but not limited to, any employee or volunteer of the County of Marin based on race, color, religion, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, age or condition of disability. Contractor and/or any subcontractor understands and agrees that Contractor and/or any subcontractor is bound by and will comply with the anti discrimination and anti harassment mandates of all Federal, State and local statutes, regulations and ordinances including, but not limited to, County of Marin Personnel Management Regulation (PMR) 21.

**8. SUBCONTRACTING:**

The Contractor shall not subcontract nor assign any portion of the work required by this Contract without prior written approval of the County except for any subcontract work identified herein. If Contractor hires a subcontractor under this Contract, Contractor shall require subcontractor to provide and maintain insurance coverage(s) identical to what is required of Contractor under this Contract and shall require subcontractor to name Contractor and County of Marin as an additional insured under this Contract for general liability. It shall be Contractor's responsibility to collect and maintain current evidence of insurance provided by its subcontractors and shall forward to the County evidence of same.

**9. ASSIGNMENT:**

The rights, responsibilities and duties under this Contract are personal to the Contractor and may not be transferred or assigned without the express prior written consent of the County.

**10. LICENSING AND PERMITS:**

The Contractor shall maintain the appropriate licenses throughout the life of this Contract. Contractor shall also obtain any and all permits which might be required by the work to be performed herein.

**11. BOOKS OF RECORD AND AUDIT PROVISION:**

Contractor shall maintain on a current basis complete books and records relating to this Contract. Such records shall include, but not be limited to, documents supporting all bids, all income and all expenditures. The books and records shall be original entry books with a general ledger itemizing all debits and credits for the work on this Contract. In addition, Contractor shall maintain detailed payroll records including all subsistence, travel and field expenses, and canceled checks, receipts and invoices for all items. These documents and records shall be retained for at least five years from the completion of this Contract. Contractor will permit County to audit all books, accounts or records relating to this Contract or all books, accounts or records of any business entities controlled by Contractor who participated in this Contract in any way. Any audit may be conducted on Contractor's premises or, at County's option, Contractor shall provide all books and records within a maximum of fifteen (15) days upon receipt of written notice from County. Contractor shall refund any monies erroneously charged.

**12. WORK PRODUCT/PRE-EXISTING WORK PRODUCT OF CONTRACTOR:**

Any and all work product resulting from this Contract is commissioned by the County of Marin as a work for hire. The County of Marin shall be considered, for all purposes, the author of the work product and shall have all rights of authorship to the work, including, but not limited to, the exclusive right to use, publish, reproduce, copy and make derivative use of, the work product or otherwise grant others limited rights to use the work product.

To the extent Contractor incorporates into the work product any pre-existing work product owned by Contractor, Contractor hereby acknowledges and agrees that ownership of such work product shall be transferred to the County of Marin.

**13. TERMINATION:**

- A. If the Contractor fails to provide in any manner the services required under this Contract or otherwise fails to comply with the terms of this Contract or violates any ordinance, regulation or other law which applies to its performance herein, the County may terminate this Contract by giving five (5) calendar days written notice to the party involved.
- B. The Contractor shall be excused for failure to perform services herein if such services are prevented by acts of God, strikes, labor disputes or other forces over which the Contractor has no control.
- C. Either party hereto may terminate this Contract for any reason by giving thirty (30) calendar days written notice to the other parties. Notice of termination shall be by written notice to the other parties and be sent by registered mail.
- D. In the event of termination not the fault of the Contractor, the Contractor shall be paid for services performed to the date of termination in accordance with the terms of this Contract so long as proof of required insurance is provided for the periods covered in the Contract or Amendment(s).

**14. APPROPRIATIONS:**

The County's performance and obligation to pay under this Contract is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Marin County Board of Supervisors, the State of California or other third party. Should the funds not be appropriated County may terminate this Contract with respect to those payments for which such funds are not appropriated. County will give Contractor thirty (30) days' written notice of such termination. All obligations of County to make payments after the termination date will cease.

Where the funding source for this Contract is contingent upon an annual appropriation or grant from the Marin County Board of Supervisors, the State of California or other third party, County's performance and obligation to pay under this Contract is limited by the availability of those funds. Should the funding source for this Contract be eliminated or reduced, upon written notice to Contractor, County may reduce the Maximum Cost to County identified in section 4 to reflect that elimination or reduction.

15. **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARTIES:**

It is expressly understood that in the performance of the services herein, the Contractor, and the agents and employees thereof, shall act in an independent capacity and as an independent Contractor and not as officers, employees or agents of the County. Contractor shall be solely responsible to pay all required taxes, including but not limited to, all withholding social security, and workers' compensation.

16. **AMENDMENT:**

This Contract may be amended or modified only by written Contract of all parties.

17. **ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL:**

The Contractor shall not substitute any personnel for those specifically named in its proposal unless personnel with substantially equal or better qualifications and experience are provided, acceptable to County, as is evidenced in writing.

18. **JURISDICTION AND VENUE:**

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California and the parties hereto agree that venue shall be in Marin County, California.

19. **INDEMNIFICATION:**

Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold County, its employees, officers, and agents, harmless from any and all liabilities including, but not limited to, litigation costs and attorney's fees arising from any and all claims and losses to anyone who may be injured or damaged by reason of Contractor's negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct in the performance of this Contract.

20. **COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS:**

The Contractor shall comply with any and all Federal, State and local laws and resolutions: including, but not limited to the County of Marin Nuclear Free Zone, Living Wage Ordinance, and Board of Supervisors Resolution #2005-97 prohibiting the off-shoring of professional services involving employee/retiree medical and financial data affecting services covered by this Contract. Copies of any of the above-referenced local laws and resolutions may be secured from the Contract Manager referenced in section 21. In addition, the following NOTICES may apply:

1. **Pursuant to California Franchise Tax Board regulations, County will automatically withhold 7% from all payments made to vendors who are non-residents of California.**
2. **Contractor agrees to meet all applicable program access, digital access and physical accessibility requirements under State and Federal laws as may apply to services, programs or activities for the benefit of the public.**
3. **For Contracts involving any State or Federal grant funds, Exhibit D must be attached. Exhibit D shall consist of the printout results obtained by search of the System for Award Management at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov).**

**Exhibit D - Debarment Certification**

**By signing and submitting this Contract, the Contractor is agreeing to abide by the debarment requirements as set out below.**

- The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact relied upon by County.
- The Contractor shall provide immediate written notice to County if at any time the Contractor learns that its certification was erroneous or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- Contractor certifies that none of its principals, affiliates, agents, representatives or contractors are excluded, disqualified or ineligible for the award of contracts by any Federal agency and Contractor further certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

- Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal Department or Agency;
- Have not been convicted within the preceding three-years of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against it for one of those offenses within that time period;
- Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or Local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 CFR 180.800(a);
- Have not had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or Local) terminated within the preceding three-years for cause or default.
- The Contractor agrees by signing this Contract that it will not knowingly enter into any subcontract or covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction.
- Any subcontractor will provide a debarment certification that includes the debarment clause as noted in preceding bullets above, without modification.

**21. NOTICES:**

This Contract shall be managed and administered on County's behalf by the Department Contract Manager named below. All invoices shall be submitted and approved by this Department and all notices shall be given to County at the following location:

Contract Manager: Danielle O'Leary, Deputy County Executive

Dept./Location: Office of County Executive

Telephone No.: 415-473-7022

Notices shall be given to Contractor at the following address:

Contractor: Sarah Phillips/Marin Resource Conservation District

Address: 80 4<sup>th</sup> Street Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Telephone No.: 415-663-1170

**22. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF EXHIBITS**

Check applicable Exhibits

**CONTRACTOR'S  
INITIALS**

<b><u>EXHIBIT A.</u></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Scope of Services</b>	
<b><u>EXHIBIT B.</u></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Fees and Payment</b>	
<b><u>EXHIBIT C.</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Insurance Reduction/Waiver</b>	
<b><u>EXHIBIT D.</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Contractor's Debarment Certification</b>	
<b><u>EXHIBIT E.</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Subcontractor's Debarment Certification</b>	
<b><u>EXHIBIT F.</u></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Federal Provisions Exhibit / Attachment 1</b>	

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have executed this Contract on the date first above written.

**CONTRACTOR:**

**APPROVED BY**

**COUNTY OF MARIN:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW AND APPROVAL (required if template content has been modified)**

County Counsel: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT “A”  
SCOPE OF SERVICES (required)**

Tomales Bay Tires Feasibility Study  
Project Management Tasks

Contractor shall initiate and manage a feasibility study for removal of tires in Tomales Bay.

***Task 1: Reporting and Invoicing***

- **Reporting:** Finalize and submit assessment reports to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the County upon completion of feasibility work.
- **Invoicing:** Submit invoices to the County to reimburse Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) staff and consultant time. This includes overseeing the consultant team.

***Task 2: Request for Proposal (RFP) Development***

- Develop and publish a Request for Proposal (RFP).
- Collaborate with NOAA to create a Scope of Work (SOW) and budget for consultants to review and submit proposals.

***Task 3: Project Proposals for Board Meetings***

- Prepare project proposals for up to three board meetings.
- Allocate up to three hours for preparation per meeting.

***Task 4: Consultant Selection and Board Recommendations***

- Review and assemble consultant proposals.
- Provide an overview and recommendations for board consideration and decision-making.

***Task 5: Scope of Work (SOW) and Contract Development***

- Develop a Scope of Work (SOW) and contract for the selected consultant.
- Work with NOAA to define the SOW and budget.
- Ensure the SOW includes:
  - Identification of parcels with tire debris.
  - Locations and risks associated with debris removal.
  - Potential habitat disturbances.
  - Site conditions and environmental factors.
  - Engagement with community stakeholders, agencies, and federal tribes.

***Task 6: Consultant Deliverables and Contract Fulfillment***

- Ensure the consulting firm fulfills the Scope of Work (SOW) outlined in the contract with Marin RCD.
- Oversee the production of reports, invoices, and any other deliverables required under the SOW.



**EXHIBIT "B"**  
**FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE (required)**

COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR as follows:

- (1) **BASE CONTRACT FEE.** COUNTY shall pay CONTRACTOR a contract fee of \$TBD per month not to exceed \$TBD during the term of the contract. CONTRACTOR shall submit requests for payment via invoice net 30 following provision of services.
- (2) **MILEAGE.** COUNTY shall not pay CONTRACTOR for travel by private, leased or hired vehicle as required by this Contract.
- (3) **TRAVEL COSTS.** COUNTY shall not pay CONTRACTOR for meals, lodging or other travel costs not included in this Contract. All costs above base contract fee (the not to exceed limit) are capped at \$0.
- (4) **AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED.** Services performed by CONTRACTOR and not authorized in this Contract shall not be paid for by COUNTY. Payment for additional services shall be made to CONTRACTOR by COUNTY if, and only if, this Contract is amended by both parties in advance of performing additional services.
- (5) **MAXIMUM CONTRACT AMOUNT.** The maximum term of this Contract is TBD. The maximum amount payable to Contractor under this Contract for this period shall not exceed \$49,900.

<b>Tomales Bay Tires Proposed Budget FY 24/25 &amp; FY 25/26</b>		
<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Estimated Hours</b>	<b>Estimated Amount</b>
Task 1 Overall Project Management	50	\$2,900.00
Task 2 Develop & Post RFP	20	\$1,035.51
Task 3 Board Meetings	5	\$200.00
Task 4 Select Consultant	15	\$500.00
Task 5 Develop SOW & Contract for Consultant	30	\$2,000.00
Task 6 Consultant	n/a	\$40,000
<i>Administrative Fees 7%</i>		\$3,264.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>\$49,900.00</b>
<b>Total in Contract \$49,900.00</b>		

# Marin RCD Staff Report

## March, 2025

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### *District*

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- **ED Report**
  - Consulted with County Counsel on Final Conflict of Interest Policy
  - Consulted with County Counsel on AI app recordings and notetakers for RCD meetings.
  - Consulted with CPA on Indirect Cost Rate Proposal and repayment of indirect cost funding to agencies
  - Followed Federal Funding Freezes, met with State RCD District Managers, partners and staff to plan accordingly
  - New Funding: Met with staff/partners to strategize funding for different funding opps (Zone 10, TB Tires, Prop4, COWGIRL, Chileno, 2 private funds, SCC Fire, MeasA,)
  - Measure A: Met with Marin County Parks re request to use Measure A on ranches operating on federal lands
  - Edited Draft Employee Handbook Organized/facilitated weekly staff finance meetings and check-ins with staff.
  - Organized Strategic Planning Committee members: Jerry, David, Elise, Emilie, Nancy
  - Attended meetings: North Coast RCD, North Coast Soil Hub, RCD Finance, Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
  - Signed contracts for:
    - Amy Stork (Strategic Planning consultant) \$30,000
    - Olson Remcho Retainer (legal services for ballot initiative)
    - Cowgirl Barn (rental lease agreement)
  - Approved contracts under \$50,000:
    - Point Blue Contract for maintenance of projects \$40,000
  - Updated website to comply with legal requirement to post financial contracts above \$25K
- **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](http://marinrcd.org).

- **District Operations & Financials:** *(FC: David Sherwood, Sally Gale, Terry Sawyer, Marcus Meggett, Nancy Scolari)*
  - Our federal expenditures last fiscal year were in excess of \$750,000 (\$782,853). This has triggered an which includes compliance with grant terms and applicable county, state and federal laws. It is mandated by the federal government and is called a “Single Audit.” We are looking at our options to comply with this standard.
  - Till the end of the FY24-25, staff hours have been reallocated from frozen grants to Measure A. Elise and SarahS wrote up Marin RCD’s strategy and justification for the use of Measure A funds on Marin RCD personnel, and the short-term need to increase the allocation to staff due to the frozen federal grants.
  - The creation of FY25-26 Draft Budget is slated to be reviewed by the Finance Committee by May 2025 MRCD Board in June 2025. Marcus and Elise are working on the various pieces to create these documents.
  - A projection of Marin RCD’s ability to fund staff into the future based on currently secured will be created along side of the FY25-26 Draft Budget by Elise.
  
- **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 board, and will soon meet with the JEDI committee to discuss our implementation process in the coming months.
  - Marin RCD worked with FIGR on 4 design plans for which implementation is complete. The team is planning follow up visits with the Tribe: 2 designs were re-visited with FIGR on 9/24, and 2 more are being planned for May 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.
- Carbon Farming Staff visited Sembrando Vida, a brand new 1-acre Latinx crop farm incubator program located on Blue Marble Acres, to provide technical support. The goal of the program is to provide low-cost, culturally appropriate fresh food to the farmworker community in West Marin.

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

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#### *Walker Creek Study (Sarah Phillips, PM)*

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- **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.
  - Phillips reached out to contact at US Fish & Wildlife Service to inquire about funding.

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#### *Biomass Project (Chad White, PM)*

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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 by the Steering Committee, and reviewed by the Marin Biomass Collaborative. It is now being revised and prepared for incorporation into the Final Study.
- **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.

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*Conserving Our Watersheds Program  
Gerhard Epke PM*

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- **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 (7 % complete)**

- Water Board agreement executed and project initiated in January 2025
- MRCD's scope includes Management Practices at dairies that support the attainment of the Stemple Creek-Estero de San Antonio watershed Sediment & Nutrients TMDL and towards enhancing the high water quality of Drakes Bay Watershed.
- Some management practices are still expected to occur in the Drakes watershed, but initiation is on hold while the park meets with those dairies about the terms of their departure.
- In December project solicitation postcards were sent to all the known dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed. Responses turned into six applications. In March the grant's Technical Advisory Group was assembled and began by reviewing project selection and ranking criteria developed in previous COW cycles. On March 27th the TAG conducted site visits to all applicants, and earlier this month the group met again to discuss and rank projects.

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*Marin Permit Coordination Program  
Gerhard Epke PM*

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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 and will probably occur in the summer.
- 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.
  - A recent emergency proclamation from the governor suspending CEQA and Coastal Act for critical fuels reduction projects may impact RCD's scope.
  
- **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%, construction cost estimates, and specifications a/o 3/2024
  - 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.
  - 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 was held with FIGR Feb 27, 2025 to present the design changes
- PCI has developed a draft Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) for CDFW Cutting the Green Tape, will present the SERP Findings to MRCD Board for approval to submit for CDFW concurrence at an upcoming RCD board meeting

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

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- **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.
- **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 CO<sub>2</sub>e (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 Footprint 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. She is also identifying funding sources to support compost systems.
- Orlena is working on Climate Financing with Marin Climate Action Network
- **State Coastal Conservancy – SCC (75% 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 continues to meet with carbon farm plan ranches to finalize the planning process.
    - 12 applications were submitted for design with STRAW. Preliminary screening and ranking will take place this spring.
  - 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 look forward to having a Board Member out at the next collaborative site visit, soon to be scheduled for May 2025!
  - 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. Maintenance and monitoring continues at the implemented sites.
- **WCB 2022 (30% 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, expected to be completed by June 2025.

- 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 2024 to discuss infrastructure considerations, and again in March to review design drafts.
  - Educational resources will be developed in coordination with Emilie and regional RCDs (North Coast Soil Hub)
- **USDA Climate Smart Commodities – SMACCC (15% complete):** *We are currently not billing this grant due to the federal funding freeze. Work has paused until we receive more clarity from USDA on how to move forward.*
  - Emilie is co-leading 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 (75% 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.
  - Lee is working with Tom Hammond at Abundance Ag Engineering to develop DIAs, designs for grazing management practices.
  - Fiona is working with Kelsey Brewer to develop Soil Health Management Plan templates for each plan.
  - 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 is 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.

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

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- **National Associated of Conservation Districts (NACD) North Coast Regional Soil Hub (100% complete for 4th year; Contract for 5th year is still pending due to federal actions):**  
 The Soil Hub created a revised Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. Emilie wrapped up meetings with all North Coast RCDs to do annual planning and identify priorities for funding, regional collaboration, and ag program development. Shasta Valley RCD has joined the

North Coast Soil Hub. The 2025 Regional Soil Symposium has been a big area of focus in Q1 and Q2 of 2025.

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.
  - North Coast Regional Soil Symposium 2025 includes 5 events that will take place Mar 12, Mar 26, Mar 28, and Apr 2.
    - Mar 12 at Yagi Sisters Farm: Tillage in Diversified Annual Cropping Systems had 25+ attendees.
    - Mar 26 at Stemple Creek Ranch: Resilience in rangeland systems, including climate adaptation and resilience and monitoring had over 60 attendees!
    - Mar 28 at Alta Orsa Winery: Livestock integration in vineyard systems had 25 attendees.
    - Apr 2 at Medlock Ames Winery (Morning): Biodiversity and soil health in vineyards
    - Apr 2 at Ridge Vineyards (Afternoon): Hedgerow project tour
  - RCDs in Marin and Sonoma are partnering with Point Blue and Rancho to host an event on Apr 18 at Freestone Ranch.
- 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.
- Writing an article on NRCS CSP program for North Coast farmers and ranchers.
- Attended Organic Weed Management Tools Field Day hosted by Napa Green at a vineyard in Sonoma County.
- Attended Strategies for Drought Resilient Agriculture workshop hosted by Conservation Works in Lake County.
- Attended a webinar on Agroecology and the United Nations hosted by UC SAREP.
- Attended a vineyard sheep integration workshop in Napa County hosted by CAFF and Napa RCD.

#### Partnerships and working groups:

- Facilitating a North Coast carbon farm planning peer learning group with regional RCDs to build technical capacity for CF planning.
- 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 2 meetings in March.
- Participating in statewide policy workgroup for RCD Ag & Climate program advancement.
- Attended CA Farm Demonstration Network Meetings.
- Serving on the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan: NWL Technical Stakeholder Group; working to develop Natural and Working Lands climate action measures and coordinating input from RCDs.

#### Technical capacity building and training:

- Identified staff priorities for training and professional development for 2025.
- Exploring a potential training on virtual fence with Point Blue Conservation Science for May 2025 for TA providers.

#### Hub Governance:

- Next Hub governance meeting is April 2025.

#### Funding opportunities:

1. North Coast RCDs are exploring an ag-focused regional block grant proposal in 2025, possibly to apply for Prop 4 funds. EW attended SCC webinar, facilitated North Coast RCDs meeting. Scheduled meeting with SCC and North Coast RCDs for April.
2. NACD TA and Outreach Program for a 5th year of funding for Emilie's position in October. - *Awarded, pending due to federal actions*
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, pending due to federal actions*
4. Submitted a proposal to a local foundation to provide support for the North Coast Soil Hub. *Pending*

5. Secured small contract with Carbon Cycle Institute to support Emilie's time for climate action initiatives, policy workgroup to advance climate-beneficial ag, and statewide RCD regional hubs network participation.

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*Urban Streams Program (Sarah Phillips, PM)*

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- Phillips provided assistance on the following during the month of March:
  - Site Visit: met with the Olema Campground manager to walk the site, observe existing flood conditions, and provide support with tracking down an engineer and going through the emergency permit process to carry out an immediate remedy.
  - Site Visit: Met with MALT, USFWS (US Fish & Wildlife Service), and Peter Martinelli to review site conditions in effort to seek funding.
  - Site Assessment: Conducted a Site Assessment for proposed development within the Stream Conservation Area in Lagunitas, CA.
  - Conditions Review: Joined with Jerry M. and Gerhard E. to review fire road conditions upland in Zone 10, Inverness, to assess sources of sediment that could exacerbate flooding.
  - Assisted a plethora of partners and landowners with miscellaneous requests.
- Carried out required testing and requirements to recertify RT-130 Wildland Fire Fighter Type II certification.
- Ongoing meetings with MALT and Peter Martinelli to track funding sources and coordinate meetings in effort to repair the leaking pond.
- Smolt monitoring with Marin Water District.
- Successfully led the quarterly March Lagunitas TAC meeting (48 total in attendance).
- Assisting senior engineer at Marin Water with coordinating Nicasio Spillway subcommittee meetings.
- Working to develop a budget and contract with Marin County to study/assess the potential removal of tires from Tomales Bay.

- Attended monthly Marin Project Coordination regulatory meeting.
- Ongoing efforts with the County Flood Control District regarding a transfer of funds to MRCD from Zone 10..
- Assisting Gallinas Watershed Council with reviewing their proposed management plan for Civic Center Lagoon and property.

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*Stemple Creek Project (Preston Duncan)*

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**Department of Conservation Riparian Restoration at Lazy R Ranch (99% 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.

- Third year of monitoring and maintenance is beginning soon.
- 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 #2 with STRAW is signed, reflecting Measure A supporting a third year of maintenance.
- We are now in the maintenance and monitoring phase of this grant, and will be invoicing 1x per year.
- Final Reporting and invoicing is being submitted this week, and this grant will close.

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*Pine Gulch Project (Gerhard Epke, Sarah Phillips)*

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- 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.
  - “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.
  - MALT and MRCD staff are helping Peter locate potential grants to offset construction costs.
  - Sarah P. brought USFWS out to view site conditions 3/24/25 to inquire about funding for the project.

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*Fire and Forestry (Gerhard Epke, Lee Farese, Preston Duncan)*

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- **State Coastal Conservancy – SCC Fire and Forest Resiliency:** This Block grant, hosted by Humboldt RCD, funds capacity building for MRCD staff, outreach and education, and implementation in partnership with Audubon Canyon Ranch’s (ACR) Fire Forward Program.
  - Contract and MOU has been signed between participating RCDs.
  - Capacity Building:
    - Staff have been attending Pepperwood Preserve “Learn and Burn” days when possible to increase knowledge
    - Lee, Preston, and Sarah P. have officially recertified for their Firefighter Type II in March, which will allow them to participate in burns across the region.
  - Staff has been meeting with ACR to develop a work plan and a path forward to getting more fire implemented in the region. The Carbon Farming team will work to integrate this topic into plans, and have been seeing interest from producers for weed abatement, shrub encroachment, forest resilience. They will be trying to schedule some site visits with ACR in the coming months to discuss feasibility.

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*Monitoring and Project Tracking (Preston Duncan)*

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- **PRNS Monitoring:**



- PRNS Monitoring has concluded for the Water Quality Monitoring window- PRNS contract renewed for final year.
- Dylan, Gerhard, and Preston met about Scope of Work for 2025.
  - Monitoring opportunities:
    - vegetation monitoring in the late spring to collect baseline data during Park grazing transitions.
    - RDM August/Sept
    - Water Quality Monitoring complete, with possibilities of MRCD contribution to summer monitoring window.
- **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 begun working with regional RCDs in a GIS working group to hopefully get more coordination and consistency across district lines.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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
- **Carbon Quantification/reporting:**
  - Preston networking and getting assessment of regional interest to develop standardized protocols for County Climate Action Plan reporting.
- **COW:**
  - Preston and Gerhard are working on GIS organization for COW MILC.

Nancy Scolari

- Marin Carbon Project Steering Committee, Implementation Working Group
- MRCD Finance Committee
- North Coast RCD Durable Collaboration
- Sonoma-Marín Climate Smart Commodities ON HOLD
- North Coast RCD Soil Hub Steering Committee

Marcus Meggett

- MRCD Finance Committee (Facilitator)

Sarah Phillips

- Tomales Bay Technical Advisory Group
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative
- 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)
- 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 Collaborative
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Alternate MRCD Rep to SP)
- Marin County 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 Collaborative
- Carbon Farm Planning Portal Advisory Group
- Good Fire Alliance (North Bay's Prescribed Burning Association) Steering Committee

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)

Lee Farese

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

Fiona O'Neill

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