

California State Parks LWCF Service Area Report

Project ID: 1282
Date Created: 03/31/2014
Coordinates: 41.050, -121.399

This is your LWCF Service Area report for the project you have defined.
Please refer to your Project ID in any future communications about this project.

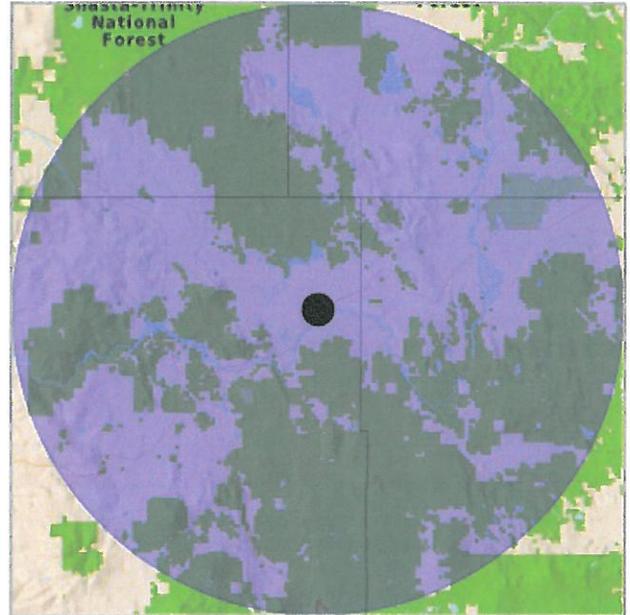
Project Area Statistics

County:	Shasta
City:	McArthur
Total Population:	8,862
Margin of Error:	(+/- 856)
Per Capita Income:	\$ 23,731
Margin of Error:	(see table next page)
# People Below Poverty:	1,378
Park Acres in Area:	0.00
Park Acres / 1,000 Population:	0.00

Data Sources:

American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates
Parks data from Calif. Protected Areas Database 2013b (Sept. 2013) -
www.CALands.org

Project Area Map



Report Background

The project area statistics have been calculated based on the selected radius (in miles) from the point location of your project. The buffer is referred to as the project service area.

Population and people in poverty are calculated by determining the percent of any block groups that intersect with the service area. The service area is then assigned the sum of all the block group portions. An equal distribution in block groups is assumed.

Per capita income is calculated as a weighted average of the block group values that fall within the service area.

More information on the calculations, and a detailed description of the margin of error are available at:

http://www.mapsportal.org/lwcf/LWCF_Calculation_Documentation.pdf

Parks and park acres are based on best available source information but may not always contain exact boundaries or all parks in specific locations. Parks acreage does not include major lakes or ocean, and may not include recreation facilities where those occupy most of a site. Users can send update information on parks data to:
parkupdates@parks.ca.gov



LWCF Service Area Calculator
is a service of the
California Department of Parks and Recreation
www.parks.ca.gov

LWCF Service Area Calculator
created by GreenInfo Network
www.greeninfo.org



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TABLE OF PER CAPITA INCOME FOR PROJECT AREA

ID	Acres	Acres in SA	PCI	PCI MOE
060490003001	634,310	383	\$ 11,767	\$ 4,729
060350401002	500,825	258,163	\$ 30,062	\$ 6,262
060350401001	111,425	110,685	\$ 16,575	\$ 5,664
060490002002	327,555	186,551	\$ 27,652	\$ 6,685
060890127011	242,731	197,597	\$ 19,964	\$ 3,652
060890127012	642	642	\$ 23,550	\$ 11,239
060890127013	919	918	\$ 19,031	\$ 4,345
060890127014	4,111	4,109	\$ 26,013	\$ 7,839
060890127021	96,856	96,817	\$ 16,267	\$ 5,161
060890127022	25,495	25,484	\$ 22,568	\$ 7,378
060890127023	196,286	149,389	\$ 26,319	\$ 8,810
060930012001	787,828	143,455	\$ 21,347	\$ 3,277
060890126011	300,241	19,307	\$ 23,477	\$ 7,321
060890126012	174,542	37,496	\$ 20,618	\$ 3,305



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Fall River Resource Conservation District

Draft 5 Year Plan

January 2010

History and Geography

The Fall River Resource Conservation District (FRRCD) was organized in 1957 and consists of approximately 1.2 million acres in northeastern California, including parts of Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc Counties.

The FRRCD provides a number of important services to local landowners. Conservation of soil and water on rangeland, pastureland, irrigated cropland, and the water quality of Fall River, Pit River, Hat Creek, Burney Creek and all the watersheds in the district are the focus of the District. The residents in the district have benefited from a number of educational workshops on a variety of topics from fuel reduction to noxious weed control.

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors appoints RCD Directors who serve voluntarily. The Fall River RCD has seven local directors, who assume leadership positions within the district by providing direction in their community's natural resource programs.

The Fall River RCD Board of Directors are: Bill Buckman, President; Pete Johnson, Vice President, Tom Smith, Don McBroome, Pat Oilar, Clay Jacobson and Mike Millington.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fall River Resource Conservation District is to support private and public landowners in the use and management of natural resources that will ensure the sustained highest economic, social, and environmental benefits of these resources. This support is expressed through the coordination of public agency referrals and information, the implementation of natural resource programs, education, and the organization of land management services.

Goals and Objectives

Develop the means to maintain self-sufficiency and productivity.

1. The FRRCD will continue to develop grant writing opportunities, seeking to support the mission statement. Operating and overhead costs need to be reviewed annually and updated to stay ahead of increasing cost. Staff will be employed to administer, coordinate, and be fiscally responsible for grants and conservation programs.

2. Fee for service programs will be researched and developed. Those may include, but not limited to:
 - a) Aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial noxious weed control and maintenance. On-site reviews, recommendations, and control implementation are to be considered. Specialized water monitoring at designated stations or specific discharge sites could be offered for one time or continuous basis. Project activities will be coordinated with the objectives of the Agricultural Commissioner in Shasta/Siskiyou/Lassen/ Modoc counties.
 - b) An annual monitoring and property review of conservation easements held by other land trust organizations within the FRRCD district.
 - c) Rental of facilities and equipment.
 - d) Annual plant sale that targets conservation plants.
3. Technical assistance and in-kind funding from other government agencies and private landowners will be utilized whenever available.
4. Purchase and maintain the office and property improvements to build financial equity. Make improvements to facilities while maintaining sufficient financial reserve determined by the Board of Directors.
5. Continue to improve the agency's financial accounting methods.
6. Pursue PG&E property within our district, divested through the Stewardship Council for the purpose of fee title.
7. Environmental/outreach programs that utilize local resource specialists that helps educate project activities and conservation solutions.

Provide strong regional leadership in the identification, management, and restoration of natural resource concerns.

1. Identify and prioritize conservation issues within the FRRCD district, using the tools and practices of watershed management. Watershed management incorporates the relationship between land use, soil loss and productivity, water quantity and quality, wildlife populations and habitat, as well as the social and economic factors within a certain drainage basin. Increased outreach in FRRCD watersheds, including those areas that drain into the Fall River, Pit River, Hat Creek, Burney Creek and their related tributaries, should be further developed.
2. Assist landowners in the development of sustainable conservation on their property. Combined environmental and economic goals will encourage watershed protection, sustainable agriculture and forestry, and land management.
3. Community input will be used to prioritize conservation concerns. Surveys, public meetings, tours, and field studies will be employed to determine the specific objectives of the FRRCD.
4. The FRRCD will provide leadership in obtaining technical advice and assistance, as well as in the procurement of funds to implement management practices.
5. Staff will be employed to administer and coordinate grants and other projects.

Accumulate and organize current information regarding natural resource practices and make it easily accessible to the community.

1. The FRRCD will maintain an office within the district area to serve as a centralized location for natural resource information.
2. The FRRCD will employ the staff needed to manage the office and to provide information on conservation programs, practices, and agencies.
3. Natural resource information in the form of handouts, maps, books, and software will be obtained for use of the public.
4. Public awareness of the FRRCD and resource conservation will be promoted through newsletters, brochures, workshops, fair presentations, tours, press releases, and meetings.
5. The FRRCD will increase their exposure and expand their learning by attending conservation workshops and seminars.
6. The FRRCD will become involved in state and regional conservation activities.

Provide natural resource education to the community.

1. Develop a natural resource primary education program to include videos, handouts, worksheets, and displays. Encourage annual or biannual hands-on programs.
2. Sponsor natural resource camp scholarships, and provide support for local resource education.
3. Organize conservation-related workshops for the community.
4. Develop annual tours to exhibit conservation projects throughout the District.
5. Distribute ideas for conservation practices in newsletters and press releases.
6. Coordinate with other agencies in achieving educational outreach goals.
7. Develop a website.

Facilitate voluntary conservation easements.

1. Determine source of information and viability of conservation easements through individual landowner outreach.
2. Continue to educate the FRRCD Board of Directors to all aspects of conservation easements.

Develop agency and organizational partnerships.

1. Continue to work with the annual partnership agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
2. Continue to communicate and coordinate activities with RCD members of the Modoc Plateau, Western Shasta RCD, and the Pit River Watershed Alliance. Continue to seek collaborative partnerships with Federal, State, County, and private groups to facilitate project success.

3. Contribute to the support and growth of the California Association of Conservation Districts (CARCD), and seek assistance on Conservation issues as needed.
4. Continue to seek Associate Board Directors to strengthen continuity and transition within the FRRCD Board.

Fall River Resource Conservation District
List of Grants

1999-2002—The Fall River Restoration Project—Funded by State Water Quality Control Board. December 2002 The Fall River Restoration Project is an integrated effort led by the Fall River Resource Conservation District to implement short and long-term improvements in water quality and aquatic/riparian habitat in the upper Fall River watershed, with particular emphasis on improvements in the Bear Creek drainage (a major tributary to Fall River.) Grant amount-\$384,561.00

Begun in March 1999, the Project addresses resource concerns identified in a previous report entitled “Analysis of Sedimentation and Action Plan for Upper Fall River, May 1998. This report identified existing and potential sediment discharge sources that contributed to the observed problems of sedimentation and aquatic habitat decline in upper Fall River.

2002-Present—NRCS Cooperative Agreement. Funded by NRCS. Allocation of funding has varied through the years from \$3,500.00 to \$12,000.00 NRCS uses this cooperative agreement to help fund secretarial services and some RCD overhead.

2000-2002—Day Bench Community Fuels Reduction Project—Funded by the Lassen National Forrest. Grant amount-\$13,825.00

February, 2002—Upper Big Bear Restoration Project Phase II. Funded by The Cantara Trustee Council. Grant amount-\$544,004.00. Bear Creek and Cold Creek culvert replacement.

July 9, 2002—The McConnell Foundation Grant #2002/19 Acquisition, Management, Monitoring and Enforcement of Conservation Easements along Fall River in the Fall River Valley. Grant amount-\$7,648.00

June 23, 2003—The McConnell Foundation Grant #2003/21 Project Complete Phase I of the Fall River Conservation Easement Project. Grant amount-\$149,200.00 Draft Conservation Easements. In coordination with the Fall River Resource Conservation District, landowners and funding agencies, draft easements for Spring Creek Ranch, Fall River Ranch, and perhaps other property yet to be identified.

January 16, 2004- March 2007--Beaver Creek Restoration Project. Grant amount-\$288,200.00

Prepare a Draft Project Plan for irrigation water management and stream channel improvements at Beaver Creek Ranch. The Plan shall include actions to improve water use efficiency, reduce channel erosion, improve aquatic and riparian habitat, and improve livestock forage.

NRCS Contribution to Beaver Creek Restoration Project—EQIP Contract-Irrigation Storage Reservoir-1) Sealed lake fed by open ditch. 2) Replaced 8,613 feet of above

ground aluminum mainline with buried pvc. 3) Leveled 17 acres of wild flood ground. 4) Installed 1450 feet of mainline to convey water from spring development to pond by house. 5) Convert 17 acres of annual crop to permanent pasture. 6) Develop spring in meadow and utilize water for livestock and irrigation. Total for all EQIP Contracts \$83,293.00

2004-2007--- Watershed Coordinator Grant Program-2004---Funded by the State of California -Department of Conservation. Grant amount-\$195,518.00. This grant is for the purpose of funding a Watershed Coordinator position for the Fall River Resource Conservation District. The watershed that is intended to benefit from the activities is the Lower Pit Watershed.

2005—Noxious Weed Control on BLM in Lassen County, CA. Bureau of Land Management Grant. Grant amount-\$10,000.00

2005—Containment of perennial pepperweed to the McArthur Swamp—Funded by the Department of Food and Agriculture. Grant amount-\$14,828.00
Cash contributions from PG&E and NRCS will add an additional \$19,815.00

2005—Day Bench Community Fuels Reduction Project. Economic Action Program grant. Grant amount-\$25,000.00

2006-2009—Contract with North Cal-Neva RC&D. Department of Water Resources Grant. Technical input and outreach for the development of a Watershed Management Strategy in the Upper Pit River Watershed. Grant amount-\$8,133.00

2006-2008—Noxious Weed Spraying. Funded by CDFA. Grant amount-\$16,205.20

2008-2010—Noxious Weed Spraying. Funded by CDFA. Grant amount-\$16,540.21

2008-2010—Fall River – Hat Creek – Burney Creek Watershed Plan. Funded by CALFED/DWR Originally funded for \$297,300.00—now is funded for \$140,000.00 due to Calif. State budget crisis.

2009-2010—Big Bear Flat Restoration Project. Funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Grant amount-\$435,000.00. Implement “pond and plug” stream and wetland restoration principles to a severely eroded, mile-long meadow system that is a tributary to one of the premier wild trout fisheries in California. The purpose of this project is to restore the functionality of approximately 400 acres of effected floodplain within the Big Bear Flat Meadow.

2009-2010—Burney / Hat Creek Community Forest Project. Funded by a Federal Assistance grant--U.S. Forest Service. Grant amount-\$189,400.00 Project-To conceive, plan and implement a community forest concept project in the Hat Creek and Burney Creek watersheds of Shasta County.

2011-2013—Continuation of the Burney/Hat Creek Community Forest Project.

Funded through a Federal Assistance Grant—U.S. Forest Service. Grant amount--\$93,800.00 The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is contributing \$12,000.00 towards the Burney Gardens Meadow and Aspen Restoration Project which is within the Burney/Hat Creek Community Forest Project.

2009-2012—Western Lassen County Scotch and Perennial Pepperweed Eradication and Education Program.

Funded by a Federal Assistance grant—U.S. Forest Service. Grant amount-\$31,500.00

2009-2012—Harlow Meadow Restoration Project-money to complete this project offered by Fish and Wildlife Service. Grant amount-\$40,000.00. The proposed project will build upon past efforts to reduce sediment and reconnect the stream with the meadow hydrology at this location. NRCS-will add an additional \$4,000.00 for engineering and technical assistance and the landowner will provide in-kind services of approximately \$7,000.00 The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has also allocated a sum of \$19,635.00 toward the completion of this project.

2009-2013—Lower Beaver Creek Planning Project—funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Grant amount- \$82,700.00

This planning project would address restoration and enhancement needs along Lower Beaver Creek, one of two major tributaries to the Pit River in the Fall River Valley. Restoration efforts would improve overall water quality and stream function.

2010-2011—Noxious weed eradication in Shasta, Lassen, Modoc, and Siskiyou counties.

Funded by CDFA—with ARRA funds. Grant amount-\$59,992.00

2010-2013—Northwestern Lassen/Eastern Shasta County (Pit River watershed)

Private land Noxious Weed Control Project. Grant amount--\$19,998.00. Funded by CDFA (California Department of Food and Agriculture). Continue and expand treatment of CDFA A/B -rated noxious weeds on private lands with western Lassen County and eastern Shasta County. Scotch thistle, knapweeds, perennial pepperweed, Mediterranean sage, yellow star thistle, and Dalmation toadflax, Houndstongue, Marlahan mustard will be addressed as needed.

The goal is by the year 2014 noxious weed sites within our boundaries will be inventoried and 90% of sites under control.



State of California - Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 Region 1 - Northern
 601 Locust Street
 Redding, CA 96001
<http://www.wildlife.ca.gov>

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



CEQA Filing Fee No Effect Determination

Applicant Name and Address:

Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission
 2516 Goodwater Avenue, Suite A
 Redding, CA 96002

CEQA Lead Agency: Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission

Project Name: Fall River Resource Conservation District – MSR & SOI Update 2014

CEQA Document Type: Statutory Exemption, Section 15262 – Feasibility & Planning Studies

State Clearing House Number and/or local agency ID number: N/A

Project Location: Includes watersheds in Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc Counties, including Fall River, Pit River, Hat Creek and Burney Creek.

Brief Project Description: This mandated update establishes baseline information for this special district’s services and sphere of influence boundaries. The District accommodates the establishment of local zones where services are needed or desired in local communities. Zones are established by the district, without LAFCO review. All boundary lines are coterminous with current boundary districts.

Determination: Based on a review of the project as proposed, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined that for purposes of the assessment of CEQA filing fees (Fish and G. Code § 711.4(c)) the project has no effect on fish, wildlife or their habitat and the project as described does not require payment of a CEQA filing fee. This determination does not in any way imply that the project is exempt from CEQA and does not determine the significance of any potential project effects evaluated pursuant to CEQA.

Please retain this original determination for your records. Local lead agencies are required to file two copies of this determination with the county clerk at time of filing of the Notice of Determination (NOD) after the project is approved. State lead agencies are required to file two copies of this determination with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse) at the time of filing the NOD. If you do not file a copy of this determination as appropriate with the county clerk or State Clearinghouse at the time of filing of the NOD, the appropriate CEQA filing fee will be due and payable.

Without a valid CEQA Filing Fee No Effect Determination form or proof of fee payment, the project will not be operative, vested, or final and any local permits issued for the project will be invalid, pursuant to FGC Section 711.4(c)(3).

DFW Approved By:  Date: March 27, 2014

Title: Interior Conservation Program Supervisor

Les Baugh
County Member

Irwin Fust
Special District Alternate

Rick Bosetti
City Member

Dick Fyten
Public Member

Larry Farr
City Member Alternate

Pam Giacomini
County Member Alternate

David Kehoe
County Member

Bob Richardson
Public Member Alternate

James Yarbrough
City Member

Brenda Haynes
Special District Member

Stephen Morgan
Special District Member

Jan Lopez
Executive Officer



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT – STATUTORY EXEMPTION

Date: 3/25/2014

To: Affected and Interested Agencies and Persons

From: Shasta LAFCO, Local Agency Formation Commission

Project Title: Fall River Mills Resource Conservation District

Project Location-Specific: Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc Counties, see attached map

Project Location: Unincorporated

Project County: Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen and Modoc Counties

Description of nature, purpose and beneficiaries of project: Establish Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence boundary update pursuant to G.C. 56425. This project does not include any boundary changes. Please see Exhibit A, Map of Sphere of Influence Update attached herewith and incorporated by reference.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: SHASTA LAFCO

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out the project: SHASTA LAFCO

Exempt Status (check one)

- Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a);
- Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c);
- Categorical Exemption. *State type and section number.* Click here to enter text.
- Statutory Exemption. *State code number.* Other Guidelines Section 15262 – Feasibilities &

Planning Studies (Section 21083, Public Resources Code)

Reasons why project is exempt: Project comprised of studies and evaluations and establishment of planning boundary for future growth pursuant to the requirements of G.C. 56425. There is no material effect on lands within the study area.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jan Lopez
Phone: 530-242-1112

Title: Executive Officer
E-mail: exec@shasta.lafco.ca.gov

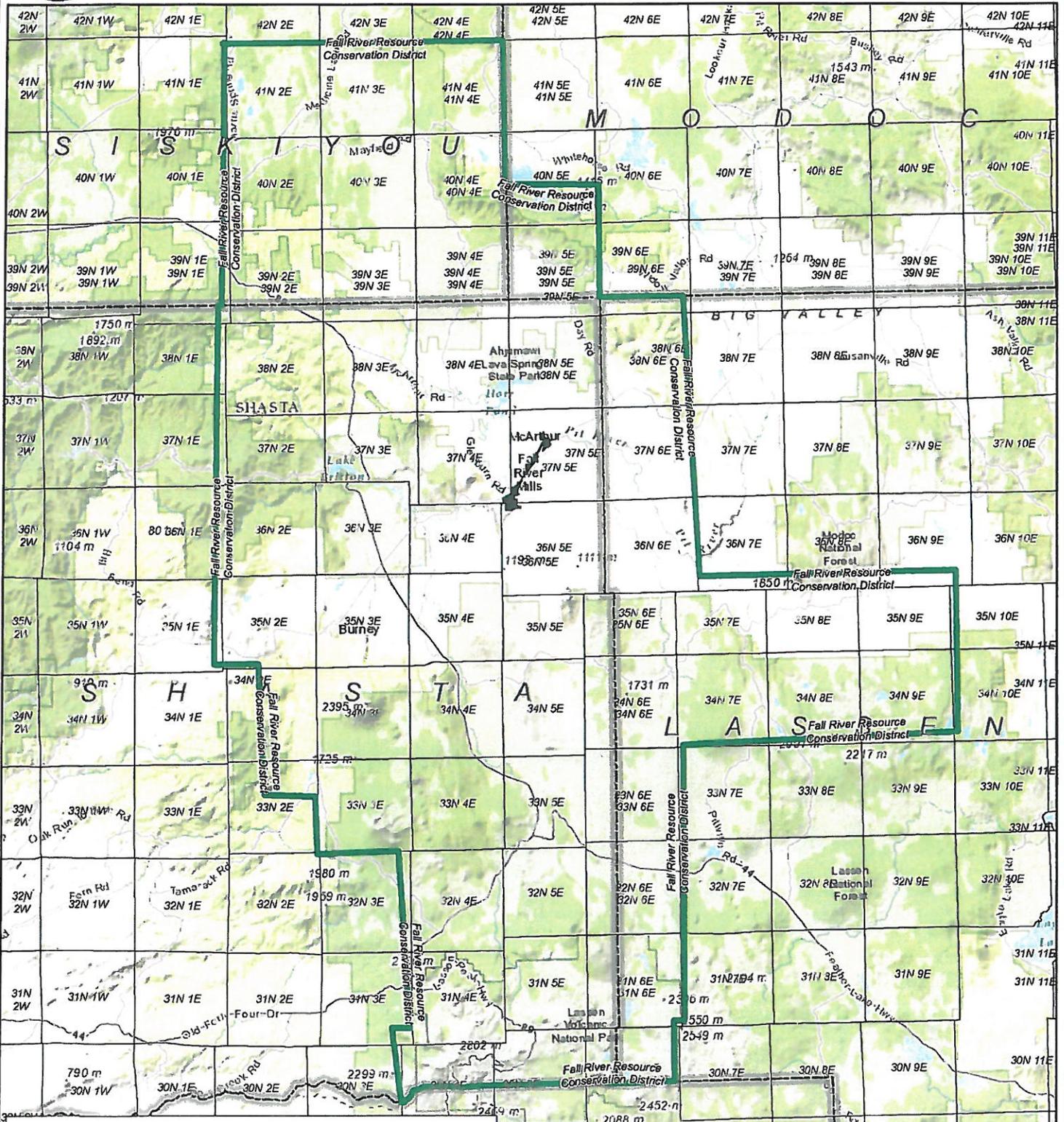
Signature: _____

Date: _____

3-25-2014



Fall River RCD



Legend

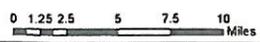
- Fall River RCD
- Fall River Valley CSD Boundary and Current (Contiguous) Sphere

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



Boundary Map

Source(s): Shasta County, Lassen County, NRCS-USDA



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS AN RCD?

Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), once known as Soil Conservation Districts, are “special districts” of the state of California, set up under California law to be locally governed agencies with their own locally appointed or elected, independent boards of directors. Although RCDs are established locally by the rules of a county’s Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO), and often have close ties to county government, they are not county government entities.

There are numerous types of special districts throughout the state set up to administer needs of local people for pest control, fire fighting, water distribution, and a host of other services. Some special districts are “enterprise” districts and deliver services or products, such as water, to local customers on a fee basis. Other districts, “non-enterprise” districts, deliver services, such as fire or police protection, to all local residents. These are usually supported on a taxation basis. RCDs have characteristics of both enterprise and non-enterprise districts.

Under Division 9 of the California *Public Resources Code*,¹ RCDs are permitted to function to a certain degree as enterprise districts because they are empowered to charge reasonable fees for services rendered. At the same time, certain rules permit RCDs to draw on local taxes for revenues, though the passage of Proposition 13 in 1977 has made it much more difficult for RCDs to function in this way.²

Though not governed by the state directly, special districts, among them RCDs, are subject to state law concerning elections, responsibilities, legal meetings, and much more. RCDs, however, are given their primary authority to implement local conservation measures by Division 9. Step 1, *How to be an Effective District Leader*, sets forth the primary powers and authorities of RCDs as presented in Division 9.

HISTORY OF RCDs

In response to the national “Dust Bowl” crisis of the 1930s, when millions of acres of cropland were destroyed by drought and attendant soil loss, the federal government passed legislation in 1937 establishing the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Conservationists soon realized that a federal agency in Washington may not be sufficiently responsive to local needs, so local counterparts of the SCS were set up under state law to be controlled by local boards of directors. Thus were born “Soil Conservation Districts,” which began forming in the late 1930s and quickly spread throughout the 48 states. Soil Conservation Districts began to perform the functions originally envisioned by the formation of the SCS.

¹ Throughout the *Guidebook* this government code is referred to simply as “Division 9.”

² The passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 significantly curtailed the ability of districts to derive revenue from new property-tax assessments. New assessments require two-thirds voter approval within the district. Districts receiving property tax revenues prior to Proposition 13 generally continue to receive county-collected property taxes that are proportionate to their pre-Proposition 13 share.

In California, Soil Conservation Districts have been formed in all parts of the state beginning in the 1940s, continuing up to the present. Many have been consolidated over time so that of the hundreds of districts that once existed in California, 103 now remain (see Figure I-1 for a map of current RCDs in California).

Under Division 9, Soil Conservation Districts were originally empowered to manage soil and water resources for conservation, but these powers were expanded in the early 1970s to include "related resources," including fish and wildlife habitat. This expansion of powers was reflected in the change of name from "Soil" Conservation Districts to "Resource" Conservation Districts in 1971.

Today, RCDs manage a diversity of resource conservation projects, including soil and water conservation projects, wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration, control of exotic plant species, watershed restoration, conservation planning, education, and many others. Since most RCDs receive very little regular funding through local taxation, they rely heavily on grants and other types of fundraising to stay in operation.

WHY DO WE NEED RCDs?

Until the formation of Soil Conservation Districts there was no organized mechanism for disseminating resource conservation information, expertise, and assistance. Farmers and ranchers often had no one to turn to for soil and water conservation information and assistance. It took a crisis of national proportions, the Dust Bowl, to bring this about. Farmers and ranchers still need up-to-date scientific information and techniques to manage the natural resources on their properties, and the need for ongoing conservation education and assistance among all sectors of the public is as great or greater than ever.

RCDs continue to render assistance to private landowners wishing to conserve soil and water and manage their resources on a sustainable basis. But RCDs also act as a focal point for local conservation efforts, and RCDs throughout the state now function as leaders in the conservation community, including a large amount of watershed groups such as Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) groups in California. RCDs continue to sponsor educational efforts to teach children and adults alike the importance of conserving resources.

Though there are growing contributions by other groups and organizations that raise public awareness of resource conservation, RCDs remain one of the primary links between local people and government on issues related to conservation. With an ever dwindling base of resources and environmental pressures from a host of human activities, the work of RCDs will continue to be needed far into the future.

ORGANIZATION OF RCDs

As stated earlier, RCDs are formed through the auspices of county-based LAFCOs, and county government often exercises limited oversight over RCD boards. At one time, RCD directors were elected on a local basis through county government. With rising costs for holding elections, most RCD directors are now appointed by county boards of supervisors. In many cases district boundaries cross county lines, so responsibility for organizing appointment or election efforts of district board members falls to the county

California Resource Conservation Districts

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Alameda County | 26. Fall River | 81. Penacocha |
| 2. Alameda | 27. Feather River | 82. Pitt |
| 3. Amador County | 28. Firebaugh | 83. Placer County |
| 4. Antelope Valley | 29. Florin | 84. Pond-Shafter-Wasco |
| 5. Bard | 30. Georgetown Divide | 85. Poona |
| 6. Sierra Vista | 31. Glenn County | 86. Riverside-Corona |
| 7. Butte Valley | 32. Gold Ridge | 87. Rosedale-Rio Bravo |
| 8. Cochuens | 33. Goose Lake | 88. San Benito |
| 9. Central Modoc | 34. Grassland | 89. San Joaquin Basin |
| 10. Chocoma-Red Top | 35. Greater San Diego County | 90. San Joaquin County |
| 11. Cochinella Valley | 36. Guadalupe-Coyote | 91. San Luis |
| 12. Coarsgold | 37. Quilina-Romero | 92. San Mateo County |
| 13. Coastal San Luis | 38. Honey Lake Valley | 93. Santa Cruz County |
| 14. Columbia | 39. Humboldt County | 94. Santa Monica Mountains |
| 15. Colusa County | 40. Imperial Irrigation District | 95. Shasta Valley |
| 16. Contra Costa | 41. Inland Empire West | 96. Sierra |
| 17. Dixon | 42. Inyo-Mono | 97. Sierra Valley |
| 18. East Lake | 43. James | 98. Siskiyou |
| 19. East Maricopa | 44. Kern Valley | 99. Sloughhouse |
| 20. East Stanislaus | 45. Lave Beds | 100. Solano |
| 21. East Valley | 46. Loma Prieta | 101. Southern Sonoma County |
| 22. Eastern Kern County | 47. Los Banos | 102. Suisun |
| 23. El Dorado County | 48. Lower Cosumnes | 103. Surprise Valley |
| 24. Elsinore-Murietta-Anza | 49. Madras | 104. Sutter County |
| 25. Excelsior-Kings River | 50. Marin County | 105. Tehama |
| | 51. Mariposa County | 106. Tehachapi |
| | 52. Mendocino County | 107. Tehama County |
| | 53. Mission | 108. Tranquility |
| | 54. Mojave Desert | 109. Trinity County |
| | 55. Mono County | 110. Tulare County |
| | 56. Monterey County | 111. Tulare Lake |
| | 57. Napa County | 112. Ulaia |
| | 58. Navalencia | 113. Upper Salinas-Los Tablas |
| | 59. Nevada County | 114. Upper San Luis Ray |
| | 60. Palo Verde | 115. Ventura County |
| | | 116. Vina |
| | | 117. West Lake |
| | | 118. West Stanislaus |
| | | 119. Western Kern |
| | | 120. Western Shasta |
| | | 121. Westside |
| | | 122. Yuba County |
| | | 123. Yuba County |

Areas of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

- North Coast
- Modoc Plateau
- Central Sierra
- High Desert
- Southern California Baja
- South Coast
- Central Coast
- Bay-Delta
- San Joaquin Valley
- Sacramento Valley
- Non-district areas
- County boundaries
- RCD boundaries

Resource Conservation District Areas are defined by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) for the purpose of providing regional-level representation of Districts to the CARCD Board of Directors. The CARCD Board of Directors provides leadership for the Association as an instrument of its member Districts in carrying out state-level soil and water conservation policies. The Association also provides policy input to state and federal agencies and to other conservation and agricultural organizations. The boundaries of individual Districts and CARCD Areas represented on this map reflect all changes to January 1, 1998.



Map compiled and produced by the California Department of Conservation, Land Conservation Unit. Sources for Resource Conservation District (RCD) boundaries and RCD Areas include the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, individual RCD offices, and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. County lines produced by the Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program from United States Geological Survey 1:100,000 scale topographic quadrangle maps. Copyright (c) 1998, California Department of Conservation. The Department of Conservation makes no warranties as to the suitability of this product for any particular purpose.

with the most district area within its boundaries. Some counties have more than one district within county boundaries.

District boards, however, function independently of county government, and they derive their powers and purposes from state law. Division 9 enables districts to have 5, 7, or 9 directors, who serve as voting members of the board of directors. Decisions or actions of an RCD board are approved by majority vote of the full board (see Step 2, How to Hold Legal and Effective Meetings, "Quorum," for more information on the board as a decision-making body).

Board members are appointed or elected on their strengths as active partners in the conservation community, and, most frequently, board members are private landowners within a district with interest in conserving resources on their own lands. Boards are meant, however, to represent a broad spectrum of resource conservation interests and perspectives. Board members often differ in their interests and conservation philosophies, yet the structure of a board offers a way for local districts to forge coherent conservation policies and programs that balance diverse interests and represent the broader spectrum of opinions within a community.

RCD boards, under state law, meet publicly once a month to debate about local conservation issues, and make decisions or take actions on these issues. Boards also frequently employ specialists and contractors to carry out board policies and projects, and, as mentioned earlier, these may address a broad array of conservation issues. Board members implement district policies and programs on a volunteer basis (board members cannot be paid for their services to RCDs). As such, district directors often serve as conservation educators to landowners, schools, and the public to raise awareness of conservation in the local community.

Directors also educate and inform state government representatives to rally support for resource conservation locally and on a state-wide basis. One of the primary means RCDs use to organize representation at the state and national levels is through the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), a non-profit organization set up to serve the districts of California. Through CARCD *Areas*, districts coordinate their efforts to raise awareness of conservation issues on a broader geographic level by meeting with other districts in their area. They share information and coordinate representation to state and federal government entities (see Figure I-1 for a map of CARCD *Areas*).

CORE FUNCTIONS OF RCDs

RCDs are empowered to conserve natural resources within their districts by implementing projects on public and private lands and to educate landowners and the public about resource conservation. Beyond this, RCDs are given the right to form associations to coordinate resource conservation efforts on a larger level. The core functions of a district revolve around its right to use diverse means to further resource conservation within its district (see Step One, How to be an Effective District Leader, for more information).

A good example of an association of RCDs is CARCD, which coordinates assistance to RCDs in the state, offers a structure for RCDs to meet and set priorities, and represents the interests of California RCDs to state and federal representatives. CARCD's

governing board is made up of area representatives from each of the 10 California regions (see Figure I-1). The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) performs similar functions as CARCD for conservation districts (including resource conservation districts) at the national level.

DIVISION 9, THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, AND RCDs

As a portion of the state Public Resources Code, Division 9 outlines the structures, powers, and authorities of RCDs under state law. It also provides for state-level support of RCDs through the state Department of Conservation.³ The Department of Conservation does not have regulatory oversight of RCDs; the department serves districts through offering ongoing training on Division 9 and related government codes, providing technical assistance through education, as well as offering some financial assistance to districts through competitive grant awards.

RELATIONSHIP OF RCDs AND NRCS

The relationship between RCDs and the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly known as the "SCS," has been long standing. As noted above, the NRCS was originally formed to address the crisis of the Dust Bowl, and the legislation establishing local conservation districts was created shortly thereafter. Since then, NRCS and RCDs have had a close working relationship within districts, with NRCS appointing a local district conservationist to provide technical assistance to districts, as well as acting as a liaison between the district and federal programs. Local offices of the NRCS also frequently employ other specialists, such as soil conservationists and engineers, to provide technical assistance to the district.

RCDs and NRCS formally ratified their relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed more than fifty years ago to establish a partnership and mutual roles between districts and the USDA. In 1994 the MOU was revised "to modernize and reinvent their historic partnership," and to add state conservation agencies to the agreement.

Recently, several new documents were created to supplement this MOU and to further define the roles of the partners. In line with this, a Mutual Agreement (set up under PL 103-354) was drafted to provide each district an opportunity to enter into a formal agreement with NRCS, state agencies, and tribes. It establishes a framework for cooperation between the various partners (for a sample Mutual Agreement, See Appendix D, Partnership Agreements).

Another tool California RCDs have for federal, state, and local partnerships is a Cooperative Working Agreement between the NRCS, individual RCDs, CARCD, and the California Department of Conservation. The purpose of the agreement is to supplement the Mutual Agreement and document "areas of common interest of the State, Federal, and Local partnership in natural resources conservation." It reinforces the idea of "locally led conservation," with individual districts being responsible for "exerting leadership to identify local resource needs, advocate for effective solutions and work with appropriate

³ Division 9 originally set up oversight of resource conservation in the state through a state Resource Conservation Commission, which was dismantled during the late 1970s. Responsibility for this role fell to the Department of Conservation thereafter.

parties on implementation.” This agreement underscores in particular the relationships between a district and other government entities. RCDs are primarily responsible for providing leadership and local policies within districts, with assistance of many kinds coming from state and federal government (see Appendix D, Partnership Agreements, for a copy of this Cooperative Working Agreement).

Finally, provisions were set up for an Operating Agreement between individual districts and any local entities involved with natural resource concerns. The Operating Agreement can be developed at the local level to address local needs: “It is initiated by the district board, revisited annually, can replace annual work plans, defines roles and responsibilities at the local level, and provides opportunities to establish and review district priorities. It is signed by the district and others as deemed necessary by the district.”⁴

RELATIONSHIPS OF RCDs TO OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS

RCDs in California as a whole have no formal relationship with other federal, state, and private entities, though Division 9 encourages individual districts to form partnerships with any entities it might need to. Typically, other agencies such as the US Environmental Protection Agency at the federal level, or California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection at the state level, willingly enter into agreements with individual districts to collaborate on projects. A district’s role regardless of potential partnerships is to identify resource conservation needs within a district and plan for solutions. Division 9 encourages districts to invite representatives of other entities to provide input during the strategic planning process and form partnerships to achieve conservation district objectives. Districts typically enter into contracts (grant contracts or cost share agreements) to accomplish work both partners in the agreement see as mutually beneficial to resources in the district. For a sample partnership agreement, see Appendix D.

⁴ From a fact sheet published by the USDA NRCS in July 1995 detailing the provisions of the revised MOU and associated documents discussed above. For a copy of this fact sheet, see Appendix D, Partnership Agreements.

Powers and Authorities of RCDs Under Division 9

Managing

Under the authority granted it by Division 9 an RCD may:

- *Manage District Operations.* This includes managing the day-to-day business of an RCD, including its budget and other financial matters.
- *Manage Projects Within Districts On Public And Private Lands.* Division 9 gives RCDs authority to oversee and manage soil, water, and other natural resource conservation projects on both public and private lands. RCDs are not regulatory agencies, they build cooperative, voluntary partnerships with landowners and land managers and enter into agreements to provide resource conservation services to the landowner or land manager. RCDs offer a valuable service to landowners and land managers by providing leadership and know-how to help them conserve resources.
- *Make Improvements on Private and Public Lands.* With consent of landowners and land managers RCDs are granted authority to alter the landscape in order to conserve soil, water, and other valuable natural resources on both private and public lands.
- *Acquire Lands, Easements, and Property.* RCDs are also given authority under Division 9 to purchase and hold lands, easements, and property. An RCD can purchase land in need of extensive conservation treatments, especially when ownership of the land will help in managing it. An RCD can also purchase easements, such as riparian zones, to manage for the purposes of conserving resources. An RCD may also purchase and own structures, equipment, and tools in order to undertake resource conservation work.

Cooperating to Plan, Receive Funding, and Deliver Services

One of the primary ways an RCD broadens its ability to conserve resources is by forming partnerships with other districts, with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD); CARCD Area members; federal, state, and local governments; and Indian Tribes.

- *Partner with other Districts, CARCD, CARCD Areas.* Forming partnerships strengthens district operations by giving an RCD access to information, knowledge, and skills. In addition, partnerships for the purposes of resource conservation planning can identify common interests between partners to facilitate sharing of expertise and resources. Often, funding agencies make grants to entities working in partnership with other agencies and organizations because they see this as a way of stretching limited grant dollars and achieving the most with limited funds.
- *Cooperate with Federal, State, and Local Governments and Tribes.* Division 9 gives RCDs the authority to enter into agreements with federal, state and local governments as well as Indian Tribes to collaborate on resource conservation

projects within districts. In addition, RCDs are empowered to receive grants and other funding from government agencies.

Coordinate Representation to Federal, State, and Local Governments

RCDs are given latitude to form partnerships with other districts, CARCD, and CARCD Areas to educate and inform government decision makers, such as legislators, about the strengths of RCD for local conservation efforts. With the frequent turnover in legislative office holders, educating elected officials about RCDs is an ongoing effort. Important also is keeping government apprised of the latest developments in resource conservation programs, as well as the basic strengths of districts to promote sound conservation practices. RCDs are frequently spoken of as "America's Best Kept Secret," yet the full potential of what an RCD can achieve will only be reached when elected officials become aware of what districts can do. A constant effort to keep RCDs in the minds of decision makers has been and will be an ongoing need both by districts and district associations.

Perform Education and Outreach

- *Conduct Surveys and Research, Disseminate Information.* Division 9 empowers RCDs to act as clearinghouses of conservation education and to disseminate this information to local government, schools, and the public. Part of this effort may be to conduct basic research, including scientific research and surveys of public knowledge and opinion, and to relay this information to the public.
- *Perform Education, Outreach, and Demonstration Projects.* In order to educate the public, RCDs are given the power to directly educate the public through any number of means, including media, publications, or public events such as demonstration projects.

Accept Funding

In order to accomplish valuable resource conservation work RCDs need money to do so. Division 9 has given RCDs authority to receive moneys from various sources and to spend it on resource conservation within districts. Under Division 9 RCDs are allowed to:

- *Accept Grants and Gifts.* Grants come in many forms from many sources, but all provide districts with funding to execute resource conservation work within districts, either directly through funding for projects, or indirectly through capacity building funding or educational grants. RCDs may also receive gifts of money to undertake conservation work within districts.
- *Receive Funding through Federal, State, and Private Sources.* RCDs may receive Federal and state funding through various governmental agencies and from private foundations who wish to support the work of RCDs.
- *Establish Fees for Services.* RCDs may charge reasonable fees for performing services, such as providing labor or equipment to assist with conservation projects.

- *Accept and Use Contributions.* RCDs may receive and use monetary contributions from individuals, charitable organizations, or other groups. Such contributions are usually made without connections to specific projects and an RCD may use such money to cover basic operations to purchase equipment.

Act as an Employer

RCDs can hire employees and others to perform district work. Under Division 9, an RCD may:

- *Employ Agents, Officers, and Employees.* RCDs may hire agents, officers, and employees to carry out the goals and objectives of the district. An RCD can hire permanent and temporary employees, and delegate some of the duties associated with board members to paid staff (see also below under Employees and Contractors).
- *Employ Contractors.* An RCD may employ contractors to accomplish specific tasks associated with projects or district operations. Frequently utilized contractors include equipment contractors, registered professional foresters, and computer specialists (see also below under Employees and Contractors).

Exercise Legal Powers

An RCD is a type of special district, organized under authority of the state and as such is subject to legal powers and conditions similar to other state entities. This means that an RCD may:

- *Sue and be Sued.* As a special district of the state, an RCD is not exempt from legal action. An RCD may be sued for its actions or the actions of individual board members. It may also bring lawsuits against individuals or entities.
- *Call upon District Attorney or County Council for Legal Advice.* Under Division 9 RCDs are given a right to have legal guidance, either from a local District Attorney or County Council.

Create and Execute Conservation Plans

Planning is an important part of resource conservation, and Division 9 recommends that RCDs survey the conservation needs in their districts and devise plans to address them.

- *Develop Long-Range and Annual Plans.* Division 9 gives RCDs authority to survey resource conservation needs within a district and to create long-range plans to address them. They are further empowered to form partnerships with other government entities and other groups for the purposes of planning. The California legislature has worked to encourage RCDs to create short- and long-range plans, and recently passed legislation to require that districts do so by January 1, 2000 in order to qualify for state funding through the Department of Conservation.

COMMON FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS FOR LOCAL CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

US Department of Agriculture, NRCS Programs:

EQIP- The *Environmental Quality Incentives Program* provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to address significant natural resource needs and objectives.

WHIP- The *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program* provides technical assistance and cost sharing to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

WRP- The *Wetlands Reserve Program* provides landowners an opportunity to sell easements to the Department of Agriculture and receive cost share assistance to restore and protect wetlands.

FPP- The *Farmland Protection Program* purchases conservation easements on land with prime, unique or other productive soil for the purposes of protecting topsoil by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land.

RC&D- The *Resource Conservation and Development* program assists local people in initiating and carrying out long-range programs of resource conservation and development, conducting grant searches, and coordinating multi-county planning.

US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency:

CRP – The *Conservation Reserve Program* provides annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers on eligible cropland.

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management:

Land Exchange Program – Provides funds to convert private land into public lands.

STATE PROGRAMS

California Department of Conservation:

The *RCD Grants Program* provides competitive grants to RCDs throughout the state to undertake a wide range of projects, include watershed restoration projects, district capacity building, and support for creation and sustenance of Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) groups.

ALSP- The *Agricultural Land Stewardship Program* provides incentives to protect productive agricultural land from development pressures. ALSP provides funding for cities, counties, and non-profit land trusts to purchase development rights, known as agricultural conservation easements, from farmland owners.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection:

FIP – The *Forestry Incentives Program* funds restoration of forest ecosystems devastated by natural disasters such as catastrophic wildfires, drought, and insect and disease infestations.

CFIP – The *California Forest Improvement Program* provides grant assistance for local landowners wishing to undertake forest improvement practices on their property; support for local organizations for planning, outreach, and education; and for organizing restoration projects in watersheds.

SIP – The *Stewardship Incentive Program* provides experts to work with landowners to develop management plans that meet landowner objectives and protect and enhance resources.

California Department of Fish and Game:

The *Fisheries Restoration Grant Program* provides grants to improve or restore salmon and steelhead populations through fishery habitat improvement projects, cooperative fish-rearing programs, and public education.

Cal-EPA/State Water Resources Control Board:

CWA 319(h) Grants - The state's Clean Water Act Section 319(h) grant program provides assistance for projects mitigating non-point source pollution.

CWA 205(j) Grants - The state's Clean Water Act Section 205(j) grant program provides assistance for water quality and natural resource planning.

Proposition 204 – Proposition 204, the state's "Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act, Article 5 – Delta Tributary watershed Program," provides for rehabilitation of watersheds tributary to the San Joaquin/Sacramento Rivers.