

# STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

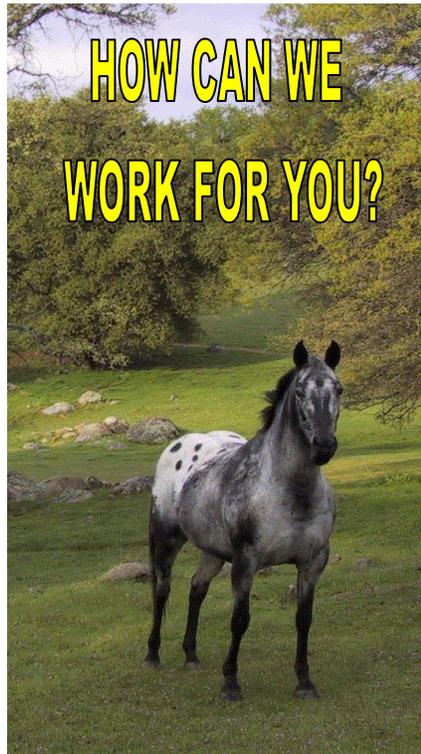
*Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District  
Natural Resources Conservation Service*



## **RCD PRIORITIES**

Water Quality  
Water Quantity  
Water Distribution  
Fuel Loading  
Forestry  
Range/Pasture Mgt  
Soil Erosion  
Livestock Mgt  
Noxious Weeds  
Education

[www.tcrcd.org](http://www.tcrcd.org)



## **NRCS SERVICES**

Conservation Planning  
Technical Consultation  
Conservation Implementation  
Natural Resource  
Inventory/Assessment  
Natural Resource  
Technology Transfer  
Financial Assistance

[www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov)

## **COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**Our mission** is to identify and meet the natural resource conservation needs of all the people of Tuolumne County and its future generations by providing leadership through educational, technical and financial support for valuable, voluntary services and programs that promote conservation and sustainable agriculture, while maintaining our county's rural heritage.

Special Thanks to the Butte County RCD for their inspiration and assistance



## Local Solutions to Local Natural Resource Concerns

The Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) is a non-regulatory Special District set up SPECIFICALLY to promote Natural Resource Conservation in Tuolumne County. We work with individuals, land owners, growers, ranchers, public agencies, non-profit organizations and corporations to accomplish our goals.

**History:** TCRCD was formed in 2006 when the voters of Tuolumne County passed "Measure L" with a 68% "YES" vote when asked if they wanted to form an RCD here. We cover the entire 2,229 square miles of all of Tuolumne County including the City of Sonora. TCRCD is one of California's 101 Resource Conservation Districts and is governed by a 9-member voluntary Board of Directors made up of local residents appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and the Sonora City Council. We are regulated under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code.

**Function:** The function of the Tuolumne County RCD is to take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of local land managers and citizens with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

**Funding:** The Tuolumne County RCD activities are funded by grants, endowments, donations, and other funding sources. We DO NOT obtain any funding from local parcel taxes or other local tax sources.

## WHO IS THE TUOLUMNE COUNTY RCD?

The Board of Directors of the Tuolumne County RCD are:

Kirk Ford, Chair

Ty Wivell, Vice-Chair

Kelli Fraguero, Treasurer

Maiya Morrison, Secretary

Galen Weston

Stuart Crook

Jim Phelan

Steve Kistler

Missy Marino

But ... the RCD cannot work without **YOU** and YOUR help.

### **Why this survey?**

The Board of Directors of the TCRCD is requesting input from the citizens of Tuolumne County to ensure that our strategic plans reflect local concerns.

This survey is designed by the Tuolumne County RCD and the NRCS in order to:

- Introduce the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to landowners and residents of Tuolumne County;
- Elicit input for development of annual and long-term work plans and priorities for TCRCD activities and NRCS Farm Bill programs.
- Assess resident's current interests, concerns, priorities, and/or needs around natural resource issues and agricultural production, practices, and experiences; and
- Identify characteristics of landowners

***Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and return the survey to us***



**Question 1: What do you think is the most important role the TCRCD should play in our community? (Please rank 1-7, with 1 the most important)**

- Provide technical assistance to landowners  
 Provide financial assistance to landowners  
 Act as an intermediary between regulatory agencies and landowners  
 Provide environmental monitoring and data collection  
 Manage resource properties  
 Provide conservation education and outreach on agricultural & resource issues  
 Comment on land use planning issues

Other:

**Question 2: How much do you know about the function, activities, and responsibilities of the Tuolumne County RCD?**

None                       Some                       A Lot

**Question 3: Please identify the top 3 natural resource issues in Tuolumne County today in order of importance:**

- Water Quality     Water Quantity and Distribution     Forest Health  
 Soils                       Weeds                       Pasture/Range  
 Recreation                       Historical Resources                       Open Space  
 Air Quality                       Wildlife and Fisheries                       Rivers  
 Reservoirs                       Wildfire Safety                       Wilderness  
 Agricultural Production     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 4: If we could only focus on two groups, which two of the following should the Tuolumne County RCD focus our education efforts on?**

- Elementary Schools                       College Students  
 Middle Schools                       Community-wide Workshops  
 High Schools                       Special Subject Workshops  
 Large acreage landowners     Small acreage landowners



**Question 5: Overall, are you aware of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the services they provide?**

- No awareness       I am aware of them       I have used NRCS services

**Question 6: Are you aware NRCS has specialists available to provide free technical information and services?**

- No awareness       I am aware       I have used NRCS services

**Question 7: Are you aware of NRCS programs that provide financial assistance to install conservation practices?**

- No awareness       I am aware       I have used NRCS financial aid services

**Question 8: Are you aware of the NRCS Soil Survey now being conducted in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties?**

- Yes       No

**Question 9: Would you be willing to allow the NRCS Soil Survey crew to map soils on your property at no cost to you?**

- Yes       No  
 I don't know       I don't know, and I'd like more information about the Soil Survey

**Question 10: I'm interested in learning more about the following:**

- NRCS conservation program financial assistance  
 NRCS Technical Assistance/Services  
 Workshops from NRCS with technical information  
 NRCS Soil Survey  
 I don't want to know about NRCS  
 I already know about NRCS and do not need additional information about the Soil Survey

**Question 11a: If the RCD had enough time and money to work on just one issue below, what would it be?**

- |                                                     |                                                           |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality              | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife & Habitats              | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Acreage Mgt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quantity             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries & Habitats             | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Acreage Mgt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Delivery             | <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion Control                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Noxious Weeds     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Systems         | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Improvements                | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Mgt        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Fuel Loads          | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing Mgt       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brush Fuel Loads           | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Rivers and Lakes  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Product Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Product Development |                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                |                                                           |                                            |

**Question 11b: Tell us why you picked this issue:**

**Question 11c: What would be your second choice, and why?**

**Question 11d: Please indicate your priority level as high, medium or low (H M L) for each of the following activities that the RCD might consider in Tuolumne County**

- |                                         |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| H M L Construct Fire breaks             | H M L Monitor Water Quality                    |
| H M L Improve Streamside Habitat        | H M L Decrease sediment in creeks and streams  |
| H M L Irrigation System Improvement     | H M L Eradication of noxious weeds             |
| H M L Enhancing Wildlife habitat        | H M L Water Conservation                       |
| H M L Pasture enhancements              | H M L Improving forest stands                  |
| H M L Assist with regulatory compliance | H M L Oak woodland management and conservation |
| H M L Manage Conservation Lands         |                                                |



The next few questions will help us understand who you are, something about your property, and how we can best serve you.

**Question 12: What and where is the best way for us to provide you information?**

- Mail       e-mail       Newspaper     Workshops  
 Internet     Speak at Schools     Speak at organizations

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 13: Please think a moment about your property and check all of the boxes that apply.**

- \_\_\_ I like my property just the way it is and don't plan to change it much  
 \_\_\_ My property is mainly my home and the open space around it.  
 \_\_\_ My property is mostly an investment and I'll probably sell it some day  
 \_\_\_ I have a creek or stream on my property  
 \_\_\_ I'm planning on building a home on my property  
 \_\_\_ I plan to retire here on the property  
 \_\_\_ My property is a major source of income from agriculture or forestry  
 \_\_\_ I'm thinking of adding fences so I can have livestock  
 \_\_\_ I like my natural surroundings and rural area and don't want to see a lot of development.  
 \_\_\_ My property produces agricultural crops  
 \_\_\_ My property produces forest products.  
 \_\_\_ My property is a commercial cattle or other livestock ranch.  
 \_\_\_ I graze horses on my property.  
 \_\_\_ My property has thick forest or shrubs and I'm worried about wildfire.  
 \_\_\_ My property is degraded and I'd like to restore it

**Question 14: My long-term goal for my property is:**

**Question 15: What is your water source?**

- Private well       Surface Water/Creek     Water District or Water Company  
 Ditch               Spring or seep             City

**Question 16a: Is your property currently used for agricultural production?**

- Yes  No

**Question 16b: If “yes” to the question above, what do you produce?**

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**Question 17: Do you have concerns about a decrease in agricultural production in your community?**

- Yes  No  Unsure

**Question 18a: Do you own property Tuolumne County?**

- Yes  No

**Question 18b: Do you live on that property?**

- Yes  No  Part Time

**Question 18c: If “yes”, or “part time”, how many years have you lived in Tuolumne County?**

- less than 1  1-5  5-10  10-20  
 20-40  over 40

**THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL (They simply help us understand who you are and how we might help you better)**

**Question 19: How many acres do you own in Tuolumne County?**

- less than 1  1-5  5-10  10-20  
 20-40  40-160  160-500  over 500

**Question 20: How many years have you owned your property in Tuolumne County?**

- less than 1  2-5  6-10  11-15  
 16-20  20-30  more than 30

**Question 21: What is your age?**

- under 20  20-30  30-40  40-50  50-60  over 60

**Question 22: What is your employment status?**

- Fulltime  Part Time  Unemployed  Retired  Self Employed  Student

**Question 23** *Do you have any comments, questions, or suggestions?*

Please use the space below to provide us with any comments regarding your interests, priorities, or needs, or any suggestions as to how the NRCS or the TCRCD can help to serve you better. Thank you for taking the time to help us help you.

**Question 24: How can we make these survey results most useful to you?**

- Please send me a copy of the results
- Please send me information (such as agendas, brochures, and workshop notices) sponsored by the TCRCD and NRCS.
- Other

Please note that your responses will be kept confidential

Optional: In case you'd like to be kept informed and/or would like additional information:

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

When complete, please fold, place a stamp on the outside, and mail back to TCRCD, PO Box 4394, Sonora, Calif 95370

*Thank YOU for completing this survey!*

*Be sure to visit our web site at [www.tcrccd.org](http://www.tcrccd.org)*

## A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT RCD'S

Conservation Districts emerged during the 1930s as a way to prevent the soil erosion problems of the Dust Bowl from recurring. Formed as independent local liaisons between the federal government and landowners, conservation districts have always worked closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service).

In California, Resource Conservation Districts are "special districts" organized under the state Public Resources Code, Division 9. Each district has a locally elected or appointed volunteer board of directors made up of landowners in that district. RCDs address a wide variety of conservation issues such as forest fuel management, water and air quality, wildlife habitat restoration, soil erosion control, conservation education, and much more.

## A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT NRCS

With the mission of "Helping People Help the Land," the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. With our help, people are better able to conserve, maintain, or improve their natural resources. As a result of our technical and financial assistance, land managers and communities take a comprehensive approach to the use and protection of natural resources in rural, suburban, urban, and developing areas.

Since the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, NRCS has worked with conservation districts and others throughout the U.S. to help landowners, as well as Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments and community groups.

**NRCS has six mission goals:** high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

To achieve these goals, the Agency implements these strategies:

- Cooperative conservation: seeking and promoting cooperative efforts to achieve conservation goals.
- Watershed approach: providing information and assistance to encourage and enable locally-led, watershed-scale conservation.
- Market-based approach: facilitating the growth of market-based opportunities that encourage the private sector to invest in conservation on private lands.

Fold Line

Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District  
PO Box 4394  
Sonora, California 95370

Place Stamp  
here

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