



Strategic Long Range Plan (2010-2015)

Approved March 18, 2010

Mission Statement: (from 2-2001)

To conserve and improve our natural resources, integrating the demand for environmental quality with the needs of agricultural and urban users. The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County seeks to achieve the sustainable management of local natural resources including soil, water, vegetation and wildlife throughout Monterey County.

Priority Resource Issues

1. water quality/ (nutrients/soils)
2. water quantity
3. soil health/sustainability
4. vegetation and wildlife management
5. air quality/energy resources

Education (as part of each above)

District Operations (as part of each above)

Priority Geographic Areas:

- Salinas Valley
- Elkhorn watershed
- Arroyo Seco
- Carmel Valley
- Big Sur

Goals with 5 Year Objectives

Priority & Goal	5-year Objectives
<p>Water Quality Enhance the quality of water in Monterey County through responsible management practices with voluntary cooperators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Salinas valley waters should have 30% reduction of tailwater contaminants entering waterways ▪ Decrease erosion from all ag lands by 20% ▪ In three target urban communities reduce runoff and contaminants by 10% ▪ Reduce nitrate load to Moss Landing Harbor by 20% (2004 levels) ▪ 80% reduction in sediment movement from five miles of rural roads treated with improved drainage techniques ▪ Reduce contaminant and sediment movement off of ten confined livestock facilities by 95% ▪ Support 3 neighborhood/watershed groups to develop and implement management plans
<p>Water Quantity Improve water conservation in collaboration with growers, landowners, and partner organizations and agencies to identify and implement improved management practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide technical support for irrigation water management improvements for increased efficiency of applied water ▪ Provide technical support for the conversion of 10 fields from sprinkler to drip irrigation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irrigation ‘mobile lab’ evaluations result in 20% water savings on 10,000 acres of irrigated ag land ▪ Improved soil nitrate use (20% reduction in leaching) on 20 fields through nutrient and water budgeting. ▪ Support implementation of ten rainwater and/or irrigation runoff capture projects
<p>Soil Health/Sustainability Maintain regional agricultural viability by promoting and supporting application and maintenance of proper soil management techniques on farm and ranch lands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% reduction in erosion on lands managed by participating berry growers. ▪ 100 hillside berry fields treated with winter preparedness practices ▪ Support and participate in development of local trials of soil-building practices on foothill and lowland farms. ▪ Support at least one local growers’ trials with conservation tillage
<p>Vegetation and Wildlife Management Identify, plan and implement restoration or conservation plans and projects with land managers and communities to protect or restore habitat that benefits natural and agricultural resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborative regional strategy for vegetation and habitat improvement ▪ Support 3 neighborhood/watershed groups to develop and implement management plans ▪ Coordination with Monterey County Weed Management Area partners to map, prioritize and treat 100 acres of noxious weeds. ▪ Arundo population on Salinas River reduced by 80%. ▪ Prescribed fire applied on 100 acres in rangeland ▪ Support 40 acres of grassland restoration/reseeding ▪ Support implementation 500 acres of forest fuel reduction/thinning/prescribed burn in partnership with landowners and appropriate agencies ▪ 5000 linear feet of riparian improvement projects ▪ 2 acres of native vegetation installed in rural residential settings ▪ Support voluntary implementation of two fish passage or habitat improvement projects
<p>Air Quality/Energy Resources Support the agricultural and rural communities’ efforts to manage air quality and reduce smoke and wind-borne soil movement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 500 acres of forest fuel reduction/thinning/prescribed burn in partnership (see above) ▪ 5000 linear feet of hedgerows installed ▪ 500 acres of cover crop ▪ Support local dairies’ efforts to implement dairy digester projects ▪ Cooperate with Farm Bureau to support farmer air quality improvement efforts and compliance.
<p>Education Educate land managers and the public regarding resource management methods and rationale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two workshops for grape growers in partnership with Central Coast Vineyard Team ▪ 100 land managers attend RCD workshops each year ▪ 20 partners attend workshops each year ▪ Bilingual training and materials for all workshops.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RCD newsletter distributed quarterly ▪ Articles in newspaper and Farm Bureau newsletter once a month ▪ RCD website maintained with up-to-date accessible information about RCD practices and projects ▪ Participate in Farm Days to reach 1800 kids in five years ▪ Food safety co-management education for 10 major buyers and/or third-party auditors ▪ Support 3 neighborhood/watershed groups to develop and implement management plans
<p>District Operations Rebuild a diverse, competent staff and board that is effectively linked with regional partners using effective communication, grants, and other, more stable funding mechanisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hydrologist/engineer on staff or contract ▪ Agronomist on staff or contract ▪ Alternative stable funding for two positions ▪ Representation of entire county on board (mid-coast and Soledad/Mission areas) ▪ Coordinated project tracking among RCDs ▪ Regular partnership with Ag Commissioner and MCWRA ▪ Partnership with 3 municipalities for contract work