

Resource Conservation Districts

Local Solutions to Agricultural Viability



CALIFORNIA'S LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

RCDs were formed to assist agricultural communities conserve soil resources, this tradition continues today with many additional services being offered. Because RCDs are governed by locally elected or appointed, independent boards of directors, many of whom work in the agricultural community, they are trusted and efficient facilitators of conservation outcomes.

PRESERVING FARMLAND

An average of 40,000 acres of farmland per year is lost to development in California. RCDs work with local land trusts and other partners to keep farmland in production.

SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

RCDs work one on one with landowners to promote land management that supports a sustainable and productive agricultural economy. RCDs provide field workshops and trainings on topics such as irrigation efficiency for farmers, holistic grazing for ranchers and water conservation for homeowners.

WORKING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

RCDs understand local resource issues and work with the community to implement projects and programs to address these concerns. In agricultural communities RCD boards are made up of local growers ensuring that the RCD is supporting sustainable agriculture and addressing local resource issues.

NAVIGATING THE PERMITTING PROCESS

Navigating local, state, and federal permits can be an obstacle to completing beneficial conservation practices. RCDs work with landowners to understand and meet regulations and acquire permits.

ENCOURAGING URBAN FARMING

RCDs in urban communities help foster community garden and farmer's market development, and provide education programs that increase awareness of and engagement in California's natural and agricultural heritage.



RCD SERVICES

Conservation planning

Technical assistance

Trainings and workshops

Beneficial management practices demonstration projects

Irrigation assessments

Education and outreach

Permit coordination



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RCD PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



TEHAMA COUNTY RCD RED BANK CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Tehama RCD worked to create the 7,132 acre Red Bank Creek Conservation Easement. The two cattle ranches involved will remain in operation while at the same time critical grasslands, oak woodlands and chaparral landscape will be protected from urban development and more intensive agricultural operations development. An estimated 60 to 70 percent of the acreage is occupied by individual oak trees, oak savannah, or oak woodland.



GLENN COUNTY RCD CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET

Glenn County RCD runs the Glenn County Certified Farmers' Market. This market invites the community to shop for fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, eggs, cheeses, nuts, specialty oils, food/baked goods, arts and crafts, and more! Starting in 2009, RCD Directors and Staff worked with community members and volunteers to open the Farmers Market summer 2010. There are currently two locations included both Orland and Willows.



DID YOU KNOW?

50% of the lands in California are privately owned and managed. RCDs work one on one with landowners to promote land management that supports a sustainable and productive agricultural economy.