

Cosumnes River Watersheds - Upper and Lower

Working with private landowners to enhance the Cosumnes River Watershed

Amador, El Dorado and Sacramento Counties; State Senate Districts 1, 14, State Assembly Districts 10, 15, 26



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RCDs

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) collaborated with several Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in the Sacramento region to provide conservation education and technical assistance to both the farming and residential communities. The Watershed Coordinator sought and received funding from CalRecycle to remove garbage from waterways and floodplains in the region, and organized volunteer clean-up days on the Cosumnes River.

The Coordinator also developed the Greener Gardens Project, a grassroots program dedicated to educating local homeowners about sustainable gardening practices. The group designed and built a low water-use demonstration garden in Elk Grove and also developed and hosted the Greener Gardens Festival and Garden Tour.

In partnership with the Sloughhouse RCD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Coordinator developed a Backflow Prevention Initiative. This program provides technical assistance to local strawberry farmers to address water quality issues on their fields by reducing the risk of irrigation water directly entering the groundwater table. The Coordinator worked with 39 strawberry farms to educate local farmers and to install a total of ten backflow prevention devices.

For more information visit the CARCD website at <http://www.carcd.org>

“The stakeholders are glad to learn ways to protect their property from fire and erosion while maintaining the landscape and reducing water use.”

- Amanda Platt, Watershed Coordinator



- Removed 45 tons of debris and 3,400 tires from the Cosumnes River
- Designed and planted a low water demonstration garden at the Elk Grove Community Garden
- Developed 14 conservation plans for residents in the watershed
- Assisted in the formation of the Greater Sandridge Firewise Watershed Council
- Coordinated the Elk Grove Greener Gardens Tour and Festival; 550 attendees in 2012
- Developed and facilitated the Well Decommissioning Committee
- Participated in a state-wide NRCS video educational campaign for Well Decommissioning

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Center for Land Based Learning • City of Elk Grove • Sloughhouse RCD • Florin RCD/ Elk Grove Water District • Lower Cosumnes RCD • Amador RCD • El Dorado Fire Safe Council and Satellites • City of Sacramento • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • Cosumnes Community Service District • Grizzly Flats Community Service District • Sacramento County Farm Bureau • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Elk Grove Community Garden • UC Cooperative Extension • Sacramento County CalRecycle • Lao Community Empowerment Group • Sierra Nevada Conservancy