



**AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday, 20 May 2024**

**Time:** 4:15pm - 6:00pm    **Location:** 12200-B Airport Rd, Jackson CA 95642

*Virtual attendance via video conference or telephone is available:*

**Google Meet:** [meet.google.com/hyh-zwww-ngn](https://meet.google.com/hyh-zwww-ngn)

**Telephone:** (612) 470-1917 - PIN 294-465-236#

**ARCD Directors:** Steve Cannon, Emily Taylor, Dan Port, Dr. Kelsi Williams, Amber Gardner  
**Executive Director:** Amanda Watson

Approval of agenda for this date, and any and all off-agenda items, must be approved by the Board of Directors Pursuant to Para 5495.2 of the government code. Oral communications by the public for items not appearing on the agenda consideration of “emergency or “subsequent need” items not appearing on the agenda cal. gov` t code 54954.2(b)(2).

Item #	Topic
1	<b>Public Comment:</b> The Board of Directors is limited by State law to providing a brief response, asking questions for clarification, or referring a matter to staff when responding to items not listed on the agenda.
2	<b>Consent Agenda*:</b> The following items are expected to be routine/non-controversial. Items will be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Any Board member may request that any item be removed for later discussion. 1. Approval of Agenda 2. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: April 2024 3. Financial Reports 4. SAWQA Report
3	<b>Approval of the Warrant Summary* - Dana Simpson</b>
4	<b>NRCS Report - Jennifer Wood</b> Discussion of Working Group Meeting Planning
5	<b>Consideration and Appointment of Kent Reeves as Associated Director*</b>
6	<b>Farm Day Support * - Kelsi Williams</b>
7	<b>Resolution 2024-5-20: Approving Adoption of CalPERS 457 Plan Resolution* - Amanda Watson</b>
8	<b>Jackson Creek Forest Health Project Update - Amanda Watson</b>
9	<b>Discussion and Approval of Selection Committee Recommendation for Jackson Creek Phase 2 Contract Awards* - Amanda Watson</b>
11	<b>Executive Director Report - Amanda Watson</b>
12	<b>Adjourn</b>
<b>Regular May Meeting Cancelled</b> <b>Next ARCD Board of Directors Meeting: June 24<sup>th</sup> 2024</b>	



12200-B Airport Rd  
Jackson, CA 95642  
Email: ARCD@amadorcd.org  
Web: www.amadorcd.org

Directors: Steve Cannon, Dan Port, Kelsi Williams, Emily Taylor, Amber Gardner

## Minutes for Regular Meeting of 22 April 2024

Called to order on 22 April 2024 at 4:15 p.m. at 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson, CA

Present were: Directors Cannon, Port, Taylor & Gardner  
Executive Director Amanda Watson, Finance Manager Dana Simpson

No oral communications: Watson gave an update regarding the status of the California budget and potential effects of the May Revise.

Consent agenda: Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Director Port, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Taylor. Roll call vote: Port – aye, Taylor – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams Nays - none Motion passed

Warrants Summary and approval of Warrants 24-044 and 24-042: #24-029 Motion to approve warrants made by Director Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Gardner. Roll call vote: Port – aye, Taylor – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams Nays - none Motion passed

Cancellation and Rescheduling of May Board Meeting: Director Port made a motion to cancel the May meeting and reschedule a special meeting for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:15. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Gardner. Roll call vote: Port – aye, Taylor – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams Nays - none Motion passed

NRCS Report: Jennifer reviewed her report and requested the board discuss planning a Working Group meeting at the next board meeting.

Appointment of Associated Director: board deferred this meeting to the May meeting.

Kent Reeves presented his work with Jennifer as an ACES volunteer and his work with the Tuolumne RCD.

County Fair Booth: \$636 cost of booth. UCCE and NRCS are interested in cooperating again this year. AFSC may be in another area of the fair. Motion to pay for the booth and have ARCD presence at the fair by Director Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Port. Roll call vote: Port – aye, Williams – aye, Taylor – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Nays - none Motion passed.

Resolution 2024-4-22 Termination of the Sierra Central Coordinated Resource Management: Director Port made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4-22. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Taylor. Roll call vote: Port – aye, Taylor – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams Nays - none Motion passed

### Review of Staffing:

Director Gardner made a motion to approve a cost of living increase policy that is annually reviewed by the board. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Taylor, Roll call vote: Port – aye, Taylor – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams Nays - none Motion passed

Director Gardner made a motion to approve a 3.2% cost of living increase for 2024 affective July 1st. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Taylor, Roll call vote: Port – aye, Taylor – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams Nays - none Motion passed



12200-B Airport Rd  
Jackson, CA 95642  
Email: [ARCD@amadorrcd.org](mailto:ARCD@amadorrcd.org)  
Web: [www.amadorrcd.org](http://www.amadorrcd.org)

Directors: Steve Cannon, Dan Port, Kelsi Williams, Emily Taylor, Amber Gardner

---

Director Taylor made a motion to approve the proposed ARCD Benefits Policy including, retirement, cell phone allowance, vacation, holidays, and uniform allowance. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Gardner, Roll call vote: Port – aye, Taylor – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams Nays - none Motion passed

Director Port made a motion to adjust the Finance Manager Position to move to the presented salary range, and to move to full-time salaried, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Gardner Roll call vote: Port – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams, Taylor Nays - none Motion passed

Mitchell Mine Maintenance Contract Award: Director Port motioned to approve recommendation of the Ad Hoc Selection Committee to contract with California Reforestation and give approval to add up to 50% of the contract acres if needed 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Gardner Roll call vote: Port – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams, Taylor Nays - none Motion passed

Climate Smart Commodities Grant: Director Gardner made a to approve the submittal of the Climate Smart Commodities Planning and Capacity Grant Application, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Director Port Roll call vote: Port – aye, Gardner – aye, Cannon – aye. Absent – Williams, Taylor Nays - none Motion passed

Director Cannon adjourned the meeting

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Watson, Executive Director*

**Amador Resource Conservation District**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of April 30, 2024

	Apr 30, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
101768 · Sac/Ama Water Quality Alliance	485,817.63
101769 · Amador RCD	490,734.49
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	976,552.12
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	195,996.56
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	195,996.56
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	1,172,548.68
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,172,548.68</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
20000 · Accounts Payable	10,604.98
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	10,604.98
<b>Credit Cards</b>	
001 · Amazon Chase	864.70
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	864.70
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
24500 · Accrued Time Off	9,468.66
25800 · Unearned or Deferred Revenue	130,989.86
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	140,458.52
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	151,928.20
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	151,928.20
<b>Equity</b>	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	714,685.99
32000 · Retained Earnings	184,916.61
Net Income	121,017.88
<b>Total Equity</b>	1,020,620.48
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,172,548.68</b>

Grant Progress Tracking 04/30/2024

ARCD	Grant Period	Amount Awarded	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	Remaining		Invoiced	Amount remaining
					Advance	Expended to Date		
Healthy Soils - Round 2 21-0540-000-SG	10/1/2021 - 10/1/2024	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 42,609.26	\$ 4,041.61	\$ 17,390.74
Jackson Creek Watershed 8GG20624	11/15/2021 - 3/31/2025	\$ 3,603,152.00	\$ 3,217,100.00	\$ 386,052.00	\$ 110,669.90	\$ 859,821.41		\$ 2,743,330.59
Chipping 2021 - Round 2 5GG20102	11/2021 - 3/15/2025	\$ 718,292.00	\$ 652,993.00	\$ 65,299.00		\$ 139,113.97	\$ 37,859.71	\$ 579,178.03
Mitchell Mine Fuel Break 2CA05282	6/10/2021 - 6/9/2025	\$ 327,700.00	\$ 297,910.00	\$ 29,790.00		\$ 166,427.93	\$ 17,906.44	\$ 161,272.07
2023 RCPP Round 2	11/1/2023 - 11/15/2025	\$ 262,857.00				\$ 32,411.29	\$ 31,246.61	\$ 230,445.71
Healthy Soils - Round 3 23-0672-000-SG	11/1/2023 - 10/31/2026	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 14,394.91	\$ 8,833.20	\$ 45,605.09
NACD 2022 - Round 5		\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 20,319.97	\$ 79,680.03		\$ 20,319.97
NACD 2024 - Round 6		\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00					\$ 75,000.00
WCB Grant - Pollinators	2/14/2023 - 2/28/2027	\$ 251,000.00	\$ 251,000.00			\$ 4,585.44	\$ 3,641.80	\$ 246,414.56
WCB Grant - Wildlife Habitat	12/20/2023 - 2/28/2027	\$ 200,000.00				\$ 1,391.83	\$ 1,391.83	\$ 198,608.17
DOC Grant	2/22/2024 - 3/31/2027	\$ 1,618,366.64	\$ 1,407,275.34	\$ 211,091.30		\$ 4,293.32		\$ 1,614,073.32
Placer HSP Block Grant	12/8/23 - 10/31/27	\$ 92,814.00	\$ 69,610.50	\$ 23,203.50		\$ 10,430.62	\$ 9,034.68	\$ 82,383.38
Defensible Space	12/27/2023 - 03/15/2029	\$ 633,584.00						\$ 633,584.00
Misc Receivables							\$ 3,301.19	\$ -
AFSC Staff Time							\$ 75,446.11	
LCRCD Staff Time							\$ 3,293.40	
SAWQA Staff Time								
		\$ 8,002,765.64	\$ 6,174,888.84	\$ 731,435.80	\$ 130,989.87	\$ 1,355,160.01	\$ 195,996.58	\$ 6,647,605.63

\*Deferred Rev

\*Accounts Rec

Note: we have incurred costs for this grant, these costs will be reflected on April 30th Report

**SAWQA**

	Amount Billed	Amount Received	Amount Due
2023 Member Fees		\$32,538.45	
2024 Member Fees		\$331,988.19	

**Amador Resource Conservation District  
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
July 2023 through April 2024**

	Jul '23 - Apr 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
45000 · Investments				
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	18,862.91	2,500.00	16,362.91	754.5%
<b>Total 45000 · Investments</b>	18,862.91	2,500.00	16,362.91	754.5%
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46009 · Partnership Contracts	169,986.81	214,000.00	(44,013.19)	79.4%
<b>Total 46400 · Other Types of Income</b>	172,436.81	214,000.00	(41,563.19)	80.6%
47890 · Program Income				
47891 · Grant Income	833,380.64	2,767,352.55	(1,933,971.91)	30.1%
47894 · Admin Fee (Indirect Cost)	98,277.65	289,440.45	(191,162.80)	34.0%
<b>Total 47890 · Program Income</b>	931,658.29	3,056,793.00	(2,125,134.71)	30.5%
<b>Total Income</b>	1,122,958.01	3,273,293.00	(2,150,334.99)	34.3%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,122,958.01	3,273,293.00	(2,150,334.99)	34.3%
<b>Expense</b>				
50100 · Payroll Expenses	340,574.28	483,609.00	(143,034.72)	70.4%
51000 · Insurance				
50600 · Worker's Compensation Insurance	2,952.58	3,000.00	(47.42)	98.4%
51500 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	3,282.05	3,000.00	282.05	109.4%
<b>Total 51000 · Insurance</b>	6,234.63	6,000.00	234.63	103.9%
52000 · Memberships and Dues	2,547.48	3,000.00	(452.52)	84.9%
52200 · Office Expenses				
52200-1 · Office Equipment	3,434.51	15,000.00	(11,565.49)	22.9%
52200-2 · Postage, Mailing Service	74.56	300.00	(225.44)	24.9%
52200-3 · Printing and Copying	599.84	1,200.00	(600.16)	50.0%
52200-4 · Supplies	1,765.47	1,000.00	765.47	176.5%
52200-5 · Telephone, Telecommunications	1,102.04	1,200.00	(97.96)	91.8%
52200-6 · Advertising	301.19	1,500.00	(1,198.81)	20.1%
52200-7 · Software	2,419.60	3,000.00	(580.40)	80.7%
52200-8 · Website	1,008.00	600.00	408.00	168.0%
52200-9 · Tech Support	237.30	150.00	87.30	158.2%
<b>Total 52200 · Office Expenses</b>	10,942.51	23,950.00	(13,007.49)	45.7%
52300 · Professional Services				
52300-4 · Consulting		6,300.00	(6,300.00)	
52321 · Auditor's Services		10,000.00	(10,000.00)	
52383 · Bookkeeping	3,655.67	4,000.00	(344.33)	91.4%
52399 · Other		5,000.00	(5,000.00)	
<b>Total 52300 · Professional Services</b>	8,380.67	25,300.00	(16,919.33)	33.1%
52800 · Special Departmental Expenses				
52800-1 · Community Garden	343.57	800.00	(456.43)	42.9%
52800-3 · Fair Booth	635.40	600.00	35.40	105.9%
52822 · Mini Grants	1,000.00	5,000.00	(4,000.00)	20.0%

**Amador Resource Conservation District  
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
July 2023 through April 2024**

	Jul '23 - Apr 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Total 52800 · Special Departmental Expenses</b>	2,980.43	6,400.00	(3,419.57)	46.6%
<b>52900 · Travel and Meetings</b>				
<b>52905 · Travel and Transportation</b>				
<b>52905-1 · Mileage</b>	1,245.75	5,885.00	(4,639.25)	21.2%
<b>Total 52905 · Travel and Transportation</b>	1,245.75	5,885.00	(4,639.25)	21.2%
<b>52910 · Convention and Meetings</b>	850.00	2,000.00	(1,150.00)	42.5%
<b>52915 · Meals</b>	1,472.70	500.00	972.70	294.5%
<b>Total 52900 · Travel and Meetings</b>	5,733.45	8,385.00	(2,651.55)	68.4%
<b>54138 · Contractor Services</b>				
<b>54138-1 · Groundwork Contractor</b>	623,677.57	1,760,991.00	(1,137,313.43)	35.4%
<b>54138-2 · Professional Service Contractor</b>	46,018.01	453,600.00	(407,581.99)	10.1%
<b>Total 54138 · Contractor Services</b>	669,695.58	2,214,591.00	(1,544,895.42)	30.2%
<b>65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>				
<b>65160 · Grant Supplies/Costs</b>	1,000.00	95,325.00	(94,325.00)	1.0%
<b>Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses</b>	1,000.00	95,325.00	(94,325.00)	1.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	1,051,957.34	2,866,560.00	(1,814,602.66)	36.7%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	71,000.67	406,733.00	(335,732.33)	17.5%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Expense</b>				
<b>70000 · Additions to Reserves</b>		150,000.00	(150,000.00)	
<b>Total Other Expense</b>		150,000.00	(150,000.00)	
<b>Net Other Income</b>		(150,000.00)	150,000.00	
<b>Net Income</b>	71,000.67	256,733.00	(185,732.33)	27.7%

**SAWQA**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
 July 2023 through April 2024

	Jul '23 - Apr 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>45000 · Investments</b>				
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	10,235.13	5,000.00	5,235.13	204.7%
<b>Total 45000 · Investments</b>	10,235.13	5,000.00	5,235.13	204.7%
<b>47890 · Program Income</b>				
47895 · SAWQA Member Fees	364,526.64	346,300.00	18,226.64	105.3%
<b>Total 47890 · Program Income</b>	364,526.64	346,300.00	18,226.64	105.3%
<b>Total Income</b>	374,761.77	351,300.00	23,461.77	106.7%
<b>Gross Profit</b>	374,761.77	351,300.00	23,461.77	106.7%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>50100 · Payroll Expenses</b>				
50100-1 · Payroll Expense	988.17			
50310 · Payroll Tax Expense	104.52			
<b>Total 50100 · Payroll Expenses</b>	1,092.69			
<b>51000 · Insurance</b>				
51500 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	3,004.93	3,000.00	4.93	100.2%
<b>Total 51000 · Insurance</b>	3,004.93	3,000.00	4.93	100.2%
<b>52200 · Office Expenses</b>				
52200-2 · Postage, Mailing Service	615.59			
52200-3 · Printing and Copying	1,014.77			
52200-6 · Advertising	454.80			
52200 · Office Expenses - Other	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 52200 · Office Expenses</b>	2,085.16	5,000.00	-2,914.84	41.7%
<b>52300 · Professional Services</b>				
52300-2 · Project Administration	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
52300-3 · Workshops	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
52300-5 · Record Keeping	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
52300-6 · Monitoring and Reporting	154,216.81	165,676.00	-11,459.19	93.1%
52321 · Auditor's Services	0.00	3,500.00	-3,500.00	0.0%
52383 · Bookkeeping	0.00	21,403.00	-21,403.00	0.0%
52384 · State Board Oversight	156,958.92	140,740.00	16,218.92	111.5%
<b>Total 52300 · Professional Services</b>	311,175.73	373,319.00	-62,143.27	83.4%



4:11 PM

05/16/24

Accrual Basis

**SAWQA**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
July 2023 through April 2024

---

	<u>Jul '23 - Apr 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
54138 · Contractor Services				
54138-2 · Professional Service Contractor	<u>3,372.76</u>			
<b>Total 54138 · Contractor Services</b>	<u>3,372.76</u>			
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>320,731.27</u>	<u>381,319.00</u>	<u>-60,587.73</u>	<u>84.1%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>54,030.50</u>	<u>-30,019.00</u>	<u>84,049.50</u>	<u>-180.0%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>54,030.50</b></u>	<u><b>-30,019.00</b></u>	<u><b>84,049.50</b></u>	<u><b>-180.0%</b></u>

## SAWQA Report

Prepared for: May 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 ARCD Board Meeting

608 active members

1520 active parcels

99% reporting

95% membership payments

- Reminder email sent 5/15 to those still unpaid.
- The third late fee invoice will go out next week, with a payment date of June 15th or cancellation.
  - There will be a \$100 reinstatement fee.
- We are on track for our membership list submission in July.
- Regional Water Resource Board staff has asked if we want RWB to send letters to those who have not completed the INMP Summary Report. The turnaround time from a list to sending a letter is several weeks.
- Additionally, the SWB staff we will be getting a list soon for possible NOV letters., which is likely still a follow up to those who never enrolled after last years letter.



**USDA-NRCS Report by Jennifer Wood, District Conservationist, Jackson LPO  
May 2024**

Program Deadlines

- August 7, 2024 - Local Work Group meetings must be completed for FY2025 programs consideration. See attached CA Bulletin 440-24-05 PGM – Locally Led Conservation Guidance for FY2025
- All current FY24 application deadlines have passed – there are two more ranking deadlines – CSP May 24th and RCPP Crisis to Opportunity June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Applications are accepted year-round and there are yearly application deadlines for current fiscal year funding opportunities usually starting in November or December.

Partnerships/Planning

Ongoing

- For the EQIP-RCPP forestry opportunity, our target is now 8 applications for the EQIP-RCPP Crisis to Opportunity funding that gives a preference to forestry projects with dead and dying trees within 100 ft of their dwellings. These will primarily be planned by the RCD affiliates, Tamryn Zahradka (Amador RCD Forestry Technician) and Frank Lewicki (Tuolumne RCD Forester).
- We are looking at our applicant backlog for clients suited to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) that has a ranking deadline of May 24. CSP is for producers and land stewards that have already had EQIP or who are already meeting a threshold number of resource concerns – already meeting a certain level of stewardship. The financial assistance provides Existing Activity Payments and requires at least 1 base practice or enhancement in the first year. There is a minimum \$4,000/year and the size of the property, the land use, and the practices involved will determine the financial assistance available. The application for EQIP and CSP is the same, so it is best to apply early so we can begin the evaluation process.
- NRCS staff is meeting quarterly with Amador County Ag Building staff that includes UCCE, Amador County Ag Commission, and Amador RCD staff to share updates and collaboration opportunities and is holding a monthly standing technical meeting with UCCE specialists.
- We are still in active conversations with the El Dorado NF staff and the Amador RCD for the USDA Joint Chiefs funding opportunity to find a set of private property owners interested in doing projects near a boundary where the FS already has funds and environmental work completed. We are looking for areas that make sense in the Tiger Creek area as well as around Kirkwood. We have also met with the Stanislaus NF staff but that conversation is not ongoing.
- NRCS has funds to assist Tribes, whether that is conventional agriculture or traditional stewardship methods for the production of food, medicine, fiber, tools, and cultural items. There is a Tribal fund pool specifically for Native American owners and operators. There are funds to hire qualified individuals designated by the tribes to write

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
12200 B Airport Road  
Jackson, CA 95642  
Phone 209-714-8045

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Indigenous Stewardship Method evaluation guides that assist with planning activities that incorporate traditional ecological knowledge on Tribal owned or operated land.

- NRCS is meeting monthly with the ED's of all three ACT RCD's to implement the Tuolumne County RCD (TCRCD) NRCS Cooperative Agreement for equitable outreach and to coordinate staff and staff activities with NRCS program offerings. Most if not all RCDs applied for NRCS Cooperative Agreement and/or Contribution Agreement funds to hire staff to assist with NRCS funded programs and projects. Any entity that is wants to facilitate NRCS technical and financial assistance or generally serve our customers can apply for these. See announcement to learn more at [NRCS California Invites Applications for Partnership Proposals Focusing on Resiliency of California Agriculture | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)

### Staff

- Update on the Rangeland Management vacancy: We believe we still have a GS-9/11 Rangeland Management Specialist Vacancy assigned to our office. A Soil Conservationist 5/7/9 Direct Hire position was advertised that included the Jackson office and we are waiting for the results
- On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Kent Reeves began a part-time [ACES](#) position as a Resource Conservationist through New Solutions. He will be assisting our office with rangeland and wildlife practice planning as well as environmental compliance for EQIP and CSP contracts.
- Staff:
  - NRCS - District Conservationist Jennifer Wood, Engineer Bradley Soares, Forester Garrett McFall, and Program Support Specialist Leslie Marciel.
  - RCD/NRCS Affiliates - ACRCO Forestry Technician Tamryn Zahradka and TCRCD Forester Frank Lewicki. Both are working towards becoming certified as NRCS Conservation Planners.
  - Point Blue Conservation Science/NRCS Affiliate – Partner Biologist Sophia Leveque-Eichhorn. 50% time for NRCS planning and support including performing forestry project nesting bird surveys for Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa Counties, and is also working towards becoming a certified NRCS Conservation Planner. She is also able to assist with Point Blue programs such as [Roots](#), the [Rangeland Monitoring Network](#), and the [Sierra Meadows Partnership Project](#).

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Conservation Incentives Program (CIC)

- Administration of 47 active conservation contracts to treat 27,350 acres is ongoing, with 2.46 million dollars obligated.

Summary of FY23 contracts by county

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
12200 B Airport Road  
Jackson, CA 95642  
Phone 209-714-8045

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

FY '23 Contracts	Amador	Calaveras	Tuolumne
Range	1 EQIP, 1 CSP	1 EQIP, 2 CSP	1 CSP
Forestry	1 EQIP, 1 CSP	1 EQIP	1EQIP
Disaster			1EQIP

Summary of FY24 pre-approved applications by county

FY '23 Contracts	Amador	Calaveras	Tuolumne
Range	3 EQIP-IRA	2 EQIP-IRA	4 EQIP IRA
Forestry	10 EQIP-IRA	5 EQIP-IRA	5 EQIP-IRA

Attachment(s):

CA Bulletin 440-24-05 PGM – Locally Led Conservation Guidance for FY2025

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
12200 B Airport Road  
Jackson, CA 95642  
Phone 209-714-8045

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



April 18, 2024

**CALIFORNIA BULLETIN CA 440-24-05**

**SUBJECT:** PGM – Locally Led Conservation Guidance for FY2025

**Purpose:** To provide guidance, timelines and materials for seeking local working group (LWG) input on the delivery of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical and financial assistance for the 2025 program year.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2024

Action Required By: **August 7, 2024** – LWG meetings must be completed for FY2025 programs consideration.

**August 21, 2024** – ASTC-FO will review, compile, and submit LWG recommendations.

**Background:** NRCS works in partnership with Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) to seek input from LWGs on local conservation program delivery. The primary focus of locally led conservation is the identification of natural resource concern priorities through a conservation needs assessment in accordance with national guidance in Title 440 Conservation Program Manual Part 500 Subparts [A](#) and [B](#) and Part 501 Subparts [A](#) and [B](#).

NRCS, RCDs and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) stating that locally led, voluntary conservation must be driven by natural resource conservation needs, and that RCDs will assist NRCS in promoting programs, advocate for strong natural resource conservation and assemble local working groups. Signed MOAs are available on the Management and Strategy SharePoint: [Management & Strategy \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

**Explanation:** RCDs or District Conservationists (DC) will convene local working groups once a year to collect feedback on local priorities. Normally, RCDs chair the local working group, but if the local RCD is unwilling or unable, the DC is responsible for Chairperson duties.

For FY2025 programs consideration, LWGs must meet by **August 7, 2024**.

For convenience, DCs may use Attachment A: “Locally Led Conservation Customer Feedback Questionnaire” and Attachment B: “LWG Priority Resource Concern Worksheet” for documenting the needs of the LWG.

Meeting Scheduling

The LWG will meet to discuss priorities and recommendations for NRCS program delivery in the next fiscal year. LWG meetings are open to the public, and a notification must be published

locally and be posted on the NRCS California Website. The public notice and agenda items must be provided at least 14 days prior to the LWG meeting. Meeting details (Date, Time, Location, Contact/Chairperson, and agenda) will be sent to Shanna Farmer [shanna.farmer@usda.gov](mailto:shanna.farmer@usda.gov) for compilation and posting on CA NRCS website.

### Meeting Format

The meeting will be conducted as an open discussion among members. Discussion will include a review of the current NRCS programs and will focus on identifying local natural resource concerns for the subsequent fiscal year as directed in 440-Conservation Program Manual, Part 501, Subpart A, Section 501.0c. All recommendations will be considered.

The following guidelines will govern discussions:

- The chairperson will lead the discussion. By policy, the RCD should lead the LWG, but the DC may lead if necessary.
- A note keeper will be assigned to keep a summary or minutes of the meeting.
- Current FY Programs will be reviewed.
- Every participant should have an opportunity to speak. The chairperson is responsible for recognizing speakers.
- The chairperson, in consultation with those members present, may establish time limits for discussion on individual agenda items.
- Members may be polled, but voting on issues is not appropriate.

### Record of Meetings

The LWG chairperson will provide the LWG Minutes, documentation of LWG feedback (use of attachments is recommended), and any written comments to the local District Conservationist who will forward to the respective Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC-FO). The ASTC-FO shall review the minutes, compile all pertinent recommendations and comments, and forward to the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs (ASTC-P), for review by **August 21, 2024**. ASTC-FO will submit final documents to the [“Local Working Group”](#) folder on SharePoint.

### State Technical Committee Review and Final Decisions

The Assistant State Conservationist for Programs (ASTC-P) will present the LWG recommendations to the State Conservationist. State Conservationist decisions for FY2025 programs delivery will be presented to the State Technical Committee in the Fall 2024 meeting.

**Contact.** Please submit your questions through proper supervisory channels to Jenna Ganoung, Acting ASTC-Programs at 530-792-5671 or by email at [Jenna.Ganoung@usda.gov](mailto:Jenna.Ganoung@usda.gov).



CARLOS SUAREZ  
State Conservationist

Dist: AE

Attachment A: Local Working Group Guide for Discussion FY2025

Attachment B: Local Working Group Priority Resource Concern Worksheet

## Local Work Group (LWG) Guide for Discussion - FY2025

*\*Note- this worksheet is intended to be used as a guide to drive discussion during the LWG meeting. Other topics can be discussed that do not appear on this guide.*

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 1: General Recommendations

1. Feedback on local NRCS conservation program application and funding criteria from FY24.
2. Feedback on FY24 payment rates and practice limits (this information will be used for future payment schedules). [Payment Schedules | Natural Resources Conservation Service \(usda.gov\)](#)
3. Are eligible practice lists meeting the needs of the resource concerns in the County?
4. Are the current ranking criteria addressing the resource concerns that exist locally?
5. What are the most effective ways to communicate with the producer about program sign up, etc.?
6. Are there any high priority areas needing assistance?
7. Are there any recommendations for prioritizing projects through screening?
8. Other recommendations or issues brought forth by LWG.

### Section 2: Current FY Resource Concern Needs

- A LWG will select up to 5 priority resource concerns per applicable Community Level Ranking Pool for the county and weight the importance of each as a percentage. The resource concern weighting must add up to 100%. Counties may not have a Community Level Ranking Pool for all options in the table, and will not select priority RCs when Community Level Ranking is absent.

NOTE: **Attachment B-** LWG Priority Resource Concern Worksheet may be utilized to record Priority Resource Concerns.

(The priority resource concerns selected by the County will be considered in ranking pool discussions. LWG may change priority resource concerns each FY.)

<b>Local Working Group:</b>	
<b>Chairperson</b>	
<b>District Conservationist</b>	

Community Level Ranking Pool: AFO-CAFO		Click here to select Community
Resource Concern	Percentage	Notes
		Total
		0%

Community Level Ranking Pool: Cropland		Click here to select Community
Resource Concern	Percentage	Notes
		Total
		0%

Community Level Ranking Pool: Forestland		Click here to select Community
Resource Concern	Percentage	Notes
		Total
		0%

Community Level Ranking Pool: Pastureland		Click here to select Community
Resource Concern	Percentage	Notes
		Total
		0%



# Applicability of Resource Concerns by Land Type

Updated for CART Fiscal Year 2024

SWAPAE+H	RC Category	Resource Concern	Resource Concern Component	Assoc Ag Land	Crop	Developed Land	Farmstd	Forest	Other Rural Land	Pasture	Range	Water	LU Count	
Soil	Wind and water erosion	Sheet and rill erosion	Sheet and rill erosion	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		7	
		Wind erosion	Wind erosion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
		Ephemeral gully erosion	Ephemeral gully erosion								X	X		3
	Concentrated erosion	Classic gully erosion	Classic gully erosion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
		Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels	Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
		Subsidence	Subsidence	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
	Soil quality limitations	Compaction	Compaction	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			7
		Organic matter depletion	Organic matter depletion	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			7
		Concentration of salts or other chemicals	Concentration of salts or other chemicals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
		Soil organism habitat loss or degradation	Soil organism habitat loss or degradation	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			7
		Aggregate instability	Aggregate instability	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			7
		Ponding and flooding	Ponding and flooding	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
	Weather resilience	Seasonal high water table	Seasonal high water table	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
		Seeps	Seeps	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
Drifted snow		Drifted snow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
Naturally available moisture use		Moisture Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
		Drought susceptibility	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
Source water depletion		Surface water depletion	Surface water depletion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		9
		Groundwater depletion	Groundwater depletion	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss		Inefficient irrigation water use	Inefficient irrigation water use	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		9
		Nutrients transported to surface water	Nonpoint nitrogen surface loss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
			Nonpoint phosphorus surface loss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
			Nonpoint nitrogen leaching loss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
			Nonpoint phosphorus leaching loss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			7
			Nonpoint pathogen surface loss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
Field Pesticide loss		Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications	Nonpoint pathogen loss to groundwater	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
	Sediment transported to surface water	Sediment from erosion sources	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
	Pesticides transported to surface water	Nonpoint pesticide surface loss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		9	
		Nonpoint pesticide drift to surface water	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
		Nonpoint pesticide leaching loss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		9	
		Pesticides transported to groundwater	Nonpoint pesticide leaching loss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		9
Water	Storage and handling of pollutants	Concentrated nutrient and pathogen effluent from domestic animal confinement, including milkhouse waste and silage leachate	Concentrated nutrient and pathogen surface loss from domestic animals standing in surface water	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
			Concentrated nutrient and pathogen surface loss from storage and handling of manure, compost, biosolids or non-ag food waste	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
			Concentrated nutrient and pathogen leaching loss from domestic animal confinement, including milkhouse waste and silage leachate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
	Salt losses to water	Nutrients transported to groundwater	Concentrated nutrient and pathogen leaching loss from storage and handling of manure, compost, biosolids or non-ag food waste	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
		Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to surface water	Petroleum and other pollutant containment to surface water	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
			Mine waste remediation and containment - surface water	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
			Concentrated agricultural leaching loss from storage and handling of fertilizer and pesticides	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
			Petroleum and other pollutant containment to groundwater	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8
			Mine waste remediation and containment - groundwater	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
	Air	Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors	Salts transported to surface water	Salt loss to surface water	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
			Salts transported to groundwater	Salt loss to groundwater	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9
			PM - diesel engines	PM - diesel engines	X	X		X	X		X	X		6
			PM - non-diesel engine combustion equipment	PM - non-diesel engine combustion equipment	X	X		X	X		X	X		6
			PM - open burning	PM - open burning	X	X		X	X		X	X		6
PM - pesticide drift			PM - pesticide drift	X	X		X	X		X	X		6	
PM - nitrogen fertilizer			PM - nitrogen fertilizer	X	X		X	X		X	X		4	
PM - dust from field operations			PM - dust from field operations		X						X	X		3
PM - dust from unpaved roads			PM - dust from unpaved roads	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		7
PM - windblown dust			PM - windblown dust	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		7
PM - confined animal activities			PM - confined animal activities				X							1
Emissions of greenhouse gases - GHGs			GHGs - confined animal activities	GHGs - confined animal activities				X						
		GHGs - nitrogen fertilizer	GHGs - nitrogen fertilizer	X	X			X		X	X			4
		GHGs - carbon stock	GHGs - carbon stock	X	X			X		X	X			5
		Ozone - diesel engines	Ozone - diesel engines	X	X		X	X		X	X			6
		Ozone - non-diesel engine combustion equipment	Ozone - non-diesel engine combustion equipment	X	X		X	X		X	X			6
		Ozone - confined animal activities	Ozone - confined animal activities		X						X	X		1
Emissions of ozone precursors		Ozone - open burning	Ozone - open burning	X	X		X	X		X	X			6
		Ozone - confined animal activity	Ozone - confined animal activity	X	X		X	X		X	X			6
		Odor - confined animal activity	Odor - confined animal activity				X				X	X		1
		Odor - nitrogen fertilizer	Odor - nitrogen fertilizer	X	X		X	X		X	X			4
		Reactive nitrogen - open burning	Reactive nitrogen - open burning	X	X		X	X		X	X	X		6
		Reactive nitrogen - nitrogen fertilizer	Reactive nitrogen - nitrogen fertilizer	X	X		X	X		X	X			4
Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen		Reactive nitrogen - confined animal activities	Reactive nitrogen - confined animal activities				X							1
	Reactive nitrogen - diesel engines	Reactive nitrogen - diesel engines	X	X		X	X		X	X			6	
	Reactive nitrogen - non-diesel engine combustion equipment	Reactive nitrogen - non-diesel engine combustion equipment	X	X		X	X		X	X			6	
	Plant pest pressure	Plant pest pressure	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	
	Chemical resistance	Chemical resistance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		6	
	Invasive species	Invasive species	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
Plants	Degraded plant condition	Plant productivity and health	Plant productivity and health	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8	
		Plant structure and composition	Plant structure and composition	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		3	
	Fire management	Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation	Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
Animals	Livestock production limitation	Feed and forage balance	Feed and forage balance		X		X	X	X	X	X		5	
		Inadequate livestock shelter	Inadequate livestock shelter	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		8	
		Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution	Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution		X		X	X	X	X	X		5	
	Terrestrial habitat	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
Aquatic habitat	Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms	Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
	Elevated water temperature	Water temperature effects on aquatic habitat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
Energy	Inefficient energy use	Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities	Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
		Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations	Energy efficiency of fields operations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		9
Human	Long term protection of land	Threat of Conversion <sup>1</sup>	Agricultural land conversion to nonagricultural uses	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
			Grassland conversion to non-grassland uses	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
			Loss of wetland functions and values	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
			Loss of floodplain functions and values	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9	
	Loss of forestland functions and values	Loss of forestland functions and values	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	9		

<sup>1</sup> In conservation planning, human considerations are separate from resource concerns. However, within this data structure and for business tools these "considerations" are classified and used in a manner equal to



Amador Resource Conservation District  
12200 B Airport Road, Jackson CA 95642

**RESOLUTION 2024-05-20-01**  
**Before the Board of Directors of the Amador Resource Conservation District**  
**Amador County, California**

**IN THE MATTER OF:** Approving Adoption of CalPERS 457 Plan

**RESOLUTION # ARCD 2024-5-20-01**

WHEREAS, Amador Resource Conservation District desires to establish a deferred compensation plan for the benefit of its employees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Administration (the "Board") of the California Public Employees' Retirement System ("CalPERS") has established the CalPERS 457 Plan (the "CalPERS 457 Plan") which may be adopted by a governmental employer the employees of which are public employees; and

WHEREAS, Amador Resource Conservation District believes that the CalPERS 457 Plan and the investment options available thereunder will provide valuable benefits to its employees; and

WHEREAS, the Board has appointed Voya Financial® (the Plan Recordkeeper) to perform recordkeeping and administrative services under the CalPERS 457 Plan and to act as the Board's agent in all matters relating to the administration of the CalPERS 457 Plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Amador Resource Conservation District adopts the CalPERS 457 Plan for the benefit of its employees and authorizes and directs the Executive Director to execute the attached adoption agreement on behalf of Amador Resource Conservation District and to provide CalPERS or any successor agent duly appointed by the Board with such information and cooperation as may be needed on an ongoing basis in the administration of the CalPERS 457 Plan. A copy of this resolution, the agreement, and any attachments thereto shall be on file in the office of Amador Resource Conservation District.

Passed and adopted as a resolution of the Amador Resource Conservation District, at a meeting held on May 20<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Ayes: \_\_\_ Noes: \_\_\_ Absent: \_\_\_  
Ayes:  
Noes:  
Absent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Steve Cannon, Board President  
Print Name, Title  
5/20/2024  
Date

ATTEST:  
I Amanda Watson, (Executive Director) of the Amador Resource Conservation District, witnessed on May 20, 2024.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
Amanda Watson, Executive Director  
Print Name, Title  
5/20/2024  
Date

# Employer Adoption Agreement

The employer identified below (the “Employer”) adopts the CalPERS 457 Plan (the “CalPERS 457 Plan” or the “Plan”) for the benefit of its employees and agrees to be bound by and subject to the terms of the Plan, as it may be amended from time to time.

The Employer further agrees and represents as follows:

1. The Employer is a political subdivision of the State of California and is eligible to adopt the Plan.
2. The Employer has duly adopted a resolution (copy attached) or taken such other official action as required for its lawful adoption and implementation of the Plan and has authorized the undersigned to execute this Agreement on its behalf.
3. The Employer has received and has had the opportunity to review the following documents and information:
  - The Plan document;
  - A description of the optional provisions of the Plan;
  - A description of the investment options available to Plan participants and historical performance data for those investment options;
  - A complete description of fees and expenses that will or may be charged to Plan participants including, but not limited to, investment fees and administrative expenses; and
  - The Enrollment Kit for eligible employees, which includes forms and information for employees to participate in the Plan.

## Contributions

4. The Employer understands that its employees will have the opportunity to defer their own compensation by designating an amount or percentage to be withheld from each paycheck and contributed to the Plan on the employee’s behalf.
5. The Employer understands that the Plan must be made available to all employees and agrees to offer all employees the opportunity to participate in the Plan.
6. The Employer understands that the Plan cannot be made available to individuals who are not the Employer’s common law employees and agrees not to offer such individuals the opportunity to participate in the Plan.
7. The Employer understands that each employee’s deferrals under the Plan and any other eligible deferred compensation plan maintained by the Employer are subject to certain limits imposed by the Plan and the federal tax code. The Employer agrees to limit employees’ deferrals under all plans maintained by the Employer to amounts that do not exceed applicable limitations.
8. The Employer agrees to deduct deferral amounts from employees’ salaries and wages in accordance with the employees’ elections, to remit all amounts deducted to the Plan as soon as reasonably practicable after such amounts are withheld, and to accurately report the amounts remitted.
9. The Employer understands and agrees that all amounts deferred under the Plan shall be 100% vested and shall be deposited in the Public Employees’ Deferred Compensation Fund (the “Fund”), a trust established to hold such amounts, for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries. The Employer shall have no right to Fund assets or to sell, redeem, or otherwise liquidate Fund assets, except as provided Plan section 10.6.



Investments

- 10. The Employer understands and agrees that employees who defer compensation under the Plan will have the right to direct the investment of their individual Plan accounts by choosing among the investment options selected by the CalPERS Board of Administration (the "Board") and offered under the Plan. The Employer further understands and agrees that any employee who does not provide timely directions for investing his or her account will be deemed to have selected the Plan's default investment. The Plan's default investment is currently the CalPERS Target Retirement Fund designated for an employee, based on his or her expected retirement date. The Employer understands and agrees that the Board, in its sole discretion, may add, eliminate, or consolidate investment options offered under the Plan, including the Plan's default investment option.
- 11. The Employer further understands and agrees that certain fees are charged to Plan participants for investment and administration expenses, and that such fees will be offset against investment returns or deducted from participants' Plan accounts periodically.

Administration

- 12. The Employer understands and agrees that, except as specifically set forth in the Plan, the administration of the Plan and Fund is subject to the exclusive control of the Board and that the Board has the authority to retain third parties to provide investment services, record keeping, accounting, or other services for the Plan.
- 13. The Employer agrees to assist and cooperate in providing Plan information to employees and to follow administrative procedures established by the Board or its designee(s) from time to time.
- 14. The Employer has completed the attached New Employer Data Sheet, which is incorporated by reference. The Employer hereby certifies that all information provided in connection with its adoption of the Plan is true and accurate.
- 15. The Employer understands and agrees that the Board has retained the power and authority to amend the Plan from time to time, subject to limitations set forth in the California Government Code and the Plan. The Employer may not amend the Plan.
- 16. The Employer understands and agrees that its participation in the Plan may be terminated by the Employer or by the Board upon sixty (60) days advance written notice. Upon termination, all amounts held for participants will continue to be held in the Fund for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries, except for distributions or transfers permitted under the Plan terms.

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Accepted by CalPERS (or an agent duly appointed by the Board) on behalf of the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees' Retirement System.***

***To be completed by CalPERS***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



To: Amanda Watson, ARCD executive director

From: Gordon Long, forestry program manager

Date: 5/16/2024

Regarding: Jackson Creek Forest Health Mastication Phase II RFP Selection Committee Recommendation

On May 16, 2024, the ARCD Selection Committee for the Jackson Creek Forest Health Mastication Phase II RFP convened to discuss the proposals that were received. The selection committee consisted of Steve Cannon, Amanda Watson, Robert Galliano, Dana Simpson, and Gordon Long. All attended the Meets call, except Steve Cannon, who met with Gordon Long at the ARCD office and interfaced with the group through Gordon's computer. 6 Bids were received to review- On the original Pre-bid tour, 15 contractors attended the tour to see the three units of mastication treatment that would be awarded.

After thorough discussion among the members, there was consensus to recommend to the ARCD board to award all three units to Krisman Enterprises.

Every member of the Selection have all had favorable experiences with Krisman Enterprises on prior projects. Of the five other bidders, only one of those were a stranger to the group. That bidder was Redding Tree Growers, and none of the members ranked them highly. The rest of the bidders had mixed reviews from the Selection Committee members. One firm even complemented Krisman, telling a committee member that while their work wasn't as good as Krisman's, their work still met the treatment specifications. After discussing the bids for a solid hour, none of the members could say a negative thing about Krisman Enterprises. They wrote a thorough bid, they had the best Fire Plan, and their prior work for ARCD and many other organizations have all been top notch. They also have newer machines and highly qualified mechanics on staff.

The only concern was whether Krisman Enterprises had the capacity to carry out all three units within the deadline of March 15, 2025. This led to another lengthy discussion. It was decided that we would develop a series of benchmarks that Krisman would need to meet, so as to ensure this progress would allow his firm to finish the project by the hard deadline. If he doesn't meet set benchmarks, we would require him to alter his plan so as to speed up his work. We think that he would be able to hire subcontractors or rent additional equipment to match our needs.

The unit bids by Krisman Enterprises ranged from \$2300/acre to \$2500/acre, depending on whether it was during fire season or not, and the size and difficulty of each unit. As a guide, Krisman will be charging \$150 more per acre when work is being done during Fire Season. This is due to the fact that when work is done during Fire Season, a dedicated fire watch person is required.

Krisman's bid were slightly above the budgeted line item in our CalFire Agreement, but we believe our Grant Manager for CalFire, Daniel Sooy, will be open to allow us to move some monies from other treatment types to this mastication line item. We have already had a cursory discussion with Daniel about moving some resources to this mastication line item and he thought it was a good idea. We just need to get his approval in writing, and that should not be a hurdle.



Since this is such a large project with dozens of property owners, there is a chance a few properties could fall off the Right of Entry list, and/or want to be added to the project. We will establish in the contract that the total acreage and total payment will have an established threshold that won't be surpassed, though actual shape of the acres may change.

An item that the Committee would like to be included in the contract for Krisman Enterprises

1. Provide at least 2 verifiable, hard benchmarks that need to be adhered to. If they are not, Krisman will have to subcontract out to a qualified and reputable mastication contractor to assist in getting acres completed, or he will need to rent more equipment and hire more staff to accomplish the work in-house.

In the end, Krisman offered the best value and the highest level of confidence in getting the work accomplished on time, within budget, and by the March 2025 deadline.

Amador RCD  
Executive Director Report  
Prepared for: May 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 Board Meeting

**Current Projects Updates:**

Community Chipping Program: Working to advertise the Chipping Program as well as work on alternatives to spend down the grant funds prior to the end of the grant term. Looking into the county purchasing equipment for Ingress/Egress vegetation treatment and/or expanding treatment to help with defensible space clearing.

Healthy Soil Program Technical Assistance Funding- Anna finalized 13 applications, will be working on technical review with the rest of the TAs. Anna is planning workshops in Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne County. There will be a Range Seeding workshop on June 5<sup>th</sup> at PT Ranch (See Flier)

Forest Health Assistance Program (FHAP): NACD: Tamryn has ranked and submitted 6 clients to the EQIP program. RCPP: Tamryn is working with clients to prepare for the clients for RCPP ranking which will take June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Jackson Creek Forest Health Project: UCCE planned a Grazing Academy workshop that was held May 17<sup>th</sup>. Gordon and Robert conducted a bidding process for mastication work and the Ad Hoc Selection Committee has made a recommendation to the board, see memo.

WCB Pollinator Habitat Installation: We've received 30 applicants for wildlife structures. Working with other RCDs to advertise the program in Calaveras and Tuolumne counties.

Outreach Planning: AFSC and ARCD are working on the County Fair Booth. The booth will now be in the "Safety Fair" area to have more visibility and interaction.

Mitchell Mine Fuel Break: ARCD has contracted with California Reforestation on the next phase of the MMFB maintenance, work has begun. UCCE held 2 workshop in May regarding the demonstration project and has created several great documents regarding the project. [cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Mitchell Mine Fuel Break Demonstration/](https://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Mitchell_Mine_Fuel_Break_Demonstration/)

Defensible Space Assistance Project: Agreement fully executed. Project development will likely start in Summer 2024. We will be working on developing a defensible space interactive display for the safety fair.

**Upcoming Funding/Projects:**

NACD Climate Smart Commodities Planning Grant: Anna submitted the grant application last week.

Jackson Creek Oak Restoration funding: CARCD is the lead on the project and requested information to include in their application as a potential block grant awardee.

NRCS Cooperative Agreement: submitted. Awaiting funding.

Amador/Calaveras Stewardship Agreement: Calaveras RCD lead. Awaiting funding.



ARCD, in collaboration with Calaveras County and Tuolumne County RCDs, has received Climate Resilience Through Habitat Restoration on California Lands funding through the California Wildlife Conservation Board and California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to install and monitor wildlife structures on private property. ARCD, CCRCD, and TCRCD anticipate awarding up to 140 wildlife structures to Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne County residents. Visit our website at the link below or use the QR code to fill out our Wildlife Structures Interest form!

[www.amadorrccd.org/wildlife-structures](http://www.amadorrccd.org/wildlife-structures) Interest Form:



ARCD has received Climate Resilience through Habitat Restoration on California Land funding through the [California Wildlife Conservation Board](#) and [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#) to plan, install, and monitor two large monarch and pollinator habitat restoration projects on working lands in Amador County. For more information, visit the website and/or fill out our interest form using the QR code!

<https://www.amadorrccd.org/natural-and-working-lands-monarch-and-pollinator-habitat-projects> Interest form:





# Let's Talk Jobs!

Community Conversation Series about Sierra Jobs First

May 21, 5:30-7:30 PM

Sutter Creek Grammar School - 121 Cole St.



### Our Goals:

- Understanding the Challenges in Your Community
- Finding Solutions Together
- Hear What You Think: Your Voice Matters



Have a say in how money is spent to create jobs in Sutter Creek.

**This will be a bilingual conversation. English and Spanish speakers are both invited to attend.**



**Food and drinks will be provided. All participants can receive a \$25 gift card.**

Workshop Hosts: Amador College Connect & Sierra Jobs First Collaborative

To RSVP, follow this link:



Through statewide investments from California Jobs First, the Sierra Jobs First region is collaborating to create broader access to family-supporting jobs and a community-led, climate-forward economy for all.



# Healthy Soils for Grazing Lands

## Range Seeding: Considerations & Opportunities

Join the Amador Resource Conservation District's Healthy Soils Program for a field day to explore cultivating forage production resilience.



Hear presentations from:

- Experienced Ranchers
- Kamprath Seed
- Rancher to Rancher
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS)
- UCCE Central Sierra
- Point Blue Conservation Science

Field Day Topics:

- Range Seeding Planning Considerations
- Seed Selection Considerations
- Rancher Implementation Experience
- Healthy Soil Functioning
- Soil Sampling
- Weed Management
- Financial Assistance Programs

## FREE FIELD DAY

**June 5th, 2024**  
**10:30 AM-3:30 PM**

Please bring your own lunch.  
Water will be provided.

**PT Ranch**  
**1600 Cook Rd, Ione, CA**  
**95640**

Wear appropriate outdoor  
attire.

**REGISTER HERE**



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

