



**AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

Monday, 22 January 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

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

Other Meeting Locations: 1208 ID-31 Victor, ID 83455
2035 River Edge Lane, Teton, ID,

ARCD Directors: Steve Cannon, Carol Marz, Emily Taylor, Dan Port, Dr. Kelsi Williams
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	Public Comment: 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	Consent Agenda*: 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. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of Agenda 2. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: November 2023 3. Warrant Summary 4. Financial Reports 5. SAWQA Report
3	CSDA Update - Dane Wadle
4	NRCS Report - Jennifer Wood
5	Letter of Support for Jackson LPO Range Specialist* - Steve Cannon
6	Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program Memorandum of Understanding* - Amanda Watson
7	MB&G Contract Amendment - Request for Additional Funds* - Steve Cannon/Amanda Watson
8	Executive Director Report Amanda Watson
9	Adjourn

Next ARCD Board of Directors Meeting: 4th Monday of each month
February 26th 4:15-6:00



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

Directors: Steve Cannon, Dan Port, Carol Marz, Kelsi Williams, Emily Taylor

Minutes for Regular Meeting of 27 November 2023

Called to order on 27 Nov. 2023 at 4:15 p.m. at 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson, CA

Present: Directors Cannon, Port, Taylor & Williams,
Amanda Watson, Dana Simpson, Jennifer Wood, Johnny Siliznoff, Amber Gardner

Public Comment: Amber Gardner introduced herself and gave some background on her experience and interest in serving as a director of the ARCD.

Consent Agenda: Warrant summary pulled from consent agenda. Director Port moved to approve the Consent Agenda, 2nd by Director Williams.

Roll call vote: Port – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Williams – Aye, Cannon – Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

Warrant Summary: Warrants 23-115, 116 & 117 to Amanda Watson, Warrant 23-125 to Timber Ridge Clearing, Warrant 23-127 & 131 to Krisman Enterprises, Warrant 23-130 to Sacramento Valley Coalition. All others are under the maximum amount authorized to E.D. to approve and pay. Motion to approve warrants made by Director Williams, seconded by Director Taylor. Roll call vote: Port – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Williams – Aye, Cannon – Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

NRCS Report –District Conservationist Jennifer Wood presented the report.

Warrant signing policy update – Dana Simpson presented the changes to the warrant signing policy.

Director Williams moved to approve the Warrant Signing Policy, 2nd by Director Taylor.

Roll call vote: Port – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Williams – Aye, Cannon – Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

Director Vacancy – Director Taylor moved to recommend Amber Gardner to the Board of Supervisors as a director to fill the remaining term of Carole Marz. Director Port seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Port – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Williams – Aye, Cannon – Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

December ARCD board meeting – Director Williams moved to cancel the December meeting. Seconded by Director Taylor. Roll call vote: Port – Aye, Taylor – Aye, Williams – Aye, Cannon – Aye. Nays – none. Motion passed.

Executive Director Report – E.D. Watson reported that the Central Sierra RCD group meeting will be held at the State CARCD conference on 13 December at 8:15 a.m.

District Conservationist Wood gave an additional presentation on what's going on within the NRCS office. Encouraged the ARCD to hold a Local Working Group meeting.

SAWQA Budget- There were no amendments needed to the current SAWQA Budget.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Q. Cannon, Secretary/President

Dec 2023 - ARCD Board Meeting

Starting Warrant 23-132

Warrant Number	Amount	Pay to	Project	Notes	Approved by	Status
23-132	\$451.74	Pre-Sort Center	SAWQA	Inv 110369 Postcard mailing	DS	delivered 12/14/23
23-133	\$1,390.99	Amanda Watson	Admin	Replacement check for August Credit Card charges	Board	delivered 12/14/23
23-134	\$1,322.69	Amanda Watson	Admin	Replacement ck for October Credit Card charges	Board	delivered 12/14/23
23-135	\$1,714.92	Amanda Watson	Admin	Replacement ck for Sept Credit Card charges	Board	delivered 12/14/23
23-136	\$795.48	Dana Simpson	Admin	bins and shelves for storage unit, software, AM Monitor, postage	AW	delivered 12/14/23
23-137	\$340.25	Balancing the Books	Admin	Nov 2023 Inv 12809	DS	delivered 12/14/23
23-138	\$507.50	Molly Taylor	HSP 2021	November 2023	DS	delivered 12/14/23
23-139	\$120.75	Lindsey Liebig	SAWQA	Contact Contact	DS	delivered 12/14/23
23-140	\$682.40	UCCE	Mitchell Mine	Inv 71013342 Oct 2023 Brian Allen	DS	delivered 12/14/23

ARCD Income

Check Date	Check From	Project	Notes	Status

Jan 2024 - ARCD Board Meeting

Starting Warrant 23-132

Warrant Number	Amount	Pay to	Project	Notes	Approved by	Status
24-001	\$461.19	Balancing the Books	ARCD - General	Dec 2023 payroll and year end close out	DS	delivered 1/2/24 DS
24-002	\$750.00	Eddy Struffenegger	MMFB	Dec 2023	AW	delivered 1/2/24 DS
24-003	\$1,004.48	ACES	Chipping 2	Inv 724648 Nov 2023	MW	delivered 1/2/24 DS
24-004	\$210.00	Molly Taylor	HSP 2021	Dec 2023	AW	delivered 1/2/24 DS
24-005	\$946.94	Jill Damskey	SAWQA	Jul - Aug 2023	AW	delivered 1/2/24 DS
24-006	\$737.50	Jill Damskey	SAWQA	Sep - Oct 2023	AW	delivered 1/2/24 DS
24-007	\$474.18	Jill Damskey	SAWQA	November 2023	AW	delivered 1/2/24 DS

ARCD Income

Check Date	Check From	Project	Notes	Status

Grant Progress Tracking 12/31/2023

ARCD	<u>Grant Period</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>	<u>Direct Cost</u>	<u>Indirect Cost</u>	<u>Remaining Advance</u>	<u>Expended to Date</u>	<u>Invoiced</u>	<u>Amount remaining</u>
Jackson Creek Watershed 8GG20624	11/15/2021 - 3/31/2025	\$ 3,603,152.00	\$ 3,217,100.00	\$ 386,052.00	\$ 287,758.21	\$ 682,680.89		\$ 2,920,471.11
Chipping 2021 - Round 2 5GG20102	11/2021 - 3/15/2025	\$ 718,292.00	\$ 652,993.00	\$ 65,299.00		\$ 122,521.52	\$ 21,267.28	\$ 595,770.48
Mitchell Mine Fuel Break 2CA05282	6/10/2021 - 6/9/2024	\$ 327,700.00	\$ 297,910.00	\$ 29,790.00		\$ 39,882.68		\$ 287,817.32
RCPP	5/15/2019 - 8/31/2023	\$ 312,362.00	\$ 312,362.00	n/a		\$ 296,656.51	\$0.00	\$ -
Healthy Soils - Round 2 21-0540-000-SG	10/1/2021 - 10/1/2024	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 35,768.63	\$ 4,512.35	\$ 24,231.37
Healthy Soils - Round 3 23-0672-000-SG	11/1/2023 - 10/31/2026	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 4,597.91		\$ 55,402.09
NACD 2022 - Round 5		\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00		\$ 15,822.92	\$ 59,177.08		\$ 40,822.92
WCB Grant - Pollinators		\$ 251,000.00	\$ 251,000.00			\$ 669.66		\$ 250,330.34
WCB Grant - Wildlife Habitat		\$ 200,000.00						\$ 200,000.00
Defensible Space	12/27/2023 - 03/15/2029	\$ 633,584.00						\$ 633,584.00
2023 RCPP Round 2	Awarded, but not executed yet	\$ 262,857.00						\$ 262,857.00
DOC Grant	Awarded, but not executed yet							
Misc Receivables								\$ -
AFSC Staff Time							\$ 95,143.70	
LCRCD Staff Time							\$ 3,293.40	
SAWQA Staff Time								
		\$ 6,528,947.00	\$ 4,935,365.00	\$ 497,141.00	\$ 303,581.13	\$ 1,241,954.88	\$ 124,216.73	\$ 5,271,286.63
					*Deferred Rev			
						*Accounts Rec		

SAWQA

	<u>Amount Billed</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
Member Fees			

Amador Resource Conservation District

01/18/24

Balance Sheet

Accrual Basis

As of December 31, 2023

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
101768 · Sac/Ama Water Quality Alliance	239,201.11
101769 · Amador RCD	660,893.81
Total Checking/Savings	900,094.92
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	124,216.72
Total Accounts Receivable	124,216.72
Total Current Assets	1,024,311.64
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,024,311.64</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
001 · Amazon Chase	633.00
Total Credit Cards	633.00
Other Current Liabilities	
24500 · Accrued Time Off	5,602.51
25800 · Unearned or Deferred Revenue	303,581.12
Total Other Current Liabilities	309,183.63
Total Current Liabilities	309,816.63
Total Liabilities	309,816.63
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	714,685.99
32000 · Retained Earnings	184,916.61
Net Income	-185,107.59
Total Equity	714,495.01
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,024,311.64</u>

Amador Resource Conservation District Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

Accrual Basis

July through December 2023

	Jul - Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
45000 · Investments				
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	12,281.67	2,500.00	9,781.67	491.3%
Total 45000 · Investments	12,281.67	2,500.00	9,781.67	491.3%
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46009 · Partnership Contracts	87,797.28	214,000.00	(126,202.72)	41.0%
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	90,247.28	214,000.00	(123,752.72)	42.2%
47890 · Program Income				
47891 · Grant Income	441,467.96	3,056,793.00	(2,615,325.04)	14.4%
Total 47890 · Program Income	494,298.78	3,056,793.00	(2,562,494.22)	16.2%
Total Income	596,827.73	3,273,293.00	(2,676,465.27)	18.2%
Gross Profit	596,827.73	3,273,293.00	(2,676,465.27)	18.2%
Expense				
50100 · Payroll Expenses	188,879.21	483,609.00	(294,729.79)	39.1%
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%
Total 51000 · Insurance	6,234.63	6,000.00	234.63	103.9%
52000 · Memberships and Dues	1,569.00	3,000.00	(1,431.00)	52.3%
52200 · Office Expenses				
52200-1 · Office Equipment	2,654.58	15,000.00	(12,345.42)	17.7%
52200-2 · Postage, Mailing Service	74.56	300.00	(225.44)	24.9%
52200-3 · Printing and Copying	399.10	1,200.00	(800.90)	33.3%
52200-4 · Supplies	1,153.79	1,000.00	153.79	115.4%
52200-5 · Telephone, Telecommunications	503.18	1,200.00	(696.82)	41.9%
52200-6 · Advertising	301.19	1,500.00	(1,198.81)	20.1%
52200-7 · Software	926.72	3,000.00	(2,073.28)	30.9%
52200-8 · Website		600.00	(600.00)	
52200-9 · Tech Support	153.96	150.00	3.96	102.6%
Total 52200 · Office Expenses	6,167.08	23,950.00	(17,782.92)	25.7%
52300 · Professional Services				
52300-4 · Consulting		6,300.00	(6,300.00)	
52321 · Auditor's Services		10,000.00	(10,000.00)	
52383 · Bookkeeping	2,082.07	4,000.00	(1,917.93)	52.1%
52399 · Other		5,000.00	(5,000.00)	
Total 52300 · Professional Services	4,182.07	25,300.00	(21,117.93)	16.5%
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%
Total 52800 · Special Departmental Expenses	2,344.43	6,400.00	(4,055.57)	36.6%
52900 · Travel and Meetings				
52905 · Travel and Transportation				
52905-1 · Mileage	269.08	5,885.00	(5,615.92)	4.6%
Total 52905 · Travel and Transportation	269.08	5,885.00	(5,615.92)	4.6%
52910 · Convention and Meetings	850.00	2,000.00	(1,150.00)	42.5%
52915 · Meals	465.48	500.00	(34.52)	93.1%
Total 52900 · Travel and Meetings	1,584.56	8,385.00	(6,800.44)	18.9%
54138 · Contractor Services				
54138-1 · Groundwork Contractor	356,949.67	1,760,991.00	(1,404,041.33)	20.3%
54138-2 · Professional Service Contractor	23,147.53	453,600.00	(430,452.47)	5.1%
Total 54138 · Contractor Services	380,097.20	2,214,591.00	(1,834,493.80)	17.2%
65100 · Other Types of Expenses				
65160 · Grant Supplies/Costs	700.00	95,325.00	(94,625.00)	0.7%
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	700.00	95,325.00	(94,625.00)	0.7%
Total Expense	591,758.18	2,866,560.00	(2,274,801.82)	20.6%
Net Ordinary Income	5,069.55	406,733.00	(401,663.45)	1.2%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
70000 · Additions to Reserves		150,000.00	(150,000.00)	
Total Other Expense		150,000.00	(150,000.00)	
Net Other Income		(150,000.00)	150,000.00	
Net Income	5,069.55	256,733.00	(251,663.45)	2.0%

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

	Jul '23 - Jun 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
45000 · Investments				
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	6,901.90	5,000.00	1,901.90	138.0%
Total 45000 · Investments	6,901.90	5,000.00	1,901.90	138.0%
47890 · Program Income				
47895 · SAWQA Member Fees	32,228.45	346,300.00	-314,071.55	9.3%
Total 47890 · Program Income	32,228.45	346,300.00	-314,071.55	9.3%
Total Income	39,130.35	351,300.00	-312,169.65	11.1%
Gross Profit	39,130.35	351,300.00	-312,169.65	11.1%
Expense				
50100 · Payroll Expenses				
50100-1 · Payroll Expense	24.00			
50310 · Payroll Tax Expense	1.84			
Total 50100 · Payroll Expenses	25.84			
51000 · Insurance				
51500 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	3,004.93	3,000.00	4.93	100.2%
Total 51000 · Insurance	3,004.93	3,000.00	4.93	100.2%
52200 · Office Expenses				
52200-2 · Postage, Mailing Service	268.15			
52200-3 · Printing and Copying	265.59			
52200-6 · Advertising	120.75			
52200 · Office Expenses - Other	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
Total 52200 · Office Expenses	654.49	5,000.00	-4,345.51	13.1%
52300 · Professional Services				
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	66,808.69	165,676.00	-98,867.31	40.3%
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	156,918.92	140,740.00	16,178.92	111.5%
Total 52300 · Professional Services	223,727.61	373,319.00	-149,591.39	59.9%
54138 · Contractor Services				
54138-2 · Professional Service Contractor	2,158.62			
Total 54138 · Contractor Services	2,158.62			
Total Expense	229,571.49	381,319.00	-151,747.51	60.2%
Net Ordinary Income	-190,441.14	-30,019.00	-160,422.14	634.4%
Net Income	-190,441.14	-30,019.00	-160,422.14	634.4%

SAWQA Report

Prepared for: January 22nd 2024 Board Meeting

Reporting: 53% of members have completed reporting. Invoicing will be mailed the last week in January.

SAWQA 2023-2024 Timeline	updated: 1/18/2024	
Farm Evaluations	Planned	Actual
Mail Date	N/A	
Due Date	N/A	
Irrigation & Nitrogen Management Plan		
Database Opened - Land IQ	Nov. 6th	November 6th 2024
Send email blasts - update cropping/acreage	Dec. 1	January 5th/15th 2024
Mailing- Update database/ Reporting (5 day)	Dec. 4th	
Office Hours - Sacramento	Early January	January 15th
Office Hours- Amador	mid-January	January 17th 2024
Online walk-through - outreach	mid-January	January 15th 2024
Invoicing		
Cutoff date (freeze data and generate Invoice)	January 26th	January 19th 2024
Mail Date	February 2nd 2024	Last week of January
Due Date	March 1 2024	
Late Fee - Advertised Due Date (10%)	March 15th 2024	
Pull late fee list (10%)	March 18th 2024	
Late Fee -Advertised Due Date (20%)	April 12th 2024	
Pull late fee list (20%)	April 17th 2024	
Late Fee - Advertised Due Date (30%)	May 17th 2024	
Pull late fee list (30%)	May 20th 2024	
Pending Termination Letter	May 2nd 2024	
Give regional board non-complaint list	Check with Chelsea	
Cancellation Letter	June 16th 2024	
Cancel Unpaid Members	July 1st 2024	
Reinstatement Deadline	July 1st 2024	
Membership List due to Coalition	July 10th 2024	
Membership/Communications		
Winter Newsletter	January 6th 2024	January 15th 2024
Invoice Reminder/Checkbox Mailing/Late Fee/Cancellation warning	with first late fee	
Healthy Soils Incentive Program Mailing		
Sacramento Farm Bureau Newsletter		
Coalition Nitrogen Delta Email Blast		

Changes is reporting requirements for some members: In revising the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR), required every 5 years by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Coalition’s consultant Luhdorff Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, used a more refined methodology, including proximity to riparian corridors, floodplains of major rivers and recharge, to determine what areas of the valley floor portions of the Sacramento River Watershed should be designated High Vulnerability Areas (HVAs) for nitrate impacts to groundwater. By definition in the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR), the HVA is intended to include lands overlying groundwater resources that are vulnerable to nitrate contamination due to agricultural practices. This resulted in the change of some parcels from High Vulnerability to Low Vulnerability and others from low to high.



TAKE ACTION BRIEF

January 2024

California’s State Legislature reconvened January 3 for the second year of the biennial 2023-24 Legislative Session following its Interim Recess, and the 118th United States Congress kicked off its second session the following week.

At the top of the agenda in both the state and federal capitols is the budget process. In the first week of January, U.S. Congressional leaders reached agreement on overall budget levels for Fiscal Year 2024, but House Speaker Mike Johnson confronted fallout from some of the conservative members of the Republican conference in the days that followed. Meanwhile, California Governor Gavin Newsom presented his 2024-25 State Budget proposal January 10, estimating a \$37.9 billion deficit that stood out in comparison to the \$68 billion shortfall previously identified by the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

The second year of the State Legislative Session is always fast and furious with “two-year bills” facing a January 12 cut-off to pass policy committee if they have a fiscal implication, then another deadline January 19 to clear all committees and pass to the floor. January 31, known as the “House of Origin Deadline” is the last day for each house to pass bills introduced in 2023.

CSDA members can track all bills affecting special districts at csda.net/bill-tracking. Learn more about the State Budget in this *Take Action* Brief and stay tuned to CSDA eNews as well as the [Advocacy News Blog](#) for developments throughout the year.

Next month is CSDA’s annual *Take Action* Month, but you can get ahead of the game by downloading CSDA’s guide to [Take Action: Engaging with Your Community and Legislators](#) for insights on building relationships with the lawmakers serving your area. Visit [CSDA’s Map of Special Districts](#) to learn which legislative districts overlap with your special district. If you have a relationship with your legislators, please let us know by completing our brief [Grassroots Mobilization Survey](#).

Inside this edition of the *Take Action* Brief:

CSDA responds to Governor’s proposed 2024-25 State Budget.....2

November 2024 statewide ballot measures affecting special districts.....4

Virtual special districts tour on water infrastructure for firefighting.....6

Make sure your district has updated its roster with the Secretary of State.....7

2024 Districts Make the Difference Student Video Contest is now open.....8

Contact a local CSDA representative near you!

Chris Norden	Northern Network	chrisn@csda.net
Dane Wadlé	Sierra Network	danew@csda.net
Colleen Haley	Bay Area Network	colleenh@csda.net
Chris Palmer (Interim)	Central Network	chrisp@csda.net
Richelle Noryan	Coastal Network	richellen@csda.net
Chris Palmer	Southern Network	chrisp@csda.net



➤ CSDA responds to Governor’s proposed 2024-25 State Budget

CSDA Chief Executive Officer Neil McCormick responded to Governor Gavin Newsom’s 2024-25 State Budget proposal by stating:

“We appreciate Governor Newsom’s proactive efforts to maintain the State’s commitments in the face of declining revenues. To succeed, it is all the more critical that the State Legislature and Administration take a mindful approach when considering new policy proposals that could increase costs or hamper revenues for special districts and other local agencies. The future of our communities and our economy depend on the water, sanitation, fire protection, parks, open space, healthcare, and other essential services our members provide together with the State and other partners.”

On January 10, Governor Newsom put forward his [2024-25 State Budget](#), totaling \$291.5 billion (\$208.7 billion General Fund) in proposed state spending. Disagreement between the Governor and the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) over the size of the State’s deficit taking center stage, with the Governor projecting a \$37.86 billion deficit, compared to the LAO’s projection of \$68 billion.

Visit csda.net for a full CSDA overview of the Governor’s January proposal of the 2024-25 State Budget, a few key areas affecting all-types of special districts include:

Climate Change

The 2024-2025 Budget maintains \$48.3 billion for climate commitments, with over \$10 billion from the Federal government. The budget summary highlights \$6.7 billion in adjustments to climate programs, including reductions, delays, and funding shifts, primarily from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), of \$2.9 billion, \$1.9 billion, and \$1.8 billion, respectively.

Zero-Emission Vehicles

Funding of \$10 billion which was committed in the 2021-2022 Budget is extended over seven years, including targeted investments for increasing access to clean transportation in disadvantaged communities. An expenditure reduction of \$38.1 million is proposed, including Drayage Trucks and Infrastructure Pilot Project (\$23.5 million), ZEV Manufacturing Grants (\$7.3 million), and Emerging Opportunities (\$7.3 million), while maintaining \$477 million previously dedicated to those programs. A fund shift of \$475.3 million to the GGRF, including ZEV Fueling Infrastructure Grants and Drayage Trucks and Infrastructure, is proposed, along with a \$600 million GGRF delay from 2024-2025 across various programs, including ZEV infrastructure.

CEQA Judicial Streamlining

The Governor proposes ongoing \$2.3 million from the General Fund to support implementation of a recently enacted CEQA judicial streamlining statute pertaining to infrastructure.



Labor, Workforce Development

The 2022 Budget allocated \$2.2 billion in support of apprenticeships, providing workforce training for climate change mitigation, and fostering a diverse health and human services workforce. The 2024-2025 Budget proposes a reduction of approximately \$100 million, as well as proposed delays totaling \$734.5 million.

The California Jobs First Initiative, formerly known as the Community Economic Resilience Fund, faces a \$300 million funding delay. The Budget includes \$100 million General Fund annually for this initiative from 2024-2025 through 2026-2027.

Various reductions, reversions, and delays are anticipated to impact Healthcare Workforce Investments, High Road Training Partnerships, the Apprenticeship Innovation Fund, the Goods Movement Workforce Training Facility, the California Youth Apprenticeship Program, the Low Carbon Economy Program, the Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Pilot Fund, EMT Training, and the Women in Construction Unit. Additionally, a budgetary loan of \$125 million from the Labor and Workforce Development Fund to the General Fund is proposed.

The Governor's Budget proposal includes a section related to Senate Bill 525 (Durazo, 2023). SB 525 codified incremental minimum wage increases for specified healthcare workers, effective June 1, 2024. The Administration is seeking early action in January by the Legislature to add an annual "trigger" to make the minimum wage increases subject to General Fund revenue availability, clarify the exemption for state facilities, and make clarifications in connection with implementation.

ERAF

When the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) initiated the redirection of property tax revenue from cities, counties, and special districts to K-12 schools in 1992, this reduction resulted in equivalent State General Fund savings by reducing other State revenues allocated to schools.

The Governor's Budget includes a proposal to specify that charter schools are explicitly eligible for receipt of ERAF dollars. It has been the practice in some counties with excess ERAF dollars to exclude charter schools in the associated funding calculations when initially distributing ERAF dollars, thereby increasing the amount of excess ERAF dollars in the county and increasing the amount of funds returned to those local agencies that had their property tax receipts diverted into ERAF. However, the current Administration argues that this practice conflicts with existing state law and the Local Control Funding Formula that determines school funding. Administration officials had previously expressed as much to various counties where this phenomenon was discovered, instructing those counties to allocate ERAF dollars to charter schools as mandated by law.

To remedy any continued noncompliance, the Governor's proposal would specify that charter schools are explicitly eligible for receipt of ERAF dollars and seemingly put an end to this practice, which would impact local agencies in excess ERAF counties by reducing the amount of excess ERAF dollars returned to local agencies within those counties. As this proposal is aimed at excess ERAF counties, the impacts would be limited to certain Bay Area counties (presently Marin, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Napa, according to a [2020 report from the Legislative Analyst's Office](#)) as well as the county of Alpine.



➤ November 2024 statewide ballot measures affecting special districts

The last day for propositions to qualify to appear on the November 5, 2024 Statewide General Election Ballot is June 27, 2024. Below is an overview of the state-of-play and an executive summary of the most significant measures affecting special districts and the communities they serve.

- **Four measures** have [formally qualified](#) for the November, having been placed on the ballot as Constitutional Amendments through a two-thirds vote of each house of the State Legislature.
- **Six measures** are [eligible for the ballot](#) as statewide initiative measures with elections officials having verified the required number of signatures. These initiatives will formally qualify if they are not withdrawn by proponents prior to June 27.
- **34 initiatives** are [in circulation](#), four of which the proponents claim to have gathered at least 25 percent of the requisite signatures.

Here is a breakdown of the November ballot measures that matter most to special districts:

Qualified Statewide Ballot Measures

[ACA 1 \(Aguir-Curry\) Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.](#)

Long-supported by CSDA, ACA 1 gives voters the opportunity to allow special districts, cities, and counties to approve general obligation bonds and special taxes for public infrastructure and affordable housing with the same 55 percent vote threshold now authorized for school bonds.

[ACA 13 \(Ward\) Voting thresholds.](#)

The second-most important measure on the ballot (more to come later on the most important measure), ACA 13 requires any initiative measure that would increase voter approval requirements in the State Constitution to pass by the same approval requirement it seeks to impose on others. CSDA strongly supported passage of this measure in the State Legislature to place it before voters, with dozens of special districts joining CSDA's statewide call-to-action.

Eligible Statewide Ballot Measures

[1921. \(21-0027A1\) Eliminates employees' ability to file lawsuits for monetary penalties for state labor-law violations. Initiative Statute.](#)

Repeals 2004 law allowing employees to file lawsuits on behalf of themselves and other employees against employers to recover monetary penalties for certain state labor-law violations. Labor Commissioner retains authority to enforce labor laws and impose penalties. Eliminates Labor Commissioner's authority to contract with private organizations or attorneys to assist with enforcement.

[1935. \(21-0042A1\) Limits ability of voters and state and local governments to raise revenues for government services. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.](#)

Sponsored by the [California Business Roundtable](#) ("CBRT"), this initiative would revise the Constitution in a manner that would threaten the essential functions of government by promulgating a drastic rise in litigation and severely restricting the ability of voters and state and local governments to fund essential services and infrastructure needs. CSDA is in strong opposition and has called for all special districts to formally approve an oppose resolution. Governor Gavin Newsom, along with the State Legislature and former Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, with support from CSDA and other amicus curiae, petitioned the California Supreme Court to



.....

remove the initiative from the ballot arguing it is Constitutionally invalid. The Court issued an order to show cause on November 29, 2023 and ordered briefing in December and January with amicus briefs due February 14. The matter will likely be set for argument in March or April and a decision is anticipated by June.

1936. (21-0043A1) Raises minimum wage. Initiative Statute.

Existing law requires annual increases to California’s minimum wage until it reached \$15.00 per hour for all businesses on January 1, 2023. This measure extends these annual increases (\$1.00 per year) until minimum wage—currently, \$15.00 per hour for businesses with 26 or more employees, and \$14.00 per hour for smaller businesses—reaches \$18.00 per hour. Thereafter, as existing law requires, the minimum wage will annually adjust for inflation.

Circulating Initiatives with 25 Percent of Signatures Reached

1947. (23-0005) Repeals voter-enacted changes to property tax rules for transfers between family members. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

Reinstates property tax reassessment rules for certain real property transfers between family members (including by inheritance), which voters eliminated through Proposition 19 in 2020. Reduces local property tax revenues and eliminates funding source for Proposition 19’s California Fire Response Fund. Allows transfers to children (or grandchildren if parents are deceased) without property tax reassessment of: (1) principal residence, regardless of current value or continued use as principal residence; and (2) \$1 million in other real property.

Initiatives and Referenda Cleared for Circulation

1957. (23-0015A1) Increases requirements on government agencies and Legislature when responding to records request. Initiative Statute.

Sponsored by [California Watchdog](#), this initiative would likely cost public agencies in excess of \$1 billion [according to the Legislative Analyst’s Office](#). It would place excessive records retention requirements on public agencies— all of which remain ineligible for reimbursement pursuant to the state mandate process. Furthermore, the initiative would dramatically increase a public agency’s exposure to litigation and could stimulate a cottage industry dedicated to pursuing California Public Records Act litigation. CSDA is formally opposed and its analysis of the measure is available [here](#).

1967. (23-0025A1) Limits environmental lawsuits challenging new housing construction. Caps development fees on housing. Initiative Statute.

[As determined by the Legislative Analyst’s Office](#), “[t]he 2 percent cap on local government development fees [imposed by this initiative] would reduce local government revenue likely by at least hundreds of millions of dollars per year, potentially exceeding \$1 billion per year.” CSDA’s own analysis concluded that the initiative will have major impacts on local agency finances, placing an onerous two percent cap on development impact fees. Special districts that collect impact fees would face significant budget shortfalls resulting from slashed impact fee receipts, or would be forced to seek significant tax and fee increases on current residents that may be unwilling or unable to pay. Moreover, shifting the cost-burden from developers and new homeowners to current residents could lead to litigation under Proposition 218 by taxpayers claiming it is unconstitutional for current residents to subsidize services provided to developers and new residents. CSDA is formally opposed and its analysis of the measure is available [here](#).



➤ Virtual special districts tour on water infrastructure for firefighting

Over 50 representatives from state and federal legislative offices recently attended CSDA's Virtual Special Districts Tour, this year highlighting the need for partnership in funding water infrastructure for firefighting. This annual event showcases how local special districts are leading the way on issues of critical statewide concern.

CSDA's Virtual Tour brought together public officials from throughout California as well as from Washington D.C. to discuss challenges faced in both urban and rural areas, and to consider opportunities to partner with special districts in meeting those challenges.

[View Compilation Video on Water Infrastructure for Firefighting Topic](#)

The first presentation highlighted the work of the North Tahoe Fire Protection District, North Tahoe Public Utility District, and the Tahoe City Public Utility District to solve the critical infrastructure need in their high fire risk region.

The Tahoe Basin experienced catastrophic impacts from the Angora Fire in 2007 and the Caldor Fire in 2021. Those incidents demonstrated their rural communities did not have the infrastructure to provide necessary fire flows in response to large events. The three special districts detailed how they work together through the [Tahoe Water for Fire Suppression Partnership](#) to find solutions and advocate with state and federal officials.

[View Full Version of Lake Tahoe Video](#)

The second presentation showcased the collaboration between the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and the Sacramento Suburban Water District. Sac Metro Fire has responded to significant fires recently and is reliant upon water districts such as Sacramento Suburban to provide the water to combat those fires. The water district faces increasing costs for pipeline repairs and groundwater well installations. These costs make it more challenging to keep up on the needed infrastructure replacement to protect public health and safety.

[View Full Version of Sacramento Video](#)

The Virtual Tour concluded with a request from all districts for funding assistance from the state and federal government. Special districts intend to carry forward this advocacy work through their respective lawmakers as well as through the National Special District Coalition (NSDC), of which CSDA is a founding member. NSDC has made this issue a [priority initiative](#). At the state level, [SB 470](#) remains a key opportunity in 2024.

The complete Special Districts Virtual Tour and tour packet can be found at csda.net/SpecialDistrictsTour



➤ Make sure your district updates its roster with the Secretary of State

Does your special district have a new Board Member? New Board President? New Board Secretary?

[Government Code section 53051](#) requires local agencies to update their Registry of Public Agencies document, which must be filed with both the California Secretary of State and the county clerk of each county where the agency operates an office. The form contains various fields, including:

1. Full, legal name of the agency;
2. Official mailing address of its governing body;
3. Name and residence or business address of each member of the governing body of the agency; and
4. Name, title, and residence or business address of the clerk or secretary of the board and the chairman, president, or other presiding officer.

Should any changes occur that affect any of those fields, an updated form must be filed within 10 days with both the Secretary of State and the county clerk of each county where the agency operates an office.

The Registry of Public Agencies document, also known as Form SF-405, is available for download at the California Secretary of State's website at sos.ca.gov/business-programs/special-filings/forms/

While Government Code section 53051 does not provide specific sanctions for failures to abide by its provisions, local agencies may find themselves vulnerable in legal proceedings absent compliance. [Government Code sections 960.2](#) and [960.3](#) allow for individuals seeking to initiate legal proceedings against an agency to leave copies of the service of process with the Secretary of State, rather than with the local agency. In the event a local agency is served in this manner and its Registry of Public Agencies filings are grossly deficient or incomplete, the agency might not be able to rely on pre-existing legal protections.



➤ Districts Make the Difference student video contest now open

The Districts Make the Difference Student Video Scholarship Contest has launched its third annual national competition for high school students.

More information is available at
DistrictsMakeTheDifference.org/Video-Contest

The contest, first established by CSDA in California, has become a pillar of the National Special Districts Coalition's ongoing efforts to expand public awareness of the essential services that more than 35,000 special districts provide in their communities across the country. During the first quarter of the year, high school students are invited to produce a creative, original, 60-second video highlighting special districts services.

Videos submitted through March 30 are reviewed and narrowed to 10 finalists based on stated criteria. The finalists' videos are available online through the Districts Make the Difference and NSDC media channels for a national public vote.

The top scholarship is \$2,000, with additional scholarships for second and third place. Each winning entry also is accompanied with a \$500 "scholarship" for their teacher of choice to expand the next generation's knowledge of special districts.

Special districts across the country are encouraged to share the contest opportunity in their outreach to their communities, high schools, and community civic organizations, as well as on their social media feeds, in newsletters and on websites using the images provided.



TAKE ACTION BRIEF

➤ OTHER WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Learn More

Special District Leadership Academy

February 4-7, 2024

Embassy Suites by Hilton San Luis Obispo – San Luis Obispo, CA

Register here: <https://members.csda.net/EventDetail?EventKey=24SDLACON1>

Based on CSDA’s groundbreaking, curriculum-based continuing education program, which recognizes the necessity for the board and general manager to work closely toward a common goal. SDLA provides the knowledge base to perform essential governance responsibilities and is designed for both new and experienced special district board members.

Join Today

Join an Expert Feedback Team to provide CSDA staff with invaluable insights on policy issues. Email updates@csda.net to inquire about joining one of the following teams:

- Environment & Disaster Preparedness
- Governance
- Human Resources & Personnel
- Local Revenue
- Public Works, Facilities, and State Infrastructure Investment & Partnership

Stay Informed

In addition to the many ways you can **TAKE ACTION** with CSDA’s advocacy efforts, CSDA offers a variety of tools to keep you up-to-date and assist you in your district’s legislative and public outreach. Make sure you’re reading these resources:

- CSDA’s weekly e-Newsletter
- Districts in the News
- CSDA’s *California Special Districts Magazine*

Email updates@csda.net for help accessing these additional member resources.

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

FY23 NRCS CA Recap – See attached talking points.

Program Deadlines

- There is a February 16th application deadline for Classic EQIP as well as Inflation Reduction Act funding for Climate Smart Practices that include forest, crop, and some rangeland practices. Attached is an application form. Customers should call our office to see if our programs are right for them: 209-714-8045.
- The February 16th application deadline includes the National Air Quality Initiative (NAQI) fund pool that includes Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties and funds practice 372 Combustion System Improvement to replace tractor engines, as well as some specialty equipment, see attached program description..
- The February 16th is also the deadline for Water Management Entities (a pretty broad definition) to apply for improvements to infrastructure that supplies irrigation water. Please contact the office if you know of an entity that might be qualified and interested. The
- There is an April 5th deadline for the CARCD RCPP forestry practices fund pool, an extension of prior Crisis to Opportunity RCPP. It is funded for 5 more years, with some added practices and somewhat different ranking questions.

Partnerships/Planning

Ongoing

- NRCS is meeting monthly with the ED's of all three ACT RCD's to implement the Tuolumne County RCD (TCRCD) NRCS Cooperative Agreement to assist with technical and financial assistance outreach and navigation for forestry and other working lands operators, with a focus on Historically Underserved groups. This includes Limited Resource producers and operators. The Agreement is meant to assist with organizing the resources to help us all, across all 3 counties, deliver a consistent set of resource opportunities to customers.
- We expect to rank all current forestry applications for funding this year and have enough to keep us more than busy with those. We will want to see another round of applicants for the first RCPP batching period. At the Tuolumne RCD we discussed asking partners for existing unfunded projects in their pipeline before doing a community wide outreach effort. We have over 50 rangeland applications, with more arriving weekly. We are slowly working through them with the Rangeland Management Specialist from Auburn, the Engineer, and the District Conservationist.
- Applications are accepted year-round. However, it is unlikely new rangeland applicants will get a site visit in time for FY24 funding opportunities due to the backlog.
- There are many opportunities to assist the Tribes, and building relationships with the Tribes is a priority for the Area and the office. There is also a fund pool specifically for Native American owners and operators.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
12200 B Airport Road
Jackson, CA 95642
Phone 2097-14-8045

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Staff

- A Point Blue Affiliate Biologist, Sophia Leveque-Eichorn will be starting on Jan 8, located in Sonora at the MLRA Soil Survey Office in the Forest Service Building. This will be a huge help with bird nesting surveys, range health assessments, wildlife practice planning, and wildlife beneficial- informed implementation requirements. She will also be assisting the Mariposa NRCS field office.
- An Affiliate Forester position with the Tuolumne RCD is starting on January 15. He is expected to focus on RCPP clients in Tuolumne and potentially Calaveras Counties.
- The assistance we can get from the NRCS Auburn Office Rangeland Conservationist is limited. There is still a GS 9-11 vacancy for a Rangeland Conservationist on the staffing plan for our office.
- Current staff: District Conservationist Jennifer Wood, Engineer Bradley Soares and Forester Garrett McFall. Tamryn Zahradka is the ACRCDD Forester and an NRCS affiliate who is assisting with NRCS forestry customers.

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

- Administration of 50 active conservation contracts to treat over 20,000 acres is ongoing, with 3.46 million dollars obligated.
- We initiated a total of 11 FY23 contracts obligating approximately \$500,000 on approximately 3500 acres for range and forestry conservation activities.

Summary of FY23 contracts by county

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

We will submit at least 3x this for funding in 2024 and the funding outlook looks positive.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
12200 B Airport Road
Jackson, CA 95642
Phone 2097-14-8045

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Amador Resource Conservation District
12200-B Airport Rd
Jackson, CA 95642
Email: Amanda@amadorrccd.org
Web: www.amadorrccd.org

Directors: Steve Cannon, Carole Marz, Dan Port, Emily Taylor, Kelsi Williams

Mr. Carlos Suarez, State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
430 G St # 4164 Davis, CA 95616
Via email:

22 January 2024

Dear Mr. Suarez,

I'm writing to you to let you know that the Amador RCD is very happy with the NRCS Local Partnership Office in Jackson, CA and the staff that have really stepped up to serve the constituents of the Amador RCD. D.C. Jennifer Wood is a dedicated and energetic representative of your agency and we feel lucky to have her and her staff.

However, we are very concerned that a sector of agricultural producers are being under-served due to the lack of a Range Conservation specialist to serve the Jackson LPO service area. We do appreciate that the NRCS have provided staffing for the Forester and Engineer positions, but to totally address the needs of the agricultural producers in the area of range management the Jackson LPO desperately needs to have a Range Conservationist position filled.

Since May of 2022, the Jackson LPO has not had a resident Range Specialist. Since before that time, there has been over 60 applicants requesting assistance in the area of Range Management. Cattle, sheep, and goat production are important to the local agricultural economy here in Amador County. It is my understanding that that the assistance given by a Range Specialist and the Engineer frequently work together in a combined approach. If one of those specialists is not available, then the potential assistance is not complete.

The ARCD is committed to a strong partnership with NRCS, which is evident in the ARCD long-term and continued support of providing office space for the Jackson LPO. We've always been successful in convincing our Board of Supervisors of the benefits that the ARCD and NRCS offices provide. And, because of the special relationship that we have with the Calaveras and Tuolumne RCDs, I know that we can count on their cooperation to provide support for NRCS employees.

We certainly don't want to add to the already voluminous set of tasks that Area Conservationist Johnnie Siliznoff has on his plate. We've always appreciated his support, too. But it is our task to represent the needs of the agricultural producers that are our constituents and plead for their cause.

Whatever you can do to help us get this position filled will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steve Q. Cannon
Director, ARCD

CC'd via email: Jennifer Wood (Jennifer.Wood@usda.gov) and Johnnie Siliznoff (johnnie.siliznoff@usda.gov)

**Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program (HSP)
Program and MOU Background**
Prepared for: January 22nd 2024 Board Meeting

Summary: Placer RCD was awarded a block grant as a pilot program from California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA). This block grant will provide funding for technical assistance (TA) for applications, review of applications, implementation funds for healthy soils practices, and limited technical assistance for implementation/reporting.

The Central Sierra is a separate fund pool than the statewide HSP program, the majority of this program funding will be distributed by Placer RCD directly to producers for the implementation of healthy soils practices.

Context: Amador RCD has received HSP TA funding for the past 3 rounds of the statewide solicitation; in these past rounds funding has been directly awarded to producers from CDFA. ARCD is currently working on providing TA for both the statewide and Central Sierra program.

Memorandum of Understanding: This document will provide a basis for the RCDs to share staff/resources across the Central Sierra region to provide payments to producers and technical assistance. The approval of this MOU is critical for the inclusion of Amador County in this program.

There will be a follow-up agreement between Placer RCD and Amador RCD that will outline reporting, invoicing, and budget for technical assistance that Amador RCD will provide to this program. The ARCD will receive \$91k for technical assistance over the 4-year term of this grant.

Brief Program Budget:

Budget Category	Amount
Administration	\$380,622
Technical Assistance	\$199,924
On Farm Project Awards	\$3,419,454
Total Project Amount	\$4,000,000

Memorandum of Understanding
Regarding Completion of the Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and among the Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer RCD), Amador County Resource Conservation District, Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District, Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District, Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District, Florin Resource Conservation District, El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, and Calaveras County Resource Conservation District (hereafter known collectively as “Central Sierra Region RCDs”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Placer RCD has been awarded funding (hereafter referred to as “Agreement”) from the California Department of Food & Agriculture to complete the *Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program*, (hereafter referred to as “Project”) in partnership with the Central Sierra Region RCDs; and

WHEREAS, each Board of Directors of the Central Sierra Region RCDs will cooperatively work together through this MOU for the purposes of completing the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Project is a multi-jurisdictional effort to provide technical assistance and increase regional implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon and reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs); and

WHEREAS, the Central Sierra Region RCDs have identified the Project as valuable toward meeting its collective mission and goals; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code Section 9408(b) states: Resource Conservation Districts may cooperate with counties and cities on resource issues of local concern. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage Districts to facilitate cooperation among agencies of government to address resource issues of local concern; and

WHEREAS, Public Resources Code Section 9409 states: The directors may make improvements or conduct operations on public lands, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, and on private lands, with the consent of the owners thereof, in furtherance of the prevention or control of soil erosion, water conservation and distribution, agricultural enhancement, wildlife enhancement, and erosion stabilization, including, but not limited to, terraces, ditches, levees, and dams or other structures, and the planting of trees, shrubs, grasses, or other vegetation.

TERMS

THEREFORE, the Central Sierra Region RCDs mutually agree as follows:

- 1) The signatories to this MOU commit to cooperatively working together to complete the Project.
- 2) The Central Sierra Region RCDs will adhere to the conditions of the Project as described in Exhibit A (attached hereto and incorporated herein).
- 3) Nothing in this MOU shall obligate any signatory to transfer or commit any funds.
- 4) The signatories to this MOU may terminate, or otherwise amend this MOU at any time by mutual written consent signed by all signatories to this MOU.

- 5) Any signatory may withdraw from this MOU effective upon thirty (30) days written notice to all other signatories. The MOU shall be amended to memorialize the withdrawal.
- 6) This MOU shall terminate when the Project is deemed complete by November 30th, 2027 or by mutual written consent of the Central Sierra Region RCDs, whichever occurs first.
- 7) This MOU will become effective as of the latest date shown below on the signature page.
- 8) Florin Resource Conservation District will allow Central Sierra Region RCDs to work within their district boundaries for the Project but will not be required to allocate staff time or costs to the Project.
- 9) Placer RCD will provide Project status updates to the Central Sierra Region RCDs Quarterly

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each undersigned hereby agrees to be an active participant in the ***“Central Sierra Healthy Soils Program”*** and agrees to comply with the terms of this MOU as of the effective date.

PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
 Claudia Smith - President, Board of Directors

Date: _____

AMADOR COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
 Steve Q. Cannon - President, Board of Directors

Date: _____

TUOLUMNE COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
 Kirk Ford - Chair, Board of Directors

Date: _____

SLOUGHHOUSE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
 Herb Garms - Chair, Board of Directors

Date: _____

LOWER COSUMNES RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____

Date: _____

President, Board of Directors

GEORGETOWN DIVIDE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
Tim Palmer - President, Board of Directors

Date: _____

FLORIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
Tom Nelson - Chair, Board of Directors

Date: _____

EL DORADO COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
Chuck Mitchell - President, Board of Directors

Date: _____

CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____
Julia Marsili - President, Board of Directors

Date: _____

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Placer RCD Funding Agreement with the California Department of Food & Agriculture

Exhibit A

**PLACER RCD FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD &
AGRICULTURE**

Jackson Creek Forest Health Project
MB&G Contract Amendment Request Summary
Prepared for: January 22nd 2024 Board Meeting

Mason Bruce and Girad (MB&G) were contracted to serve as the forester for the duration of the Jackson Creek Forest Health Project. The original contract was for \$149,490.24.

Context: In June 2023 the ARCD reached out to MB&G regarding several months of continuous high invoices and a concern that the contracted budget appears to be spent down out-of-line with the project timeline. At that time, the most recent invoice (May 2023) would have resulted in a total of 77% of the total budget, with just under 2 years remaining in the project. When this issue was raised with MB&G, MB&G suggested that they would hold off on invoicing and ARCD hold off payment until accomplishments caught up to billings. MB&G has now requested that they continue to invoice and that additional funds be added to the contract to meet expenses. AW requested that the project forester identify the project areas that would need additional funds and where the current budget has been allocated, see table on following page.

Percent Spend Down of MB&G Contract			
	Total to Date	% of Contract	Status
Invoice 1 - 10	\$83,993.96	56.19%	Paid
Invoice 11	\$115,755.47	77.43%	Payment Held

The Request: MB&G would like to re-start invoicing as they have indicated that accomplishments have caught up with billing. They would like to request to add an additional \$38,009.76 to the contract budget. Details of their request are listed below.

“When providing the estimate, the survey requirements for the Cal VTP PSA addendum were still in development. The final requirements ended up being more intensive than what is typical for a forest management project. Early in the project a substantial amount of time was spent visiting landowner properties, meeting with landowners and determining if treatment was feasible, and if so what treatments were appropriate. This time resulted in higher than typical layout cost, as much of the visits did not result in identifying treatable acres.”

MB&G recognized that having Gordon on site has helped reduce the time required by MB&G staff but they noted that they “still need to do the complete area sign offs and the pre-work surveys.”

They are requested to increase the contracted amount to \$187,500.

Amador Project Budget Summary

12/12/2023

This table shows a summary of the project plan/hours anticipated (documented in the contract), the number of hours in each category, and what MB&G proposes as an increase to the budget to meet project deliverables.

Task Item	Assumed Production Rate	Deliverable	Budgeted Hour Estimate	Hours Used to Date	Status	Budgeted Hour Balance	Hours Needed to Complete Task	Hours Needed Over Estimate	Comments
1-project layout	100 acres per day	Geo referenced map and shapefiles depicting project boundaries, treatment types, watercourses classified per forest practice rule standards buffers mapped, road classifications per forest practice rules standards, sensitive areas and associated buffers identified.	112.00	378.25	Complete	(266.25)	-	266.25	We did many more visits than anticipated and the average parcel size per visit was small resulting in a low average acres covered per day
2-provide input on Cal VTP	64 hours to complete	Silviculture report including: description of current conditions, mapping of current conditions per CWHR classification scheme, description of treatment methods, description of effects on stand composition.	40.00	59.25	Complete	4.75	-	(4.75)	
		Review Cal VTP documents	8.00						
		GIS mapping	16.00						
3-biological and archaeological surveys	1 survey seasons, crew of 2 RPF's + report	Botanical survey and report	200.00	255.50	In Progress	44.50	44.50	-	Work on this going forward is proportionally less as plant lists have been developed and we have covered the area with a concentration of historic mining site
	100 acres per day	Archaeological survey and report	100.00						
	Fana recon survey concurrent with layout	Habitat description, and mitigations to avoid impact integrated in treatment specifications.	-						
4-coordination with landowner liaison	N/A	Deliverable integrated with project oversight	40.00	-	In Progress	40.00	-	(40.00)	This task is so similar to 6 that I grouped them
5-Assist in development of bid information	2 workdays	Provide treatment area maps, specifications, and will be available for the bid walk and to answer contractor questions.	16.00	60.75	In Progress	(44.75)	24.00	68.75	
6-weekly reporting	1.5 hours per week of operations	written report with associated map indicating where work is complete, active, and planned for the following week.	102.00	36.50	In Progress	65.50	40.00	(25.50)	I included time for project meetings and ad hoc information requests here
7-implementation oversight	1 visit per 20 acres of treatment	flagged treatment boundaries and protection buffers where applicable, check active operations for contract compliance, verification of completed acres.	450.00	223.75	In Progress	226.25	226.25	-	Completion of this item on budget will require some assistance from RCD staff flagging riparian buffers. We will also use virtual boundaries where the boundary is not the property line
Totals			1,084.00	1,014.00		70.00	334.75	264.75	

Amador RCD
Executive Director Report
Prepared for: January 22nd 2024 Board Meeting

Current Projects Updates:

General: ARCD staff is meeting next week to develop a coordinated outreach plan to cover all programs and project.

All grant reporting is due January 31st.

BizHaven: All staff is up to date on Sexual Harassment Trainings. Injury Illness Prevention Program Documents and protocols are up to date, and staff has been trained as on 12/5. Tamryn is serving as our safety officer and provides weekly safety updates to staff via email. AW and DS are working with BizHaven to update all ARCD policies with new 2024 requirements, a draft will be presented at a future board meeting. Time tracking has been streamlined and will help to ensure compliance via new software.

Healthy Soil Program Technical Assistance Funding- Anna has hosted four Information Sessions in person - 2x at Jackson GSA, 1x at Tuolumne County Farm Bureau, 1x virtually with Sierra Women Landowners Alliance - with a total of approximately 44 attendees. A recording of an HSP Information Session is now posted on the website. 8 additional people have contacted Anna for information via email, 15 people have requested Technical Assistance - 5 applications are currently in the development phase. The application period for the statewide solicitation is anticipated to open in late January. State budget uncertainties have caused delays in this and similar programs.



Forest Health Assistance Program (FHAP): ACT is working on developing a Natural Resource Services database that will compile resources and be searchable by the public. This will build off the already established database developed for the GSA building.

Jackson Creek Forest Health Project: Tressler is near complete with his units, we are working on updating all completed acreage mapping. The second round of mastication/grazing units will go out to bid in Winter 2024. Grazing is delayed and will not start until late Summer 2024. Mason Bruce & Girard (Project Forester) is requesting additional funds. Staff will be requesting a grant extension.

ARCD staff and UCCE staff met to review the project and develop next steps. Dan Macon (UCCE Range Specialist) will be working with Gordon to release a grazing RFP by mid-February. This will potentially cover ground in the past unexecuted grazing contract as well as new acres and acres previously treated via mastication. The group will work on a "Grazing Academy" workshop to be hosted on a site in the Jackson Creek project footprint. The goal will be to provide hands-on experience with fencing and Rx grazing. Susie Kocher (UCCE Forester) will be working to identify areas for larger scale burning and will be assisting ARCD in developing a RFP for a burn boss to develop plans and coordinate burns. The Rx Burn Association does not currently have a coordinator which has slowed momentum on Rx workshops in the project. ARCD/UCCE is planning a Jackson Creek Project update meeting in late February and will host quarterly virtual meetings moving forward.

Mitchell Mine Fuel Break: Contracted has started work on this area. A Pest Control Advisor (PCA) has been identified (TCRCD Forester- Frank) he will be working with Gordon to identify herbicide footprint and Rx.

Defensible Space Assistance Project: contract was fully executed. Development of this program has begun.

Upcoming Funding/Projects:

Amador-Alpine-Calaveras-Tuolumne Natural and Working Land Collaborative –

- Dept. of Conservation- Climate Smart Management Grant Application: ARCD is awaiting fully executed contract.

ARCD/NRCS Holiday Party February 16th 5pm-7pm