

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 12:30PM  
RCD Office, 11769 Waterhill Road, Lakeside CA 92040

Link for remote participants:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86310174457?pwd=eXlPV2lnczUzMFIJK0hoTGhSWmtUZz09>,  
meeting ID: 863 1017 4457

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Since time immemorial, the San Diego County region has been the home of the Kumeyaay, Luiseño, Cahuilla, and Cupeño Native people. We acknowledge that people have come before us and lived with care and respect on these lands. We recognize that we are now on the lands of these indigenous people who are still here and will always be. We honor the Indigenous people living today as well as their ancestors, and we deeply respect their resilience and connection to the land.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTION**

**2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (GOV. CODE 54954.2 (B))**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public may comment on agenda items when they are discussed. Speakers are asked to limit comments to three minutes. (Gov. Code 54954.3(a)).

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 4-1 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2023
- 4-2 Note and file monthly Treasurer's Reports for November 2023
- 4-3 Approve monthly expenses for December 2023

**5. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 5-1 Discuss / Approve: Presentation of Audit for fiscal year 2022-2023
- 5-2 Discuss/Approve: Resolution 2024-01: Ratify Filing of VMF CEQA NOE
- 5-3 Discuss/Approve: Resolution 2024-02, Zero Foodprint agreement
- 5-4 Discuss/Approve: Staff stipends for fiscal year 2022-23
- 5-5 Discuss/Approve: COLA increase for 2024
- 5-6 Discuss/Approve: Annual Board Officer Elections
- 5-7 Discuss/Approve: Selection of Delegate for CARCD annual business meeting
- 5-8 Discuss/Approve: MOU with Urban Corps
- 5-9 Informational item: meeting dates for 2024, February date change

**6. STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS**

- 6-1 Executive Director's Staff Report (attached)
- 6-2 Grant Status Spreadsheets (attached)

**7. OTHER AGENCY, DIRECTOR, ASSOC DIRECTOR, COMMITTEE, AND ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

- 7-1 CARCD Report
- 7-2 Director/Assoc. Director and Other Activity or Committee Reports
- 7-3 NRCS Report

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

- 8-1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION – Government Code Section 54957

**Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
Regular Board Meeting Agenda**

Title: Executive Director Evaluation  
Title: Negotiations with the County of San Diego

The above matters described on the agenda may be held in closed session in a conference with counsel under the provisions of Government Code Section stated above. If closed sessions are held, a report of actions subject to disclosure will be made by the District’s Counsel upon return to open session respectively.

**9. AGENDA SETTING**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Public Notice:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Board meeting, please contact the RCD at (619) 562-0096. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.

<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>		
FSC Executive & General Board Meetings	February 8, 2024	TBD
RCD Board Meeting	February date TBD	TBD
NACD Annual Conference	February 10 – 14, 2024	San Diego
Wild Willow Farm Volunteering	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, 9:30 – 12:00	Wild Willow Farm

<b><u>RCD Board of Directors – December 2023</u></b>	
<b>Don Butz, President</b>	
Marilyn Huntamer, Vice President	Neil Meyer, Director
Maggie Sleeper, Director	Odette Gonzalez, Treasurer
Diane Moss, Director	Michael McGrath
<i>Associate Directors</i>	
D.K. Nasland, Jo MacKenzie, Lance Rogers	

<b>RCD STAFF – December 2023</b>	
Ann Baldrige, Executive Director	Chris Kelley, Financial Director
Heather Marlow, Director of Forestry & Fire Prevention	Joel Kramer, Director of Agricultural Programs
Morgan Graves, Forestry & Fire Prevention Projects Coordinator	Stan Hill, Forestry & Fire Prevention Projects Manager
Carolina Guia, Forestry & Fire Prevention Technical Assistant	Gregg Cady, Farm Conservation Advisor
Rachel Pettit, SoCal Soil & Water Hub Coordinator (shared position)	Codi Hale, Community Programs Manager
Andy Williamson, Irrigation Technician	Elizabeth Garcia, Ag Technician
Daniela Mejia, Community Garden Coordinator	Elizabeth Valdez, Garden Assistant
Sierra Reiss, Education Manager	Mae (Cheyanne) Piacenza, Farm Manager
Erik Rodriguez, Farm Operations Manager	Joannaluz “Joanna” Parra, Farmer
Juliann “JJ” Tidwell, Farmer	Paul Maschka, Regenerative Farming Educator

**Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
Regular Board Meeting Agenda**

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Kacie Wright, Environmental Educator	Joanne Sauerman, Office Coordinator
Joe Lewis, GrizzlyCorps Fellow	Sharlene Aquilar, Field Staff, Wild Willow Farm

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF GREATER SAN DIEGO COUNTY

11769 Waterhill Road • Lakeside, CA 92040

Phone: 619-562-0096 • Fax: 619-562-4799

[www.rcdsandiego.org](http://www.rcdsandiego.org) • [www.firesafesdcounty.org](http://www.firesafesdcounty.org)

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE RCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 12:30 PM**

RCD Office, 11769 Waterhill Road, Lakeside CA 92040

Link for remote participants

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86310174457?pwd=eXlPV2lnczUzMFlJK0hoTGhSWmtUZz09>,

meeting ID: 863 1017 4457

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Marilyn Huntamer, Neil Meyer, Diane Moss, Maggie Sleeper, Odette Gonzalez  
**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Don Butz, Mike McGrath  
**VACANCIES:** None  
**ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT:** None  
**ASSOC. DIRECTORS ABSENT:** DK Nasland, Lance Rogers, Jo Mackenzie  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ann Baldrige, Chris Kelley, Celine Morales

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Since time immemorial, the San Diego County region has been the home of the Kumeyaay, Luiseño, Cahuilla, and Cupeño Native people. We acknowledge that people have come before us and lived with care and respect on these lands. We recognize that we are now on the lands of these indigenous people who are still here and will always be. We honor the Indigenous people living today as well as their ancestors, and we deeply respect their resilience and connection to the land.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTION**

**The Board meeting was called to order at 12:31 PM**

**2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (GOV. CODE 54954.2 (B))**

**No additions or changes to Agenda Acknowledged (Huntamer/Meyer)**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public may comment on agenda items when they are discussed. Speakers are asked to limit comments to three minutes. (Gov. Code 54954.3(a)).

No public comments were received.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**4-1** Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2023

**4-2** Note and file monthly Treasurer's Reports for September 2023

**4-3** Approve monthly expenses for September 2023

Motion/Second (Meyer/Moss) Resolution approved unanimously: Huntamer, Meyer, Moss, Sleeper, Gonzalez; Absent: Butz, McGrath

**5. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**5-1** Discuss/Approve: Resolution 2023-19 – CDFA Grant Agreement: Grant Agreement to be revised and Resolution to be modified to remove Healthy Soils TA and retain only SWEEP TA.

Executive Director to sign the revised grant agreement.

Motion/Second (Meyer/Moss) Resolution approved unanimously: Huntamer, Meyer, Moss, Sleeper, Gonzalez; Absent: Butz, McGrath.

**5-2** Discuss/Approve: RCD Pay Scale and Compensation Policy. Directors discussed fiscal impact and requested minor amendments to three of the wage ranges.

Motion/Second to approve policy with proposed changes (Meyer/Gonzalez). Resolution approved unanimously: Huntamer, Meyer, Moss, Sleeper, Gonzalez; Absent: Butz, McGrath.

Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
Regular Board Meeting Agenda

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- 5-3 Discuss / Approve: Resolution 2023-20 – Declaration of a State of Emergency in the Tijuana River Valley.  
Motion/Second (Sleeper/Gonzalez). Resolution approved unanimously: Huntamer, Meyer, Moss, Sleeper, Gonzalez; Absent: Butz, McGrath.
- 5-4 Discuss / Approve: Producer Membership of Foodshed Inc.  
The board evaluated the benefits of membership.  
Motion/Second to apply for membership (Sleeper/Meyer) approved unanimously: Huntamer, Meyer, Moss, Sleeper, Gonzalez; Absent: Butz, McGrath.
- 5-5 Discuss/Approve: Native American Conservation Corps – Direct Funding Agreement with CA State Parks: Staff updated Board of current situation and proposed Board approve agreement pending review by legal counsel if received by 12/1/23.  
Motion/Second to move forward as proposed (Sleeper/Gonzalez) approved unanimously: Huntamer, Meyer, Moss, Sleeper, Gonzalez; Absent: Butz, McGrath.
- 5-6 Informational Item: Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Agreement (related to Resolution 2023-09). Staff updated to the Board that the grant agreement was provided by WCB, and the project would be reviewed at the 11/15/2023 WCB meeting. Resolution 2023-09 authorizes Executive Director to execute grant agreement. Marilyn expressed interest in attending a meeting regarding the project.

**6. STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS**

- 6-1 Executive Director’s Staff Report (attached)
- 6-2 Grant Status Spreadsheets (attached)

**7. OTHER AGENCY, DIRECTOR, ASSOC DIRECTOR, COMMITTEE, AND ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

- 7-1 CARCD Report
- 7-2 Director/Assoc. Director and Other Activity or Committee Reports
- 7-3 NRCS Report: Celine Morales provided a brief update

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

**8-1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION – Government Code Section 54957**

Title: Executive Director Evaluation -

The above matters described on the agenda may be held in closed session in a conference with counsel under the provisions of the Government Code Section stated above. If closed sessions are held, a report of actions subject to disclosure will be made by the District’s Counsel upon return to open session respectively.

No Closed Session was held.

**9. AGENDA SETTING**

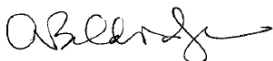
- 1. Board Officer Elections

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm

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Respectfully submitted,



Ann Baldridge, Executive Director

RCD of Greater San Diego County  
Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual  
November 2023

Ordinary Income/Expense	Jul-Nov 2023	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
<b>40000 - Grant Income Restricted</b>				
40041 - CDFA Healthy Soils 23-0684-000	0.00	62,362.00	-62,362.00	0.0%
40042 - CDFA CUSP Economic Relief	8,550.11	86,410.00	-77,859.89	9.9%
40043 - CDFA WETA	46,276.50	173,550.00	-127,273.50	26.67%
40044 - CDFA Planning Grant CAPGP-23-07	23,591.29	124,850.00	-101,258.71	18.9%
40045 - CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA	11,049.29	19,650.00	-8,600.71	56.23%
40046 - CDFA Farm to School Incubator	54,818.61	99,910.00	-45,091.39	54.87%
40049 - CARCD Monarchs	1,041.84	0.00	1,041.84	100.0%
40050 - CARCD WCB	23,265.11	95,070.00	-71,804.89	24.47%
40053 - DOC RFFC Round IIA	395,846.50	915,805.00	-519,958.50	43.22%
40054 - CARCD NRCS Equity Block	0.00	45,000.00	-45,000.00	0.0%
40055 - CARCD NRCS Equity	10,290.10	13,274.00	-2,983.90	77.52%
40056 - CDFA PHP	3,388.15	123,275.00	-119,886.85	2.75%
40057 - Foodshed (account reserved)	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
40058 - CARCD Carbon Hub Coordinator	17,468.34	120,000.00	-102,531.66	14.56%
40060 - NRCS IERCD	14,152.78	15,000.00	-847.22	94.35%
40064 - NRCS Scaling Up Climate Resilience	10,747.33	75,000.00	-64,252.67	14.33%
40065 - NRCS Conservation Planning	21.48	0.00	21.48	100.0%
40070 - CEG Community Enhancement	8,376.44	9,491.00	-1,114.56	88.26%
40080 - SDRC Fuels	434,611.75	673,880.00	-239,268.25	64.49%
40085 - Parks NACC	40,711.91	422,120.00	-381,408.09	9.65%
40090 - IRWMP Proposition 84	129,298.69	505,575.00	-376,276.31	25.58%
40115 - SD Foundation Community Food	0.00	185,000.00	-185,000.00	0.0%
40116 - WCB Wildlife Conservation Board Otay Planni	0.00	580,000.00	-580,000.00	0.0%
40120 - Port	5,523.00	16,000.00	-10,477.00	34.52%
40122 - CalFire Forest Health Grant	389,693.20	2,558,570.00	-2,168,876.80	15.23%
40123 - CalFire CARCD Increasing Pace & Scale	18,264.97	166,628.00	-148,363.03	10.96%
40124 - CalFire Forest Health Grant Round II	0.00	1,200,000.00	-1,200,000.00	0.0%
40130 - NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation	13,564.86	34,595.00	-21,030.14	39.21%
40140 - SDG&E Pollinators	0.00	2,083.00	-2,083.00	0.0%
40145 - SDG&E DSAP	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
40146 - SDG&E Fuels MOU	416,843.04	1,100,000.00	-683,156.96	37.9%
40192 - CSA Community Supported Ag	5,794.98	20,592.00	-14,797.02	28.14%
40198 - SD Foundation Community Food Grant	14,558.25	66,664.00	-52,105.75	21.84%
42005 - BLM Herms Butterfly/Zoo (account reserved)	0.00	213,667.00	-213,667.00	0.0%
42007 - USFWS Pollinators on Working Lands	207.16	4,095.00	-3,887.84	5.06%
42020 - CAFSC DSAP	8,108.65	250,000.00	-241,891.35	3.24%
42022 - CalFire County Coordinator	66,642.90	175,000.00	-108,357.10	38.08%
42023 - CA FSC Fiscal Sponsorship EFHGFSC	307.29	0.00	307.29	100.0%
<b>Total 40000 - Grant Income Restricted</b>	<b>2,173,014.52</b>	<b>10,183,116.00</b>	<b>-8,010,101.48</b>	<b>21.34%</b>
<b>45000 - Income Unrestricted WWF &amp; Gardens</b>				
45001 - Wild Willow Classes & Workshops	18,976.96	60,000.00	-41,023.04	31.63%
45002 - Wild Willow Field Trips & Tours	8,712.50	30,000.00	-21,287.50	29.04%
45003 - Wild Willow Food Sales CSA	5,326.40	54,500.00	-49,173.60	9.77%
45004 - Wild Willow Wholesale Food Sales	9,145.73	29,000.00	-19,854.27	31.54%
45005 - Wild Willow Farm Stand Sales	3,918.43	5,000.00	-1,081.57	78.37%
45006 - Wild Willow Venue Rental	963.00	7,500.00	-6,537.00	12.84%
45007 - Wild Willow Donations	150.00	10,000.00	-9,850.00	1.5%
45190 - TRV Community Garden	52,397.08	80,000.00	-27,602.92	65.5%
45191 - Sweetwater Community Garden	36,542.40	60,000.00	-23,457.60	60.9%
<b>Total 45000 - Income - Unrestricted</b>	<b>136,132.50</b>	<b>336,000.00</b>	<b>-199,867.50</b>	<b>40.52%</b>
<b>45000 - Income - Unrestricted</b>				
45010 - Rent - San Diego River Conserva	14,465.00	35,150.00	-20,685.00	41.15%
45020 - Donations, Awards & Scholarship	450.00	12,000.00	-11,550.00	3.75%
45030 - Rebates and Refunds	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
45040 - CLASS & LAIF Interest Income	33,748.78	68,000.00	-34,251.22	49.63%
45080 - US Bank Interest	10.84	50.00	-39.16	21.68%
45090 - Tax Assessments	182,500.00	410,000.00	-227,500.00	44.51%
45095 - Redevelopment Revenue City Tax	0.00	12,000.00	-12,000.00	0.0%
45100 - Miscellaneous Income	2,444.99	25,000.00	-22,555.01	9.78%
45200 - Fee for Service	3,250.00	1,200.00	2,050.00	270.83%
45000 - Income - Unrestricted - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total 45000 - Income - Unrestricted</b>	<b>236,869.61</b>	<b>563,700.00</b>	<b>-326,830.39</b>	<b>42.02%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,546,016.63</b>	<b>11,082,816.00</b>	<b>-8,536,799.37</b>	<b>22.97%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>50000 - Grant Expenses Restricted</b>				
50041 - CDFA Healthy Soils 23-0684-000	0.00	51,968.00	-51,968.00	0.0%
50042 - CDFA CUSP Economic Relief	4,932.06	72,010.00	-67,077.94	6.85%
50043 - CDFA WETA	29,898.05	145,000.00	-115,101.95	20.62%
50044 - CDFA Planning Grant CAPGP-23-07	14,706.95	96,050.00	-81,343.05	15.31%
50045 - CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA	6,953.15	16,080.00	-9,126.85	43.24%
50046 - CDFA Farm to School Incubator	43,415.80	83,265.00	-39,849.20	52.14%
50049 - CARCD Monarchs	423.13	0.00	423.13	100.0%
50050 - CARCD WCB	19,242.83	86,525.00	-67,282.17	22.24%
50050 - DOC SALC	3,948.66	0.00	3,948.66	100.0%
50053 - DOC RFFC Round IIA	332,658.29	810,410.00	-477,751.71	41.05%
50054 - CARCD NRCS Equity Block	0.00	37,500.00	-37,500.00	0.0%
50055 - CARCD NRCS Equity	6,584.09	11,062.00	-4,477.91	59.52%
50056 - CDFA PHP	2,186.21	118,873.00	-116,686.79	1.84%
50057 - Foodshed (account reserved)	0.00	8,334.00	-8,334.00	0.0%
50058 - Carbon Hub Coordinator	12,143.02	100,000.00	-87,856.98	12.14%
50060 - NRCS IERCD	9,480.58	12,500.00	-3,019.42	75.85%
50064 - NRCS Scaling Up Climate Resilience	7,222.05	66,964.00	-59,741.95	10.79%
50070 - CEG Community Enhancement Grant	6,227.03	7,900.00	-1,672.97	78.82%
50080 - SDRC Fuels	390,659.44	612,530.00	-221,870.56	63.78%
50085 - Parks NACC	37,010.83	392,920.00	-355,909.17	9.42%
50090 - IRWMP Proposition 84	120,386.02	481,490.00	-361,103.98	25.0%
50115 - SD Foundation Community Food Grant	0.00	154,167.00	-154,167.00	0.0%
50116 - WCB Wildlife Conservation Board	0.00	483,333.00	-483,333.00	0.0%
50120 - Port	3,791.47	14,550.00	-10,758.53	26.06%
50122 - CalFire Forest Health	347,940.76	2,342,400.00	-1,994,459.24	14.85%
50123 - CalFire CARCD Increasing Pace & Scale	11,669.09	159,795.00	-148,125.91	7.3%
50124 - CalFire Forest Health Round II	0.00	1,000,000.00	-1,000,000.00	0.0%
50130 - NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation	11,214.09	28,826.00	-17,611.91	38.9%
50140 - SDG&E Pollinators	0.00	1,825.00	-1,825.00	0.0%

**RCD of Greater San Diego County**  
**Profit Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
**November 2023**

50145 - SDG&E DSAP	0.00	16,667.00	-16,667.00	0.0%
50146 - SDG&E Fuels MOU	337,528.20	910,000.00	-572,471.80	37.09%
50192 - CSA Community Supported Ag	3,607.35	17,160.00	-13,552.65	21.02%
50193 - F2F Farm to Families	0.00	3,333.00	-3,333.00	0.0%
50198 - SD Foundation Community Food Grant	9,473.16	57,971.00	-48,497.84	16.34%
52005 - BLM Hermes Butterfly/Zoo (account reserved)	0.00	194,242.00	-194,242.00	0.0%
52007 - USFWS Pollinators on Working Lands	134.65	3,412.00	-3,277.35	3.95%
52020 - CAFSC DSAP	5,403.36	208,333.00	-202,929.64	2.59%
52022 - CalFire County Coordinator	29,576.69	156,250.00	-126,673.31	18.93%
52023 - CAFSC Fiscal Sponsorship EFHGFSC	2,882.46	0.00	2,882.46	100.0%
<b>Total 50000 - Grant Expenses Restricted</b>				
53000 - Expenses Unrestricted	1,811,299.47	8,963,645.00	-7,152,345.53	20.21%
53005 - Advertising	144.00	5,000.00	-4,856.00	2.88%
53035 - Processing Fees	4,001.56	8,500.00	-4,498.44	47.08%
53040 - Bank Fees	109.80	500.00	-390.20	21.96%
53050 - Depreciation	14,704.82	58,000.00	-43,295.18	25.35%
53060 - Donations, Awards & Scholarship	103.10	15,000.00	-14,896.90	0.69%
53070 - Dues & Memberships	8,020.00	10,000.00	-1,980.00	80.2%
53075 - Subscriptions	486.38	250.00	236.38	194.55%
53080 - Equipment Leases	1,388.76	4,000.00	-2,611.24	34.72%
53100 - Automobile				
53110 - Fuel	-1,128.17	2,000.00	-3,128.17	-56.41%
53120 - Repairs & Maintenance	733.77	5,000.00	-4,266.23	14.68%
<b>Total 53100 - Automobile</b>	<b>-394.40</b>	<b>7,000.00</b>	<b>-7,394.40</b>	<b>-5.63%</b>
53200 - Unrestricted Expenses WWF & Gardens				
53201 - Wild Willow Farm Rent	8,222.00	20,000.00	-11,778.00	41.11%
53202 - Wild Willow Farm Payroll	72,453.73	180,000.00	-107,546.27	40.25%
53203 - Wild Willow Farm Office Supplies	270.55	600.00	-329.45	45.09%
53204 - Wild Willow Farm Utilities	9,215.52	5,000.00	4,215.52	184.31%
53205 - Wild Willow Farm Telephone	1,168.49	3,500.00	-2,331.51	33.39%
53206 - Wild Willow Farm Trash	175.00	500.00	-325.00	35.0%
53207 - Wild Willow Farm Propane & Fuel	643.12	900.00	-256.88	71.46%
53208 - Wild Willow Farm Processing Fees	1,016.54	1,600.00	-583.46	63.53%
53208 - Wild Willow Farm Seeds, Soil & Compost	971.44	4,600.00	-3,628.56	21.12%
53210 - Wild Willow Farm Harvest Supplies	351.62	3,500.00	-3,148.38	10.05%
53211 - Wild Willow Farm Irrigation & Fencing	232.48	5,000.00	-4,767.52	4.65%
53212 - Wild Willow Farm Teaching & Class Supplies	3,106.39	4,000.00	-893.61	77.66%
53213 - Wild Willow Farm Animal Feed & Care	1,762.50	4,000.00	-2,237.50	44.06%
53214 - Wild Willow Farm Tools & Equipment	4,187.90	5,000.00	-812.10	83.76%
53215 - Wild Willow Farm Other Misc Expense	303.28	2,000.00	-1,696.72	15.16%
53216 - Wild Willow Farm Pest Control	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.0%
53290 - TRV Garden	39,080.74	66,670.00	-27,589.26	58.62%
53291 - Sweetwater Garden	26,698.80	50,000.00	-23,301.20	53.4%
	169,860.10	356,920.00	-187,059.90	47.59%
53900 - Insurance				
53910 - Auto & General Liability	22,534.60	55,000.00	-32,465.40	40.97%
53920 - In Lieu of Health Insurance	62,192.01	186,000.00	-123,807.99	33.44%
53930 - Workers Compensation	9,398.39	34,880.00	-25,481.61	26.95%
<b>Total 53900 - Insurance</b>	<b>94,125.00</b>	<b>275,880.00</b>	<b>-181,755.00</b>	<b>34.12%</b>
54000 - Outside Services				
54010 - Facility Maintenance & Repairs	7,963.75	45,000.00	-37,036.25	17.7%
54020 - Janitorial	2,798.25	8,500.00	-5,701.75	32.92%
54030 - Landscaping	4,100.00	25,000.00	-20,900.00	16.4%
54040 - Payroll Processing Fees	1,277.48	6,000.00	-4,722.52	21.29%
54050 - Pest Control	0.00	20.00	-20.00	0.0%
54060 - Website & Computer Maintenance	11,688.16	42,000.00	-30,311.84	27.83%
<b>Total 54000 - Outside Services</b>	<b>27,827.64</b>	<b>126,520.00</b>	<b>-98,692.36</b>	<b>22.0%</b>
54070 - Permits & Fees	0.00	450.00	-450.00	0.0%
54080 - Postage	232.07	700.00	-467.93	33.15%
54090 - Printing	285.90	1,500.00	-1,214.10	19.06%
55000 - Professional Services				
55010 - Accounting Fees	13,500.00	15,000.00	-1,500.00	90.0%
55020 - Legal Fees	14,864.00	35,500.00	-20,636.00	41.87%
55030 - Professional Services - Other	14,875.26	15,000.00	-124.74	99.17%
<b>Total 55000 - Professional Services</b>	<b>43,239.26</b>	<b>65,500.00</b>	<b>-22,260.74</b>	<b>66.01%</b>
57000 - Supplies				
57100 - Conservation Garden & Education	585.15	6,000.00	-5,414.85	9.75%
57150 - Discretionary Projects	7,355.65	132,000.00	-124,644.35	5.57%
57200 - Office Supplies	2,600.49	10,500.00	-7,899.51	24.77%
57250 - Team Building & Incentives	181.90	500.00	-318.10	36.38%
57255 - Staff Uniforms & Merchandise	151.28	5,000.00	-4,848.72	3.03%
57300 - Office General	2,226.26	10,000.00	-7,773.74	22.26%
<b>Total 57000 - Supplies</b>	<b>13,100.73</b>	<b>164,000.00</b>	<b>-150,899.27</b>	<b>7.99%</b>
59000 - Utilities				
59100 - Gas & Electric	6,860.10	22,500.00	-15,639.90	30.49%
59200 - Sewer	598.96	3,500.00	-2,901.04	17.11%
59300 - Trash	2,524.58	8,500.00	-5,975.42	29.7%
59400 - Water	205.94	9,000.00	-8,794.06	2.29%
59500 - Telephones	9,057.40	30,000.00	-20,942.60	30.19%
<b>Total 59000 - Utilities</b>	<b>19,246.98</b>	<b>73,500.00</b>	<b>-54,253.02</b>	<b>26.19%</b>
65000 - Travel and Meetings				
65310 - Training	3,538.00	10,000.00	-6,462.00	35.38%
65320 - Travel Transportation Flights & Mileage	7,853.42	12,500.00	-4,646.58	62.83%
65325 - Hotel Lodging	2,957.12	15,000.00	-12,042.88	19.71%
65330 - Travel Meals	1,200.89	5,500.00	-4,299.11	21.83%
<b>Total 65000 - Travel and Meetings</b>	<b>15,549.43</b>	<b>43,000.00</b>	<b>-27,450.57</b>	<b>36.16%</b>
66000 - Payroll Expenses				
66100 - Gross Payroll	159,318.00	434,000.00	-274,682.00	36.71%
66200 - In Lieu of Social Security 10.5%	19,677.20	45,570.00	-25,892.80	43.18%
66300 - Medicare 1.45%	2,991.29	6,293.00	-3,301.71	47.53%
66400 - FUTA, SDI, ETT, SUI	248.63	12,500.00	-12,251.37	1.99%
<b>Total 66000 - Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>182,235.12</b>	<b>498,363.00</b>	<b>-316,127.88</b>	<b>36.57%</b>
<b>Total Expenses Unrestricted</b>	<b>594,266.25</b>	<b>1,714,583.00</b>	<b>-1,120,316.75</b>	<b>34.7%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>2,405,565.72</b>	<b>10,678,228.00</b>	<b>-8,272,662.28</b>	<b>22.53%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>140,450.91</b>	<b>404,588.00</b>	<b>-264,137.09</b>	<b>34.72%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>140,450.91</b>	<b>404,588.00</b>	<b>-264,137.09</b>	<b>34.72%</b>

RCD of Greater San Diego County  
Balance Sheet  
As of November 30, 2023

11/30/2023

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

10000 · US Bank Checking	456,678.83
10020 · Petty Cash	400.00
10030 · LAIF	12,577.32
10040 · CLASS	846,289.45

Total Checking/Savings	1,315,945.60
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Accounts Receivable

12000 · Accounts Receivable

12001 · RCD Foundation	0.00
12002 · DOC SALC	30,192.90
12003 · USFWS	0.00
12004 · NRCS IERCD	0.00
12006 · NRCS Scaling Up Climate Resilient	10,114.11
12007 · NACD Urban Ag TA	825.97
12009 · CDFA Farm to School Incubator	50,001.92
12010 · CDFA CUSP Economic Relief Grant	3,474.26
12011 · CARCD	22,858.86
12012 · CalFire County Coordinator	24,237.24
12013 · CDFA Soil TA	0.00
12014 · CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA	5,709.01
12015 · CDFA WETA 21-0881-000-SG	0.00
12016 · CDFA Planning	3,471.90
12017 · CDFA Cover Cropping	0.00
12019 · DOC RFFC Round IIA	208,950.92
12020 · Fire Safe Council of San Diego	0.00
12021 · San Diego River Conservancy	129,091.79
12022 · CalFire Forest Health Grant	389,691.79
12023 · Wild Willow Field Trips and Tours	962.50
12024 · Wild Willow Classes and Workshops	-2,050.00
12025 · Wild Willow AG & CSA Sales	248.42
12026 · Miscellaneous Receivables	1,240.31
12027 · SDG&E	1,500,000.00
12028 · CalFire CARCD Increasing Pace & Scale	10,675.45
12030 · Port District	0.00
12045 · CA FSC Fiscal Sponsorship EFHGFSC	0.00
12046 · CDFA PHP	2,077.04
12051 · Prop 84	239,296.77
12060 · Tijuana River Valley Community	8,220.49
12090 · Sweetwater Community Garden	2,666.75

Total 12000 · Accounts Receivable	2,641,958.40
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Total Accounts Receivable	2,641,958.40
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Other Current Assets

12005 · Undeposited Funds	260.42
13000 · Prepaid Expenses	40,615.89



## RCD of Greater San Diego County

## Balance Sheet

As of November 30, 2023

	<u>11/30/2023</u>
Total Other Current Assets	40,876.31
Total Current Assets	3,998,780.31
Fixed Assets	
14000 · Accumulated Depreciation	
14020 · Building	505,000.00
14040 · Building Improvements	572,981.67
14060 · Furniture & Equipment	53,049.42
14080 · Land	110,000.00
14090 · Vehicles	76,537.22
14000 · Accumulated Depreciation - Other	-532,181.78
	<u>785,386.53</u>
Total 14000 · Accumulated Depreciation	785,386.53
Total Fixed Assets	785,386.53
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>4,784,166.84</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	15,048.31
Total Accounts Payable	15,048.31
Other Current Liabilities	
21000 · Deferred Compensation	43.26
21010 · Refundable Deposits on Garden Plots	30,073.67
21020 · Deferred Revenue	1,453,563.39
21045 · Accounts Payable Accrual	0.00
21060 · Vacation Accrual	51,163.23
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,534,843.55
Total Current Liabilities	1,549,891.86
Total Liabilities	1,549,891.86
Equity	
30000 · Administration Operations Reserve	1,040,000.00
30020 · Capital Improvements Facility Reserve	100,000.00
30030 · Economic Stability Reserve	27,260.00
30040 · Technology Reserve	15,896.07
30080 · Discretionary Project Reserve	50,000.00
30091 · Fleet Reserve	50,000.00
30092 · General Fund Balance	203,503.09
30093 · Investment in Fixed Assets	865,461.00
32000 · Retained Earnings	357,527.37
32020 · Unrestricted Net Assets	384,176.54
Net Income	140,450.91
Total Equity	3,234,274.98
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>4,784,166.84</u></u>

## RCD of Greater San Diego County

## Profit &amp; Loss

November 30, 2023

Nov '23

## Ordinary Income/Expense

## Income

40000 · Grant Income Restricted	
40042 · CDFA CUSP Economic Relief Grant	2,300.32
40043 · CDFA WETA	9,336.66
40044 · CDFA Planning Grant CAPGP	4,619.64
40045 · CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA	1,841.89
40046 · CDFA Farm to School Incubator	2,071.67
40049 · CARCD Monarchs	0.00
40050 · CARCD WCB	2,406.40
40053 · DOC RFFC Round IIA	106,136.75
40055 · CARCD NRCS Equity Grant	1,585.15
40056 · CDFA PHP	689.79
40058 · CARCD Carbon Hub Coordinator	17,468.34
40060 · NRCS IERCD	6,435.22
40064 · NRCS Scaling Up Climate Resilience	4,673.45
40070 · Community Enhancement Grant CEG	4,434.20
40080 · SDRC Fuels	4,330.56
40085 · Parks NACC	40,711.91
40090 · IRWMP Proposition 84	2,234.28
40120 · Port	2,300.69
40122 · CalFire Forest Health Grant	0.70
40123 · CalFire CARCD Increasing Pace & Scale	3,458.48
40146 · SDG&E Fuels MOU	85,093.57
40192 · CSA Community Supported Ag	938.78
40198 · SD Foundation Community Food	5,018.79
42007 · USFWS Pollinators on Working Lands	0.00
42020 · CAFSC DSAP	6,838.57
42022 · CalFire County Coordinator	9,025.69
	<hr/>
Total 40000 · Grant Income Restricted	323,951.50
45000 · Income Unrestricted WWF/Gardens	
45001 · Wild Willow Classes & Workshops	1,470.87
45002 · Wild Willow Field Trips & Tours	170.00
45003 · Wild Willow Food Sales CSA	790.00
45004 · Wild Willow Wholesale Food Sales	1,164.07
45005 · Wild Willow Farm Stand Sales	529.67
45006 · Wild Willow Venue Rental	0.00
45007 · Wild Willow Donations	150.00
45190 · TRV Community Garden	10,808.32
45191 · Sweetwater Community Garden	9,081.08
	<hr/>
Total 45000 · Income Unrestricted WWF/Gardens	24,164.01
45000 · Income - Unrestricted	
45010 · Rent	2,893.00
45020 · Donations	0.00
45025 · WWF Donations	0.00
45030 · Rebates & Refunds	0.00
45040 · LAIF & CLASS Interest	4,077.68

RCD of Greater San Diego County

Profit & Loss

November 30, 2023

	<u>Nov '23</u>
45080 · US Bank Interest	2.99
45090 · Tax Assessments	36,500.00
45095 · Redevelopment Revenue	0.00
45100 · Misc Income	362.09
45200 · Fee for Service	0.00
Total 45000 · Income - Unrestricted	<u>43,835.76</u>
Total Income	391,951.27
Expense	
50000 · Grant Expenses Restricted	
50042 · CDFA CUSP Economic Relief Grant	1,344.04
50043 · CDFA WETA	6,190.03
50044 · CDFA Planning Grant CAPGP-23-07	2,873.17
50045 · CDFA Climate Smart Ag TA	1,803.60
50046 · CDFA Farm to School Incubator	1,364.07
50049 · CARCD Monarchs	0.00
50050 · CARCD WCB	1,496.66
50052 · DOC SALC	2,586.76
50053 · DOC RFFC Round IIA	90,108.86
50055 · CARCD NRCS Equity	391.42
50056 · CDFA PHP	411.86
50058 · CARCD Carbon Hub Coordinator	6,849.79
50060 · NRCS IERCD	4,329.43
50064 · NRCS Scaling Up Climate Resilience	3,150.52
50070 · Community Enhancement Grant CEG	3,578.26
50080 · SDRC Fuels	6,268.02
50085 · Parks NACC	37,010.83
50090 · IRWMP Proposition 84	2,632.70
50120 · Port	1,573.29
50122 · CalFire Forest Health Grant	0.63
50123 · CalFire CARCD Increasing Pace & Scale	2,150.98
50130 · NACD Urban Ag TA	0.00
50146 · SDG&E Fuels MOU	68,677.25
50192 · CSA Community Supported Ag	583.86
50198 · SD Foundation Community Food	3,267.61
52007 · USFWS Pollinators on Working Lands	0.00
52020 · CAFSC DSAP	4,557.02
52022 · CalFire County Coordinator	<u>6,476.54</u>
Total 50000 · Grant Expenses Restricted	259,677.20
53000 · Expenses Unrestricted	
53005 · Advertising	0.00
53035 · Processing Fees	1,928.84
53040 · Bank Fees	0.00
53050 · Depreciation	1,977.91
53060 · Donations, Awards & Scholarships	0.00
53070 · Dues & Memberships	0.00
53075 · Subscriptions	88.47
53080 · Equipment Leases	548.38
53100 · Automobile	
53110 · Fuel	-322.48

RCD of Greater San Diego County

Profit & Loss

November 30, 2023

	Nov '23
53120 · Repairs & Maintenance	8.29
Total 53100 · Automobile	-314.19
53200 · Unrestricted Expense WWF & Gardens	
53201 · Wild Willow Farm Rent	1,644.40
53202 · Wild Willow Farm Payroll	11,919.20
53203 · Wild Willow Farm Office Supplies	122.07
53204 · Wild Willow Farm Utilities	1,119.72
53205 · Wild Willow Farm Telephone	351.54
53206 · Wild Willow Farm Trash	0.00
53207 · Wild Willow Farm Propane & Fuel	158.70
53208 · Wild Willow Farm Processing Fees	145.42
53208 · Wild Willow Farm Seeds, Soil & Compost	518.06
53210 · Wild Willow Farm Harvest Supplies	0.00
53211 · Wild Willow Farm Irrigation & Fencing	0.00
53212 · Wild Willow Farm Teaching & Class Supplies	504.00
53213 · Wild Willow Farm Animal Feed & Care	334.56
53214 · Wild Willow Farm Tools & Equipment	1,129.25
53215 · Wild Willow Farm Other Misc Expense	210.00
53216 · Wild Willow Farm Pest Control	0.00
53290 · TRV Garden	8,357.28
53291 · Sweetwater Garden	6,693.57
	<u>33,207.77</u>
53900 · Insurance	
53910 · Auto & General Liability	4,497.42
53920 · In Lieu of Health Insurance	12,594.40
53930 · Workers Compensation	1,302.64
Total 53900 · Insurance	<u>18,394.46</u>
54000 · Outside Services	
54010 · Facility Maintenance & Repairs	5,000.00
54020 · Janitorial	559.65
54030 · Landscaping	1,025.00
54040 · Payroll Processing Fees	145.84
54050 · Pest Control	0.00
54060 · Website & Computer Maintenance	2,750.00
Total 54000 · Outside Services	<u>9,480.49</u>
54070 · Permit	0.00
54080 · Postage	53.12
54090 · Printing	0.00
55000 · Professional Services	
55010 · Accounting Fees	7,500.00
55020 · Legal Fees	3,369.00
55030 · Professional Services - Other	3,978.31
Total 55000 · Professional Services	<u>14,847.31</u>
57000 · Supplies	
57100 · Conservation Garden & Education	0.00
57150 · Discretionary Projects	425.81
57200 · Office Supplies	317.78
57250 · Team Building & Incentives	0.00
57255 · Staff Uniforms & Merchandising	0.00

RCD of Greater San Diego County

Profit & Loss

November 30, 2023

	<u>Nov '23</u>
57300 · Office General	305.59
Total 57000 · Supplies	<u>1,049.18</u>
59000 · Utilities	
59100 · Gas & Electric	1,112.93
59200 · Sewer	0.00
59300 · Trash	508.73
59400 · Water	0.00
59500 · Telephones	<u>1,853.13</u>
Total 59000 · Utilities	3,474.79
65000 · Travel and Meetings	
65310 · Training	2,423.00
65320 · Travel Transportation, Flights & Mileage	710.43
65325 · Hotel Lodging	0.00
65330 · Travel Meals	194.04
Total 65000 · Travel and Meetings	<u>3,327.47</u>
66000 · Payroll Expenses	
66100 · Gross Payroll	19,889.94
66200 · In Lieu of Social Security 10.5%	2,618.18
66300 · Medicare 1.45%	489.15
66400 · FUTA, SDI, ETT, SUI	99.25
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	<u>23,096.52</u>
Total Expense	<u>370,837.72</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>21,113.55</u>
Net Income	<u><u>21,113.55</u></u>

RCD of Greater San Diego County  
Reconciliation Summary  
US Bank-General Checking, Period Ending 11/30/2023

	<b>Nov 30, 23</b>
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	598,613.27
<b>Cleared Transactions</b>	
<b>Checks and Payments - 59 items</b>	-602,081.01
<b>Deposits and Credits - 24 items</b>	221,454.35
<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>	-380,626.66
<b>Cleared Balance</b>	<b>217,986.61</b>
<b>Uncleared Transactions</b>	
<b>Checks and Payments - 50 items</b>	-202,024.14
<b>Deposits and Credits - 6 items</b>	440,716.36
<b>Total Uncleared Transactions</b>	238,692.22
<b>Register Balance as of 11/30/2023</b>	<b>456,678.83</b>

**RCD of Greater San Diego County**  
**Reconciliation Detail**  
**US Bank-General Checking, Period Ending 11/30/2023**

	Type	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
<b>Beginning Balance</b>							<b>598,613.27</b>
<b>Cleared Transactions</b>							
<b>Checks and Payments - 59 items</b>							
	Check	09/13/2023	13618	Eric Peralta	√	-45.00	-45.00
	General Journ:	10/02/2023	4544		√	-100.00	-145.00
	Bill Pmt -Checl	10/16/2023	13713	Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians	√	-135,918.54	-136,063.54
	Bill Pmt -Checl	10/16/2023	13715	San Diego Audubon Society	√	-11,521.21	-147,584.75
	Bill Pmt -Checl	10/30/2023	13744	San Diego Audubon Society	√	-3,989.54	-151,574.29
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/01/2023	13768	County of San Diego	√	-1,644.40	-153,218.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/01/2023	13762	Paul Maschka	√	-50.00	-153,268.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/01/2023	13757	Heather Marlow	√	-50.00	-153,318.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13783	Pope Tree Service	√	-22,300.00	-175,618.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13789	The Patriot Group	√	-11,000.00	-186,618.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13777	Davey Tree Expert Company	√	-4,800.00	-191,418.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13794	The Patriot Group	√	-4,000.00	-195,418.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13780	ITCM	√	-2,000.00	-197,418.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13775	CSDA	√	-1,790.00	-199,208.69
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13792	Waste Management	√	-508.73	-199,717.42
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13786	SDG&E	√	-354.07	-200,071.49
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13778	EDCO Disposal Corporation	√	-114.02	-200,185.51
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13772	Cham Edussuriya AP	√	-100.00	-200,285.51
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13781	Lakeside Water District	√	-83.00	-200,368.51
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13770	Alison Trujillo Translations	√	-65.00	-200,433.51
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13784	Quench USA Inc	√	-43.56	-200,477.07
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13788	Streamline	√	-10.00	-200,487.07
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/07/2023	13800	The Patriot Group	√	-29,600.00	-230,087.07
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/07/2023	13798	Pope Tree Service	√	-16,300.00	-246,387.07
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/07/2023	13799	Sweetwater Authority	√	-3,959.42	-250,346.49
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/07/2023	13797	EDCO Disposal Corporation	√	-35.00	-250,381.49
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/13/2023	13802	California American Water	√	-2,628.93	-253,010.42
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/13/2023	13801	Austel WPS	√	-1,500.00	-254,510.42
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/13/2023	13804	ITCM	√	-431.26	-254,941.68
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/13/2023	13806	Safeguard Business Systems	√	-364.17	-255,305.85
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/13/2023	13803	Daniela Mejia	√	-307.48	-255,613.33
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/13/2023	13805	JMB Sanitation	√	-219.55	-255,832.88
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/14/2023	13808	CIT Technology	√	-274.19	-256,107.07
	General Journ:	11/14/2023	JE 1019		√	-35.32	-256,142.39
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13813	San Diego County Water Authority	√	-3,453.31	-259,595.70
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13821	United Site Services	√	-2,880.00	-262,475.70
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13820	U.S. Bancorp Service Center, Inc	√	-2,707.55	-265,183.25
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13822	U.S. Bancorp Service Center, Inc	√	-1,466.95	-266,650.20
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13814	SDG&E	√	-1,112.93	-267,763.13
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13809	Classic Landscape & Horticulture	√	-1,025.00	-268,788.13
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13811	Kuboto of San Diego	√	-741.82	-269,529.95
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13817	U.S. Bancorp Service Center, Inc	√	-542.46	-270,072.41
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13810	Carolina Guia	√	-74.81	-270,147.22
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13819	U.S. Bancorp Service Center, Inc	√	-39.66	-270,186.88
	General Journ:	11/16/2023	JE 1027		√	-263,000.00	-533,186.88
	General Journ:	11/17/2023	JE 1028		√	-108.31	-533,295.19
	General Journ:	11/19/2023	CR 1038		√	-525.00	-533,820.19
	General Journ:	11/22/2023	JE 1002		√	-44,524.52	-578,344.71
	General Journ:	11/22/2023	JE 1002		√	-10,246.36	-588,591.07
	General Journ:	11/24/2023	1260		√	-37.53	-588,628.60
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13835	Morgan Graves	√	-588.82	-589,217.42
	General Journ:	11/27/2023	1258		√	-50.00	-589,267.42
	General Journ:	11/27/2023	1261		√	-13.59	-589,281.01
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13854	Native Tree Care, Inc	√	-5,000.00	-594,281.01
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13845	Dominick J. Chapparosa Jr.	√	-1,600.00	-595,881.01
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13846	Edwin Ward	√	-1,600.00	-597,481.01
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13853	Warren Paipa	√	-1,600.00	-599,081.01
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13844	Cullen Riley Smith	√	-1,600.00	-600,681.01
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13850	Raymond Martinez	√	-1,400.00	-602,081.01
<b>Total Checks and Payments</b>						<b>-602,081.01</b>	<b>-602,081.01</b>
<b>Deposits and Credits - 24 items</b>							
	General Journ:	11/12/2023	CR 1015		√	140.00	140.00
	General Journ:	11/13/2023	CR 1015		√	120.00	260.00
	General Journ:	11/14/2023	JE 1021		√	11.40	271.40
	Deposit	11/14/2023			√	65.70	337.10
	General Journ:	11/14/2023	JE 1020		√	100.00	437.10
	Deposit	11/14/2023			√	1,602.00	2,039.10
	General Journ:	11/15/2023	JE 1023		√	50.00	2,089.10
	General Journ:	11/15/2023	JE 1025		√	1,070.87	3,159.97
	General Journ:	11/15/2023	JE 1026		√	18,942.57	22,102.54
	Deposit	11/17/2023			√	56.50	22,159.04
	General Journ:	11/17/2023	CR 1031		√	12,476.46	34,635.50
	General Journ:	11/20/2023	JE 1029		√	30.00	34,665.50
	General Journ:	11/22/2023	1259		√	400.00	35,065.50

**RCD of Greater San Diego County**  
**Reconciliation Detail**  
**US Bank-General Checking, Period Ending 11/30/2023**

	<b>Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Num</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Clr</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Balance</b>
	General Journ:	11/24/2023	1255		√	362.09	35,427.59
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023		Petty Cash	√	0.00	35,427.59
	General Journ:	11/27/2023	JE 1003		√	43.73	35,471.32
	General Journ:	11/27/2023	1262		√	120.00	35,591.32
	General Journ:	11/27/2023	JE 1030		√	120.00	35,711.32
	Deposit	11/27/2023			√	283.34	35,994.66
	Deposit	11/27/2023			√	385.20	36,379.86
	Deposit	11/28/2023			√	71.50	36,451.36
	General Journ:	11/28/2023	1263		√	185,000.00	221,451.36
	Deposit	11/30/2023			√	2.99	221,454.35
	Bill Pmt -Checl	12/01/2023		Cheyenne Piacenza	√	0.00	221,454.35
	<b>Total Deposits and Credits</b>					<b>221,454.35</b>	<b>221,454.35</b>
	<b>Total Cleared Transactions</b>					<b>-380,626.66</b>	<b>-380,626.66</b>
Cleared Balance						-380,626.66	217,986.61
	<b>Uncleared Transactions</b>						
	<b>Checks and Payments - 50 items</b>						
	Bill Pmt -Checl	03/13/2023	12925	Palomar Land and Cattle		-2,327.50	-2,327.50
	Check	04/24/2023	13090	Jill Lord		-100.00	-2,427.50
	Check	04/24/2023	13091	Jill Lord		-50.00	-2,477.50
	Bill Pmt -Checl	06/01/2023	13239	Heather Marlow		-50.00	-2,527.50
	Bill Pmt -Checl	06/30/2023	13352	U.S. Bancorp Service Center, Inc		-1,610.11	-4,137.61
	Bill Pmt -Checl	07/03/2023	13379	Morgan Graves		-50.00	-4,187.61
	Bill Pmt -Checl	07/05/2023	13405	Elfin Foreest Harmony Grove FSC		-100.00	-4,287.61
	Bill Pmt -Checl	07/06/2023	13406	Josh Zinn		-75.00	-4,362.61
	Bill Pmt -Checl	08/01/2023	13481	Erik Rodriguez		-50.00	-4,412.61
	Check	08/15/2023	13528	Ashton Mackintosh C38		-75.00	-4,487.61
	Bill Pmt -Checl	08/29/2023	13549	Joel Kramer		-146.04	-4,633.65
	Bill Pmt -Checl	09/01/2023	13582	Joel Kramer		-50.00	-4,683.65
	Bill Pmt -Checl	10/03/2023	13665	Erik Rodriguez		-50.00	-4,733.65
	Check	10/06/2023	13684	Nancy Anguiano C08		-45.00	-4,778.65
	Bill Pmt -Checl	10/16/2023	13709	Jamul Indian Village of California		-2,250.44	-7,029.09
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/01/2023	13755	Erik Rodriguez		-50.00	-7,079.09
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/01/2023	13759	Joe Lewis		-50.00	-7,129.09
	Check	11/03/2023	13769	Fidelina Paniagua-Sanchez		-24.00	-7,153.09
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13771	California American Water		-835.43	-7,988.52
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/06/2023	13785	Savannah Villar		-79.05	-8,067.57
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/07/2023	13795	Agri Service, Inc.		-398.06	-8,465.63
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/13/2023	13807	Grow Eco Farm AP		-56.25	-8,521.88
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/15/2023	13812	Nigro & Nigro		-7,500.00	-16,021.88
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/20/2023	13824	Flex Fleet Rental LLC		-3,738.84	-19,760.72
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/20/2023	13826	McDougal Love Boehmer Foley Lyon Car		-3,369.00	-23,129.72
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/20/2023	13825	Four Fin Creative		-1,236.75	-24,366.47
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/20/2023	13827	Office Depot		-366.70	-24,733.17
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/20/2023	13828	The SoCo Group Inc.		-316.67	-25,049.84
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/20/2023	13823	CDFA 90054		-150.00	-25,199.84
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13837	Southland Forest Management LLC		-103,000.00	-128,199.84
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13838	The Patriot Group		-24,500.00	-152,699.84
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13834	Lincoln Financial		-17,067.96	-169,767.80
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13836	Pope Tree Service		-12,000.00	-181,767.80
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13830	Al Delalat		-2,647.47	-184,415.27
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13831	American Red Cross		-1,873.00	-186,288.27
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13839	United Site Services		-576.00	-186,864.27
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13832	CIT Technology		-274.19	-187,138.46
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13833	Cynthia L Saylor		-260.00	-187,398.46
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/27/2023	13840	Wallace Laboratories, Inc		-230.00	-187,628.46
	General Journ:	11/27/2023	1256			-108.31	-187,736.77
	Check	11/27/2023	13829	Pedro Zamora		-10.00	-187,746.77
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13851	Thomas J. Smith		-3,058.00	-190,804.77
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13849	Jennifer MacDonald		-2,960.00	-193,764.77
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13852	Wanish Tortes-McGinnis		-1,600.00	-195,364.77
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13848	Henry D. Najera		-1,600.00	-196,964.77
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13847	Gary Connor McVey		-1,600.00	-198,564.77
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13843	Andrew Leyva		-1,600.00	-200,164.77
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13842	Albert D. Quihuis		-1,600.00	-201,764.77
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/28/2023	13841	Petty Cash		-56.41	-201,821.18
	Bill Pmt -Checl	11/30/2023	13855	Marilyn Huntamer		-202.96	-202,024.14
	<b>Total Checks and Payments</b>					<b>-202,024.14</b>	<b>-202,024.14</b>
	<b>Deposits and Credits - 6 items</b>						
	Deposit	10/30/2023				40.00	40.00
	Deposit	10/30/2023				375.00	415.00
	Deposit	11/17/2023				1,190.62	1,605.62
	Deposit	11/24/2023				972.60	2,578.22
	Deposit	11/30/2023				34,066.46	36,644.68
	Deposit	11/30/2023				404,071.68	440,716.36
	<b>Total Deposits and Credits</b>					<b>440,716.36</b>	<b>440,716.36</b>
	<b>Total Uncleared Transactions</b>					<b>238,692.22</b>	<b>238,692.22</b>
Register Balance as of 11/30/2023						-141,934.44	456,678.83





Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
11769 Waterhill Rd., Lakeside, CA 92040

Phone: (619) 562-0096 ✨ Fax: (619) 562-4799

Website: [www.rcdsandiego.org](http://www.rcdsandiego.org)

**Date:** January 10, 2024

**Agenda Item 5-1:** Presentation of 2023 Audit

**Discussion / History:** Each year the RCDGSDC's accounts are audited. The 2023 audit was performed by Nigro & Nigro, PC. Paul Kaymark and Stacey Macias from the audit firm will present the 2023 audit to the Board.

**Financial Impact:** none

**Staff Recommendation to Board:** Staff recommends that the Board approves the 2023 audit.



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**Date:** January 10, 2024

**Agenda Item 5-2:** Resolution 2024-01: Ratification of CEQA Statutory Exemption for Volcan Mountain Foundation

**Discussion / History:** In June 2023, RCD staff began discussions with the Volcan Mountain Foundation to act as lead agency for CEQA for their Volcan Mountain Nature Center Forest Resilience Project, which will reduce hazardous fuels and protect and conserve montane forest habitat. The RCD already collaborates with VMF through the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program and at the same time was working with Girl Scouts San Diego to support their environmental compliance efforts. After a consultation with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), both parties agreed to move forward with a request for concurrence under the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP), a new CEQA Statutory Exemption for fish and wildlife restoration projects.

The request for concurrence was submitted in September 2023 and approved in November 2023, just prior to a meeting of the Wildlife Conservation Board where a grant application for the VMF project was approved and for which CEQA was required. We were advised that the notice of exemption needed to be filed within 48 hours and proceeded to do so after consultation with legal counsel. The attached resolution seeks ratification of these actions.

**Financial Impact:** none

**Staff Recommendation to Board:** Staff recommends that the Board ratifies moving forward with the CEQA exemption under SERP.

**Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County**  
11769 Waterhill Road \* Lakeside, CA 92040  
Phone: 619-562-0096 \* Fax: 619-562-4799 \* Website: www/rcdsandiego.org

### **RESOLUTION 2024-01**

A RESOLUTION TO RATIFY CEQA STATUTORY EXEMPTION UNDER THE SERP PROGRAM FOR THE VOLCAN MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION'S VOLCAN MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER FOREST RESILIENCE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Resource Conversation District of Greater San Diego County ("District") is committed to the protection, conservation, and restoration of natural resources through education, information, and technical assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, the District, as stewards of the regional environment, partners with a diverse group of landowners, public and private institutions, and concerned citizens to address the diverse conservation and environmental concerns that are unique to San Diego County. RCDGSDC's programs and priorities help to restore and protect San Diego County watersheds, prevent wildfire damage through education and fuel reduction, promote nutrition and stewardship through sustainable agriculture and soil health, and revitalize pollinator habitats; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors ("Board") for the District recognizes the critical need for forest health and fuel reduction projects to protect natural resources, people, and property within San Diego County; and

WHEREAS, the District will serve as lead agency in support of the Volcan Mountain Foundation's forest resilience project, designed to treat 162 acres of vegetation located in the unincorporated areas of eastern San Diego County. The project will enhance and protect montane forest habitat and montane forest-dependent plant and animal species. The project site is adjacent to the CDFW San Felipe Wildlife Management Area, San Diego County Parks' Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve, and privately owned property. It is located approximately 0.5 mile east of the Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) program is a new CEQA statutory exemption enabled under CA Public Resources Code Section 21080.56 for fish and wildlife restoration projects that meet certain criteria; and

WHEREAS, SERP is under the banner of CA Department of Fish & Wildlife's Cutting Green Tape Program and intended to streamline environmental compliance for qualifying projects; and

WHEREAS, the District, in collaboration with the Volcan Mountain Foundation prepared and submitted a request for SERP concurrence, which has been approved by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a notice of exemption (NOE) has been filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Resource Conversation District of Greater San Diego County as follows:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference; and
2. The Board adopts the RCD's Determinations that the Volcan Mountain Nature Center Forest Resilience Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d); and
3. The Board approves the Volcan Mountain Nature Center Forest Resilience Project.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County at a special meeting held on the 10th day of January 2024, by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest:

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Don Butz, Board President

---

Joanne Sauerman, Board Clerk



**CEQA STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS (SERP) CONCURRENCE REQUEST**

**Completion and submission of this form is voluntary. This form may be submitted to request concurrence from the Director of Fish and Wildlife pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56.**

**The Lead Agency may submit this form (pdf) and all attachments via the Department’s [Environmental Permit Information Management System \(EPIMS\) Document Repository](#).**

**1. LEAD AGENCY**

Lead Agency Name:	Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
Contact Person’s Name:	Ann Baldrige
Street Address:	11769 Waterhill Road
City, State, Zip:	Lakeside, CA 92040
Contact Person’s Telephone:	619-562-0096
Contact Person’s E-mail:	Ann.baldrige@rcdsandiego.org

**2. PROJECT PROPONENT**

**Check Box and Skip to Number 3 if Same as Lead Agency**

Business/Agency/Organization:	Volcan Mountain Foundation
Contact Person’s Name:	Eric Jones
Street Address:	22084 Volcan Rd.
City, State, Zip:	Julian, CA 92036
Contact Person’s Telephone:	(619) 933-5224
Contact Person’s E-mail:	Eric@volcanmt.org

**3. PROJECT INFORMATION**

A. Project Name:	Volcan Mountain Nature Center Forest Resilience Project
B. County or Counties:	San Diego County
C. Lat./Long. Coordinates:	33.139647 N / -116.598494 W
D. Estimated Project Start/End Dates:	09/01/2024 – 03/31/2027

E. Provide a brief description of the future discretionary Project approval the Lead Agency is considering (see CEQA Guidelines section 15352) and an approximate date range for when the Lead Agency may make that approval if the Lead Agency obtains a SERP concurrence from CDFW.

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCDGSDC) is undertaking the project in the form of providing assistance to the project proponent. This will begin upon physical implementation of the project. In addition, the RCDGSDC is considering committing financial assistance to the project within the first quarter of project implementation.



F. Provide a brief description of the Project location, size, and funding sources. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

The Volcan Mountain Foundation (VMF) Nature Center is a 388-acre property located in eastern San Diego County approximately 3 miles north of the town of Julian. It is located within the Foundation's Focused Planning Area (FPA) neighboring the CDFW San Felipe Wildlife Management Area, San Diego County Parks' Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve, and privately owned property. It is located approximately 0.5 mile east of the Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel Reservation. The fully-conserved Nature Center property provides protection for a variety of biological and cultural resources including climate-restricted, montane forest-dependent plant and wildlife species. The Nature Center also serves as an outdoor laboratory supporting youth and adult education throughout the year.

The proposed project entails forestry management and fuel reduction activities (including reforestation) on approximately 162 acres of the Property including forestry and fuel reduction within three high-value groves of mixed conifer / hardwood species and reforestation of type-converted chaparral surrounding these groves. VMF has been awarded approximately \$212,000 in cost-share funding for separate but related forest management and conservation practices through the USDA NRCS' Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) program.

G. Provide a brief Project description, including any post-restoration work, operation and maintenance, or other related activities. Summarize the Project's expected environmental benefits (e.g., acres or stream-miles restored/enhanced, species benefitted, etc.). Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

Over a century of public policy supporting intensive fire suppression in backcountry communities coupled with climate change and the increased frequency of forest pest infestations has created conditions conducive for high severity wildfires with the potential to result in habitat type conversion and the possible extirpation of many forest-dependent sensitive plant and wildlife species. The Volcan Mountain Nature Center Forest Resilience Project is intended to restore and recreate more natural, lower severity fire regimes and improve forest resilience. Forest resilience would be enhanced by manually and mechanically reducing and removing ladder fuels and other combustible materials (e.g. GSOB-killed oak trees) thereby producing or mimicking forest conditions and fuel loads consistent with natural (unsuppressed) fire regimes.

These activities are necessary to ensure the long-term suitability of the montane forest community to continue to support range restricted and climate threatened wildlife species like the California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*) which recently became a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Appropriate forest management on the Nature Center, along with habitat conservation and management on surrounding conserved lands (e.g. CDFW's San Felipe



Wildlife Area & San Diego County Parks' Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve) would benefit the California spotted owl metapopulation within the Eastern Peninsular Ranges in San Diego County.

Other montane forest depended species like the purple martin (*Progne subis*), a State of California Species of Special Concern, would similarly benefit from the enhancement of forest resilience and reforestation of habitats on the Nature Center that type converted to chaparral as a result of the 2002 Pines Fire, 2003 Cedar Fire, and 2005 Volcan Fire.

In general, the proposed project would entail the removal of ladder fuels, dead trees, and other combustible materials over approximately 162 acres to reduce the potential severity of wildfire within three select mixed conifer / hardwood montane forest groves. The project would also entail removal of decadent chaparral vegetation and reforestation with native conifer and hardwood tree species (e.g. oaks). The removal of mature chaparral and its continuous fuels and replacement with well-spaced trees would create a buffer surrounding the existing forest groves reducing the risk of stand-replacing wildfires and the extirpation of forest dependent wildlife species. The proposed project also includes reforestation of approximately 40 acres with native conifer and hardwood species to expand montane forest resources.

The proposed project features seven “treatments” or activities that together comprise one single and complete project as described in Attachment 1 – Project Description. These are summarized below.

- **Treatment 1: Conserve Mature Forested Riparian Area by Improving Wildfire Resiliency (11.1 acres):** Within the riparian corridor of the unnamed tributary of Santa Ysabel Creek, the proposed project would entail the manual thinning and pruning understory saplings, poles, and brush species to improve wildfire resiliency in a mature mixed conifer grove located along Santa Ysabel Creek tributary. The project would also include the removal and treatment of gold-spotted oak borer (GSOB)-infested oaks following strict biosecurity protocols.
- **Treatment 2: Roadside Fuel Treatment to Protect Forest Resources and Subsequent Reforestation (3.1 acres):** In order to improve and protect forest infrastructure, minimize roadside fire starts, and provide safe ingress/egress in the event of a wildfire, this treatment will entail the removal (via mastication and hand removal) of chaparral species (e.g. ceanothus) for 50 feet on each side of the roadway for a distance of 1,300 feet (0.25 miles). Where significant tree mortality has occurred, large woody biomass will also be removed from within the 50-foot roadside zone. Chaparral regrowth will subsequently be managed via non-chemical methods (e.g. managed grazing). Follow-up treatment includes reforestation (see Task 6).
- **Treatment 3: Enhance Mixed Conifer/Montane Oak Woodland by Restoring Wildfire Resiliency and Protecting Oaks from GSOB (61.7 acres):** Focused in and around the mature montane forest groves such as the Sky Island Trailhead, this treatment would entail the thinning and pruning of excessive young/overstocked saplings, pole-sized oaks, and conifers, and brush species to enhance wildfire resiliency in the mature forest/oak/mixed conifer forest. This treatment would also entail the removal of GSOB-infested oaks to reduce the spread of the invasive oak borer.
- **Treatment 4: Mechanical Site Preparation for Reforestation (37.3 acres):** Site preparation to restore/reforest the site from the encroachment of brush species (e.g. Ceanothus) and planting of nursery-raised conifer and hardwood seedlings. Decadent stands of chaparral would initially be grubbed, masticated, or mowed (where slopes allow) or cut with chainsaws. Small biomass may be dispersed following a lop and scatter methodology. Regrowth would be controlled via carefully managed grazing or broadcast burning.
- **Treatment 5: Site Preparation for Planting by Prescribed Burning (49.5 acres):** Prepare a portion of the Nature Center for planting of conifer and oak species by conducting a prescribed burn to reduce competition from invasive annual grasses and forbs. This activity includes manual or mechanical creation of containment lines and removal of woody biomass / residue prior to ignition.
- **Treatment 6: Restore/Reforest Conifer Forest Severely Damaged by Recent Wildfires (37.3 acres):** Restore/reforest previously forested areas with native conifers. Plant approximately 6,000 conifer seedlings of assorted species (i.e. big-cone Douglas fir, white fir, incense cedar, and Coulter pine). Treatment entails



hand-planting of tree seedlings followed by installation of shade cards and herbivory protection tubes.

- **Treatment 7: Site Monitoring and Seedling Care (162.6 acres):** Includes all site monitoring and maintenance tasks including watering / irrigation of seedlings, hand weeding, and replacement of shade cards and herbivory tubes as necessary.

In addition, long-term maintenance (i.e. invasive weed control and supplemental irrigation) and monitoring will be conducted by the Volcan Mountain Foundation (project proponent) within all reforested areas for the grant-specified maintenance period (20 – 25 years) following project implementation.

H. CDFW recommends public outreach and coordination with California Native American tribes. Please provide a summary of engagement with tribes. Be careful not to include any sensitive or confidential information. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

As part of the project development, RCDGSDC and VMF collaboratively drafted an initial tribal notification that included a project overview and vicinity maps. This tribal notification was an invitation for engagement in project planning as well as implementation and cultural monitoring and was distributed on August 23, 2023 via email and US mail to regional tribal contacts including Tribal Fire Chiefs, Chairpersons engaged in the Native American Heritage Commission, and others totaling 36 contacts for 20 tribes, including those closest to the project site such as the Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel and Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians.

We have received a response from the Duty Captain at Santa Ysabel stating an interest in collaboration and information sharing. The Fire Chief from the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians also expressed interest in the project in a phone call on August 24, and in subsequent conversations. These conversations have included potential collaboration with the indigenous-led forestry, fire, and fuels crew based at the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians reservation. The steering committee for this group, comprised of over 60 individuals from agencies, tribes, and communities known as the “Cadre” will meet next on November 16. At this meeting, the project will be highlighted for a more in-depth overview and invitation for collaboration. Specifically, discussion will be focused on how this project can meet the indigenous-led forestry, fire, and fuels crew’s training needs.

Both of these fire professionals will be invited to participate in a site tour in mid-October to further discuss the project.





During a Zoom meeting on August 18, the Climate Science Alliance in their role as facilitator for the Southern California Tribal Working Group, was invited to participate in this project. The project has continued to be discussed in subsequent email conversations, and the RCD has been invited to present this project at a future Tribal Working Group meeting. In addition, the project was discussed at an in-person gathering hosted by the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians on September 19 and additional engagement will continue as we share about the project at various upcoming meetings with tribal partners.

Additionally, the CA State Parks Colorado Desert District led Native American Conservation Corps (NACC) program plans to participate in implementation and utilize the project to leverage TEK training opportunities in the project area which is a significant heritage site.



I. CDFW recommends public outreach and coordination with interested parties and public agencies. Please provide a summary of engagement with interested parties and public agencies. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

VMF is part of the San Diego Collaborative, a group of 45 entities that the RCD convenes as a part of its Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) work funded by the Department of Conservation. This group shares information about forest health and associated restoration work going on across the County and is a forum for coordination and collaboration. The proposed VMF project is listed in the project list of the Regional Priority Plan (RPP) compiled by the RCD as a key deliverable of this work. The RPP project list involved outreach to and input from a diverse group of stakeholders, and over 110 projects were submitted and mapped. The RPP can be read here: [RFFC - Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County \(rcdsandiego.org\)](https://rcdsandiego.org)

In addition to the regional coordination through the RFFC, the Volcan Mountain Nature Center Montane Forest Resilience Project has well-developed public and institutional support. The Julian Fire Safe Council (currently operating as Back Country Communities Thriving) enthusiastically supports the Volcan Mountain Foundation Nature Center Montane Forest Habitat Resilience Project and has drafted a letter of support.

The project team has also notified the staff of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and the JPA’s Community Advisory Committee (CAC) of the proposed project and solicited feedback on the project’s goals and objectives with positive feedback from the JPA and CAC.

**4. REQUIRED DETERMINATIONS**

Provide a full description for each determination below:

A. The Project is exclusively one or both of the following: (1) a project to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend, or (2) a project to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

The RCDGSDC has determined that the Project is exclusively a project to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat on which they depend. The goals and objectives of the Volcan Mountain Nature Center Montane Forest Resilience Project are to create and maintain a sustainable, fire-resilient montane forest community for those range restricted species that rely upon mixed conifer / hardwood montane forest ecosystems. The proposed activities are necessary to ensure the long-term suitability of the montane forest community to continue to support range restricted and climate threatened wildlife species like the California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*) which recently became a candidate for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Appropriate forest management on the Nature Center property, along with habitat conservation and management on surrounding conserved lands (e.g. CDFW’s San Felipe Wildlife Area & San Diego County Parks’ Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve) would benefit the California spotted owl metapopulation within the Eastern Peninsular Ranges in San Diego County.



Recent surveys (<3 years) have confirmed the presence of California spotted owls and nesting purple martin on the Nature Center property itself as well as neighboring properties (e.g. County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation’s Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve). CDFW’s report on California Birds Species of Special Concern for the California Spotted Owl indicates that habitat loss and degradation is the primary threat to these birds. While certain types of timber harvesting contribute to habitat loss, so do large, stand-replacing wildfires. The CDFW report recommends aggressive fuel management programs in montane forests like those on the Nature Center to reduce the likelihood of stand-destroying fires by thinning small-diameter trees to minimize fuel ladders and reducing down wood to minimize the fuel loads. Therefore, the fuel management practices proposed herein align perfectly with the recommendations outlined by CDFW’s report to improve spotted owl habitat. Careful removal of dead trees and ladder fuels, stand thinning and density reduction, and management of shaded fuel breaks in select, high-value groves will improve forest resilience by limiting wildfire to low intensity ground fires rather than stand-replacing high intensity crown fires. The resulting resilient and well-managed forest would maintain habitat function for a variety of State-listed forest-dependent wildlife species such as California spotted owl, purple martin (which prefer mid-elevation conifer snags as nesting substrate), San Diego mountain kingsnake, and other sensitive wildlife species. Additionally, reforestation of 37.3 acres of type-converted mixed chaparral with maintained plantings of 6,500 native conifer seedlings would also expand the montane forest community expanding available habitat for these and other forest dependent species.

Other montane forest dependent species like the purple martin (*Progne subis*), a State of California Species of Special Concern, would similarly benefit from the enhancement of forest resilience and reforestation of habitats on the Nature Center that type converted to chaparral as a result of the 2002 Pines Fire, 2003 Cedar Fire, and 2005 Volcan Fire.

B. An eligible project may have incidental public benefits, such as public access and recreation. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

The RCDGSDC has determined that the Project may have incidental public benefits. Primarily, the project may lead to enhanced safety for neighboring residents and public and private lands resulting from the project’s proposed treatments which aim to reduce hazardous fuels, restore forest health, and ultimately increase wildfire resilience. These include activities such as thinning and understory pruning, removal of Gold Spotted Oak Borer infested oaks, roadside fuel treatment, prescribed burning, and removal of encroaching brush species to make way for reforestation. Implementing these activities on Volcan Mountain Foundation land will lead to a healthier, more sustainable landscape with fewer hazardous fuels, which can reduce the intensity and slow the rate of spread of wildfire to neighboring properties.

In addition, there is the potential for increased opportunities for environmental education for local youth. Through VMF’s Watershed Explorers and Headwaters of Hahachepahg Programs, the Volcan Mountain Nature Center provides educational programming for dozens of local schools annually including several Title I schools and schools from local Native American reservations.

C. The Project does both of the following: (1) Results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and (2) Includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.

Overview:



The RCDGSDC has determined that the Project does both of the following: (1) Results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and (2) Includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment. Restoration of natural fire regimes and counteracting the harm done by a history of fire suppression (e.g. ladder fuel accumulation) would result in a more sustainable montane forest ecosystem. Meanwhile, chaparral species reduction and reforestation with montane conifer hardwood tree species would reverse the type conversion that occurred as a result of accelerated fire cycles and be more resistant to devastating wildfire events. Restored groves of montane conifer and hardwood species would provide refugia for climate restricted species and sequester carbon at higher overall amounts than chaparral ecosystems which are subject to rapid fluxes due to releases from combustion during wildfires. Short-term impacts of project treatments (including thinning and pruning, broadcast burning, and brush removal) will be offset by the enhancement of forest resilience and improved long-term site sustainability realized by implementation of the proposed treatments.



Long-Term Net Benefits to Climate Resiliency:

CalAdapt’s local climate change snapshot model graphically indicates that there would be an increase in the Annual Average Area Burned suggesting that wildfire activity is likely to increase locally.

Primarily, the proposed project would support climate resiliency by creating a more fire resilient montane forest community. Project treatments are designed to replicate more natural and less severe fire regimes and the resulting forest structure more representative of natural montane forests lacking a century of fire suppression.

Meanwhile, long-term carbon sequestration benefits would be expected to result from the proposed project as emissions from intense stand-replacing crown fires would be prevented in a more resilient forest community. Wildfires like the Pines Fire, Cedar Fire, Volcan Fire, and Banner Fire are responsible for huge quantities of greenhouse gas emissions.

Long-Term Net Benefits to Biodiversity:

The Project would result in a net benefit to biodiversity through enhancement of montane forest resilience and reducing the threat of severe, stand-replacing wildfires and type conversion to other, much more abundant vegetation communities (e.g. Ceanothus-dominated chaparral). Forest resilience to wildfire is a major limitation to continued habitat suitability for many montane species. The combination of tree mortality due to pests (e.g. gold spotted oak borer) and localized type-conversion to decadent Ceanothus-dominated chaparral has resulted in ed fuel loading with the potential to produce catastrophic stand-replacing wildfires that could eliminate the few remaining mixed conifer hardwood groves on Volcan Mountain. Implementing forest management and fuel reduction activities designed to increase the resilience of high-value groves of mixed conifer / hardwood montane forest would ensure that this increasingly rare natural community survives into the future and continues to provide habitat for montane-dependent species whose ranges are already decreasing due to human development and climate change and lack other suitable habitat refugia to occupy nearby.

Long-Term Net Benefits to Sensitive Species Recovery:

The proposed project would benefit several species listed in Appendix C of the 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) – *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*. It would protect mature mixed conifer / hardwood forest groves with recent records (<3 years) of California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*), an occupied roosting site for Townsend’s big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), and maintain a sustainable supply of conifer and oak tree snags with nesting cavities for the numerous (extant) breeding pairs of purple martin (*Progne subis*) that call the Volcan Mountain Nature Center home.

The proposed project may also benefit other SWAP-listed species with current or historical records on the Nature Center property such as Crotch’s bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*) and coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis*) [a climate vulnerable species], as well as other SWAP-listed species with recent records on Volcan Mountain including American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) [burrows recorded <1 mi. S of the Nature Center] and ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*) [carcass recovered 2.25 mi SW of the Nature Center on Wynola Rd.] In addition, the project is located within a feature scoring an Ecoreg Species Biodiversity Rank of 4 in CDFW’s Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) v3.0 Model (CDFW 2023). The apparent Macrogroup (*Rocky Mountain Subalpine and High Montane Conifer Forest*) possesses a low rank for the ecoregion (South Coast Mountains and Valleys Ecoregion), but this Macrogroup and its wildlife are extremely climate threatened and developing



forest resilience is immensely important for the survival of the resident species metapopulations (e.g. California spotted owl).

**Procedures for the Protection of the Environment:**

The proposed project entails two main activities to protect resources and the environment: 1) Roadside fuel reduction to reduce the potential for ignition of catastrophic wildfires from anthropogenic sources, and 2) the management of ladder fuels to prevent the conveyance of ground fire to the forest canopy causing tree mortality and stand replacement. Other procedures for the protection of the environment (i.e. best management practices) include the avoidance of herbicides, avoidance of work activities (e.g. vegetation removal) during nesting season, biological and cultural resource monitoring, delineation and avoidance of wetlands, streams, and watercourses, and delineation and fencing of environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHAs). These measures are explained in detail in the Project’s Forest Management Plan (FMP) developed by BlackFox Timber (2023) in compliance with current California Forest Practice Rules (CalFire 2020). Available for e-transfer upon request.

Other species-specific measures developed by local USDA NRCS biologist Shea O’Keefe for the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts to the California spotted owl, including a defined Limited Operational Period (LOP), are provided in Attachment 2 – Fuel Modification Projects Spotted Owl.

**Ongoing Management for the Protection of the Environment:**

In accordance with its mission, the Volcan Mountain Foundation is dedicated to perpetual land stewardship. Ongoing stewardship (including herbivory control and the control of chaparral regrowth) will be furnished by VMF’s active volunteer pool as well as other sources (including donated services from the local La Cima Conservation Camp). Meanwhile the Foundation is launching a new partnership with San Diego State University’s Soil Ecology and Restoration Group (SERG) to collect acorns and other seed materials for nursery propagation to support reforestation efforts and ensure a supply of seedlings to replace deceased plantings. For the maintenance of all reforestation areas, the Volcan Mountain Foundation will either rehabilitate an existing well located near the Sky Island trailhead (<0.25 mile from the planting areas) or rent a water truck for irrigation / watering purposes until the seedlings become established. Reforestation efforts will target 50% long-term survival of seedlings with 1:2 replacement of any dead seedlings at 1 year following initial planting and additional replacement (as needed) based on subsequent monitoring. VMF will continue to furnish supplemental irrigation for two years following planting while routine weed control activities (i.e., hand weeding) will be continued for twenty years as part of the Volcan Mountain Foundation’s land stewardship programs. See Attachment 3 - Maintenance and Monitoring Plan for more details.

D. The Project does not include any construction activities, except for construction activities solely related to habitat restoration. Please cite and attach any supporting documents.



The RCDGSDC has determined that the Project does not include any construction activities. It entails only forestry and habitat management activities such as fuel reduction and reforestation.

## 5. CERTIFICATION



*I certify that I have the authority to determine whether a project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15025(a)(1), and this Project meets all the requirements described in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, and that I have submitted all the determinations required therein necessary to obtain the concurrence of the Director of Fish and Wildlife.*

Date: September 25, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lead Agency Signature

Printed Name and Title: Ann Baldrige, Executive Director



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
POST OFFICE BOX 944209  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2090



**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR  
RESTORATION PROJECTS  
CONCURRENCE NO. 21080.56-2023-039-R5**

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**Project:** Volcan Mountain Nature Center Forest Resilience Project  
**Location:** San Diego County  
**Lead Agency:** Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
**Lead Agency Contact:** Ann Baldrige; [ann.baldrige@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:ann.baldrige@rcdsandiego.org)

### **Background**

Project Location: The Volcan Mountain Nature Center Forest Resilience Project (Project) is located in eastern San Diego County, approximately three miles north of the town of Julian. The Project is located on the Volcan Mountain Foundation Nature Center, a 388-acre property. Approximate coordinates are 33.127882, -116.600959.

Project Description: The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (Lead Agency), in partnership with the Volcan Mountain Foundation (VMF), proposes to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend, and restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife. The Project is designed to benefit California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*; Endangered Species Act Candidate for Listing), purple martin (*Progne subis*; Species of Special Concern (SSC)), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*; SSC, Species of Greatest Conservation Need), and montane forest habitat. The Project will restore and re-create more natural, lower severity fire regimes and improve forest resilience. The Project includes the removal of ladder fuels, dead trees, and other combustible materials to reduce the potential severity of wildfires within three mixed conifer/hardwood montane forest groves. The Project will also remove encroaching chaparral vegetation followed by reforestation with native conifer and hardwood tree species. Further reforestation will occur on approximately 40 acres with native conifer and hardwood tree species to expand montane forest habitat. The Project will also address infestation by the invasive gold-spotted oak borer (*Agrilus coxalis*; GSOB) in the Project area.

The Project includes seven treatments that will be completed over time.

*Treatment 1: Conserve Mature Forested Riparian Area by Improving Wildfire Resiliency (11.1 acres):* Treatment 1 will occur within the riparian corridor of an unnamed tributary of Santa Ysabel Creek and entails the manual thinning and pruning of understory saplings, poles, and brush species to improve wildfire resiliency in a mature mixed conifer grove. This treatment

will also include the removal and treatment of GSOB-infested oaks following strict biosecurity protocols.

*Treatment 2: Roadside Fuel Treatment to Protect Forest Resources and Subsequent Reforestation (3.1 acres):* In order to improve and protect forest infrastructure, minimize roadside fire starts, and provide safe ingress/egress in the event of a wildfire, this treatment will remove chaparral species (e.g. *Ceanothus*), via mastication and hand removal, for 50 feet on each side of the roadway for a distance of 1,300 feet (0.25 mile). Where significant tree mortality has occurred, large woody biomass will also be removed within the 50-foot roadside zone. Chaparral regrowth will subsequently be managed via non-chemical methods (e.g., managed grazing). Follow-up treatment includes reforestation (see Treatment 6).

*Treatment 3: Enhance Mixed Conifer/Montane Oak Woodland by Restoring Wildfire Resiliency and Protecting Oaks from GSOB (61.7 acres):* Focused in and around the mature montane forest groves, this treatment will thin and prune excessively dense young/overstocked conifer saplings, pole-sized oaks, and brush species to enhance wildfire resiliency in the mature forest/oak/mixed conifer forest. This treatment will remove GSOB-infested oaks to reduce the spread of GSOB.

*Treatment 4: Mechanical Site Preparation for Reforestation (37.3 acres):* Site preparation to restore/reforest the site from the encroachment of brush species (e.g., *Ceanothus*), and planting of nursery raised conifer and hardwood seedlings, will occur in this treatment. Encroaching stands of chaparral will be grubbed, masticated, and mowed (where slopes allow) or cut with chainsaws. Small biomass may be dispersed following a lop and scatter methodology. Regrowth will be controlled via carefully managed grazing and/or broadcast burning.

*Treatment 5: Site Preparation for Planting by Prescribed Burning (49.5 acres):* This treatment will prepare a portion of the Nature Center for planting of conifer and oak species by conducting a prescribed burn to reduce competition from invasive annual grasses and forbs. This activity includes manual or mechanical creation of containment lines and removal of woody biomass/residue prior to ignition.

*Treatment 6: Restore/Reforest Conifer Forest Severely Damaged by Recent Wildfires (37.3 acres):* This treatment will restore/reforest previously forested areas with native conifers, and plant approximately 6,000 conifer seedlings of assorted species [i.e., big-cone Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), and Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*)]. Tree seedlings will be hand-planted, then shade cards and herbivory protection tubes will be installed.

*Treatment 7: Site Monitoring and Seedling Care (162.6 acres):* All the site monitoring and maintenance tasks including watering/irrigation of seedlings, hand weeding, and replacement of shade cards and herbivory tubes as necessary are included in this treatment.

Tribal Engagement: The Lead Agency and VMF notified tribal governments of the Project via email and U.S. mail on August 23, 2023. These communications were sent to 36 individuals of 20 tribes. To date, responses have been received from representatives from the Santa

Ysabel Tribe and the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians. The Project has also subsequently been discussed at an in-person gathering hosted by the La Jolla Band of Luiseño.

Continued engagement will occur in the form of a steering committee, including tribal representatives, to highlight how the Project can meet indigenous-led forestry, fire, and fuels crew's training needs. There is a site tour scheduled to further discuss the Project.

Interested Party Coordination: The Project is part of the Regional Priority Plan compiled by the Lead Agency with outreach to and input from 45 entities as part of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity group. The Project has support from Julian Fire Safe Council (currently Back Country Communities Thriving). The Project proponents have also reached out to San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.

Anticipated Project Implementation Timeframes:      Start date: September 2024  
  Completion date: April 2027

Lead Agency Request for CDFW Concurrence: On September 26, 2023, the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW Director) received a concurrence request from the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego (Lead Agency) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivision (e) (Request). The Request seeks the CDFW Director's concurrence with the Lead Agency's determination on September 25, 2023 that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria set forth in subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of the same section of the Public Resources Code (Lead Agency Determination). The CDFW Director's concurrence is required for the Lead Agency to approve the Project relying on this section of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.).

### **Concurrence Determination**

The CDFW Director concurs with the Lead Agency Determination that the Project meets the qualifying criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive (Concurrence).

Specifically, the CDFW Director concurs with the Lead Agency that the Project meets all of the following conditions: (1) the Project is exclusively to conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or is exclusively to restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife; (2) the Project may have public benefits incidental to the Project's fundamental purpose; (3) the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery; and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment; and, (4) Project construction activities are solely related to habitat restoration. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivision (g), CDFW will post this Concurrence on its CEQA Notices and Documents internet page: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>.

This Concurrence is based on best available science and supported, as described below, by substantial evidence in CDFW's administrative record of proceedings for the Project.

This Concurrence is also based on a finding that the Project is consistent with, and that its implementation will further CDFW's mandate as California's trustee agency for fish and wildlife, including the responsibility to hold and manage these resources in trust for all the people of California.

## Discussion

- A. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivision (a), the CDFW Director concurs with the Lead Agency that the Project will exclusively conserve, restore, protect, or enhance, and assist in the recovery of California native fish and wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend; or restore or provide habitat for California native fish and wildlife.

The Project will create and maintain a sustainable and fire-resistant montane forest community for range-restricted native species that rely upon mixed conifer/hardwood montane forest ecosystems. Removal of dead trees and ladder fuels, stand thinning and density reduction, and managed shaded fuel breaks, will improve forest resiliency by limiting wildfire intensity. Reforestation will also expand overall habitat in the Project area by planting native conifer species.

These activities will benefit multiple native species that are being impacted by habitat loss from large stand replacing wildfire events. These species include but are not limited to: California spotted owl, purple martin, and San Diego mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata pulchra*).

- B. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivision (b), the CDFW Director concurs with the Lead Agency that the Project may have incidental public benefits, such as public access and recreation.

The Project will have incidental public benefits of enhanced safety for neighboring lands, and increased education and research opportunities. The Project will reduce hazardous fuels, restore forest health, and increase wildfire resilience, which will in turn help protect the surrounding communities from the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

There will also be increased opportunities for environmental education for youth – local Title I school and schools from local Native American Reservations. VMF hosts several programs that promote environmental education on their property.

- C. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivision (c), the CDFW Director concurs with the Lead Agency that the Project will result in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery, and includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment.

Long-term Net Benefits to Climate Resiliency: The Project will support climate resiliency by creating a more fire resilient montane forest habitat. Project treatments will replicate a more natural and less severe fire regime and result in a forest

ecosystem more representative natural montane forest habitat that has not been impacted by fire suppression.

The Project will also have long-term carbon sequestration benefits by reducing potential emissions from intense stand-replacing crown fires.

Long-term Net Benefits to Biodiversity: The Project will have long-term net benefits to biodiversity through enhancement of montane forest habitat, improved fire resiliency, and reducing the potential habitat type conversion from forest to shrublands or grasslands. The treatments in this Project will increase the resilience of high-value groves of mixed conifer/hardwoods and help ensure more rare native species survive in the ecosystem, by providing these montane-dependent species with suitable habitat and refugia. Furthermore, maintaining montane conifer hardwood species will reduce accelerated fire cycles and restored forests are expected to be more resistant to future wildfires. Restored groves of montane conifer and hardwood species will provide refugia for species that rely upon this habitat for foraging and breeding.

Long-term Net Benefits to Sensitive Species Recovery: The Project will have benefits for species recovery through the restoration and protection of habitats. Mature mixed conifer/hardwood forest groves support California spotted owl, purple martin, and Townsend's big-eared bat. The Project will likely benefit other species that have current or historical presence on the property such as Crotch bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*; CESA Candidate Species), coast patch-nose snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgulata*), American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and southern California ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus octavus*).

Procedures for the Protection of the Environment: The Project includes activities that will protect the environment and measures for the protection of the environment. Project activities will ultimately protect biological resources through fuel reduction and limiting catastrophic wildfire and management of ladder fuels that cause tree mortality, stand replacement, and habitat loss.

Specific measures for the protection of the environment include: minimizing herbicide use; avoiding work activities during nesting season; biological resource monitoring; Project area delineation and avoidance of wetlands, streams, and watercourses; delineation and fencing of environmental sensitive habitat areas; and species-specific protective measures.

Ongoing Management for the Protection of the Environment: VMF is dedicated to perpetual land stewardship on its property and will include ongoing management of vegetation and chaparral encroachment into montane forest habitats. Long-term success criteria will be monitored throughout the life of the Project. VMF will continue its activities to preserve native habitat on its lands for twenty years as part of its land stewardship program.

- D. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56, subdivision (d), the CDFW Director concurs with the Lead Agency that the Project does not include any construction activities, except those solely related to habitat restoration.

The Project does not include construction activities.

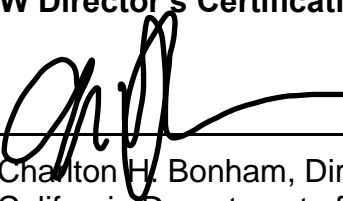
**Scope and Reservation of Concurrence**

This Concurrence is based on the proposed Project as described by the Lead Agency Determination and the Request. If there are any subsequent changes to the Project that affect or otherwise change the Lead Agency Determination, the Lead Agency, or any other public agency that proposes to carry out or approve the Project, shall submit a new Lead Agency Determination and request for concurrence from CDFW pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.56. If any other public agency proposes to carry out or approve the Project subsequent to the effective date of this Concurrence, this Concurrence shall remain in effect and no separate concurrence from CDFW shall be required so long as the other public agency is carrying out or approving the Project as described by the Lead Agency Determination and the Request.

**Other Legal Obligations**

The Project shall remain subject to all other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and this Concurrence shall not weaken or violate any applicable environmental or public health standards. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21080.56, subd. (f).)

**CDFW Director's Certification**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Charlton H. Bonham, Director  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date: 11/13/23



Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
11769 Waterhill Rd., Lakeside, CA 92040

Phone: (619) 562-0096 🌟 Fax: (619) 562-4799

Website: [www.rcdsandiego.org](http://www.rcdsandiego.org)

**Date:** January 10, 2024

**Agenda Item 5-3:** Resolution 2024-02: Subaward agreement with Zero Foodprint

**Discussion / History:** Zero Foodprint is a 501c.3 that established the Restore California grant program in 2020, incentivizing the implementation of climate smart conservation practices on working lands throughout the state. RCDGSDC participated in this program, extending services to producers in our district.

Zero Foodprint has recently received a block grant through the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Healthy Soils Program to collaborate with 11 RCDs across the state to provide climate smart technical assistance to farmers and ranchers. The RCD of Greater San Diego County is one of the partner RCDs in this block grant and will receive \$56,250 over two years to work with farmers and ranchers in our district and support them in applying the CDFA's healthy soils grants programs.

**Financial Impact:** Subaward of \$56,250.

**Staff Recommendation to Board:** Staff recommends that the Board approves the MOU and authorizes the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

*Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County*

11769 Waterhill Road \* Lakeside, CA 92040

Phone: 619-562-0096 \* Fax: 619-562-4799 \* Website: [www/rcdsandiego.org](http://www/rcdsandiego.org)

**RESOLUTION 2024-02**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF GREATER SAN DIEGO COUNTY TO SIGN A SUBAWARD AGREEMENT WITH ZERO FOOTPRINT FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Zero Foodprint has been awarded a block grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to collaborate with eleven RCDs across the state to provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers on the Healthy Soils Program,

AND WHEREAS, the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County is one of the partner RCDs included in the block grant award to provide TA to farmers and ranchers within its district boundary,

AND WHEREAS, Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County has the capacity to implement the program under this Agreement for the sum of \$56,250,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the RCD Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director to sign the Agreement with Zero Foodprint on behalf of the RCDGSDC.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at the RCD regular meeting held on January 10, 2024 by the following vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Butz, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne Sauerma, Board Secretary



**Date:** January 10, 2024

### Agenda Item 5-4: Board stipulated performance stipends

**Discussion / History:** The board of directors at its discretion has historically provided an Annual Performance Stipend for staff following years where financial outcomes were successful. Our 2023 audit was completed recently, and we are proud to note that our confirmed net earnings for the year were approximately \$217,000.

We have calculated the stipends for all staff who were working at the RCD during that fiscal year. Prior years' stipends have been between 1.5% and 2% of staff annual salaries. Both rates are calculated below.

**Financial Impact:** \$14,047 or \$18,730, depending on the approved percentage

**Staff Recommendation to Board:** Board vote to approve performance stipends for the Fiscal Year Ended 6/30/2023.

	<u>Annual Salary</u>	<u>1.50%</u>	<u>2.00%</u>
Baldrige, Ann	\$100,672	\$1,510	\$2,013
Cady, Gregg	\$76,020	\$1,140	\$1,520
Dioli, Morgan	\$57,432	\$861	\$1,149
Garcia, Elizabeth	\$35,034	\$526	\$701
Hale, Codi	\$57,140	\$857	\$1,143
Hill, Stan	\$82,671	\$1,240	\$1,653
Kelley, Chris	\$95,568	\$1,434	\$1,911
Kramer, Joel	\$70,720	\$1,061	\$1,414
Marlow, Heather	\$90,635	\$1,360	\$1,813
Maschka, Paul	\$28,210	\$423	\$564
Mejia, Daniela	\$17,012	\$255	\$340
Parra, Joanna	\$12,903	\$194	\$258
Piacenza-Jones, Cheyanne	\$39,048	\$586	\$781
Reiss, Sierra	\$57,102	\$857	\$1,142
Rodriguez, Erik	\$22,065	\$331	\$441
Sauerman, Joanne	\$45,839	\$688	\$917
Tidwell, JJ	\$16,268	\$244	\$325
Williamson, Andy	\$32,146	\$482	\$643
	<b>\$936,484</b>	<b>\$14,047</b>	<b>\$18,730</b>



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Website: [www.rcdsandiego.org](http://www.rcdsandiego.org)

**Additional new staff hired after 6/30/23:**

Guia, Carolina

Lewis, Joe

Petitt, Rachel

Valdez, Elizabeth

Wright, Kacie

**Date:** January 10, 2024

**Agenda Item 5-5: COLA increase 2024**

**Discussion / History:** Per last year’s Board Approved Annual COLA Adjustment Proposal, changes are to be presented at the last Board Meeting of the calendar year for discussion and determination of whether a COLA adjustment will be provided to staff for the upcoming year.

This year’s CPI indicated, and the Social Security Administration approved, a COLA adjustment of 3.2%.

**SSI Monthly Payment Amounts, 1975-2024**

Year	COLA <sup>a</sup>	Eligible individual	Eligible couple	Year	COLA <sup>a</sup>	Eligible individual	Eligible couple
1975	8.0%	\$157.70	\$236.60	2005	2.7%	\$579.00	\$869.00
1976	6.4%	167.80	251.80	2006	4.1%	603.00	904.00
1977	5.9%	177.80	266.70	2007	3.3%	623.00	934.00
1978	6.5%	189.40	284.10	2008	2.3%	637.00	956.00
1979	9.9%	208.20	312.30	2009	5.8%	674.00	1,011.00
1980	14.3%	238.00	357.00	2010	0.0%	674.00	1,011.00
1981	11.2%	264.70	397.00	2011	0.0%	674.00	1,011.00
1982	7.4%	284.30	426.40	2012	3.6%	698.00	1,048.00
1983	<sup>b</sup> 7.0%	304.30	456.40	2013	1.7%	710.00	1,066.00
1984	3.5%	314.00	472.00	2014	1.5%	721.00	1,082.00
1985	3.5%	325.00	488.00	2015	1.7%	733.00	1,100.00
1986	3.1%	336.00	504.00	2016	0.0%	733.00	1,100.00
1987	1.3%	340.00	510.00	2017	0.3%	735.00	1,103.00
1988	4.2%	354.00	532.00	2018	2.0%	750.00	1,125.00
1989	4.0%	368.00	553.00	2019	2.8%	771.00	1,157.00
1990	4.7%	386.00	579.00	2020	1.6%	783.00	1,175.00
1991	5.4%	407.00	610.00	2021	1.3%	794.00	1,191.00
1992	3.7%	422.00	633.00	2022	5.9%	841.00	1,261.00
1993	3.0%	434.00	652.00	2023	8.7%	914.00	1,371.00
1994	2.6%	446.00	669.00	2024	3.2%	943.00	1,415.00
1995	2.8%	458.00	687.00				
1996	2.6%	470.00	705.00				
1997	2.9%	484.00	726.00				
1998	2.1%	494.00	741.00				
1999	1.3%	500.00	751.00				
2000	<sup>c</sup> 2.5%	513.00	769.00				
2001	3.5%	531.00	796.00				
2002	2.6%	545.00	817.00				
2003	1.4%	552.00	829.00				
2004	2.1%	564.00	846.00				

**Fiscal Impact:** approximately \$41,000.

**Staff Recommendation to the Board:** Staff proposes a 3% COLA adjustment to be made effective for all staff beginning in 2024.

*Conserving Our Natural Resources*

**Date:** January 10, 2024

## **Agenda Item 5-6: Annual Elections of Officers**

**Discussion / History:** RCD Board of Directors is due for annual elections, in accordance with By-laws Section 3.05 - Appointment and Removal of Officers:

- a) The officers shall be elected annually at the regular December Board meeting or as soon thereafter as practicable and shall each hold office for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected and qualified. An officer may serve successive terms of office.
- b) Any officer may resign upon written notice to the Board. Such resignation note shall contain an effective date or a condition precedent.
- c) Should the office of either President or Vice President become vacant, the Board shall elect a successor from among its members at the next regular or special meeting, and the office shall be held for the unexpired term of office.

Currently, the officer positions are held by:

- President: Don Butz
- Vice President: Marilyn Huntamer
- Secretary/Treasurer: Odette Gonzalez

**Financial Impact:** None

**Staff Recommendation to Board:** Staff recommends that the Board reviews and confirms its slate of officers.



Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
11769 Waterhill Rd., Lakeside, CA 92040

Phone: (619) 562-0096 ✉ Fax: (619) 562-4799

Website: [www.rcdsandiego.org](http://www.rcdsandiego.org)

**Date:** January 10, 2024

### **Agenda Item 5-7: Approval of Delegate for CARCD Special Meeting**

**Discussion / History:** Due to technical difficulties, the CARCD business meeting held at the annual conference in December was unable to be completed. CARCD will hold a Special Meeting virtually on March 7, 2024 at 4pm to finalize business, including the election of officers. CARCD is asking that each RCD Board selects a delegate to participate in and vote at the Special Meeting.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Staff Recommendation to Board:** Staff recommends that the Board selects a delegate to participate in the March 7 CARCD Special Meeting.



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**Date:** January 10, 2024

**Agenda Item 5-8:** MOU with Urban Corps for collaboration on defensible space programs

**Discussion / History:** The California Fire Safe Council awarded the RCDGSDC \$500,000 through their Defensible Space Assistance Grant Program in September. Urban Corps of San Diego approached us about collaborating on the project through providing their crews to accomplish tree trimming, weedwacking, and chipping services to some eligible participants in our Defensible Space Assistance and Community Chipping Programs.

This MOU outlines the responsibilities and expectations for both Urban Corps of San Diego and the RCD while working on this project.

**Financial Impact:** none

**Staff Recommendation to Board:** Staff recommends that the Board reviews the MOU and provides feedback or approval.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)  
BETWEEN

Urban Corps of San Diego County AND Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County

This Memorandum of Understanding ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the "Parties" Urban Corps of San Diego County (Urban Corps) and Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (herein after referred to as RCD).

Term. This MOU is effective for 18 months starting February 15, 2023~~4~~, and will remain in effect until June 30, 2025.

Commented [MG1]: 10.5 months

Commented [MG2]: December 31st, 2024 (end of CFSC Dspace grant term)

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish an understanding between the Urban Corps and RCD regarding the Defensible Space Project for homeowners throughout the County of San Diego.

Responsibilities of the Parties:

Urban Corps will:

1. Provide a full-time crew of one Supervisor and three Corpsmembers (as needed) for an 8-hour day; includes the drive time to and from the location of defensible space, at an hourly rate of \$40.00 for Supervisor and \$30.00 per our hour for each crew member.
2. Supply crews with uniforms, and tools to complete the defensible space for each home.
3. Provide weeding, chipping, tree trimming (limited to below 15 feet) and under skirts.
4. Create a bid for each home based on photos, scope of work and address of the home; and submit to RCD for approval. (bids will be submitted in the same format as the invoice).
5. Submit a bid cost for each house not to exceed \$3,000.00.
6. Complete each house within 1-3 days depending on scope during the predetermined zone schedules provided by the RCD.
7. Invoice each house by address. The invoice will include a breakdown of costs by scope (weeding \$500, chipping \$1,000 etc.)
8. Contact the homeowner when work is scheduled.
- ~~8-9.~~ Take "after" photos based on before photos taken by RCD Staff.

RCD will:

1. Send Urban Corps photos, scope of work, and address of the home and request a bid back (in the same format as the invoice)
2. Review and approve the bid then provide Urban Corps with written approval of authorized work.
3. Provide the homeowner contact information for scheduling work.
4. Communicate to the homeowner that Urban Corps work has been approved and that Urban Corps will contact them.
5. Pay for each approved invoice submitted in the same format as the bid by the Urban Corps.

Compensation: For satisfactory performance and completion of services under this Agreement, RCD shall pay Urban Corps for approved invoice based on services rendered 30 days net.

Invoice shall be mailed to the attention of:

Urban Corps of San Diego County  
P.O. Box 80156  
San Diego CA 92138

Urban Corps will provide a copy of a current W9 to RCD.

Records. Parties shall maintain full and complete records of the costs of services performed under this MOU. Such records shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times in the City of San Diego and such records shall be kept for at least three

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)  
**BETWEEN**

Urban Corps of San Diego County AND Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
years after termination of this Agreement or until three years following any disputes or litigation or claims arising from this Agreement.

Termination. This MOU may not be terminated prior to the expiration except in the case that one or more Parties have breached their respective obligations under the MOU and have not been able to resolve such breach (or breaches) after having met and conferred in good faith. In no event will this MOU be terminated with less than 30 days written notice to the other Party.

Notice. Except as otherwise specifically provided, any notice required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been sufficiently given if delivered in person, transmitted by facsimile, email, or if deposited in the United States mails, postage prepaid, for mailing by first-class registered or certified mail, addressed as follows:

If to Urban Corps, it shall be addressed to:

Urban Corps of San Diego County  
PO Box 80156  
San Diego, CA 92138-0156  
Attention: Kyle Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer

If RCD, it shall be addressed to:

Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
Address: 11769 Waterhill Rd  
Lakeside, CA 92040

or to such other address or individual as either Party may specify from time to time by written notice given by such Party.

Force Majeure. Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any delay in or failure of performance, nor shall any such delay in or failure of performance constitute default, if such delay or failure is caused by "Force Majeure." As used in this section, "Force Majeure" is defined as follows: Acts of war and acts of God such as earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters such that performance is impossible.

Indemnification. Each Party agrees to indemnify and hold the other party harmless against all claims, damages, losses and expenses, including court costs and reasonable attorney fees arising out of any negligent act or omission or willful conduct which results in: 1) any bodily injury, sickness, disease or death; 2) any injury or destruction to tangible property or any loss of use resulting therefrom; and 3) any violation of any statute, ordinance or regulation.

Insurance. Urban Corps will provide RCD a copy of insurance, including, without limitation, Workers' Compensation insurance and Comprehensive General Liability Insurance throughout the term of the Agreement.

Compliance. The Parties shall comply with the California Fair Employment and Housing Act and all other applicable federal, state, and local laws prohibiting discrimination, including without limitation laws prohibiting discrimination because of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, age, sex or medical disability. The Parties shall comply with the provisions of Labor Code Section 1720. The Parties shall comply with all federal, state laws, district ordinances, regulations, city code and city ordinances applicable to the performance of services under this Agreement as it exist now or as may be added and amended.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)  
**BETWEEN**

Urban Corps of San Diego County AND Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County  
Drug Free Workplace. The Parties shall comply with the City's Drug-Free Workplace requirements, set forth in City Council  
Policy 100-17, as adopted by City Council Resolution R-277952.

Relationship of the Parties. This MOU does not create an agency. This MOU is only for the purpose of the Defensible Space  
Project for Homeowners in San Diego County.

Assignment. This MOU is not assignable to any party.

Entire Agreement. This MOU represents the entire Agreement and understanding of the Parties. This Agreement may not be  
amended in any way except by writing duly executed by all signatories hereto.

The Parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be fully executed, such Parties acting by their representatives being  
thereunto duly authorized.

Executed on this day by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Resource Conservation District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Kennedy Chief Executive Officer  
Urban Corps of San Diego County

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

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



**RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**  
Greater San Diego County

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**2024**  
**RCD BOARD MEETING CALENDAR**  
**RCF BOARD MEETING CALENDAR**

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*Unless otherwise noted, RCD Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 12:30 pm. Meetings are held at several locations within the county.*

**Wednesday, January 10\*\***

**Wednesday, February 14** (will be rescheduled, date TBD)

**Wednesday, March 13**

**Wednesday, April 10\*\***

**Wednesday, May 8**

**Wednesday, June 14**

**Wednesday, July 12\*\***

**Wednesday, August 9**

**Wednesday, September 13**

**Wednesday, October 11**

**Wednesday, November 8**

**Wednesday, December 13, 11am\***

*\*Meeting is followed by annual holiday lunch*

*\*\*RCF Board Meeting to follow RCD Board Meeting*

## **SUCCESSSES · STRUGGLES · SUPPORT**

Activity Highlights for November - December 2023

Prepared for Board Meeting on 1/10/2024

### **SUCCESSSES**

#### **Executive Director:**

- Continued to hold regular check-ins with staff and bi-weekly office staff meetings.
- Continued visiting the farm regularly to attend farm staff meetings and connect with staff.
- Supported staff with grant applications and reporting.
- Attended meetings with partners and funders.
- Providing support to Rachel Petitt, coordinator of SoCal Soil & Water Hub.
- Finalized position descriptions for the Accounting Clerk and Forestry Technical Advisor positions and started recruitment processes.
- Continued meeting with a potential new IT company to compare services with existing IT company.
- Continued to plan and hosted a legislative outreach on December 6 to launch the SoCal Soil & Water Hub. The event was co-hosted by Mission RCD and we received support from Pacific Policy Group.
- Attended the Southern Montane Forest Strategy workshop.
- Continued to collaborate with NACD on annual conference planning efforts, including conference tours, field trips, a service day, and other conference logistics.
- Participated in the monthly Agricultural Water Management Program meeting with SDCWA and Mission RCD.
- Attended a media training organized by CSDA.
- Attended the November Executive Board and General Fire Safe Council meetings.
- Participated in conversations about the Sentinel Landscape proposal being developed by Naval Base Coronado in partnership with CA State Coastal Conservancy and Port of San Diego.
- Attended the CARCD annual conference and was elected to serve on the CARCD Board as a staff representative for the Southern CA region.
- Received First Aid training along with other staff members.
- Held Chris Kelley's annual review.
- Finalized the SERP application for Volcan Mountain Foundation and filed a CEQA notice of exemption for their forest resilience project.
- Upon receiving notice of funding from the WCB for the Otay Valley Regional Park Restoration Planning Project, prepared agreements for partners and worked with staff to develop reporting procedures. Co-coordinated and attended a project kick-off meeting.
- Met with County staff to discuss the annexation process for islands within our district as well as incorporating sphere of influence into our boundary.
- Executed the agreement from State Parks for the Native American Conservation Corps program.

## **PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **Port:**

- Sent out additional promotion through email mailing.
- Delivered 10 presentations to three school locations, including one Port Partner School location.
- Updated the watershed booking system to make it automated.
- Booked 10 presentations for the upcoming month.
- Sent out additional promotion through email mailing.
- Updated fliers, resources, and email templates for the upcoming year.
- Continued training Kacie Wright to coordinate the Port Program.
- Submitted the Q2 Port Report

### **Pollinators**

- Submitted EPA Environmental Education grant with Cal State San Marcos and Mission RCD to fund creation of school garden curriculum based in STEM learning goals, with focus on native plant and pollinator curriculum.
- Participated in annual Thanksgiving monarch count at two locations.
- Participated in first Bee City San Diego committee meeting.
- Met with Monarch Joint Venture and Earth Discovery Institute about a local funding opportunity for pollinator gardens.

### **Community Gardens**

#### **Sweetwater**

- Finished and submitted the Q2 Port Report
- Three new gardeners
- Two half plots vacated.
- Eli continuously works on maintaining communal areas and cleaning out vacated plots.
- Two new gardeners.

#### **TRV**

- Two new Gardeners joined the garden
- Two lease terminations
- Work is underway to engage gardeners more actively in garden governance. Codi and Daniela developed a [survey](#) for gardeners to gather input. This was shared with gardeners two Community Potlucks held Dec 7<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>
- Scheduled online garden advisory committee meeting for January 15th.
- Visited College Area community garden to observe alternate models for garden governance.
- Eli continuously works on maintaining the landscape, detecting and repairing leaks and cleaning out abandoned plots.

**Quarter Acre Plots:**

- Interviewed and approved Abriendo Caminos to fill last TRV Farm plot (#7) when available.

**Agriculture Department**

**CA Dept of Food and Ag:**

- Irrigation evaluations for 270-acre avocado grove Rios Canyon Ranch in El Cajon, Carranza Citrus in Valley Center, Linda Suarez in Pala (USLR), Ken Yarger in Pala (USLR) and Fred Wolff in Pala (USLR), and irrigation consultation for Hollister Farm in the Tijuana River Valley.
- Rebates for pump testing by AWPS Engineering for Ken Yarger in Pala (USLR), Linda Suarez in Pala (USLR), Gregg Opgenorth in Fallbrook (MRCD), Jennifer Bantle in Fallbrook (MRCD), and Rios Canyon Ranch in El Cajon.
- Trained Programs Coordinator in data entry and processing for irrigation evaluations
- Garden Assistant will add to role starting in January by supporting irrigation evaluations.
- Collaborated with UCANR to plan SWEEP Water Efficiency application workshop in December, but workshop was postponed due to CDFA postponement of producer funding.
- Preparation for CDFA Healthy Soils application to open through Zero Foodprint block grant.
- Submitted drought relief application for Reyes Vineyards in Potrero to Ventura County RCD funding pool and for Emilio Carranza in Valley Center to IERCD funding pool.
- Calculated metrics for Carbon Farm Plan for Domaine Artefact in Escondido
- Postponed Farm to School budget with farm staff pending MOU approval by school district.
- Ag Director attended monthly Farm Bureau meeting to advertise upcoming grant opportunities.
- Team conducted outreach by tabling at Farm and Nursery Expo at Escondido
- SWEEP funding postponed indefinitely, but tribal applicants are still eligible through block grant; began preparing SWEEP applications with three tribal WETA participants.
- Held weekly office hours for SWEEP applicants – limited advertising and low attendance.
- For planning grant, finalized contracts for partners and planning consultants.
- Completed first draft of Carbon Farm Plan for Domaine Artefact in Escondido and distributed to Foodshed for review.
- Coordinated irrigation contractor for design of Papa Joe's irrigation plan.
- Trained by Audubon California for habitat management planning at Bobcat Ranch in Winters.
- Reviewed previous Healthy Soils applicants to prepare new applicants in Spring 2024.
- MOU approved with Southwest High school for Farm to School budget, production schedule is pending registration as school district vendor.
- Printed brochures advertising Ag Dept services Monthly announcements (December edition) sent to 300 recipients (~150 farmers/ranchers).

**Audubon California:**

- Received in-person training from Audubon California regarding range habitat management planning at Bobcat Ranch in Winters.
- Invited and informed three local ranchers to enroll in Audubon Ranching Certification.
- Referred Rancho Corta Madera in Pine Valley to Audubon Bird Friendly Ranching Program.
- Requested revised grant contract from Audubon to complete two habitat management plans.

- Met with Audubon California to discuss habitat management plan components and requirements for producer involvement in Audubon certification.

**CA Wildlife Conservation Board:**

- Approval of grant 'Otay Valley Regional Park Restoration Planning Project'.
- Arranged and attended December kick-off meeting with project partners.
- Organized administration for Otay Restoration Planning, including shared drive, partner contracts, and reporting schedule.
- Held two December kick-off meetings with project partners, distributed minutes and scheduled next site visit and quarterly meeting.
- Partner Green Infrastructure Consortium presented to Chula Vista Citizen Advisory Committee.

**CA Assoc of Resource Conservation Districts (Regional Hub, NRCS block grant):**

- For buyer's co-op, identified product categories, confirmed participating farmers, and set date.
- Collaborated with MRCD with Hub Coordinator leadership to hold Legislative Outreach Day
- Attended Annual CARCD Conference in Sacramento and presented on Equity grant activities.
- Ag Team contributed to CARCD statewide Carbon Farming Hub Meeting
- Prepared buyer's co-op pilot project by arranging products and vendors for distribution.
- Hub Coordinator led planning for legislative outreach day.
- Ag Director participated in San Diego State University Food Studies Advisory Board Meeting.

**Inland Empire RCD Post-Disaster Recovery:**

- Distributed mailer to 41 agricultural producers impacted by fire in Valley Center (USLR), Ramona and Potrero; calls to 7 high priority producers impacted by wildfire.
- Mapped agricultural parcels within the 100-year floodplain within the County boundaries Improved phone outreach methods by subscribing to White Pages and drafting call script.
- Distributed mailer to 118 agricultural producers impacted by flood TRV, Descanso, and Lakeside.
- Visited neighborhoods with flood-prone operations, including five farms in Tijuana River Valley
- Polled interest from TRV farmers in future flood management projects; strong support, especially for renewed streambed dredging by local agencies.
- Field staff assessed impacted properties, including Olsen Ranch in Santa Ysabel and Resendiz Brothers Protea Growers in Rainbow (USLR). 3 more assessments are scheduled for January.
- Referred Hukama Produce in Ramona for the EQIP program to resolve flooding issues.
- Requested and received grant extension through 2025 as needed; likely to complete June 2024

**Prop 84:**

- Arranged contractor Black Sage to complete Back Country Land Trust revegetation in Alpine, drafted plant palette and assessed sites with contractor.
- Performed field visit to San Diego River at Cedar Creek Falls with USFS to prepare for monitoring.
- Referred Viejas Band Resource Management to La Jolla Band for plant propagation guidance.

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### **Agricultural Water Management Program (SD County Water Authority)**

- Received training from MRCD during two Water Audits in Valley Center including San Gabriel Ranch (USLR) and Tracy Lyn Dr. (no jurisdiction)
- Communicated with Water Authority regarding standards for audit reports and field forms.
- Garden Assistant will add to role starting in January by supporting farm water audits.
- Supervised revegetation of three sets of private parcels in Alpine with 800 plants by contractor Black Sage on behalf of Back Country Land Trust
- Performed field visit to Viejas Band Resource Management to prepare for invasive control and monitoring.
- Provided native plants and seeds to Viejas Band for revegetation and education.
- Received final invoice and completion report from US Forest Service, Viejas Band and BCLT.
- Participated in training for Project Completion Report.
- Compiled final quarterly report and drafted project completion report.
- Received educational tour of Barona Cultural Center and Museum about history of Kumeyaay people and water use in the El Capitan catchment.
- Received training from MRCD for post-inspection in De Luz.
- Initiated ag water rebate for one producer and received guidance from CWA on process.
- The Water Authority presented about incentive program at Farm Bureau, initiating county-wide advertising of irrigation evaluations.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service:**

- Conducted site visit to Mary Yell in Escondido to assess EQIP eligibility and sample soil.
- Provided filtered County AWM list of avocado growers to new group 'Avocado Growers of CA'.

### **Zero Footprint:**

- Requested update for Final Report for Ofelia Lichtenthal
- Participated in Kickoff Call for Healthy Soils block grant. Strategized application process for CDFA Healthy Soils block grant based on funding reductions.

### **Forestry and Fire Prevention Department**

#### **Forestry + Fire Prevention General:**

- Native American Conservation Corps (NACC) program contract has been executed and the program continues on-the-job training and work in the Cuyamaca and Palomar State Parks.
- Continuing to work with the CAL FIRE team and RFFC SoCal group to develop the Pilot Community Block Grant and framework for regional investment.
- Partnered on grant application for funding from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research with County Fire and San Diego City Fire-Rescue to increase CWPP and community preparedness collaboration. Fire Safe Council of San Diego County was notified Dec 30 that the application was successful.
- 2023/2024 season Goldspotted Oak Borer surveying and treatment planning began in the community of Oak Grove.

- Harrison Park roadside brushing completed.
- Assessing multiple communities for roadside brushing; Sherilton Valley, Japatul Valley Road, La Posta Road, Pine Creek Road to name a few.
- Held meetings with Murrieta Fire Department (interest in modeling SD County's Fire Safe Council), Davey Tree Service (interest in assisting with capacity building for forester work and other services.)

**CAL FIRE Forest Health Project/ Palomar Collaborative:**

- Completed semi-annual Forest Health Jobs report.
- Work has been completed at the Pauma property and is nearing completion on the Palomar Land & Cattle (Bergman's) property.

**DOC- RFFC Program:**

- Girl Scouts Camp Winacka Project continues in the implementation phase.
- The Climate Science Alliance/ La Jolla Indian Reservation Fire, Forestry and Fuels crew continue implementation at the reservation.
- Hosted an interactive workshop for our RFFC partners and stakeholders in collaboration with the [Southern Montane Forests Conservation Project](#) group. Outcomes will include mapping tools and conservation strategies for our local montane forests that incorporate priorities that stakeholders identified at the workshop.

**Fire Safe Council:**

- The new Home Assessment Program launched January 1- The pilot program will be open to any interested homeowner in our service area throughout 2024.
- Completed research and development phase of the Home Assessment Program, which included collaboration and fieldwork with the Santa Monica Mountains RCD and training with UCANR.
- Calendared upcoming CWPP Workshops and published new CWPP Template and Writer's Guide.
- Began outreach for our first HAP Zones by partnering with the Vista Fire Protection District on banners, yard signs, and post cards to over 1,000 homes.
- Finalized and printed updated flyers for the new Home Assessment Program, Defensible Space Assistance Program, Community Chipping Program, and Post-Assessment Resource Guide.
- Hosted an FSC Coffee Chat and shared about the upcoming Home Assessment Program launch and first zone dates.
- Met with contract partners to discuss the new program and outline expectations.
- Completed and published the 2023 Alpine/Viejas CWPP.
- Working with Ramona West End Fire Safe Council to finalize their last CWPP edits.
- Hosted our monthly Executive and General Fire Safe Council meetings. The American Red Cross presented on their new Wildfire Preparedness Program during the General Meeting. RCD staff presented on the new programs we are offering beginning January 2024 and received feedback from the executive committee.
- Updated and finalized FSCSDC Bylaws.
- Participated in the first meeting for the future FSC in the Harbison Canyon, Carveacre, and Dehesa areas.



- Attended the planning group meeting for Harbison Canyon, Granite Hills, Dehesa, and Crest.
- Presented on the San Diego FSC Structure at the Southern California Regional Fire Safe Council Meeting hosted by CFSC.
- Calendared WUI and LCSSW workshops for Spring 2024 and helping Mono and Inyo County plan their own LCSSW.

**GrizzlyCorps Fellowship:**

- Attended GrizzlyCorps event at White Buffalo Land Trust in Lompoc, CA, 11/03 - 11/05
- Attended the GrizzlyCorps, "Navigating workplace Boundaries" workshop with Mihae Lozano, 12/8.
- Assisted forestry and fire team with projects including:
  - Continuing the Home Assessment Survey Mock Trail and Survey123.
  - Completed November and December Blog post.
  - Completed a Home Assessment research and development training with the RCD of Santa Monica Mountains, 12/11.
  - Attended the Southern California Montane Forest Conservation Strategies Vulnerabilities and Priorities Workshop, 11/06.
  - Canvassing for HAP outreach in Zones 1 and 2.

**Wild Willow Farm**

- Completed mock assessments for our pilot Home Assessment Program at seven locations.
- Met with Paul to plan workshops into Spring 2024
- Hosted nine workshops.
- Completed Fall Farm School.
- Held a Fall at the Farm debrief meeting to discuss how the event went.
- Met with Spectrum News to do a story on Farm School and our education programs.
- Savannah Villar put in her two weeks and had her final day on November 21. She was happy with the position and farm crew but unsatisfied with the pay.
- Hosted three field trips: Maria Montessori, Girl Scouts, and Ryan Family YMCA
- Moved over ticketing website from Eventbrite to Humanitix (lower fees for attendees and for the ticket seller).
- Looked into updating our newsletter capabilities since we have not been able to send newsletters.
- Set up the EBT system to take payments.
- Started going through the WWF website to make structural, design, and content updates.
- Interviewed potential applicants for the Farm Education Coordinator position. Offered the position to Lake Thelen.
- Created follow up forms for field trips, workshops, and farm school to be sent out after events for feedback.
- Worked on reporting for Community Enhancement Grant.
- Renewed Certified Producer Certificate to pursue IB farmer's market in 2024.
- Applied for FSA ID# via Foodshed's Climate Smart Incentive Program.
- Interns: finished last intern cohort of 2023; all attended the fall session of Farm School
- Continued relations with florists, CSA customers, and Foodshed.
- Hired additional field staff to help with increased production goals.

- Continued to host volunteers the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

**RCD General:**

- Continuing to work with the CAL FIRE FH team and RFFC SoCal group to develop the Pilot Community Block Grant and framework for regional investment.
- Celebrated 4-year work anniversary for Irrigation Technician, 1-year work anniversary for Garden Coordinator, and probationary period for Garden Assistant. Garden Assistant increased to 3/5-time, contributing to Water Efficiency Technical Assistance program.
- Participated in meeting with County and partners to prepare for DOC Climate Smart grant.
- Staff received First Aid Training including CPR and tourniquet application.
- Updated Wild Willow Farm Plan with alternative sites to minimize flood impacts.
- Provided LAFCO with de-identified producer database for SALC program outreach.
- Ag Director contributed to Rangeland Management Advisory Committee meeting as RCD rep.
- Staff Hike at Crestridge Ecological Reserve.
- Notified partners that DOC Climate Smart grant is active and began preparing activities.
- Attended Annual CARCD Conference in Sacramento and staff presented in four workshop sessions on topics including advocacy activities, pollinator programming, and ag equity work.
- Revised billing for completed SALC grant at request of LAFCO, reducing award by approx. \$2,000.
- Set 2024 Ag Team goals: Building Relationships, Providing Direct Service, Opening Conversations

**• STRUGGLES •**

- Funding for Farm Facilities needs repair before the rainy season: Failing facilities a constant issue, especially in the rainy/windy season- barn roof, bathroom roof, wash station structure(s)

**• SUPPORT •**

- Facilities repair (budget approval) barn roof, bathroom roof, wash station
- Engagement of County to prepare for winter floods.
- Explore options for contact tracking tools.
- Strategic planning of 2024 funding for ongoing programs, full-time staff, and gardens
- Consider updating Mission statement to include food production.

**• NEWSLETTERS •**

- [Wild Willow Farm Newsletter](#)
- [FSC Newsletter \(November\)](#)
- [FSC Newsletter \(December\)](#)
- FSC [November Blog Post](#) and [December Blog Post](#)

- Agriculture Dept newsletter: [November edition](#)

<p>• <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> •</p>
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- January 13: Fruit Tree Pruning & Training
- January 18 and 24: CWPP Writer's Workshops
- January 27: Planting & Propagating Fruit Trees
- February 1: Irrigation Efficiency Workshop
- February 10-14: National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
- February 17: Last Chance Survival Simulation Workshop, Palomar Mountain
- February 25: CAFF Small Farm Conference
- February 26 and March 4: Abridged Last Chance Survival Series, Olivenhain
- March 16: Last Chance Survival Simulation Workshop, Poway

**RCD / FSC GRANT STATUS**

**CURRENT GRANT ACTIVITY – DECEMBER 2023**

**ITEM 6-2a**

<b>Grant Applications Submitted</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Notes / Updates</b>
Community Wildfire Defense Grant	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$552,216	Palomar Mountain FSC CWPP projects, especially defensible space and ingress/egress
Community Wildfire Defense Grant	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$3,219,425	Funds to expand our Home Assessment Program and provide defensible space assistance.
Good Neighbor Authority (Bureau of Land Management)	Pollinator Health	\$640,870	Hermes Copper Butterfly restoration; submitted 9/1/23; partnership with USFS, SD Zoo & Wildlife Alliance, SD MMP, USFWS and others. RCD as lead agency
USDA Local Meat Processing	Agriculture dept	\$87,000	Supporting a \$1.1m application from KCW Custom Processing to develop a mobile slaughter and processing facility. RCD will provide outreach and TA.
EPA Environmental Education Grant	Education	\$5,000	Collaborating with Cal State San Marcos and Mission RCD to develop a Native Pollinators, Native Foods program for local schools. CSUSM would lead, we would receive a \$5k subaward from a \$100k grant.
Strategic Growth Council Community Resilience Center	Ag Department and Wild Willow Farm	\$99,681.44 (RCD ask)	These funds are part of a proposal from Casa Familiar in San Ysidro who want to partner with us to help them develop a community garden and curriculum for residents.
<b>Grants Currently Working On</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Notes</b>
CAL FIRE Pilot Community Block Grant	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$10m	Regional Investment Strategy for RFFC SoCal Block Grantees. We will manage the grant for the region, if awarded.
<b>Recent Grants Awarded</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Notes</b>
SDG&E	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$1.5M	New budget amount for 2024; renewable annually for 5 years.
Office of Planning and Research, Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$200,000	Partner on SD County Fire Protection District’s grant, along with City of San Diego. \$1,588,838 awarded to SD County. Announced Dec 2023
CA State Parks Direct Funding Agreement	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$422,120	Funding to continue the Native American Conservation Corps program. Ann
Wildlife Conservation Board	Habitat restoration planning grant	\$409,000	Project in collaboration with the Green Infrastructure Consortium and Otay River valley Regional Park, RCD as lead partner. Awarded Nov 2023
Dept of Conservation – Climate Smart Working Lands	Agriculture Dept	\$900,000	Grant in partnership with SD County (they are lead agency), implementation of SALC-related projects. \$2M request, \$1,800,000 awarded Nov 2023.
NACD Outreach and Technical Assistance	Agriculture Department	\$62,000	To provide TA on integrated pest management

CDFA Healthy Soils TA	Ag Department	\$56,000	Partner on Zero Food Print block grant. We will provide TA to farmers in our district.
CARCD USDA Equity in Conservation Outreach Block Grant	Ag dept	\$22,500	Outreach to underserved farmers.
CDFA SWEEP TA	Ag Department	\$	Technical assistance for grant applications and implementation for Healthy Soils and SWEEP.
NRCS-CARCD	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$303,016.77	Three-year grant to fund a full-time forester or similar position to support forest management plans and other planning work.
CA Fire Safe Council	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$500,000	Working with community FSCs, Urban Corps, and Go Patriot to implement defensible space support in targeted communities.
NRCS-IERCD	Ag Department - Post-disaster recovery	\$30,000	Program links farmers and ranchers to resources to recuperate their land following a natural disaster
Audubon California Conservation Ranching	Ag Department	\$20,000	Funds environmental monitoring activities at two ranches to supplement carbon farm plans, habitat management plans and grazing management plans
NRCS CA – Contribution Agreement	Agriculture Dept	\$150,000	Funding to support technical assistance to farmers & ranchers and to refer to NRCS programs.
Community Food Fund, San Diego Foundation	Community Gardens	\$100,000	Original request for \$187k, part funded to support TRV Community Garden.
CDFA Underserved Producers Economic Relief (CUSP)	Agriculture dept	\$87,000	Grant to build on 2021 funding by capitalizing on existing relationships and reputation to support underserved farmers to access funds and resources post-disaster.
CAFF	Wild Willow Farm	\$15,000	Post-flooding economic relief
DOC - RFFC Program Round III and Opportunity Fund - Wildfire Resiliency	Forestry & Fire Prevention	\$3.15M	Recent amendment approved to combine Round III and Opportunity Fund with Round our II grant.
CARCD – WCB block grant	Pollinator Health	\$356,515	Five-year grant to CARCD and sub-awarded to RCDs. Awarded 1/13/23
CDFA Pollinator Habitat Program	Pollinator Health	\$339k	Funds to support implementation of pollinator habitat on working lands, Awarded March 2023
CDFA Planning Grant (CAPGP)	Funding to support conservation planning with farmers and ranchers, including carbon farm planning	\$249,700	Joint proposal with Regional Carbon Farming Hub partners (Mission and Inland Empire RCDs). Announced 2/2/23
Subcontract from Food Shed	Agriculture - carbon farm plans	\$40,000	Subcontract is part of Food Shed’s recently awarded USDA Climate Smart Commodities grant (Dec 2022) – awaiting subcontractor agreement
<b>Unsuccessful Applications</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Notes</b>

Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program	Agriculture Department	\$272,925 (to RCD)	Denied December 2023; Collaboration with UCSD Center for Community Health and Project New Village (UCSD as lead), focus on urban ag
USDA – Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production	Agriculture dept	\$349,532.61	Denied August 2023
CALFIRE Forest Health	Round 2 of the “Saving San Diego’s Last Mixed Conifer Forest”	\$6m	Denied April 2023
Community Wildfire Defense Fund	USFS – Implementation of County CWPP projects, including chipping and DSAP	\$4.93m	Denied March 2023

**RC FOUNDATION GRANT STATUS**

**CURRENT GRANT ACTIVITY – DECEMBER 2023**

**ITEM 6-2b**

<b>Grant Applications Submitted</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Notes / Updates</b>
CDFA Urban Agriculture	Wild Willow Farm	\$175,000	Staff capacity and business planning
<b>Grants Currently Working On</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Grants/ Donations Awarded</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Hervey Family Fund	Wild Willow Farm	\$10,000	Donation via SD Foundation, December 2023
CDFA – Farm to School, Track 4	Wild Willow Farm	\$150,000	Funding to develop a Farm to School field to supply produce to Sweetwater Union High School District for school consumption and nutrition education programs.
Hervey Family Fund	Wild Willow Farm	\$20,592	Funding to review the CSA model and promote to / engage the local community
<b>Grants Denied / Cancelled</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>	<b>Notes</b>
SD City Council - CPPS	Pollinator health	\$6,715	Program to promote native milkweed and host a San Diego Pollinator Week program of events.
SD City Council - CPPS	Wild Willow Farm Field trips	\$5,250	10 free field trips for schools in neighboring communities, plus some additional supplies.