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Marin RCD Launches New Program to Improve Local Creeks

By George Clyde, Associate Director, Marin RCD

After nearly 60 years of helping Marin County ranchers and farmers with creek restorations and other conservation projects, the Marin Resource Conservation District will soon be providing services to another group: people with homes and businesses along our local creeks.

Meet Sarah Phillips, the RCD's Urban Streams Coordinator, who is leading this new initiative to assist landowners who are near sensitive streams and creeks. With ambitious goals, Phillips will be working with all stakeholders – helping people with the challenges of protecting and improving their homes and properties, while also conserving and enhancing the quality of the nearby creeks and complying with the complex regulatory requirements.

Phillips says that her first priority will be to get to know everyone involved. "I'll be attending homeowner gatherings and meeting with the various advocacy groups, and I'm already meeting with the County and all the agencies. I want to be a real resource in providing solutions that benefit everyone, as well as protecting and improving our local creeks and the wildlife that depends on them."

Phillips comes to the job with plenty of experience. Since 2011 she has had a similar role for the South Yuba River watershed, where she helped resolve conflicting demands of the water agencies, creekside landowners, users of private water wells and advocacy groups. She also managed grant funds for watershed improvement projects and rolled up her sleeves for restoration field work that she organized.

"We are really fortunate to be able to have Sarah with us in Marin County," said Nancy Scolari, the RCD's Executive Director. "She'll not only bring her experience and energy to help tackle one of the County's most difficult issues, but she'll also be seeking grant funds to help with the projects."

Marin County is providing funding for the new program. Phillips welcomes calls from anyone involved with our local creeks and nearby properties at the RCD in Point Reyes Station, sarah@marinrcd.org (415) 663-1170, ext. 302.

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For further information:

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Sarah Phillips, the new Urban Streams Coordinator for the Marin Resource Conservation District, with Nancy Scolari, RCD Executive Director. <no photo credit>