

RCD launches new program

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 provide services to another group: people with homes and businesses along our local creeks.

Meet Sarah Phillips, the new Urban Streams Coordinator who is leading this initiative to assist landowners near sensitive streams and creeks. Phillips will be helping people with the challenges of protecting and improving their homes and properties while at the same time conserving and enhancing the quality of nearby creeks and complying with complex regulatory requirements.

She 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 work she organized. "We are really fortunate to be able to have Sarah with us in Marin County," Nancy Scolari, the R.C.D.'s executive director, said. "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."

Phillips welcomes anyone involved with our local creeks and nearby properties to call her at (415) 663.1170, ext. 302 or email her at sarah@marin-rcd.org. — George Clyde, associate director with the Marin Resource Conservation District