

The Marin Watersheds Permit Coordination Program (PCP) has and will continue to provide the catalyst for high-quality pollutant and erosion control and habitat restoration projects throughout the program								
Site Number	Watershed	Envir. Setting and Vegetation	Project Goals	Proposed Practice(s)	Project Actions and Sizing	Expected Permits	Potential for Listed Species	Funding Source
2026-01	Walker Creek	Outdoor school campus on a working ranch. Project areas will be located in high foot traffic areas between existing buildings, parking lots, the dining hall and other educational programming areas.	Provide landscape enhancement, pollinator habitat and educational opportunities connected to native plants.	Tree & Shrub Establishment (612)	Repair 2 existing raised beds and plant 5 small clusters of landscaping areas with 80 native plants.	n/a (Coastal Zone)	Negative	WCB, Measure A
2026-02	Novato Creek	Biologically diverse open range land just northwest of Stafford Lake. The tributary is located in the lowland pasture of actively grazed land and is already fenced.	Enhance water quality, erosion control and native habitat by planting native riparian species.	Fence (382) Riparian Forest Buffer (391)	Improve existing fence and plant 360 plants on 1100 linear feet of creek.	n/a	Negative	WCB ROOTS (STRAW), Measure A
2026-03	Tomales Bay	Narrow section of Frink Creek tributary which runs under Marshall-Petaluma road to a sink. Lowland sheep pasture currently inhabited by coyote brush and hemlock.	Stabilize the bank, enhance water quality, provide shade for grazing animals and provide habitat and native plant species in lowland sheep pasture.	Prescribed Grazing (528) Tree & Shrub Establishment (612)	Plant 290 plants on 660 linear feet of creek and manage invasive species encroachment by implementing a sheep grazing plan once plants are established.	n/a (Coastal Zone)	Franciscan thistle	WCB ROOTS (STRAW), Measure A
2026-04	Walker Creek	Wide bank tributary of Chileno Creek than runs parallel to Chileno Valley Road, located on an active dairy farm. Currently inhabited by invasive blackberry.	Mitigate invasive species encroachment, support native plant and wildlife populations, and support water quality in Chileno Creek by planting diverse native species.	Fence (382) Riparian Forest Buffer (391) Brush Management (314)	Remove invasive blackberry, repair existing fence, and plant 700 plants on 1411 linear feet of creek.	n/a	Baker's Larkspur	WCB ROOTS (STRAW), Measure A

ACTION: Marin Permit Coordination Program – Carbon Farming Projects

Board approval to provide CEQA coverage for 4 projects and to close the 30-day public review of projects into the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program (PCP) on October 10, 2026 contingent upon receiving no public comment. ~ *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager*

Urgency:

Urgent. The projects are ready for final design and permitting, and all of them will be ready for implementation this winter pending no public comment.

Background:

These conceptual projects have already been approved in previous Board actions. This action is to approve CEQA compliance. Every project requiring state or local permits or funded by a CA public agency must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In 2004 MRCD initiated its Permit Coordination Program, or PCP, to streamline CEQA by prescribing the use of NRCS Conservation Practices under certain conditions. The PCP has been updated four times since then. Its basis is an Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration [that can be found on the District's website](#).

The MRCD received 4 applications for riparian restoration projects after solicitation was sent to all Marin County producers, and all but 1 were selected due to the costly and time intensive site preparation that would be required to implement that project (beyond the scope of the available budget and timeline). STRAW will fund the implementation of these projects through the Wildlife Conservation Board ROOTS grant, and the MRCD will fund implementation using Measure A funds. See attached spreadsheet for more details on each project.

The Walker Creek Ranch project was written into the California Association of RCD's Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) block grant, focused on pollinator habitat and native plant education at the outdoor school. The design and implementation is funded by both WCB and Measure A.

All projects will follow NRCS conservation practice standards and meet the required PCP size limitations. STRAW will follow PCP mitigation measures during implementation. Cultural resources consultants have been retained and have begun reviewing the projects. The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) are in communication with staff around cultural resources review and planning for cultural monitors to observe implementation at least at the Walker Creek project thus far.

With the Board's approval, to initiate a comment period, staff will submit a short description of the proposal to The Point Reyes Light for public viewing. The public can comment on the scope and objectives of the individual projects. If no comments are received, then the projects are automatically adopted into the PCP on October 11. Any comments received will be presented at the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

Previous Board Actions:

1. Board approval to enter into agreement with CARCD to award WCB block grant funding (March 2024)
2. Board approval to enter into agreement with Marin County to receive Measure A funding (October 2022)

Actions:

Option 1: (Staff Recommendation) Board approval of initiating a 30-day public comment period for the attached 2026 project list and automatically including it into the PCP pending no public comment.

Option 2: Board does not approve of projects, or all of the projects, into the CEQA program, and requires staff to modify projects for another round of public review.

Impact:

The suite of 3 riparian restoration projects aims to improve bank stabilization, habitat for wildlife, enhanced native plant populations, and decreased sedimentation. The Walker Creek Ranch project will provide small clusters of native landscaping in high traffic areas to provide pollinator habitat and native plant community education for the outdoor school participants. These areas will be located in high traffic locations on campus.

STRATEGIC PLAN: (Alliance with [MRCD strategic plan](#) and grant goals)

Approval of this action item is consistent with following strategic goals:

GOAL 2: ENHANCE WATERSHEDS AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL 3. SUPPORT INNOVATION AND DEEPEN PARTNERSHIPS

GOAL 4. CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE AND WITH THE MRCD

Funding & Financial Control:

1. Riparian Restoration Projects (final budgets, yet to be determined)
 - a. Implementation: Point Blue-Wildlife Conservation Board ROOTS Program
 - b. Maintenance & Monitoring: MRCD-Measure A
 - c. Projects: #2026-02, #2026-03, #2026-04
2. Walker Creek Ranch Project: CARCD-Wildlife Conservation Board and MRCD-Measure A
 - a. Project #2026-01



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, September 9, 2026**

PLACE: **Marin Farm Bureau Conference Room, 520 Mesa Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956**

REMOTE OPTION: Members of the public may participate remotely by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87864206727> or by phone: +16699009128,,87864206727# meeting ID: 878 6420 6727. Please contact Elise Suronen at (415) 663-1170 ext. 314, or sarahs@marinrcd.org if you have concerns about accessibility. **(Note that we may move agenda items in this meeting to meet time constraints of participants.)**

1. Regular meeting opens at **9:00 a.m.** Roll call, introduction of guests

ACTION ITEMS: 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

2. DISTRICT/ADMIN: (15 min)

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*

3. PROGRAMS: (45 min)

- A. Board approval of Marin RCD Landowner Authorization Agreement template to be used in providing technical services to landowners participating in the Sonoma-Marine Ag Support Program. ~ *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager (30 min)*
- B. Board approval to provide CEQA coverage for 4 projects and to close the 30-day public review of projects into the Marin Coastal Permit Coordination Program (PCP) on October 10, 2026 contingent upon receiving no public comment. ~ *Sarah Skinker, Carbon Farming Program Manager (30 min)*

4. INFORMATIONAL: (10:30-11:30 a.m.)

- **Tribal Collaboration Update** ~ *Michelle Katuna, MRCD Tribal Liaison and Matthew Johnson Cultural Programs Manager and citizen, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR)*

Partner Updates: 3 min each

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)– Petaluma Field Office Staff
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP – MALT Stewardship Staff
- Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)– Point Blue Staff
- All Hands Ecology/ACR - Jim Jensen, Tomales Bay Land Steward and Preserve Mgr
- Marin Farm Bureau - Farm Bureau Representative
- Marin County Weights and Measures - Joe Deviney, Ag Commissioner
- Point Reyes National Seashore / The Nature Conservancy

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Water Expansion:** *John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director*

post office box 1146 / 80 fourth street · point reyes station, california 94956
telephone 415.663.1170 · facsimile 415.663.0421 · email marinrcd@marinrcd.org

- **Advancing Markets for Producers:** Selections for the new Agricultural Marketing for Producers (AMP) program are complete for the first round.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI):** No report
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach:** Newsletter will now be distributed bi-annually.
- **Biomass Project:** The Marin Biomass Project is conducting outreach, seeking grant funding and pursuing implementation of recommendations in *The Marin Biomass Study*.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** See Item 3b. Also, following last month's presentation of the Vegetation Treatment Plan for All Hands Ecology's Martin Griffin, Cypress Grove and Tom's Point preserves, the CEQA action is expected to be agendized next month.
- **Urban Streams Program:** During the month of August, Phillips has tended to concerned streamside landowners in advance of the Super El Nino approaching. As well, she attended the monthly regulatory meeting, several meetings to coordinate samples of tires from Tomales Bay, and a Lag TAC subcommittee meeting. Additionally, she conducted several site visits. She also met with Marin Water's program manager to discuss roles and availability in place of Eric Ettlinger. Finally, Phillips attended the annual Coho Confab, a miniature conference in Mendocino to review coho recovery restoration projects.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW):** COW MILC is the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant. Six projects at dairies were selected in the Stemple Creek watershed and three in the National Seashore. Designs are mostly complete. Coordination with the Tribe is occurring. At historic A, B and C ranches in the Seashore the construction is currently out to bid, and a tour is scheduled for today. See agenda Item 7.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** We received 34 applications for the federal AMP grant, which are currently being ranked for implementation this fall.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** Nothing to report other than amazing fish counts!
- **Funding Opportunities:** Marin Waste Management has awarded UCCE funding for a compost page!
- **Finance Committee:** Salaries were reviewed at the last meeting along with health care plans. The next FC meeting is scheduled for Sept 21th.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on FY25 financial audit which will not be a Federal audit this year! New health insurance is now provided for staff.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 7 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 7 individuals were educated in the USC Program, and 3 site visits were conducted.
 - Conserving Our Watersheds: 2 or 3 consultations
 - Carbon Farming: 30

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment for any matter not listed on this agenda, provided that no Board action is to be taken. All statements that require a response will be referred to staff to be placed on the next agenda.

6. MEETING ADJOURNED

7. **Optional public tour** to visit Point Reyes National Seashore Pond Decommissioning at B-Ranch at 1pm