

Marin Resource Conservation District Strategic Plan 2018-2022



MARIN RESOURCE



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Marin Resource Conservation District's Mission Statement:

The mission of the Marin Resource Conservation District is to conserve and enhance Marin's natural resources, including its soil, water, vegetation and wildlife. It is our belief that the health of the county's natural landscape is dependent upon a robust agricultural economy and the active preservation of our agricultural heritage. In addition, it is our firm conviction that the agricultural productivity of the county is dependent upon the diligent application of practices which conserve and enhance our natural resources.

Our district was formed to serve its landowners at their request, with no thought of domination or interference in their affairs, but to assist them in their attempts to make the most efficient use of their farms and ranches. We believe that this grassroots approach is in line with the best of American traditions, and that gradually but surely excellent conservation accomplishments will be made through education, friendly persuasion and cooperative action. Benefits of our program will extend from individual landowners, to their immediate community and to the public at large.

Focus Areas, Goals and Strategies

The Marin Resource Conservation District's Strategic Plan has identified five focus areas with specific goals and adopted strategies the district will undertake to reach each goal:

1. AGRICULTURAL VIABILITY

GOAL STATEMENT: Active support of our district's agricultural economy, viability and cultural heritage

STRATEGY:

1. Expand the oral history project.
2. Support MALT easements and efforts to protect ag land from development
3. Improve and enhance natural resources on agricultural lands.
4. Support innovative technologies for the agricultural industry.
5. Secure more funding for dairy program implementation.
6. Secure financial incentives and cost share funding from a variety of funding options including grants, tax & bond measures, mitigation, cap & trade, conservation credits.
7. Determine cost benefit of conservation practices prior to implementation.
8. Provide streamlined California Environmental Quality Act compliance and permitting programs to reduce regulatory fees and encourage conservation activities.
9. Support ranchers in the Point Reyes National Seashore.

2. WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY

GOAL STATEMENT: Protect and improve water quality and quantity

STRATEGY:

1. Support landowners in the planning, design, permitting and implementation of construction projects that protect water quality and conserve water quantity.
2. Support dairy producers in complying with the San Francisco Bay and North Coast General Orders by providing assistance with planning and the implementation of water quality projects.
3. Support grazing operations in complying with the Tomales Bay Pathogen and Walker Creek Mercury Lagunitas/Walker Sediment Total Maximum Daily Loads by providing assistance with planning and the implementation of water quality projects.
4. Support landowners with the implementation of water conservation and stormwater runoff measures such as rainwater storage tanks, dry wells, rain barrels and rainwater catchment basins.
5. Improve road maintenance and drainage on private lands in order to reduce sediment flows into nearby creeks and wetlands.
6. Work with oyster growers to develop and implement strategies to improve water quality.
7. Analyze Walker Creek accomplishments and re-assess condition for further enhancement.
8. Support current Walker Creek studies and implementation projects.
9. Procure funding to support studies of the effect of Soulajule dam on fisheries.
10. Work with landowners in addressing impacts from sea-level rise.
11. Support the Farm Bureau, University of California Cooperative Extension, and Tomales Bay Watershed Council in continuing their monitoring program efforts.

3. SOIL HEALTH & AIR QUALITY

GOAL STATEMENT: Maintain and improve soil health and air quality

STRATEGY:

1. Support agricultural producers in conserving and improving soil health to support healthy productive farms and ranches.
2. Support private landowners and agricultural producers with the implementation of practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon and support resiliency to climate change.
3. Assist landowners in the development of carbon farm plans
4. Work with partners to continue monitoring of soil health and advances in soil science.
5. Work with agencies to streamline regulations related to manure management and composting.

4. FLORA & FAUNA

GOAL STATEMENT: Conserve and enhance flora and fauna

STRATEGY:

1. Conserve coastal prairies, grasslands, croplands, wetlands, upland and riparian forests to enhance biodiversity and economic sustainability.
2. Implement projects that conserve and enhance habitats for threatened, endangered and local species of importance.
3. Support landowners in addressing non-native invasive weed infestations.
4. Improve fish habitat through erosion control, range management, nutrient management, fish passage and riparian restoration.
5. Assist local partners and stakeholders with the implementation of enhancement projects in Lagunitas Creek.
6. Identify and implement stream enhancement projects in all watersheds. Coordinate with Point Blue Conservation Science and other organizations.

5. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

GOAL STATEMENT: Provide outreach and education

STRATEGY:

1. Continue to foster everlasting partnerships with landowners, agencies and organizations to accomplish enduring environmental improvements.
2. Hold an annual appreciation event to thank landowners, supporting agencies and organizations.
3. Hold an annual tour of completed work to evaluate project outcomes.
4. Work with partners to host informational workshops for land owners and managers.
5. Continue outreach and education on resource management issues as identified by landowners and resource agencies.
6. Educate the public about Marin Resource Conservation District programs through traditional media, website, social media and email.
7. Attend partner meetings to describe Marin Resource Conservation District programs.
8. Coordinate with Point Blue Conservation Science's Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed and other groups to involve schools in restoration projects.

