



AGENDA

DATE: **Wednesday, March 11, 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 - 10:30 a.m.

2. DISTRICT/ADMIN: (50 min)

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
- C. Board approval of resolution to designate the Executive Director as Paychex Trustee ~ *Nancy Scolari, Marin RCD Executive Director*
- D. Board approval of resolution to designate the Board and Operations Manager as Paychex Administrator ~ *Nancy Scolari, Marin RCD Executive Director*
- E. Board approval of 2026-2031 Marin RCD Strategic Direction ~ *Elise Suronen, Impacts Director*
- F. Board review and discussion of DRAFT Emergency Rapid Response Funding Policy ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

3. PROGRAMS: (20 min)

- A. Request the Board approve Amendment #3 to Professional Services Agreement #C10-2022 (Orlena Yee) that adds \$63,000 to the contract to provide coordination services for the Marin Carbon Project and to ratify Amendment #2 which added \$60,000 in October 2024 for the same purpose. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Orlena Yee, Marin Carbon Project Coordinator*

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

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

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **PR National Seashore-Nature Conservancy Ad Hoc Committee**, *Nancy Scolari, Marin RCD Executive Director*
- **Measure A Ad Hoc Committee**, *Nancy Scolari, Marin RCD Executive Director*
- **Water Expansion**: *John Dolcini, Marin RCD Associate Director*
- **Federal Funding**: The new Agricultural Marketing for Producers (AMP) program is now entering the planning phase. Announcements for applicants are expected in the Summer.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI)**: FIGR is interested in providing feedback on MRCD's Strategic Direction, with an extended feedback window beyond this month's board meeting. Feedback will be brought to the board.
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach**: None
- **Biomass Project**: The Marin Biomass Project is finalizing its integrated Study. Upon release of the Study, the team will start undertaking outreach and will emphasize next steps to implement Study's recommendations.
- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP)**: Ongoing review of Vegetation Treatment Plan for All Hands Ecology's Cypress Grove and Tom's Point. Exploring options for updating PCP analysis.
- **Urban Streams Program**: This Program is up for contract renewal so Phillips. has been collecting letters of support (see attached). Phillips gave a presentation of the Program's 11.5 years to Marin Conservation League that was well-received. The County grant for Tomales Bay support is now approved. Phillips has been providing support on a Redwood Creek bridge replacement project with Mill Valley StreamKeepers, and providing support to Gallinas Watershed Council. Many site visits were requested by landowners and the county flood control department with regard to fallen trees in the creeks of west Marin after recent storm events. This has resulted in ongoing communications with county departments where their codes are in conflict with each other; therefore Phillips is simplifying the code for landowners wishing to undertake creek care post-storm events. Phillips also attended a People's Watershed Collective (new group in San Geronimo Valley) to assist in restoration activities on Roy's Riffles and is working with AmeriCorps to collaborate on a volunteer restoration day in San Geronimo. Finally, Phillips recently created new connections in Sausalito's DPW to obtain access for willow sources to support restoration efforts in southern Marin.
- **Conserving Our Watersheds Program (COW)**: COW MILC is the most recent Nonpoint Source Pollution Water Board grant. Of the six projects at dairies selected in the Stemple Creek watershed, three are in the design and permitting phase and three are entering implementation. The grant also funds practices in Drakes Bay watershed of the National Seashore. Design is 60% and NEPA review with NPS is underway for manure pond decommissioning at historic A, B and C ranches. An application for COW GIRL phase IX was resubmitted to the Water Board in December and a field trip for the EPA and State Board staff is being planned for March 26th.
- **Carbon Farming Program**: The team is revamping the funding application portal for farmers in preparation for the new federal AMP grant. RCD was awarded a microgrant from CA Native Plant Society for the CF team to conduct a spring field day to build staff skills in native forb and grass identification on rangelands.

- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No report
- **Funding Opportunities:** RCD staff are working with the North Coast RCDs in applying for a \$1.5M USDA Community Projects Earmark through Huffman's office where Marin RCD's share would be \$300K.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for March 16th.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on FY25 financial audit. A Draft Strategic Plan was completed. Staff are getting used to new timekeeping and HR services.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
 - Urban Streams: 11 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 43 individuals were educated in the USC Program, and 7 site visits were conducted.
 - Conserving Our Watersheds: 2 or 3 consultations
 - Carbon Farming: 4

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



MINUTES

DATE: **Wednesday, February 11th, 2026**

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

1. A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Terry Sawyer, President, at 9 a.m.

Roll call of Directors: Terry Sawyer, Gerald Meral, David Sherwood, Melissa Williams and Mike Moretti (arriving at 9:10)

Associate Directors: George Clyde, John Dolcini, Paul Ingle and Guido Frosini

Staff: Nancy Scolari, Cora Richard, Preston Duncan, Gerhard Epke, Lee Farese, Sarah Skinker, Sarah Phillips, Fiona O'Neill, Elise Suronen, Emilie Winfield

Additional Attendees: Albert Straus (Straus Dairy), Isaiah Thalmayer (STRAW), Jessie Ditmar (STRAW), Jordan Dixon (STRAW), Chad White (Marin Biomass Project), Scott Dunbar & Lily Verdone (MALT), Martha Davis (Nicasio Land Owners Association), Greg Richardson & Rodd Kelsey (The Nature Conservancy), Dylan Voeller (NPS), Jim Jensen (All Hands Ecology), Joe Deviney (Marin Ag Commissioner), Sophia Carter & Tess Elliot (PR Light), Rebecca Burgess (Fibershed)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. DISTRICT:

- A. Board approval of regular Meeting Minutes. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: David; SECOND: Jerry; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve January 2026 Board Minutes.
- B. Board approval of the Financial Report. ~ *Cora Richard, Bookkeeper*
MOTION: Melissa; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to approve the Financial Report and direct the monthly Finance Committee to talk through how we are approving employee expenses now that our reimbursement system has changed due to new payroll system.

3. PROGRAMS:

- A. Request the Board execute Amendment #3 to Professional Services Agreement #C05-2022 (CDW LLC) that adds \$75,000 to the contract. These changes are proposed to align with the revised budget and plan for the project. ~ *Chad White, Marin Biomass Project Manager*
MOTION: Mike; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to execute Amendment #3 to Professional Services Agreement #C05-2022
- B. Board decision to convene an ad hoc committee in developing a scope of work between Marin RCD and The Nature Conservancy to determine potential roles and/or contractual agreements for services in the Point Reyes National Seashore. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Greg Richardson, The Nature Conservancy*

MOTION: Terry; SECOND: David; AYES: Terry, Jerry, Mike, David & Melissa; NOES: None; ABSENT: none; to convene an ad hoc committee to draft a SOW to be presented to the Board with no contractual obligation.

4. INFORMATIONAL:

- COW MILC grant update. Status of the Stemple Creek and Drakes Bay dairy project with a focus on the manure pond decommissioning plans in the Seashore. ~*Gerhard Epke, Water Quality Program Manager*
Work began in January 2025 and is slated for completion in September 2027. Gerhard shared project overviews and asked for a Board member to fill Sally's now vacant spot on his Technical Advisory Group.
- MALT Strategic Framework ~*Lily Verdone, MALT Executive Director*
Lily shared MALT's recent strategic plan, which is more of a framework than a plan. The process to complete this framework took 6 months.

Partner Updates:

- **The Nature Conservancy**- Greg shared that The Nature Conservancy will have a website in the next week or so. They continue to hold community check-ins. These community check-ins are on Thursday afternoons, 3-6:30pm and are located at the Health and Human Services Center. They are in the process of signing contracts with a grazer who was awarded the grazing lease in response for the Request for Proposals. More info to come.
- **Marin Agricultural Commissioner**- Joe Deviney, Marin County Agricultural Commissioner. Joe was not present at this point in the meeting.
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**– Petaluma Field Office Staff
No NRCS staff present at this meeting.
- **Marin Agricultural Land Trust/SAP** – MALT Stewardship Staff
Their small grants application period ends this Friday (2/13).
- **Point Blue & Students & Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)**– Point Blue Staff
Point Blue has a couple of projects that are nearly finished. They will be holding more planting days and welcomed folks to join.
- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch)** – Jim Jensen
Jim shared that AHE continues prescribed burn planning. Burning a lot of gorse. They have many outings planned with environmental staff.
- **Marin Water Expansion** – John Dolcini (Marin RCD Associate Director)
Marin Water has secured 2 million dollars for potential expansion projects.

RCD Program Updates (See staff report for details):

- **Federal Funding**: The new Agricultural Marketing for Producers (AMP) proposal was accepted and the Marin and Sonoma RCDs are expected to amend existing contracts to plan for new work under this funding in the ensuing year.
- **Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion (JEDI)**: No report
- **Media/Messaging/Outreach**: Our newsletter was mailed!
- **Biomass Project**: The Marin Biomass Project is finalizing its integrated Study and expects to release it in this month. Upon release of the Study, the team will start

undertaking outreach and will emphasize next steps to implement Study's recommendations.

- **Permit Coordination Program (PCP):** Ongoing review of Vegetation Treatment Plan for All Hands Ecology's Cypress Grove and Tom's Point. Exploring options for updating PCP analysis.
- **Urban Streams Program:** Things are moving and grooving in the Program. S. Phillips attended many meetings with partners and carried out the annual Lagunitas TAC field trip. Things are slowly moving forward with County agreements relating to Tomales Bay tire assessment, Zone 10 funds transfer in Inverness, and Tomales Bay Stewardship Network. Phillips went out to scout a potential project site along Pine Gulch Creek as well as scoped a potential site for a restoration workshop. Finally, Sarah is working with Larry Minikes to provide support to the Program and he will serve as the Volunteer Urban Streams Liaison for current efforts in need.
- **Carbon Farming Program:** The team is revamping the funding application portal for farmers in preparation for the new federal AMP grant. RCD was awarded a microgrant from CA Native Plant Society for the CF team to conduct a spring field day to build staff skills in native forb and grass identification on rangelands.
- **Walker Creek Watershed:** No report
- **Funding Opportunities:** RCD staff is currently in communications with CalTrans regarding mitigation funds to fix one of the Pine Gulch Creek Instream Flow Enhancement ponds.
- **Finance Committee:** The next FC meeting is scheduled for March 17th. An agenda will be posted this month. The February meeting was cancelled as it conflicts with a holiday and staff is gearing up for FY25 audit.
- **District:** Admin staff have been focused on FY25 financial audit. A Draft Strategic Plan was completed. Staff are getting used to new timekeeping and HR services.
- **Landowner Assistance Provided:**
Urban Streams: 12 individuals requested assistance and were consulted, 47 individuals were educated in the USC program, 3 site visits.
COW: 2 or 3 consultations
CF: 4

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRESPONDANCE

- None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

7. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:38 a.m.

Marin Resource Conservation District
Monthly Financial Summary
as of 10/6/2025

CASH		
Wells Fargo		
	February	January
Checking as of 2/28/26- Operating Account	\$ 674,475	\$ 695,680
<i>Bills & Payroll Paid, through 3/06/26</i>	\$ (44,382)	
<i>401k Staff + MRCD 401k match payments for 2026</i>	\$ (29,445)	
<i>401k match remainder for 2025- not vested</i>	\$ (16,002)	
<i>Payments Received through 3/06/26</i>	\$ -	
No-till Drill Account	\$ 14,985	\$ 14,985
Total Wells Fargo	\$ 599,631	\$ 710,665
County of Marin		
	January	December
Checking as of 1/31/26	\$ 465,839	\$ 483,316
<i>Bills Paid, through 3/04/26</i>	\$ (60,252)	\$ (48,993)
<i>Payments received, through 3/04/26</i>	\$ 15,444	\$ 87,877
Total County	\$ 421,031	\$ 522,200
Total Cash	\$ 1,020,662	\$ 1,232,865

OTHER WORKING CAPITAL DETAILS		
Grants Receivable - Open grant invoices - (see page 3)	\$ 352,287	\$ 245,250
Retention Receivable - Due from Grantors	\$ 22,017	\$ 16,028
Prepaid Grant Funds Received:		
Measure A - 6/30/25 Bal., + funds rec'd this FY, - this FY exp	\$ (1,084,149)	\$ (1,136,962)
Covid Relief Funds		
Ombudsman Fund	\$ (19,793)	\$ (19,793)
Unpaid Bills - Pending to be Paid	\$ -	\$ -
Retention Payable to Vendors	\$ -	\$ -
* PTO Liability as of 2/27/26 (if all staff cashed out PTO at once)	\$ (72,458)	\$ (68,277)
Current Bills To Pay (see page 4):		
Administrative Expenses	4.12% \$ (3,957)	\$ (3,331)
Grant Expenses, current to be paid	61.75% \$ (59,262)	\$ (47,128)
Grant Expenses, to be paid when funded	34.13% \$ (32,750)	\$ -
Net Working Capital	\$ 122,598	\$ 218,652

* - Wells Fargo bank balances are now current! Sub-categories represent liabilities which have not debited yet

** - The County account is reported as of 1/31/26. That is the most recent report we have received. They usually lag by about a month.

Marin Resource Conservation District Monthly Financial Summary

Grants Receivable - Money coming in. The RCD submits invoices to our grantors. Our work is paid on a reimbursable basis. The expected turnaround time for reimbursement varies but is usually 60-90

Retention Receivable - Money coming in after grant is finalized. Some funders require a withholding of 5-10% of each invoice until the entire project is completed and approved. Once the funder is satisfied with the overall grant, the project is deemed complete and the remaining 5-10% is paid in full to the RCD.

Prepaid Grant funds - Received money upfront. This funding has been paid in advance of work being completed and is held in our accounts where, upon board approval, it is deducted from the balance.

Current Bills To Pay - Pay these bills now. These are bills where 1) the funder has provided payment, 2) the landowner/contractor cannot wait 60-90 days or 3) they support RCD operating expenses.

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Open Invoices
3/4/2026

Grantor	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 and over	Total
Audubon Canyon Ranch	2,800				2,800
CA OPR Biomass 2025 Contract	85,046				85,046
CA SCC Carbon	23,869		7,325		31,194
CDFA - HSP Block Grant (ZFP)	4,151				4,151
COW MILC - SWRCB	73,799				73,799
MALT- Overbrook Foundation	20,000				20,000
Marin County Urban Streams	10,514	17,052			27,566
SCC Wildfire	8,649	7,656			16,305
USDA Climate Smart Commodities (SMACCC)				26,103	26,103
USDA Cooperative Grant 2024	7,962		6,871	17,078	31,911
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)				153	153
Wildlife Conservation Board 2022	33,259				33,259
TOTAL OPEN INVOICES	270,049	24,708	14,196	43,334	352,287
Retainers	2,457		4,887	14,674	22,017
TOTAL DUE	272,506	24,708	19,083	58,007	374,304
	73%	7%	5%	15%	100%

Note: Aging is based upon the date payments are expected.

Total due 91 days and over	91 and over
USDA CSC (SMACCC)*	4/22/2025 26,103
USDA Cooperative Grant 2024*	6/30/2025 5,848
USDA Cooperative Grant 2024*	3/31/2025 5,108
USDA Cooperative Grant 2024*	12/31/2024 6,122
USDA GLCI (Grazing Lands)* (partial balance open)	9/30/2024 153
Sub-total	\$ 43,333
Retainers	14,674
TOTAL	\$ 58,007

* - Payment from the federal government

Note: A number of grants are only invoiced quarterly. The actual amount of the total receivables is not reflected here as we do not use estimates. This reflects only invoices that have been submitted to grantors.

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Bills to Pay

Mar-26

Name	Date	Memo	Aging	Open Balance
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>				
Destination HR	2/28/2026	HR Consulting	4	\$ 695
Farm Bureau (Marin Co)	2/28/2026	Annual Membership	4	\$ 250
Horizon Cable TV	2/28/2026	Internet	4	\$ 134
North Coast Area RCD	2/5/2026	Annual Membership	27	\$ 100
Pt Reyes 4th Investors, LLC	3/1/2026	March Office Rent, Suite 202	3	\$ 1,436
Smile Business Products	2/19/2026	Copier	13	\$ 150
US Bank Corporate	1/24/2026	Fireflies AI- note taking service	39	\$ 63
US Bank Corporate	1/23/2026	RingCentral- Staff phone numbers	40	\$ 310
US Bank Corporate	1/22/2026	Dreamhost- annual fee for domain/website	41	\$ 192
US Bank Corporate	1/26/2026	Office supplies	37	\$ 15
US Bank Corporate	1/24/2026	Primo Water- Office Water	39	\$ 111
US Bank Corporate	1/2/2026	SpringAhead	61	\$ 308
US Bank Corporate	1/26/2026	CSDA- In Person Class	37	\$ 75
US Bank Corporate	2/9/2026	Quickbooks- bookkeeping subscription	23	\$ 115
US Bank Corporate	2/18/2026	Microsoft	14	\$ 2
Total Administrative Expenses				\$ 3,957
<i>Grant Expenses</i>				
Abundance Ag	2/4/2026	COW MILC-Engineering	28	\$ 4,001
Amador RCD	2/6/2026	Foundation- Workshop Fees	26	\$ 150
CDW LLC	2/4/2026	OPR Biomass Technical Services (Half)	28	\$ 32,750
Katuna, Michelle	2/17/2026	Tribal Liason Consulting: SCC Carbon	15	\$ 3,094
Prunuske Chatham, Inc	2/17/2026	COW MILC- Biological Survey & Report	15	\$ 6,681
Pt Reyes 4th Investors, LLC	3/1/2026	March Office Rent, Suite 203, Ombudsman	3	\$ 1,008
SubMerge Media	2/5/2026	Foundation- Designed Newsletter	27	\$ 425
US Bank Corporate	1/27/2026	Foundation- We Mail For You- Newsletter	36	\$ 4,483
US Bank Corporate	2/4/2026	NACD- Travel	28	\$ 177
Yee, Orlena	3/2/2026	MCP Project Manager	2	\$ 6,494
Total Grant Expenses				\$ 59,262
Total Bills to Pay				\$ 63,219

ACTION: Marin RCD Strategic Direction

B. Board approval of 2026-2031 Marin RCD Strategic Direction.

Urgency:

Not urgent. However, the organization would benefit from approval sooner than later in order for staff to take the next steps in creating the FY2026-2027 Implementation Plan, a document that itemizes the tasks to be completed per Strategic Direction Strategy within the coming fiscal year.

Background:

Marin RCD's existing Strategic Plan (2018–2022) is now out of date and no longer reflects the organization's current context or its evolving future. Marin RCD initiated a Strategic Planning process in prior years, but progress was paused due to the pandemic aftermath and other related admin priority shifts. The effort was relaunched in May 2025 with facilitation support from Amy Stork Consulting. Over the following eleven months, Board Directors, Associate Directors, and staff collaborated to develop and refine a Strategic Direction that will guide the organization from July 2026 through June 2031.

The planning process included the oversight of a Steering Committee (2 Board Directors, and 3 staff) and 15 partner interviews to help the organization understand its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. A draft of the Strategic Direction was presented at a regularly scheduled November 2026 Marin RCD Board meeting where additional comments were requested.

It also included multiple staff meetings to generate Core Organizational Metrics, which are not limited to the five-year timespan of the Strategic Direction, but rather are high-level indicators we will track over time to understand how well we are fulfilling our mission, strengthening partnerships, and supporting conservation across the region. These metrics are included to ground and contextualize our work to the public.

Actions:

Option 1: Board approves the 2026-2031 Marin RCD Strategic Direction (Staff recommendation).

Option 2: Board does not approve the 2026-2031 Marin RCD Strategic Direction and/or requires more information.

Available Budget:

Budget is remaining in the consultant's scope of work, but this amount is itemized for staff in creating the Implementation Plan.

Impact:

The approval of this strategic direction will replace the existing Marin [RCD strategic plan](#) helping Marin RCD meet the current moment.

Marin Resource Conservation District Strategic Direction July 2026 - June 2031

Board Approval March 2026

MARIN RESOURCE



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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THE NEED

Many of today's conservation challenges and opportunities meet in West Marin County.

- **Clean and abundant water** is vital to West Marin and its coastal environments. A network of reservoirs, streams, and wetlands within the Marin Resource Conservation District's (Marin RCD) boundaries supplies three quarters of the drinking water and farm irrigation for all of Marin County. Water supply infrastructure and land use changes have altered the area's natural hydrology, requiring efforts to adapt to changing stream conditions. According to regulatory agencies most of our waterways are out of water quality compliance due to sedimentation and other nonpoint pollution sources. Despite these challenges, West Marin is situated in a biodiversity hotspot where its streams and marine environments remain a haven for hundreds of plant and animal species, including a vital aquacultural ecosystem and some of the most significant remaining Coho salmon habitat on the California coast.
- **Healthy soils** are the foundation for thriving wildlife, food production, and climate resilience, containing about one quarter of all species on earth and supporting roughly 40% of terrestrial organisms in some phase of their life-cycle. Healthy agricultural soils support plant life for food and fiber production, effectively cycle nutrients, filter water, support biodiversity, and sequester carbon to regulate the climate. In West Marin, soils provide the basis for agricultural productivity on grasslands, croplands, and pastures that support the cultivation of fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy products, and fiber; and research has demonstrated the immense potential for carbon capture on Marin's grasslands.
- **Climate change** puts pressure on West Marin: Sea level rise affects coastal communities and habitats, ocean acidification softens oyster shells, hotter and drier weather causes water shortages and increased risk from wildfire, more frequent flooding overwhelms infrastructure, and farmers and ranchers face the impacts of unpredictable and extreme weather. The Marin County Climate Action Plan 2030 identifies working lands as being uniquely positioned to offset emission impacts from all sectors. Marin's producers are making progress toward climate goals, including participating in innovative carbon sequestration research and implementing climate-smart farm plans. The Marin RCD hosts the Marin Biomass Project, co-founded the Marin Carbon Project and has been at the forefront of the emerging role of agriculture in climate mitigation.

- **Biodiversity** is threatened in West Marin, as it is globally. A combination of habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, and disease are threatening our unique fauna and flora, simplifying ecosystems and reducing their resilience to drought, wildfire, and other climate extremes. West Marin is considered a “biodiversity hotspot” — home to fifty-one rare, threatened and endangered species. Collaboration is needed across private and public lands to create and implement county-wide solutions that steward habitat and ecosystem health.

 - **Agricultural viability** is also affecting our landscape and communities. Working lands play an important role in conservation by protecting and bolstering soil carbon, and contribute to a mosaic of wildlife habitat, and provide other conservation benefits. However, these benefits may be threatened as small family farms become more difficult to sustain, and new endeavors become less economically favorable. (For example, the average farmer in Marin County generates a net income of \$56,420 annually, while the median household income is \$142,785.) Lack of affordable housing also affects many, including the workers who keep West Marin’s agricultural operations going.

 - **Empowered Communities.** Tribal and community partners are working to restore peoples' relationships with land and land-based work. In partnership, there are opportunities to strengthen youth connection to conservation, improve farm-worker housing in West Marin, increase on-the-job training, provide access to conservation jobs, restore Tribal relationships to ancestral lands, and enhance cultural relevancy of environmental management and conservation efforts. These efforts help ensure our work benefits people with different roles, backgrounds, and connections to the land.

 - **Rural and Urban Connections.** An overwhelming majority of Marin’s population resides in eastern Marin, adjacent to San Francisco, while western Marin is home to mostly open space and agriculture. Although the landscapes and experiences may differ between East and West Marin, there are opportunities for all residents of Marin County to connect with, understand, and appreciate the landscape mosaic, conservation benefits, and links to our local food system.
-

THE MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S RESPONSE

OUR MISSION

To conserve and enhance Marin's natural resources, including its soil, water, vegetation and wildlife, through community-based conservation and restoration.

OUR VISION

A West Marin where nature and people thrive together; where everyone collaborates so that clean water flows, healthy soils grow, and abundant wildlife flourish.

WHAT WE DO

Created under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code, Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) have the primary duty to conserve natural resources. Encompassing the lands and communities of West Marin County, the Marin RCD has the power to connect federal, state, and local funding to landowners and land stewards in a voluntary, non-regulatory manner. For more than sixty years, Marin RCD has provided a framework for agricultural producers, public agencies, nonprofit partners, a Tribal nation, and many individuals to support the sustainability of our natural resources and our communities. The core of our work includes:

- **Helping people care for soil, water, and other resources.** Our hands-on conservation work centers around providing financial and technical tools and assistance to help farmers, ranchers, and other public, private, and Tribal land managers steward agricultural and natural lands sustainably. At the heart of the Marin RCD's promise is our voluntary approach to conservation: We assist landowners, land managers, lessees, and land stewards at their request, with the services that work for them.
- **Restoring streams and landscapes.** We manage important and complex restoration projects from start to finish, with measurable benefits to water quality and endangered species recovery. Our projects are aimed at enhancing clean water, cultivating healthy soils, and maintaining abundant wildlife to increase climate resilience, contributing to community and sustaining the unique ecosystems of our region.
- **Bringing people and resources together to reach shared goals.** As an organization that embodies the connection between Marin's agricultural and conservation communities, the Marin RCD is uniquely positioned to create and sustain long-term partnerships, incorporate different perspectives, and foster innovative management approaches to address our challenges. We lead through collaboration—bringing our technical expertise, economic resources, and a can-do spirit to drive shared solutions with government agencies, Tribal governments, community organizations, agricultural producers, and residents. We build, guide, and participate in shared initiatives, projects, and fundraising to tackle big issues, from watershed-scale planning to pioneering the first RCD-led climate-smart agriculture program in California. And we leverage our local strengths to bring state, federal, and private resources to support conservation in West Marin.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Collaborative leadership.** Our top priority is to foster trusting relationships with Tribal and community partners, and land stewards. This is the foundation upon which all of our work happens. We know that we are better together when we engage a broad range of people and partners in this effort.
 - **Integrity.** Our conservation actions in planning, designing, implementation and monitoring are based in science, practical land management, and impactful results. We foster trust with all staff, board, partners, and the public through transparency, professionalism, accountability and mutual respect.
 - **Adaptability and innovation.** We are resourceful in approaching challenges and responding to opportunities. We work to meet community needs as they arise. We are open to new ideas, and committed to learning.
 - **Positivity and gratitude.** Our relationships are built on respect, empathy, listening, and responsiveness. We maintain an enthusiastic and positive approach to everything we do. We welcome and value people representing the varied experiences and perspectives from throughout our community to be a part of our work. We hold a sincere appreciation for the natural resources that enhance our watersheds, the people we serve, the partnerships that make us stronger, and our history of learning and growing in conservation.
-

MARIN RCD'S CORE ORGANIZATIONAL METRICS

The Marin RCD hopes to measure our impact using quantitative data and real-world outcomes. Over 40 metrics are collected to help evaluate our programs and demonstrate the results of our work to funders and partners. The list of 14 Core Organizational Metrics found below offer a higher-level view of Marin RCD's overall effectiveness and longer-term impact over time. They are reported to the public and represent the consistent, big-picture indicators we will track over time to understand how well we are fulfilling our mission, strengthening partnerships, and supporting conservation across the region.

These metrics differ from the Marin RCD's Annual Implementation Plans, which outline the specific activities, projects, and targets we commit to each year based on available funding, opportunities, community needs and guidance from this Strategic Plan. While the Annual Implementation Plan changes annually to reflect the work happening on the ground, the Core Organizational Metrics remain steady and help us communicate our progress in a clear and comparable way from year to year.

The following metrics will be calculated annually:

- i. funding received, in addition to matching/in-kind contributions, from private, local, state and federal sources
- ii. conservation practices planned and implemented
- iii. rural land managers applications submitted and awarded
- iv. partners and specialists collaborated with
- v. land managers supported with technical assistance
- vi. projects shepherded through environmental review and permitting process
- vii. prescribed practices and acres represented in Carbon Farm Plans
- viii. people educated through Marin RCD-led educational events
- ix. students and schools participating in restoration days with Point Blue Conservation Science: Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed Program
- x. number of shrubs, trees and other types of vegetation installed
- xi. riparian miles restored
- xii. visits to district website and email subscribers to our newsletters
- xiii. modeled climate benefits, including carbon dioxide equivalent, of projects implemented on farms and ranches
- xiv. water quality data collected from monitoring partners to show water quality trends

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

GOAL 1: SUPPORT RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGERS IN CONSERVATION AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

RCDs were created to serve the local community and work directly with those who own or manage land to support stewardship. Nearly half of the land in our District is in agricultural use; therefore, assisting agricultural landowners and land stewards continues to be a hallmark of the Marin RCD's work. In coordination with regional partners through the North Coast Soil Hub, over the next five years we will support agricultural producers to pursue stewardship goals, adapt to changing conditions, and mitigate climate impacts with practices that address conservation and productivity goals. Recognizing that there are also significant conservation opportunities on lands in other uses (from public lands to rural residential properties), we will increase support for public and non-agricultural landowners and land stewards to care for their lands. We strive to provide assistance to all land stewards—regardless of their experience, property size, or background.

Strategies:

- 1.1 Provide technical assistance, financial assistance, and permit coordination to support agricultural producers and other rural land managers in addressing conservation priorities for West Marin (including soil health, water quality, water resilience, erosion control, biodiversity, and habitat protection and enhancement.)
- 1.2 In partnership with Marin County, support and assist streamside residents in stream restoration activities with education, resources, permitting assistance, and training.
- 1.3 Work with county partners and the North Coast Soil Hub to collaboratively monitor soil health and advances in soil science, provide technical training, and secure financial opportunities for regional implementation of practices that support soil health and biodiversity.
- 1.4 Proactively reach out to new landowners and land stewards after property transitions within our District to encourage understanding of stewardship needs for West Marin and how the Marin RCD can support their stewardship goals.

GOAL 2: ENHANCE WATERSHEDS AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES

The Marin RCD continues to improve the health of watersheds and natural resources by supporting land managers (see Goal 1) in the implementation of conservation practices that arrest erosion, control invasive non-native vegetation, manage nutrient inputs, increase wildlife habitat and improve fish habitat and passage. Our role is to implement projects from conception to completion and into monitoring. When opportunities arise and our expertise is needed, we will support agency and community partners with restoration projects. Our work is intended to expand beyond property boundaries by contributing to cleaner water, healthier habitats, and stronger climate resilience for the common good.

Strategies:

- 2.1 Implement conservation practices that enhance watersheds and protect natural resources.
- 2.2 Implement stream habitat enhancement projects.
- 2.3 Implement fire and forestry projects that promote biodiversity and resilience of rangelands, coastal prairies, and oak woodlands.
- 2.4 Expand funding for long-term maintenance of habitat creation and restoration projects.
- 2.5 Support public and nonprofit organizations in monitoring water quality and understanding its impacts.
- 2.6 Explore the Marin RCD's role in supporting healthy marine ecosystems.
- 2.7 Develop a consistent monitoring and evaluation program with partners to measure the impact of Marin RCD's restoration, planning, and technical assistance initiatives and adapt our approaches as needed.

GOAL 3. SUPPORT INNOVATION AND DEEPEN PARTNERSHIPS

Both environmental health and agricultural vitality in West Marin County are subject to many forces beyond the boundaries of our District. Extreme weather, wildfire, sea level rise, shifts in agricultural markets, land development, and other big picture trends will continue to influence the future of West Marin. While we can't control these larger forces, the Marin RCD will continue our history of developing innovative approaches and inviting dialogue with agricultural producers, conservation partners, and community leaders. We believe that by increasing our work in crucial intersections of a variety of sectors and by broadening our partnerships, we can access creative solutions and build our overall resilience, together. Strengthening partnerships across a broad network enhances our ability to find solutions that work for everyone.

Strategies:

- 3.1 Participate in collaborative efforts that enhance grant writing, program development and delivery, applied research, and innovative initiatives, like the Marin Carbon Project, Marin Biomass Project and the North Coast Soil Hub.
- 3.2 Enhance Tribal consultation and continue to cultivate relationships with designated staff and representatives of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (The Tribe) to support shared goals in environmental, cultural, and conservation efforts. Coordinate voluntary relationship-building between interested private landowners, land stewards, and the Tribe.
- 3.3 Partner with local government, the Tribe and nonprofit partners to support high-impact conservation projects on working lands and other public, private, and Tribal lands.
- 3.4 Build staff capacity, organizational infrastructure, inter-agency relationships and landowner trust to support the advancement of beneficial fire as a management tool in Marin County.
- 3.5 Work with partners to explore innovative uses of biomass materials and implement recommendations of the Marin Biomass Study.
- 3.6 Convene producers and community leaders for education opportunities, peer-to-peer learning and mentorship, and exploration of innovative incentive-based ecological solutions in a changing climate.
- 3.7 Support and amplify the efforts of partners working on economic and social initiatives including local food supply, food security, Tribal cultural and natural resource stewardship, and agricultural worker housing solutions.

GOAL 4. CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE AND WITH THE RCD

People throughout our District and beyond are affected by the conservation challenges facing West Marin. Finding solutions to these important issues benefits everyone: youth, residents, farmers, farmworkers, the Tribe, land managers, tourists and more.

Strategies:

- 4.1 Collect data and information on the benefits of natural resource conservation on agricultural and other lands in West Marin.
- 4.2 Develop and implement a strategic communication plan to help people throughout Marin County understand conservation issues and solutions unique to West Marin, and the value and role of the Marin RCD.
- 4.3 Meet regularly with our public agency, nonprofit, and Tribal partners to ensure organizational efforts are aligned to create maximum benefit for conservation and community needs.
- 4.4 Educate elected officials and other community leaders about the Marin RCD and the benefits and impacts of public policy on natural resources.

GOAL 5: BUILD AND SUSTAIN A HEALTHY ORGANIZATION

The Marin RCD has a decades-long track record of conservation impact. We will continue to invest in our organization and our team to ensure we can sustain this impact in the coming years. We are careful stewards of our financial resources, and we will continue to fund our important work through both existing and new revenue opportunities to support our extensive waitlist of land stewards who are eager to make improvements.

Strategies:

- 5.1 Continue to refine project selection criteria to reflect our commitments to natural resource conservation alongside agricultural and community resilience.
- 5.2 Work with existing and new partners to support renewal of Measure A funding for projects on agricultural lands and refinement of funding allocations to increase support for the Marin RCD's work.
- 5.3 Develop and expand funding partnerships with public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and Tribal partners whose needs align with Marin RCD's capacity for environmental enhancement, mitigation, or other shared objectives.
- 5.4 Explore the potential for additional revenue from fee-for-service work, private donations, and new landowners with the means to support the District.
- 5.5 Invest in staff capacity and operational systems to enhance the Marin RCD's efficiency and impact.
- 5.6 Enhance the capacity of the Board of Directors to support the Marin RCD in its governance and community relations roles.
- 5.7 Revisit Marin RCD's District boundaries per recommendation of Marin Local Agency Formation Commission.
- 5.8 Continue to enhance and sharpen practices that support a respectful, healthy welcoming environment, organizational culture, and excellent collaboration between all members of the Marin RCD staff and Board of Directors.

ACTION: DISTRICT

Board review and discussion of DRAFT Emergency Rapid Response Funding Policy ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director*

URGENCY:

No! There are no requests for assistance at this time.

BACKGROUND:

In 2025 the Marin RCD received a request to fund a stream blockage that was threatening to undermine a streambank repair recently funded by Marin Ag Land Trust. The project was located upstream of a hazardous flood prone roadway on Highway 1.

At that time, the Board suggested the Marin RCD draft up a policy so that we could be proactive, fair and equitable in addressing any future requests for assistance related to emergency projects.

The staff has drafted up a policy to be reviewed by the Board before providing it to County Counsel for review.

ACTIONS:

***Option 1:** Board approves the draft policy and recommends review by County Counsel.

Option 2: Board approves the draft policy with edits and recommends review by County Counsel.

Option 3: Board requests additional information and requests the policy be provided to the Board again for further review.

BUDGET:

If passed, the policy states there is no guarantee of funding, however a total sum of \$40,000 per year may be set aside for this purpose through grants and funding in-hand.

IMPACTS:

Each project must have a direct impact on natural resources in the district.

Marin Resource Conservation District
DRAFT Rapid Response (Emergency) Funding Policy

March 11, 2026

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assist landowners in the district in the event of unforeseen emergency circumstances stemming from natural disasters. This policy provides a framework for a fair, transparent decision-making process for both staff and applicants, and aids in the communication of Marin Resource Conservation District's (Marin RCD) role and ability to fund Emergency Projects.

II. JUSTIFICATION

The Marin RCD occasionally receives landowner requests for assistance with emergency projects as a direct result of extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, violent winds, periods of drought, earthquake, or other Acts of God or natural disasters. Such events are likely to become more frequent or intense in the coming years due to climate change impacts. Consequently, it is expected the Marin RCD will receive requests for emergency projects that will fall outside of the Marin RCD's regular project selection process.

III. DEFINITIONS

The Marin RCD's definition of an emergency is consistent with the California Environmental Policy Act (CEQA) which states that an "Emergency" means a **sudden, unexpected occurrence**, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. "Emergency" includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage (See Exhibit A for further detail).

IV. AUTHORITY:

The Marin RCD is uniquely positioned to provide assistance. Per Division 9 of the CA Public Resources Code:

Section 9151. A resource conservation district may be formed pursuant to this division for the control of runoff, the prevention or control of soil erosion, the development and distribution of water, and the improvement of land capabilities.

Sec 9415 The directors may manage, as agents of the United States or any of its agencies, or of this state or any of its agencies, any soil conservation, water conservation, water distribution, flood control, erosion control, erosion prevention, or erosion stabilization project, within or adjacent to the district; and may act as agent for the United States, or any of its agencies, or for this state or any of its agencies, in connection with the acquisition, construction, operation, or administration of any soil conservation, water conservation, water distribution, flood control, erosion control, erosion prevention, or erosion stabilization project within or adjacent to the district.

V. FUNDING:

The Marin RCD relies primarily on grant funding and therefore does not guarantee that technical assistance and construction funding will be available in any given year. It is estimated that no more than \$40,000 in technical assistance and construction funds will be provided for and any and all projects in any given year. Applicants must

simultaneously seek alternative funding from other local, state and federal agencies/organizations to cover the full cost of the project. An applicant must provide at least a 1:1 matching contribution.

VI. PROJECT SELECTION & IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Application must be submitted to Marin RCD for consideration containing the amount of matching contributions being made by the applicant and other local, state and federal funders.
2. Project site must be visited by Marin RCD Staff and one other qualified professional for verification of an emergency circumstance as defined by CEQA, in addition to verification that CEQA exemptions apply.
3. In addition to meeting the "Emergency" definition, all projects must have a direct impact to natural resources that are in the public's interest or jeopardizing a project previously funded by Marin RCD or a partner organization/agency for purposes of resource conservation.
4. Marin RCD Board must review and approve the project.
5. Applicant will sign a landowner authorization agreement agreeing to implement emergency measures within 60 days and certifying compliance with all conditions related to emergency CEQA, permitting, and procurement, including providing notification to regulatory agencies which include: CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Board, Army Corps of Engineers, County of Marin/CA Coastal Commission (See Marin RCD's Emergency Project Process for more information).
6. Funding is provided and applicant completes the project.

Examples:

The following are examples of potential projects:

A. Public Health

- Manure system failure upstream of oyster beds or recreational areas

B. Public Safety

- Flooded roads due to sedimentation from adjacent landslides or gullies
- Compromised bridge infrastructure due to downed trees or earthquakes

C. Habitat

- ESA-listed species (aquatic, terrestrial and avian)

EXHIBIT A**CEQA DEFINITIONS and EXEMPTIONS****§ 21060.3. California Public Resources Code**

“Emergency” means a **sudden, unexpected occurrence**, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. “Emergency” includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage.

§ 15269. California Code of Regulations

The following emergency projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

- (a) Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code. This includes projects that will remove, destroy, or significantly alter an historical resource when that resource represents an imminent threat to the public of bodily harm or of damage to adjacent property or when the project has received a determination by the State Office of Historic Preservation pursuant to Section 5028(b) of Public Resources Code.
- (b) Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare.
- (c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility
- (d) Projects undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to maintain, repair, or restore an existing highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide, provided that the project is within the existing right of way of that highway and is initiated within one year of the damage occurring. This exemption does not apply to highways designated as official state scenic highways, nor any project undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to expand or widen a highway damaged by fire, flood, storm, earthquake, land subsidence, gradual earth movement, or landslide.
- (e) Seismic work on highways and bridges pursuant to Section 180.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, Section 180 et Seq.

ACTION: PROGRAMS

3A. Request the Board approve Amendment #3 to Professional Services Agreement #C10-2022 (Orlena Yee) that adds \$63,000 to the contract to provide coordination services for the Marin Carbon Project and to ratify Amendment #2 which added \$60,000 in October 2024 for the same purpose. ~ *Nancy Scolari, Executive Director and Orlena Yee, Marin Carbon Project Coordinator*

URGENCY:

Orlena's contract is now expiring. It would be preferable to have a coordinator to continue to provide this service to MCP without a gap.

BACKGROUND:

What is the MCP?

The Marin Carbon Project (MCP) is a collaboration hub for climate and agricultural work. MCP shares ideas, identifies and catalyzes opportunities for collaboration, and co-creates strategies to support the effective coordination of partner activities to advance nature-based climate solutions in agricultural landscapes.

MCP is a consortium of independent agricultural institutions working in Marin County which include Carbon Cycle Institute, UC Cooperative Extension, Marin Ag Land Trust, Marin Ag Commissioner and UC Berkeley. The partnership engages in collaborative research, demonstration, and implementation of climate smart agriculture practices on rangeland, agricultural, and forest soils.

MCP completed two strategic planning documents [2020 Marin Climate Action Plan: Agriculture and Working Lands Chapter](#) and the [2021 MCP Strategy and Charter](#), on which they have been acting upon since 2022. The MCP is now focused on refreshing its strategy to achieve the agricultural climate goals in the Climate Action Plan by 2030.

MCP Organizational Structure

The **MCP Steering Committee** guides and oversees the Marin Carbon Project. It serves as a body to (a) provide high-altitude strategic guidance to the ecosystem of organizations and agencies working on scaling agricultural climate solutions in Marin County and beyond, (b) support working groups to be integrated and coordinated, (c) provide expertise and fundraising where needed, and (d) facilitate good communication and alignment among working group leadership.

The **MCP Working Groups** are established as needed to support partners and coordinate their activities for specific projects in service of the MCP goals. Working group responsibilities focus on addressing implementation and operational issues and includes maintaining up-to-date communication and dialogue between collaborators; coordinating activities; and actively problem-solving obstacles and leveraging opportunities.

An MCP coordinator is needed to organize, coordinate and facilitate activities of the MCP Steering Committee and Working Groups, and perform a range of other support functions.

PAST BOARD ACTIONS:

- September 9, 2022. The Board approved a 1-year contract for Orlena Yee’s coordination services.
- August 9, 2023. Contract amendment #1 was completed to extend Orlena Yee’s coordination services and to add \$50,000 to the budget .
- October 1, 2024. Contract amendment #2 was drafted to extend Orlena Yee’s coordination services and to add \$60,000 to the budget, however it was never presented to the Board for approval. The work is done and staff is asking the Board to ratify it today.

TODAY’S ACTIONS:

The Marin RCD is being asked to continue to provide coordination services for an additional year. An MCP coordinator is needed to organize, coordinate and facilitate activities of the MCP Steering Committee and Working Groups. This additional work has been approved by the MCP Steering Committee.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Approve Professional Services Agreement - Amendment #3 with Orlena Yee and ratify Amendment #2.

AVAILABLE BUDGET:

Yes. The proposed \$63,000 budget is the amount provided in a new grant from the Overbrook Foundation (\$20,000) and the Kurland Family Foundation (\$43,000). Note that the total grant amount from the Kurland Family Foundation is \$60,000, but \$17,000 has been allocated to Marin RCD, UCCE, and CCI to deliver part of the MCP Coordinator Year 4 work plan.

IMPACTS: (Describe alliance with [Marin RCD Strategic Plan](#) and grant goals)

GOAL: 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.
4. Work with partners to continue monitoring of soil health and advances in soil science.

GOAL STATEMENT: Provide outreach and education

STRATEGY:

1. Continue to foster everlasting partnerships with landowners, agencies and organizations to accomplish enduring environmental improvements.

Professional Services Contract

Orlena Yee
MRCDC Contract #C10-2022
Contract Amendment No. 3
Contract Log - C10-2022A3

February 1, 2026



PO BOX 1146 – POINT REYES STATION, CA 94956 – TEL: (415) 663-117

Contract Amendment

This Change Order, when signed, shall become an addition to the Agreement **MRCD Contract #C10-2022**, between the MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, P.O. Box 1146, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, hereinafter referred to as "MRCD" and ORLENA YEE, hereinafter referred to as "CONTRACTOR".

The effective date of Amendment No.1 shall be February 1, 2026. Amendment No.3 includes the following:

1. Professional Service Contract

4. MAXIMUM COST TO MRCD:

In no event will the cost to MRCD for the services to be provided herein exceed the maximum sum of \$160,000 (prior amount) + \$63,000 (additional funding) = \$223,000 (two hundred twenty three thousand dollars) including direct non-salary expenses.

6. CONTRACT PERFORMANCE TIME:

All the work required by this contract shall be ready for acceptance no later than January 31, 2027.

14. TIME OF AGREEMENT:

This Agreement shall commence on September 14th, 2022 and shall terminate on January 31, 2027. Time is of the essence with respect to this Contract.

2. EXHIBIT A: SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY CONTRACTOR shall be modified to include a Year 4 Scope of Work, identified in this amendment as Exhibit A.

3. EXHIBIT B: TASK BUDGET FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY CONTRACTOR shall be modified to include a Year 4 Budget, identified in this amendment as Exhibit B.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement between MRCD and CONTRACTOR shall remain in effect, except as modified by this change order.

By _____
For Marin Resource Conservation District Date

Nancy Scolari Executive Director

Printed Name/Title

By  2/19/2026
For Orlena Yee Date

ORLENA YEE Contractor

Printed Name/Title

Exhibit A

Marin Carbon Project Coordinator - Year 4 Scope of Work

Project Goal: As partner organizations focus on implementing tasks to achieve their collective goals to advance agricultural climate solutions, the role of the Coordinator will shift more towards assessing and measuring collective progress and to help prepare MCP partner organizations for future collaborative projects, including an update to the agricultural chapter in the Marin County Climate Action Plan. The Coordinator will also play a greater role in communicating how rural working landscapes are part of the climate solution to a broader audience and in developing new partnerships. The Coordinator will also continue to move forward newer areas of MCP work including carbon farming financing and funding innovations.

Project Dates: December 2025-Jan 2027

Work Plan - Overview (Kurland Foundation grant):

TASK	ESTIMATED HOURS	START	END
Task 1 - MCP Goals & Organizational Management	262	Mon 12/01/25	Thu 12/31/26
Project Management/Coordination	70	12/1/2025	12/31/2026
Stakeholder & Community Engagement	35	12/1/2025	12/31/2026
Communication	35	12/1/2025	12/31/2026
Convene Meetings	35	12/1/2025	12/31/2026
Proposal Development (as needed)	32	12/1/2025	12/31/2026
Partnership Development	30	12/1/2025	12/31/2026
Policy Document Development (as needed)	25	12/1/2025	12/31/2026
Task 2 - MCP Strategy Refresh (could be subcontractor)	70	Mon 12/01/25	Thu 12/31/26
Update/Revise MCP Strategy & Charter	70	12/1/2025	12/31/2026
Task 3 - Closing County Climate Data Reporting Gaps (MRCD, CCI, UCCE)		Mon 12/01/25	Thu 12/31/26
TOTAL	332		

Year 4 Work Plan - Details (Kurland Foundation grant)

Task 1 - MCP Goals & Organizational Management

Project management activities will focus on learning and evaluation to measure and assess collective progress towards our goals. With partner organizations in full implementation mode to collectively achieve the 2030 CAP goals, project coordination will be allocated based on demand from partner organizations to ensure that support is provided where it is needed most. Stakeholder and community engagement and communication remain key tasks as the MCP plays a critical role in effectively messaging how the agricultural sector in Marin is a part of the climate solution. Proposal, policy document, and partnership development will be taken on as the opportunity arises.

Deliverables:

- 2 Steering Committee meetings per year
- Grant proposals as needed when the opportunity arises
- Events to communicate progress towards climate goals & updates on soil carbon science to producers, technical assistance providers, County agencies
- Farm visit for Board of Supervisors + Funders?

Task 2 - MCP Strategy Refresh (could be sub-contractor)

Key insights from a more comprehensive learning and evaluation will inform a MCP Strategy refresh if needed. In order to maintain a flexible and adaptive process, this task may be completed by the Coordinator, or by a sub-contractor with the necessary strategic planning expertise if deemed necessary by the Steering Committee.

Deliverables:

- MCP 2026 Strategy Refresh

Task 3 - Closing County Climate Data Reporting Gaps (Marin RCD, Carbon Cycle Institute & UCCE)

Working in collaboration, Marin RCD, Carbon Cycle Institute, and UCCE, will close the gaps in climate outcomes data being reported to the County of Marin on an annual basis for local agricultural climate strategies. This work will directly inform MCP learning and a potential strategy refresh, support preparation for future updates to the agricultural chapter of the Marin County Climate Action Plan, and enable clear communication about the role of rural working landscapes in achieving County climate goals.

Deliverables:

Marin RCD

- Develop and deliver guidelines and protocols for annual reporting of climate data outcomes from carbon farming practices to the County of Marin, including identification of areas requiring additional methodological guidance or cross-partner collaboration.
- Prepare a summary estimating the potential annual carbon sequestration that could be achieved if all completed carbon farm plans to date were fully implemented.
- Conduct outreach to producers implementing carbon farming practices outside of MRCD-supported projects (“DIY” practices) to improve understanding of county-wide carbon farming implementation activity.

Carbon Cycle Institute

- Develop and deliver a protocol for integrating Zero Waste Marin compost procurement data into annual County GHG reporting for local agricultural climate strategies.
- CCI, in dialogue with Marin RCD, and other Marin Carbon Project partner organizations, will also identify and assess changes since 2020 that affect agricultural climate targets, assumptions, or methodologies in the Marin County Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2030, and draft a high-level outline and considerations to inform the next update to the agricultural chapter of the Marin County Climate Action Plan.

UCCE

- Develop and deliver a table showing annual GHG reduction/carbon sequestered from manure management practices for inclusion in the annual Marin County GHG Inventory publication and a document defining guidelines/protocol for reporting climate data outcomes for manure management practices to the County on an annual basis.

Work Plan - Overview (Overbrook Foundation grant):

TASK	ESTIMATED HOURS	START	END
Task 1 - Assess Progress in meeting Marin Climate Action Plan Goals	100	12/01/2025	06/30/2026
Gather feedback from key stakeholders, project documents, performance metrics	50	12/01/2025	06/30/2026
Analyze data and review progress that has been made	25	12/01/2025	6/30/26
Summarize and document lessons learned	25	12/01/2025	6/30/26
Task 2 - Identify Collective Funding Gaps	45	12/01/2025	06/30/2026
Gather data on confirmed funding and funding pipeline over the next 5 years	15	12/01/2025	06/30/2026
Identify mismatches between available resources and required activity	15	12/01/2025	06/30/2026
Identify potential funding opportunities	15	12/01/2025	06/30/2026
Task 3 - Defining Alternative Paths Forward	25	12/01/2025	06/30/2026
Deliver report on key findings from progress assessment and funding gaps and recommendations	25	12/01/2025	06/30/2026
TOTAL HOURS	170		

Work Plan - Details (Overbrook Foundation grant)

Task 1 - Assess Progress in meeting Marin Climate Action Plan Goals

The focus of this task is to evaluate and learn from our collective progress towards our goals and include identifying key performance indicators (in addition to the climate outcomes being reported to the County on an annual basis), gathering feedback from key stakeholders, and taking a critical and reflexive view on what has gone well in the past several years, what has been challenging, and what we could do better going forward.

Deliverables:

- More detailed report on MCP progress towards goals

Task 2 - Identify Collective Funding Gaps & Task 3 - Defining Alternative Paths Forward

The Coordinator will work towards finding opportunities to advance the carbon farming financing and funding innovations project to its next phase, which could include developing partnerships with potential funders, collaborating with students who may have an interest in designing alternative funding models suitable for our region, and serving as a resource for partner organizations and collaborators who have an interest in this work.

Potential Deliverables:

- Draft Financing and Funding Innovations Strategy
- Proposal for Phase 2 Planning and Design

Services Provided throughout the Project

Coordination & Project Management

- Cultivate member engagement and participation;
- Arrange, convene, and facilitate regular meetings, agendas, minutes;
- Coordinate and communicate between Working Groups, the Steering Committee and stakeholders;
- Execute agreed upon actions by coordinating Steering Committee member organizations in collaboration with Working Groups and stakeholders;
- Ensure accountability for agreed upon decisions, goals and priority activities;
- Develop and deliver progress reports, proposals, documentation, and presentations;
- Determine the frequency and content of reports between the Steering Committee and Working Groups;
- Pursue other projects and partnerships relevant for achieving strategic goals
- Provide regular updates on Coordinator activity

Evaluation and Learning & Strategy Refresh

- Liaise, direct and work with an external sub-contractor if required
- Provide strategic planning support including stakeholder engagement, facilitating communication, convening meetings, drafting documents, plan development, evaluation and adaptation
- Provide evaluation and learning support including stakeholder engagement, data collection and analysis, reporting

Tools

- Google Suite
- Zoom
- MS Office
- Doodle or other polling tools to help schedule meetings
- Any existing project management tools currently in use & other new project management tools
- I'm pretty flexible and can adapt to the tools currently in use
- Project management/strategic goals/action plan templates (mainly in Excel or Word)

Professional Services Contract

**Orlena Yee
MRCDC Contract #C10-2022
Contract Amendment No. 2**

December 4, 2024



PO BOX 1146 – POINT REYES STATION, CA 94956 – TEL: (415) 663-1170

Contract Amendment

This Change Order, when signed, shall become an addition to the Agreement **MRCD Contract #C10-2022**, between the MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, P.O. Box 1146, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956, hereinafter referred to as "MRCD" and ORLENA YEE, hereinafter referred to as "CONTRACTOR".

The effective date of Amendment No.2 shall be October 1, 2024. Amendment No.2 includes the following:

1. Professional Service Contract

4. MAXIMUM COST TO MRCD:

In no event will the cost to MRCD for the services to be provided herein exceed the maximum sum of ~~\$100,000~~ **\$160,000** (one hundred **sixty** thousand dollars) including direct non-salary expenses.

6. CONTRACT PERFORMANCE TIME:

All the work required by this contract shall be ready for acceptance no later than ~~September 30, 2024~~ **September 30, 2025**.

14. TIME OF AGREEMENT:

This Agreement shall commence on September 14th, 2022 and shall terminate on ~~September 30, 2024~~ **September 30, 2025**. Time is of the essence with respect to this Contract.

- 2. EXHIBIT A: SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY CONTRACTOR** shall be modified to include a Year 3 Scope of Work, identified in this amendment as Exhibit A.
- 3. EXHIBIT B: TASK BUDGET FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY CONTRACTOR** shall be modified to include a Year 3 Budget, identified in this amendment as Exhibit B.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement between MRCD and CONTRACTOR shall remain in effect, except as modified by this change order.

By _____
For Marin Resource Conservation District Date

Printed Name/Title

By

For Orlena Yee

Date

Printed Name/Title

Marin RCD Staff Report

February 1-28, 2026

District

- **ED Report**
 - District
 - Met with the County in preparation for a \$1M USDA Dairy Transition grant. Funding will be divided between 3 applicants in Sonoma and Marin Counties
 - Met with County to arrange West Marin Compost Meeting to renew lease agreement
 - Met with Dewey Livingston and Intern re Ag History project for Marin
 - Met with PRNS ranchers to update on RCD involvement in the Seashore
 - Contracts - Reviewed/Authorized/Signed. (New contracts above \$50k must go before the Board)
 - \$74k to amend USDA Cooperative Agreement to change contract language
 - \$5,000 Drew Consulting contract to assist with FY25-26 Audit
 - \$5,000 Drew Consulting contract to assist with FY24-25 Audit
 - \$5,000 Carbon Cycle Institute to assist with monitoring protocol FARE grant
 - Meetings/Conferences: RCD Staff Finance, met with Sonoma County/RCDs re new Advancing Markets for Producers (previously Sonoma-Marin Climate Smart Commodities) grant, Measure A Ad Hoc Committee, County USDA Dairy Transition Meeting
- **District Operations & Financials:** *(FC: David Sherwood, Terry Sawyer, Cora Richard, Nancy Scolari)*
 - The 2025 financial audit has begun. Cora and Andrea Drew (consultant) are responding to all audit requests.
 - We are now transferring to HR business software over the next month.
 - Held Finance Meeting
 - Database systems are being evaluated by Nancy, Elise, Preston and Fiona in order to improve the availability of the latest data for communications (presentations, interviews, etc.). A list of organizational metrics (which include the 14 Core Organizational metrics) are being refined, which will guide the database update process.

- To improve internal systems from: capturing processes that are done “not that often” to helping project management, staff are working with Monday.com. Elise interviewed Gold Ridge RCD and Contra Costa RCD to learn from their experience with the platform.

- **Policies**
 - Staff have drafted an Emergency Project policy
 - Sarah P and Elise have drafted a Purchasing Policy

- **Staff Development**
 - A complete list of staff training and take-aways can be [found at this link](#).
 - Dena will be drafting a Harassment and Workplace Violence Policy for our review and staff are completing training
 - Dena is initiating a Compensation Analysis for our review
 - There are currently no Board or Staff vacancies to report

- **Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Justice**
 - MRCD JEDI Committee met 12/2 to discuss updates in JEDI work, incorporating JEDI into the Strategic Plan, and updates to Tribal collaboration work. The plan has been updated and shared with FIGR for feedback.
 - Sarah, Preston and Michelle continue to meet monthly with Matthew Johnson, Cultural Programs Manager with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, to discuss new and ongoing collaboration opportunities and draft a policy document related to Tribal engagement.

- **Strategic Plan**
 - The plan is ready for board approval! The RCD is inviting the Tribe to review it within the next year. Staff will be working on implementation plans and the development of metrics to evaluate success.

- **Media/ Messaging/Outreach**
 - **Newsletter:** (*Jerry Meral, Nancy Scolari and Elise Suronen*) [Jan 2026 Newsletter](#)
Physical Newsletters were mailed out and they included surveys. Survey results are back with 33 responses.
 - **Communications Plan:** Elise plans to draft a Communications Plan in Mar 2026 for Board approval in Apr 2026. We have a grant to support this work. Elise is also engaging staff in a process of “Taking Back Marin RCD’s Narrative”, so we can share our impacts with our audiences.

- **Website:** MRCD’s website will be migrated from WordPress to Streamline, a platform that is ADA compliant (which MRCD needs to be). Elise will create a video to publish on our website to communicate Marin RCD’s impact over the past 65 years. The GIS team, Preston and Fiona, are gearing up to create maps or graphics of our impact that’ll go on our website.
- **New Grants:** (See [grant status spreadsheet](#) for a full list of out-standing grants)

See below for Marin RCD Studies, Programs & Project updates:

Walker Creek Study (Sarah Phillips, PM)

- **Lower Walker Creek Estuary Study (100% complete):** Closed on March 31, 2024. This grant from CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) was to study the Walker Creek estuary and evaluate opportunities for fisheries enhancement.
 - Considering the benefit of dividing the project sites for individual funding to make the proposals more competitive.

Biomass Project (Chad White, PM)

The Marin Biomass Project was developed in response to increasing biomass flow generated by wildfire prevention activities and by landfill diversion efforts in the County overseen, respectively, by the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA) and by Zero Waste Marin (ZWM). It was also developed in response to the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD)’s work to advance carbon farming and advance climate-smart practices as a member of the Marin Carbon Project. MWPA’s work generates biomass flows. ZWM’s work guides diversion of biomass flows from landfill and Marin’s compost procurement responsibilities. MRCD’s staff work with agricultural producers in west Marin whose operations are potential sites of compost application to land. The project looks for synergy across the work of these organizations and the capacity to create a shared platform for sustainable utilization, rather than waste, of a range of biomass types: woody biomass from forests and woodlands, source-separated organics, and mixed construction and demolition materials, food scraps, yard trimmings, and agricultural biomass. The goal is to ensure that

biomass utilization pathways support wildfire prevention and landfill diversion, while also reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The Project is designed to foster cooperation among stakeholders in biomass utilization, particularly the public authorities who oversee and the private organizations that manage biomass management infrastructure and processes. A forum called the “Marin Biomass Collaborative” was created to support rapid implementation of recommendations developed through the Study. The Marin Biomass Project is also in a cohort of five pilot projects selected in 2021 by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR), now Land Use and Climate Investment (LCI). It has been awarded \$900,000 in grant funding to identify solutions that overcome barriers to biomass feedstock utilization. Technical analysis and project management funded under this grant have been awarded through RFPs for consulting contracts.

Activity in the last month:

- **No report**

Conserving Our Watersheds Program

Gerhard Epke PM

- **COW (MILC) Phase VIII funded by 319(h) Water Board (~25 % complete)**
 - Water Board agreement executed and initiated in January 2025, ends fall 2027.
 - MRCD’s scope includes Management Practices at dairies that support the attainment of the Stemple Creek-Estero de San Antonio watershed Sediment & Nutrients TMDL and towards enhancing the high water quality of Drakes Bay Watershed.
 - In December 2025 project solicitation postcards were sent to all the known dairies in the Stemple Creek watershed. Responses turned into six applications.
 - In spring 2025 a Technical Advisory Group revised ranking criteria, conducted site visits, and ranked applications.
 - All six Stemple Creek were approved and have moved into the design phase.
 - In Point Reyes National Seashore, RCD and the Park are working together to design simple and cost-effective treatments to decommission the manure ponds at the three departing dairies within Drakes Bay watershed.
 - CEQA was completed in November following a public comment period, with inclusion of the nine sites into the RCD’s PCP program.
 - Two of the Stemple Creek sites have signed landowner agreements and are ready

for implementation, one has been designed and needs permits, two are still in the design phase.

- Preliminary design and biological studies for sites in the seashore are complete. NEPA and landowner agreements are still needed and cultural resources consultation is ongoing.

*Marin Permit Coordination Program
Gerhard Epke PM*

The Marin Permit Coordination Program (PCP) refers primarily to an Initial Study- Mitigated Negative Declaration used by Marin RCD to conduct CEQA approval of projects. The PCP prescribes environmental protections for a suite of NRCS conservation practices, thereby streamlining the design and approval process for landowners and ranchers pursuing restoration projects. The last addendum was 2018 and staff are currently exploring possibilities for updating the analysis. Other aspects of this program include being contracted as a CEQA lead agency for other restoration projects and assisting landowners with permits for public trust agencies.

- **All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch) CA Vegetation Treatment Program Plan for Martin Griffin Preserve and Cypress Grove**

MRCD was contracted by AHE to act as CEQA lead on a vegetation management plan tiered off of the CalFire Vegetation Treatment Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). MRCD scope of work is limited to CEQA document drafting, review and submission for Martin Griffin and Cypress Grove preserves.

- MRCD staff have reviewed it and provided comments on the Project Specific Analysis (PSA) for Martin Griffin and are currently reviewing the Cypress Grove and Tom's Point analysis. The expectation is that informational presentations and a CEQA determination will come before the MRCD board once AHE and MRCD have received input from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR). A site visit to Martin Griffin Preserve with AHE and FIGR is scheduled for March 10th.

Carbon Farming Program (Sarah Skinker, Lee Farese, Preston Duncan, Fiona O'Neill)

- **Restore CA by Zero Footprint (ZFP):** ZFP's Restore CA program generates funds from restaurants charging diners with a 1% donation to support regenerative agriculture.

Local producers can apply for the grant on their own, but must designate a local RCD as their technical assistance provider. Past applications have been ranked by the "total carbon removal per dollar" which is calculated as the requested grant amount divided by the total metric tons of modeled CO₂e (calculated using COMET Planner). Priority also given to historically underserved applicants. Zero Foodprint now also runs a Compost Connector program. [More information can be found here.](#)

- Marin RCD and other North Coast RCDs submitted a CDFA Healthy Soils block grant with ZFP serving as the administrative grantee. 6 projects at 4 ranches were approved by CDFA for implementation. Producers have completed their second year of implementation, with MRCD staff supporting through technical assistance and verification.
- Carbon Farming staff are currently working with ZFP to identify 1-2 additional projects in the district for remaining funds based on previously unawarded applications
- **Marin Carbon Project (ongoing):** The MCP is managed by Orlena Yee (MCP Coordinator) to guide overall coordination of carbon farming activities in the county and beyond.
 - Funding was awarded by the County to undertake a county-wide GHG monitoring program
- **State Coastal Conservancy – SCC (95% complete):** This grant funds the Carbon Farming (CF) technical support team for the RCD while building county-wide capacity to accelerate adoption of the Marin County CF Program. The RCD and eight partners will expand Marin County’s existing CF Program by: implementing 15-20 shovel-ready CF practices on 6–8 ranches, designing 15–20 more CF practices (planning for future implementation), and writing 6 new CF plans (CFPs) on newly participating farms (planning).
 - Carbon Farm Planning and Design update(s)
 - The Carbon Farm team is working to update our Carbon Farm Planning approach, including creation of a simplified template aligning with NRCS requirements
 - 4 projects were selected to meet the design deliverable for this grant. STRAW is finished with these designs and implementation is underway this winter with a different funding source
 - We are currently working with the Conservancy to extend our grant contract to continue spending down funds that went unspent by contractors.

- **WCB 2022 (60% complete):** MRCD staff will collaborate with PB STRAW to implement and maintain 3-5 hedgerow/windbreak projects, work with Walker Creek Ranch to construct an ADA accessible pollinator and planting garden, and complete 1 Carbon Farm plan.
 - Carbon farm plan is complete, hedgerows are implemented and in the maintenance/monitoring phase
 - Walker Creek Ranch garden design has completed phase 1 with contractor Mollyanne Meyn, currently working on phase 2 in preparation for construction summer 2026

- **USDA Climate Smart Commodities / Advancing Producer Markets – (15% complete):**
 - This grant is unfrozen. The County of Sonoma has received a contract amendment from USDA. Marin RCD has signed Sonoma County’s subcontract.
 - Sarah is working with Sonoma and Goldridge RCDs to develop a TAC, list of approved practices, and a rebate structure to prepare for the solicitation period this summer.

- **No-Till Drill**
 - We have ended the drill rental season for 2025. We are grateful that it is housed at Mike Moretti’s place.
 - The drill was under-utilized in both 2024 and 2025. We will continue to rent the drill at the same daily rate (\$200/day) for the 2026 season, with plans to revisit big-picture questions about the rental program in 2027 if low usage continues.

- **Technical Capacity Building and Training**
 - MRCD received a \$1000 minigrant from the CA Native Plant Society to hold a native range plant identification field day in Marin this spring for the Carbon Farming Team.

North Coast Soil Hub & Carbon Farming Network (Emilie Winfield)

- **National Association of Conservation Districts (5th year is ~75% complete) and NRCS Cooperative Agreement (70% complete) - North Coast Regional Soil Hub**
 Emilie completed an updated proposal for continued hub development, a revision of an earlier 2020 proposal for the North Coast Hub. In partnership with the other RCD Regional Hubs, the hub development proposal will be used to seek private foundation funding for regional coordination and baseline RCD support for participation in the hub

in 2026. Emilie and two of the North Coast RCD EDs participated in a funder forum in February to educate funders about the work.

Outreach/communications/events:

- Coordinating outreach and education grant deliverables for the region
- Working on education and outreach for the Soil Hub. Currently developing a series of case studies for carbon farming practices. The goal is to have a series of stories showcasing regional implementation activities for the purpose of informing other farmers and ranchers and being a source of inspiration and empowerment. A fifth case study on aged mulch application is in progress.
- Attended soil health field day at a vineyard in Sonoma Valley.
- Presented on the North Coast regional vineyard soil health database at the CA Plant and Soil Conference in Visalia in February.
- Attended the Society for Range Management annual meeting in Monterey and tabled for the RCD Ag and Climate Hubs Network.
- Organizing a 3-day North Coast RCDs Convening that will take place in May.

Technical Assistance

- There are funds in the new NACD contract for activities associated with the NRCS EQIP program - EW and members of the carbon farming team will be utilizing the hours.
 - EW working on NRCS contracts with the Petaluma Office and assisted NRCS Ukiah with three site visits in February.
- Hosted Soil Hub monthly meeting on NRCS Regenerative Ag Pilot Program and CEMA 216 soil health testing requirements.

Partnerships and working groups:

- Facilitating a North Coast carbon farm planning peer learning group with regional RCDs to build technical capacity and refine processes for CF planning and soil health management planning. One meeting in February.
- Facilitating an RCD Ag Program Leadership Peer Group for program managers to share resources related to program design and orientation, needs assessment, program evaluation, resource and team management, SOPs, etc. One meeting in February.
- Participating in statewide ag and climate hubs cohort group with other regional coordinators and CARCD. Attending biweekly meetings.
 - Hosted regional coordinators meeting to check in on challenges and hub strategies.

- Participating in statewide policy workgroup for RCD Ag & Climate program advancement that is developing a program proposal for an agriculture version of Department of Conservation's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Building Program. Met with state agencies in January - CDFA, CNRA, and DOC - to share the concept with them and gain a sense of whether it aligns with their challenges and goals. Next steps are determining the advocacy strategy.
- Serving on the Conservation Innovation and Practice Adoption working group for the statewide C2P2 (CA Conservation Planning Partnership). Attended one meeting in February.
- Attended CA Land Stewardship Network (CLSN) monthly meeting.

Technical capacity building and training:

- North Coast RCDs have identified their training priorities for 2026 for technical and administrative needs.
 - Emilie is organizing two plant ID field trainings, one in Sonoma County for the southern half of the region, and the other in Humboldt County for the northern half of the region.
- Developing a report on opportunities for greater alignment between RCD conservation planning and NRCS implementation funding programs.

Hub Governance:

- Attended monthly North Coast Durable Collaboration meetings.
- Held one Soil Hub Executive Committee meeting in February.

Regional Needs/Opportunities Assessment:

- Sent a report on annual priorities to North Coast RCDs that included areas of alignment and shared challenges/opportunities.
- Requested data from all regional RCDs to compile recommended practices from carbon farm plans and soil health management plans.

Funding opportunities:

1. North Coast RCDs are exploring several ag-focused regional grant proposals to access Prop 4 Climate Bond dollars and other funds. Emilie is coordinating North Coast proposals to SCC, WCB, and CDFA.
 - a. NFWF Conservation Partners program will support increased TA on grazing lands in the region; proposal submitted in July was declined. May resubmit application in 2026.

- b. Submitted an application for another round of funding for Emilie's position through the National Association of Conservation Districts. *Pending*
 - c. Partnered with Orlena on a DOC Sustainable Ag Lands Conservation pre-application for Marin County funding and financing innovations for carbon farming. EW's role would be partnering with Preston to develop a regional protocol for Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification. *Pending*
 - d. Partnered with Whendee Silver on a Letter of Intent for the Allen Family Philanthropies grant opportunity for nature-based solutions. Project would focus on dairy manure compost. *Declined*
 - e. Developing regional proposal to SCC; planning to submit pre-application in April 2026.
 - f. Working on a regional pre-application to WCB for hedgerow implementation.
 - g. Supporting the RCDs to identify the best options for participation in the upcoming round of the Healthy Soils Program. Submitted public comment to CDFA on draft program guidelines.
2. Emilie is working with the statewide Regional Hub Coordinators to develop a proposal to secure funding for regional coordination.
 3. Developing a regional proposal for community projects earmark through Huffman's office.

Urban Streams Program

- The Urban Streams Program is up for contract renewal so Sarah P. has been working to collect letters of support to submit to the BOS and Community Development Agency leadership as their department funds the USC Prgm. Some of the letters are included in the BOD packet.
- Gave a thorough presentation of the Program's 11.5 years to Marin Conservation League that was well-received. Special thanks to Preston and Fiona who came in person to support!!
- Things are still slow in executing the contracts with the County for Tomales Bay support (tire removal assessment and TB Stewardship Network).
- No new news on Inverness Zone 10 contract execution.
- Providing support to the Redwood Creek project that includes many stakeholders

looking for grant funding to create water supply from MW to landowners along Redwood Creek (Muir Beach Association and CSD).

- Renewing efforts, years later, to support Mill Valley StreamKeepers with a bridge replacement project for fish passage as they're attempting the project again with the City of MV.
- Providing support to Gallinas Watershed Council in keeping it active and functioning.
- Conducted many site visits were requested by landowners and flood control department with regard to fallen trees in the creeks of west Marin after the storm events. This has resulted in ongoing communications with various county departments where their code is in conflict and Sarah is working to simplify the code for landowners to better understand what to do post-storm events relating to creek care.
- Attended a People's Watershed Collective (new group in San Geronimo Valley, comprised mostly of former SPAWN volunteers) to assist in restoration activities on Roy's Riffles.
- Developed new connections in Sausalito with DPW to obtain access for willow sources to support restoration efforts in southern Marin.
- Delivered willow stakes to a landowner in Sausalito to enhance soil bioengineering efforts from last winter along the creek.
- Wrote an article with CDFW for MRCD's ENewsletter on fisheries work on the Brazil Ranch.
- Currently planning a volunteer restoration day at one of the former Landowner Assistance Prgm project sites with WSP AmeriCorps to remove invasive species and improve the bioswale + sediment basin at the project site.
- Smolt monitoring will begin in March for Marin Water District where they will be heavily relying on Sarah since they recently lost staff on the fisheries crew.

Pine Gulch Project (Elise Suronen)

No report

Fire and Forestry (Preston Duncan, Lee Farese, Gerhard Epke, Sarah Phillips)

- **State Coastal Conservancy – SCC Fire and Forest Resiliency:** This Block grant, hosted by Humboldt RCD, funds capacity building for MRCD staff, outreach and education, and implementation in partnership with the Fire Forward Program at All Hands Ecology (AHE), formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch.

- Staff are attending prescribed burns or training days, as possible, to build internal capacity and strengthen relationships with partner organizations.
- Timelines have been developed for a workshop for local technical assistance providers to assess feasibility and situations appropriate for prescribed fire in order to better inform opportunities available to land managers and their resource management.
- Staff is starting the process of coordinating site visits to identify implementation sites.
- MRCDD is exploring more avenues for funding to support vegetation management work across the District. With the potential for Prop 4 funding in partnership with All Hands Ecology and One TAM.

Monitoring and Project Tracking (Preston Duncan)

- **PRNS Monitoring:**
 - Final reporting in process
 - Potential for new contract development
- **Project Tracker:**
 - No new updates
- **Wildlife Monitoring:**
 - Preston has continued to attend Marin Monarch Working Group meetings when possible
- **GIS:**
 - Preston is working with regional RCDs in a GIS working group to hopefully get more coordination and consistency across district lines.
 - Preston is devising GIS data re-structure to better fit into planning templates in development. Implementation will commence once Core Organizational Metrics for RCD are finalized
 - CFP team is meeting as-needed for GIS workshopping.
 - Preston has been meeting with MALT to identify areas where we can get standardized and consistent data structures to more easily share data across organizations.
 - Preston and Fiona are coordinating with Nancy/Elise to help make reporting numbers more available and easy to access, including data restructure, publishing to Arc Online, and building dashboards and other relevant resources for staff to access.
- **Conservation plan (CFP) Monitoring, support, and reporting:**

- Preston networking and getting assessment of regional interest to develop standardized protocols for County Climate Action Plan reporting. Proposal being submitted by Orlena to support this work
- Preston and team are reaching out to producers with CFPs that haven't been contacted in a while to coordinate some needs and updates. The hope is to build a yearly or bi-yearly monitoring window, coordinating with MALT staff when relevant and possible, to accomplish CFP check-ins and make sure people are supported in implementation and goals.
- Several CFPs do not have tables with Carbon Quantifications currently- Fiona and Preston are working on gathering data for updates and record keeping system
- Preston, MCP and Dana Armanino from Marin County are going to begin work to update Carbon reporting avenues to update the Climate Action Plan Ag chapter.

Staff serving on committees or attending regular meetings

Nancy Scolari

- Marin Carbon Project Steering Committee
- MRCD Finance Committee
- North Coast RCD Durable Collaboration
- Sonoma-Marin Advancing Markets for Producers
- North Coast RCD Soil Hub Executive Committee
- Measure A Ad Hoc Committee
- Point Reyes Seashore-The Nature Conservancy Ad Hoc Committee

Cora Richard

- MRCD Finance Committee (Facilitator)
- MRCD Staff Finance Meetings (Facilitator)

Sarah Phillips

- Tomales Bay Stewardship Network
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Vice Chair)
 - Large Woody Debris Subcommittee
 - Membership Subcommittee (Chair)
 - Aquatic Toxicology Subcommittee
 - Marin Water's TUCP (Temporary Urgency Change Petition) Subcommittee
 - Marin Water Stewardship Plan Subcommittee
 - Prop 68 Lagunitas Watershed Enhancement Study Subcommittee
 - SPAWN's project site off Castro St. Subcommittee

- Sonoma-Marín Weed Management Area Meetings
- Marin County Project Coordination Program (permitting)
- Gallinas Watershed Council (Advisor)
- Technical Advisory Group San Geronimo Commons Restoration (former golf course)
- MKAT (Marin Knotweed Action Team)- *currently inactive*

Sarah Skinker

- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- North Coast Soil Hub Ag Program Leadership Peer Group
- Marin Carbon Project (MCP) Implementation Working Group
- MRCD JEDI Committee
- MALT Small Grants Round 5 Review Committee

Gerhard Epke

- A-Team
- Regional Water Quality Control Board Grazing Waiver Technical Advisory Committee
- Tomales Bay Foundation Advisory Committee
- Tomales Bay Stewardship Network
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative
- Marin County Project Coordination Meeting (Alternate MRCD Rep to SP)
- Marin Biomass Collaborative

Preston Duncan

- A-Team
- Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee (Alternate MRCD Rep for Sarah P)
- North Coast Soil Hub
- Marin Monarch Working Group
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative
- Carbon Farm Planning Portal Advisory Group (Paused after Fed funding pulled)
- Good Fire Alliance (North Bay's Prescribed Burning Association) Steering Committee

Emilie Winfield

- North Coast Soil Hub (Coordinator)
- CARCD Ag Technical Assistance Task Force
- California Farm Demonstration Network
- RCD Statewide Ag & Climate Hubs Coordinators Cohort
- RCD Ag & Climate Hubs Partnership Policy Workgroup
- Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan: NWL Technical Stakeholder Group
- C2P2 Conservation Innovation and Practice Adoption Working Group

Chad White (special consultant)

- Marin Biomass Steering Committee/Collaborative (Project Manager)

Orlena Yee (special consultant)

- Marin Carbon Project (Coordinator)

Lee Farese

- Sonoma-Marín Weed Management Area Meetings
- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- Marin Carbon Project (MCP) Implementation Working Group
- Marin Prescribed Fire Collaborative

Fiona O'Neill

- A-Team
- North Coast Soil Hub
- California Farm Demonstration Working Group



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA RESTORATION CENTER - CALIFORNIA
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 211
Santa Rosa, California 95404-4731

February 13, 2026

Marin County Board of Supervisors
BOS@marincounty.org

Subject: Support for Renewal of the Marin Community Development Agency/Marin RCD Urban Streams Program

Honorable Members of the Board,

I am writing on behalf of the NOAA Restoration Center to express enthusiastic support for the renewal of the Urban Streams Program. For nearly a dozen years, this unique and cost-effective program has filled critical gaps and acted as "boots on the ground" to provide technical assistance and facilitate coordination that meaningfully enhances natural resource conservation across Marin County.

A primary focus of the NOAA Restoration Center is the recovery of endangered Central California Coast Coho Salmon, a "Species in the Spotlight" deemed a national priority. The Urban Streams Program offers valuable support for CCC Coho recovery by participating in ongoing salmonid life cycle monitoring in the Lagunitas Creek watershed, and through Sarah Phillips' impressive and savvy long-term leadership of the Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee. These endeavors are integral to providing the high-quality data and robust collaborations we rely on to strategically plan, implement and fund restoration projects, as well as measure project success. The San Geronimo Valley salmonid habitat improvement and sediment reduction projects, the Lower Walker Creek Habitat Enhancement Plan, the Tomales Bay tire removal assessment and other meaningful efforts and partnerships coordinated by the Urban Streams Program also contribute to NOAA's mission to restore coastal habitats and protect endangered salmonids. Furthermore, the Program's ability to leverage investments to secure state and federal grants—totaling well over \$1 million for projects in Walker Creek and San Geronimo Valley alone—helps to ensure that Marin County remains a leader in restoration.

The direct benefit the Urban Streams Program offers to local residents is impressive and otherwise unavailable. Having provided onsite technical assistance to over 1,000 people, program staff act as diplomatic and neutral liaisons between private property owners and regulators. Whether advising on bank erosion or nature-based solutions, the Urban Streams Program's intervention proactively reduces flood risk and property damage and improves water quality before issues become costly public liabilities. In addition, they have reached nearly 4,000 community members through workshops, field trainings, classroom education and hands-on restoration events, working holistically to cultivate the education and skills needed to increase environmental stewardship and interpersonal trust across our watersheds.



The NOAA Restoration Center strongly urges the County to renew the contract for this highly effective and efficient program. Marin's Urban Streams Program serves as an invaluable resource to our human and natural communities, and its continued operation is essential for maintaining the momentum of our shared conservation and climate resilience goals.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Nossaman Pierce

Sarah Nossaman Pierce
Habitat Resource Specialist
NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation,
Restoration Center
Sarah.Pierce@noaa.gov
707-970-7273





Protecting Marin Since 1934

February 19, 2026

Derek Johnson, County Executive
Marin County Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Via email: Derek.Johnson@marincounty.gov, BOS@marincounty.gov

Re: Request continued funding of Marin County's Urban Stream Program

Dear Mr. Johnson and Members of the Board:

With county budget discussions underway, Marin Conservation League urges your continued support of the Urban Streams Program, which is capably staffed by Sarah Phillips.

Since 2014, Sarah through her work as Urban Streams Coordinator, has provided a variety of assistance to Marin's residents—MCL members and board members among them—working to improve local tributary and creek habitat in their watersheds. Sarah's assistance has encompassed advice on individual projects to streamside landowners and promoting attendance at Marin Project Coordination meetings for permitting information; organizing and promotion of educational workshops on rainwater capture, bioswales and creek restoration; supporting and advising local creek and watershed groups particularly in Marin's eastern corridor; and planning and support for Marin County watershed forums, watershed volunteer events and community meetings that address watershed-related issues. Sarah has been an invaluable goodwill ambassador in supporting the health of Marin's creeks.

Sarah leads and participates with positive energy and unfailing willingness. Her roles have included nearly a decade of leading the Lagunitas Creek Technical Advisory Committee, on which MCL has a seat. In helping MCL meet its goal of providing education on local environmental topics, Sarah has been a valued speaker spanning the past 12 years with presentations to MCL's Water and Watershed Committee from the time she arrived in 2014, to her most recent presentation to MCL's Parks and Open Space Committee last week on February 12.

The partnership of the Urban Streams Program with the Marin Resource Conservation District has successfully fostered watershed stewardship throughout unincorporated Marin County. The County's Urban Streams Program has surpassed initial expectations.

PHONE: 415.485.6257
FAX: 415.485.6259

EMAIL: mcl@marinconservationleague.org
WEB: marinconservationleague.org

ADDRESS: 175 N. Redwood Dr., Ste. 135
San Rafael, CA 94903-1977





Protecting Marin Since 1934

MCL is grateful for the County's commitment to protecting Marin's creeks and watersheds and we encourage you to fund the Urban Streams Coordinator position for another five years to take full advantage of the Program's planning.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Swezy".

Mike Swezy
President

Cc Sarah Jones, Director of Community Development
Chris Choo, Assistant Director of Community Development
Nancy Scolari, Executive Director Marin Resource Conservation District

PHONE: 415.485.6257
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EMAIL: mcl@marinconservationleague.org
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ADDRESS: 175 N. Redwood Dr., Ste. 135
San Rafael, CA 94903-1977





February 17, 2026

Derek Johnson, County Executive
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 325
San Rafael CA 94903

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding of the Urban Streams Program, funded through the Community Development Agency and housed at the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD). More specifically, I'm writing to express my support for Sarah Phillips, who has done a phenomenal job managing that program since its inception, nearly 12 years ago. I have worked closely with Sarah throughout her tenure and have come to rely on her for her many areas of expertise.

As the Aquatic Ecologist for Marin Water, I meet many streamside landowners while surveying for salmon and trout. While most of these landowners already know Sarah, or at least know of her, occasionally I can recommend Sarah as the person who can answer all their questions on Marin County's Stream Conservation Area Ordinance and stream permitting. In her role as a local expert but not a regulator, Sarah provides trustworthy advice and nature-based solutions for issues such as fallen trees in streams, eroding banks, and stormwater runoff. Marin County residents are incredibly fortunate to have access to a responsive Urban Streams Program that works with them to protect their property and the environment.

Sarah represents the MRCD on the Lagunitas Creek Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a collaborative, multi-party forum on salmon conservation issues in the watershed. She has held a leadership role in the TAC for the past decade and can take credit for the TAC's outstanding reputation among regulatory agencies, local landowners, and non-profit organizations. Under Sarah's leadership, the TAC has become a popular venue for technical information-sharing, respectful debate, and coordination among our 23 member organizations.

Sarah is also a recognized leader in salmon habitat enhancement, holding leadership roles in the Salmonid Restoration Federation, a statewide salmon conservation organization, and many local and regional environmental non-profits. Sarah has overseen the installation of dozens of salmon habitat structures in San Geronimo Creek, the design of an ambitious restoration project in

Walker Creek, as well as projects in Lagunitas and Stemple Creeks and Tomales Bay.

Finally, Sarah assists Marin Water as an on-call fisheries biologist, providing critical capacity for salmon monitoring efforts throughout the Lagunitas Creek watershed. Her direct involvement in fish survey work not only eases seasonal burdens on Marin Water staff but also reconnects her with the animals and habitats she is tirelessly working to protect.

The programs and responsibilities I've outlined above are only those with which I am deeply familiar. The Urban Streams Program collaborates with numerous other groups in Marin County, including the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, the Marin County Flood Control District, Marin Conservation League, the Marin Knotweed Action Team, the Marin Prescribed Burn Cooperative, the newly-formed Tomales Bay Stewardship Network, as well as countless agencies and non-profits. I remember a time, before the Urban Streams Program, when groups such as these were not coordinating with one another or with the public, and when stream conservation was not a significant priority in Marin County. To build on the progress that has been made, I urge you to continue funding this highly effective program.

Sincerely,



Eric Ettlenger

Aquatic Ecologist



Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
P.O. Box 4186 San Rafael, CA 94913-4186
1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 210, San Rafael, CA 94903
Tel. (415) 473-6528 Fax (415) 473-2391
www.mcstoppp.org

February 24, 2026

Member Agencies: Derek Johnson
County Executive
2501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 325
Belvedere San Rafael, CA 94903

Corte Madera RE: Support for Renewal of the Urban Streams Program

County of Marin Dear Mr. Johnson,

Fairfax On behalf of the Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), I am writing in strong support of renewing the Urban Streams Program, managed by Sarah Phillips at the Marin Resource Conservation District and funded through the Community Development Agency, as its five-year contract comes up for renewal beginning July 1, 2026.

Larkspur Since 2014, the Program has become an essential County resource, providing trusted, science-based technical assistance to streamside landowners while strengthening watershed health countywide. It has conducted 262 site visits and supported more than 1,000 landowners and partners, helping address erosion, fallen trees, permitting challenges, habitat restoration, and nature-based flood resilience solutions.

Mill Valley I am writing from personal experience working closely with Sarah and the Urban Streams Program at the intersection of her role with landowner assistance and my role with the countywide stormwater program's watershed approach to improving water quality and protecting creeks, bays and the ocean. The Urban Streams Program plays a critical coordination role — bridging residents, watershed groups, and regulators through Marin Project Coordination meetings and supporting implementation of the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance. It has assisted the Department of Public Works, the Flood Control District, Marin Water, and the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, while also leading collaborative efforts such as the Marin Knotweed Action Team.

Novato Education and community engagement are central to the Program's impact, reaching nearly 4,000 people through workshops, trainings, symposiums, and restoration events, some of which MCSTOPPP has partnered with Sarah to put on. The Program has delivered tangible restoration outcomes, including large wood habitat installations, native plant restoration, creek bank stabilization, and watershed-scale planning efforts.

Ross

San Anselmo

San Rafael

Sausalito

Tiburon

Importantly, CDA's investment has consistently leveraged additional state and partner funding, increasing Marin County's competitiveness for grants and expanding the return on local dollars.

The Urban Streams Program is more than a contract — it is critical infrastructure for watershed stewardship, regulatory coordination, and community trust. Its renewal strengthens Marin County's commitment to science-based, collaborative environmental stewardship, creek restoration and climate resilience.

I strongly urge continued funding and support.

Sincerely,



Rob Carson
Stormwater Program Administrator
Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

Cc (via email):

Sarah Jones, Director of CDA Sarah.Jones@marincounty.gov

Chris Choo, Assistant Director of CDA Chris.Choo@marincounty.gov

Marin County Board of Supervisors BOS@marincounty.gov

Nancy Scolari, Executive Director of Marin RCD Nancy@marinrcd.org

February 27, 2026

Dear Marin County Board of Supervisors

I am submitting this letter to express my full support of the Urban Streams Program, administered by the Marin RCD and funded by Marin County's Community Development Agency (CDA). As a Senior Planner in the Marin County Public Works Engineering Division, I have worked to protect the environment and ensure regulatory compliance on public infrastructure projects for over 20 years. Working within the public right-of-way however, is only one piece of the puzzle. We also ask and require private property owners to do their part to protect our streams and wetlands, through policies and regulations. These actions come at a cost to landowners and often they have limited resources and knowledge of what to do, and how to do it.

The list of accomplishments over the last decade speaks for itself, as to the success of the program. The Urban Streams Program takes pressure off of County employees whose hands are tied to assist landowners. It also helps landowners navigate the regulatory complexities and technical issues, to be able to take action to benefit the environment in a timely manner. The County would be wise to continue support and funding for the Urban Stream Program to provide these services. This is clearly a win-win for the County, for Marin County residents and for the environment.

Kallie Kull

Kallie Marie Kull; Senior Planner
Marin County Department of Public Works
Kallie.kull@marincounty.gov



February 17, 2026

Sent via Email

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of the renewal of the Urban Streams Program, managed by Sarah Phillips, housed at the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) and funded through Marin County's Community Development Agency (CDA), as its five-year contract comes up for renewal for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. This program is a rare and invaluable asset to Marin County, one that other counties and cities have looked to as a model for how to better serve both landowners and watershed health.

Friends of Willow Creek (FOWC), a nonprofit from southern Marin County, is focused on stream stewardship and restoration in Sausalito. FOWC has relied upon Ms. Phillips and the Marin RCD for excellent technical assistance over the years. For example she reviewed and provided comment on our water quality and habitat monitoring plan that was accepted by the EPA in 2024 as part of a creek daylighting project at Sausalito-Marin City School District that they are funding. She also provided us valuable training on managing our small native plant nursery in 2017.

Since its inception in September 2014, the Urban Streams Program has filled critical gaps in technical assistance, education, and coordination between private landowners, watershed groups, and County departments.

Importantly, the CDA's investment in the Urban Streams Program has consistently leveraged additional funding, making grant proposals more competitive and attracting substantial state and partner investments from entities such as the State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and local nurseries and NGOs.

In short, the Urban Streams Program is not simply a program; it is connective tissue for Marin's watersheds, linking science, policy, community, stewardship, and neutrality. Its renewal is essential to maintaining momentum in creek restoration, regulatory coordination,

and community engagement across the County. I strongly urge sustained funding and support for this uniquely effective and widely respected program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Moore, Director
Friends of Willow Creek
311 South St.
Sausalito, CA 94965
www.friendsofthecreek.org



February 19, 2026

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Chris Choo, Assistant Director
County of Marin Community Development Agency

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin

Nancy Scolari, Executive Director
Marin Resource Conservation District

**RE: Letter of Support for Renewal of Urban Streams Program
*Via Electronic Mail***

Dear Mr. Johnson, Ms. Jones, Ms. Choo, Ms. Scolari, and the Board,

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) expresses our enthusiastic support for the renewal of the Urban Streams Program, managed by Sarah Phillips, as its contract comes up for renewal on July 1st, 2026. This program is critical to the continued health and resilience of Marin's watersheds and the species that rely on them, as well as the many people who live, work, and recreate in these spaces.

In a warming climate, atmospheric rivers will intensify, and precipitation will be more variable, but much more extreme when it occurs. Extreme wet years and dry years will also become more common, exacerbating both flooding risk and drought. This is the future Marin County's creeks, streams, and

waterways must contend with (and are already experiencing), and also why the Urban Streams Program is critical for continued watershed health and resilience.

Since its inception, the Urban Streams Program has conducted over 250 site visits to streamside landowners, assisted over 1,000 partners and landowners, and reached nearly 4,000 people through workshops, field trainings, lectures, and community events. It evaluates trees in channels, diagnoses eroding creek banks, advises on permitting, recommends nature-based solutions, and connects landowners with watershed groups. It also provides capacity and technical and scientific support regarding salmonid life cycle monitoring, salmonid habitat, and riparian stewardship—especially important as 28 species of West Coast salmon and steelhead are threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The program also provides education and hands-on restoration events, connecting communities to their environments while improving ecosystem health.

EAC has worked to protect West Marin's lands, waters, and biodiversity for 55 years. As such, we strongly support Ms. Phillips' current work cleaning up Tomales Bay, organizing the Tomales Bay Stewardship Network, and managing funding for flood resilience work in Inverness. We have also worked with Ms. Phillips for many years through the Marin RCD, the Tomales Bay Foundation, and the Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee, etc., and we are familiar with the high quality of her work and the importance of this program, **which are critical to sustaining West Marin's unique ecosystems that are beloved by local communities, renowned for recreation, and home to rare and diverse species.**

We strongly support renewing funding for the Urban Streams Program, so that its beneficial impacts on our watersheds and communities can continue to be provided.

Sincerely,



Ashley Eagle-Gibbs, Esq.
Executive Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin



February 18, 2026

Derek Johnson, County Executive Derek.Johnson@maincounty.org
Sarah Jones, Director of CDA Sarah.Jones@marincounty.org
Chris Choo, Assistant Director of CDA Chris.Cho@marincounty.org
Board of Supervisors BOS@marincounty.org
Nancy Scolari, Executive Director of RCD Nancy@marinrcd.org

RE: Renewal of Urban Streams Program

Dear County Decision Makers,

Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed is again sending a letter requesting retention of the Urban Streams Coordinator position. Marin Resource Conservation District's excellent record of collaboration with agricultural property owners on land stewardship has been successfully extended to urban areas through this program, providing a big boost to watershed stewardship in the county. Letting this program lapse after more than 11 years of success would be a big setback for the environment of Marin County. We strongly support renewing her contract.

The Urban Streams Program is a unique, cost-effective County resource that fills critical gaps between landowners, regulators, and watershed managers—reducing flood risk, improving stream health, and increasing the County's capacity to deliver projects.

The Program's funding has been supplemented by other grants over the years, including contracts with Marin Water District for years of ongoing salmonid life-cycle monitoring in Lagunitas Creek watershed and contracts with other county departments for implementing a variety of specific projects.

Sarah Phillips has been especially impressive. She is tremendously knowledgeable, energetic, and effective. As you know, she has provided technical assistance to numerous residents and project proponents—far too many to enumerate here. This kind of assistance can make the difference between successful implementation of habitat enhancement on one hand and failure caused by frustration with the complexity of permitting and planning on the other. She is also able to provide guidance on project design, a valuable resource for property owners and organizations like Friends.

The Urban Streams Program's value-added services more than validate its cost and we applaud the County's action to retain the position of Urban Streams Coordinator in the CDA organization chart and to retain Sarah's services.

Sincerely,

Sandra Guldman, President

February 26, 2026

Please support the Urban Streams Program

I urge you to support the Urban Streams Program. It has an extraordinarily long list of accomplishments that carry out the policies of CDA. Public Works and Parks cost-effectively and creatively. By working hands-on with land owners and public agencies, the program brings the County's objectives for stream and watershed protection and enhancement into reality. In particular, it uniquely leverages expertise and resourcefulness into partnerships with private land owners to produce results that would otherwise not be achieved. Please continue to support this vital investment in environmental restoration.

Thank you sincerely,

Jack Liebster

Former CDA Long-Range Program Manager

Dear Chris

For many years the Marin Resource Conservation District has provided services to Marin County residents who live along streams which are regulated through county ordinances. These services help our residents navigate the complex system of regulation and still accomplish their goals. As a member of the MRCD board, I see at each meeting of our board the benefits these services provide. These services are provided through an appropriation by the county, and are carried out by Sarah Phillips on our staff.

Since this program has long ago proved its worth to county residents, I hope the county will renew it for the next five years.

Please let me or Nancy know if you need additional information about this program.

Many thanks for considering this request.

best regards

Jerry

--

Jerry Meral

jerrymeral@gmail.com

415-717-8412

From: gbatmuirb@aol.com <gbatmuirb@aol.com>

To: Derek.Johnson@marincounty.gov <derek.johnson@marincounty.gov>; Sarah.Jones@marincounty.gov <sarah.jones@marincounty.gov>; Chris.Choo@marincounty.gov <chris.choo@marincounty.gov>; BOS@marincounty.gov <bos@marincounty.gov>; Nancy@marinrkd.org <nancy@marinrkd.org>

Sent: Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 11:13:23 AM PST

Subject: Letter of Support for the Marin RCD Urban Streams Program

Letter of Support for the Marin RCD Urban Streams Program

To Whom It May Concern,

Ronald Regan's once said that the nine most terrifying words in the English language were: *I'm from the government and I'm here to help.*

But the Marin Resource Conservation District's Urban Streams Program turns that quote on its head by being a neutral and effective hands-on partner working at the intersection of landowners, regulators, and watersheds where many of the County's most complex challenges arise.

The Urban Streams Program fills critical communication gaps between landowners, regulators, and watershed managers and serves as a bridge between residents and regulators through the Marin Project Coordination meetings.

Thus the Program is a unique, cost-effective County resource that has consistently leveraged additional funding, making grant proposals more competitive and attracting substantial state and partner investments from entities such as the State Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and non-profits active in Marin's watersheds.

Through on-site visits to streamside landowners, the Program provides technical resources, grant announcements and scientific information related to salmonid habitat and riparian stewardship.

The Program provides capacity to Marin Water District for ongoing salmonid monitoring in Lagunitas Creek through leadership of the Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee.

The Program has also provided sustained support to Marin County itself, assisting with the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance.

The Urban Streams Program connects Marin's watersheds, linking science, policy, community, stewardship.

I strongly urge sustained funding and support for this effective and widely respected program

Gordon Bennett,

former Chair of the Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee

President, Save Our Seashore



geomorphDESIGN

fluvial geomorphology
landscape architecture
stream restoration

bioengineering
hydrology
design

February 26, 2026

Derek Johnson, County Executive of Marin Derek.Johnson@marincounty.gov

Sarah Jones, Director of CDA Sarah.Jones@marincounty.gov

Chris Choo, Assistant Director of CDA Chris.Cho@marincounty.gov

Collective Board of Supervisors BOS@marincounty.gov

Nancy Scolari, Executive Director of Marin RCD Nancy@marinrcd.org

VIA EMAIL

Re. Letter of Support for Renewal of the Marin RCD Urban Streams Program

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express strong support for renewing Marin RCD's Urban Streams Program managed by Sarah Phillips and funded through Marin County's Community Development Agency (CDA). The program's five-year contract comes up for renewal for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. The Urban Streams Program is a very important resource for Marin County citizens. There are few if any examples of more cost-effective programs in the bay area.

The Urban Streams Program addresses critical gaps in technical assistance, public education, and coordination among private landowners, watershed organizations, state and federal resource agencies, and County departments. I understand staff have conducted 262 site visits with streamside landowners, providing practical, on-the-ground guidance for proper streamside property maintenance. The Program mobilizes volunteers and connects landowners to local watershed groups. It would be such a loss if this intermediary between residents and regulatory agencies vanishes. The MPC meetings will be pointless without it.

Beyond individual landowner assistance, the Program has supported or assisted 1,082 partners and landowners by sharing regulatory examples, technical guidance, grant opportunities, planting plans, and current scientific information on salmonid habitat and riparian stewardship. It has provided vital capacity to Marin Water for ongoing monitoring of salmonid life cycles in the Lagunitas Creek watershed and has maintained a long-standing leadership role on the Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee.

Education and outreach are central to the Program's impact. To date, it has reached an estimated 3,844 individuals through workshops, field trainings, classroom presentations, and community events. Topics have included rainwater harvesting, soil bioengineering, water quality monitoring, invasive species control, and native plant propagation. The Program has also co-coordinated the Marin Creeks Symposium and a salmonid lecture series. Community creek cleanups and hands-on restoration projects have further strengthened local stewardship and volunteer engagement.

Derek Johnson et al.

Letter of Support for the Renewal of the Marin RCD Urban Streams Program

February 26, 2026

Page 2 of 3

The Urban Streams Program also delivers direct benefits to Marin County government. It has supported implementation of the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance (SCA-O) by preparing Biological Site Assessments in San Geronimo Valley, delivered Landowner Assistance Program projects on behalf of the Department of Public Works, and participated regularly in monthly MPC regulatory meetings led by the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. Additional contributions include supporting the Flood Control District on various assignments; co-founding and leading the Marin Knotweed Action Team (MKAT) to coordinate Japanese knotweed removal in West Marin; assisting County projects through storage and provision of large woody debris; and contributing prescribed-fire expertise through the Marin Prescribed Burn Cooperative.

Currently, Sarah Phillips is working with Marin County on a large-scale tire removal assessment in Tomales Bay in partnership with NOAA. At the County's request, she is also helping organize and facilitate the emerging Tomales Bay Stewardship Network and is assisting the County in managing and leveraging funding for anticipated flood-resilience efforts in Inverness.

The Program's restoration achievements on the ground are substantial. Managed projects include multi-property habitat enhancements in San Geronimo Valley—installing more than three dozen large wood structures and hundreds of native plants to stabilize banks, reduce erosion, and enhance salmonid habitat; planning and design for Lower Walker Creek restoration, including mercury sampling and development of a comprehensive Habitat Enhancement Plan; and critical cleanup and bank repair efforts along Stemple and Lagunitas Creeks.

CDA's investment in the Urban Streams Program has also proven to be a powerful catalyst for further funding. The Program's technical credibility and coordination capacity have made grant applications more competitive and have helped secure significant state and partner investments from entities such as the State Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and local nurseries and nonprofit organizations.

I strongly urge the County to renew and sustain funding for this highly effective and widely respected program.

Sincerely,



Matt Smeltzer, P.E.

Engineer/Geomorphologist

GEOMORPH DESIGN GROUP



Mill Valley StreamKeepers

PO Box 2531- Mill Valley - CA 94942

(c/o 415-388-4649)

www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org

Letters of Support emailed to the following:

Derek Johnson, County Executive of Marin Derek.Johnson@marincounty.gov

Sarah Jones, Director of CDA Sarah.Jones@marincounty.gov

Chris Choo, Assistant Director of CDA Chris.Cho@marincounty.gov

Collective Board of Supervisors BOS@marincounty.gov

Nancy Scolari, Executive Director of Marin RCD Nancy@marinrcd.org

To Whom it May Concern:

2/26/26

The Mill Valley StreamKeepers, MVSK, a 501 C3 organization for 25 years, is pleased to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the Urban Streams Program of the Marin Resource Conservation District and our contact with Sarah Phillips. We also urgently hope that we can continue to get her assistance in our important projects. Please vote to continue the program.

I am attaching the information from Sarah of all the work done in the last 14 years. It is impressive and indicates the energy, knowledge, and social personal skills of Sarah. Mill Valley has benefited from advice and contacts from Sarah in educational programs and grant efforts. In addition, we benefit and are energized by the successes of other watersheds.

MVSK has been waiting for Sarah's return to help us on the million dollar project of applying to state programs to remove a significant barrier to Steelhead migration in Mill Valley. Located in Old Mill Park, the culvert and apron even thwarted a number of mighty Chinook who tried out our streams for the first time last year. Several fish can get up into the good spawning sites in the upper watershed. But the rapid drop of water level post rain event thwarts the fish at culverts. We were planning to make a second application for federal funds, but unfortunately the support of the federal government dropped with the election of the current administration. We very much appreciate the gathering of Sarah and consultants in late March.

In conclusion, the Mill Valley StreamKeepers greatly appreciates and hopes for the continuance of support from the county for this program. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration; it supports all of the citizens in the quest to renew the watersheds

Betsy Bikle, President, Board of Directors, Mill Valley StreamKeepers

Betsy Wanner Bikle

335 Hazel Avenue

Mill Valley, CA 94941

415 388 4649

cell: 415 302 6518

betsy.w.bikle@alum.Wellesley.edu

or betsywbikle@gmail.com

Hi Derek,

The program in its current form aligns well with our coho recovery interests, especially where it directly supports salmon habitat assessments and restoration design and/or implementation. We see continued support for the Lagunitas monitoring as particularly valuable, along with the technical assistance provided to landowners with concerns such as streambank failures and downed trees. These site-specific issues often present great opportunities for small-scale bioengineering and other process-based restoration projects that can yield a meaningful cumulative effect, but the scale and single-parcel nature of the projects generally makes them poor candidates for grant funding. If there were a mechanism to support the implementation of small-scale projects generated from this effort, that could lead to meaningful positive change over time. We've seen that continuity is also imperative in order for any program that builds and relies on community support to be successful, so we would also encourage long-/full-term contract renewal if there are variable options.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of how the County's Urban Streams Program can best support NOAA RC's salmon recovery priorities.

Kind regards,

Sarah Nossaman Pierce
Marine Habitat Resource Specialist
Office of Habitat Conservation, Restoration Center
NOAA Fisheries | U.S. Department of Commerce
777 Sonoma Ave, Room 211

Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-970-7273

On Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 12:56 PM Derek Johnson <Derek.Johnson@marincounty.gov> wrote:

Thank you Sarah and confirming receipt of the letter. Is there anything that NOAA wants to see in terms of the program?

Derek

From: Sarah Nossaman Pierce <sarah.pierce@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Derek Johnson <Derek.Johnson@MarinCounty.gov>
Subject: Support for Renewal of Marin's Urban Stream Program

Hi Derek,

Please see attached letter of support for the contract renewal of the Urban Streams Program, managed by Sarah Phillips, housed at the Marin Resource Conservation District and funded through Marin County's Community Development Agency.

Thanks and have a wonderful holiday weekend! -Sarah

From: Watershed Alliance of Marin <laurachariton@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 12:15 PM

To: Derek.johnson@marincounty.gov <Derek.johnson@marincounty.gov>; BOS@marincounty.gov <BOS@marincounty.gov>; Chris.Choo@marincounty.gov <Chris.Choo@marincounty.gov>; Sarah.jones@marincounty.gov <Sarah.jones@marincounty.gov>; Nancy Scolari <nancy@marinrcd.org>

Subject: Renewal of Urban Streams Program LOS

Letter of Support for Sarah Phillips and Renewal of the Urban Streams Program (Marin County CDA /Marin RCD)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of the renewal of the Urban Streams Program, managed by Sarah Phillips, housed at the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) and funded through Marin County's Community Development Agency (CDA), as its five-year contract comes up for renewal for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. This program is a rare and invaluable asset to Marin County, one that other counties and cities have looked to as a model for how to better serve both landowners and watershed health.

Since its inception in September 2014, the Urban Streams Program has filled critical gaps in technical assistance, education, and coordination between private landowners, watershed groups, and County departments. Through January 31, 2026, the Program has conducted 262 site visits to streamside landowners, offering on-the-ground expertise that ranges from evaluating fallen trees in channels, diagnosing erosion and failing creek banks, advising on permitting, and recommending nature-based solutions such as soil bioengineering and rainwater harvesting. The Program has also galvanized volunteers when appropriate, connected landowners with watershed groups, and served as a bridge between residents and regulators through the Marin Project Coordination (MPC) meetings.

Beyond individual site visits, the Program has assisted or supported 1,082 partners and landowners, providing regulatory examples, technical resources, grant announcements, planting plans, and scientific information related to salmonid habitat and riparian stewardship. The Program has provided essential capacity to Marin Water District for ongoing salmonid life cycle monitoring in the Lagunitas Creek watershed and has played a long-standing leadership role on the Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee.

Education has been a cornerstone of the Urban Streams Program, reaching an estimated 3,844 people through workshops, field trainings, classroom lectures, and community events. These have included trainings in rainwater harvesting, soil bioengineering, water quality monitoring, invasive species removal, and native plant propagation, as well as the co-coordination of the Marin Creeks Symposium and a salmonid presentation series. Creek cleanups and hands-on restoration events have further deepened community engagement and stewardship.

The Program has also provided sustained support to Marin County itself, assisting with the Stream Conservation Area Ordinance (SCA-O) by preparing Biological Site Assessments in San Geronimo Valley, implementing Landowner Assistance Program projects on behalf of the Dept of Public Works, and participating consistently in monthly MPC regulatory meetings led by Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. Additional contributions include

providing support to the Flood Control District on various tasks and co-founding and leading the Marin Knotweed Action Team (MKAT) to coordinate efforts around Japanese knotweed removal in west Marin. The Program has also supported County projects through the storage and provision of large woody debris, and has contributed expertise in prescribed fire through participation in the Marin Prescribed Burn Cooperative.

Currently, Sarah is assisting Marin County with a large-scale tire removal assessment in Tomales Bay that includes partnering with NOAA. She is helping organize and facilitate the newly forming Tomales Bay Stewardship Network at the County's request. As well, she is helping the county to manage and leverage funds for anticipated flood resilience work in Inverness.

The tangible restoration outcomes of the Program are significant. Projects managed have included multi-property habitat improvements in San Geronimo Valley installing three dozen large wood structures and hundreds of native plants to reduce erosion and improve salmonid habitat, planning and design for Lower Walker Creek restoration including mercury sampling and a Habitat Enhancement Plan, and critical cleanup and bank repair work in Stemple and Lagunitas Creeks.

Importantly, the CDA's investment in the Urban Streams Program has consistently leveraged additional funding, making grant proposals more competitive and attracting substantial state and partner investments from entities such as the State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and local nurseries and NGOs.

In short, the Urban Streams Program is not simply a program; it is connective tissue for Marin's watersheds, linking science, policy, community, stewardship, and neutrality. Its renewal is essential to maintaining momentum in creek restoration, regulatory coordination, and community engagement across the County. I strongly urge sustained funding and support for this uniquely effective and widely respected program.

Sincerely,

Laura Chariton, President, Watershed Alliance of Marin

watermarin.org (501) C3

446 Panoramic Hwy. Mill Valley, CA 94941



[415 234-9007](tel:4152349007) cell [415 855-5630](tel:4158555630)