



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Resource Conservation Districts

Karen Buhr, CARCD

Overview

- Introduction to CARCD and RCDs
- Overview of programs and services
 - Working with our partners
- Opportunities for Fresno County
 - Next Steps

Who We Are

- Believe that every Californian should have access to the services an RCD provides- more important than ever with SIGMA.
- Non-profit hub of the RCDs for nearly 75 years
- We strengthen RCDs and make it easier for them to do their jobs.
- Connect the network for RCDs and partners



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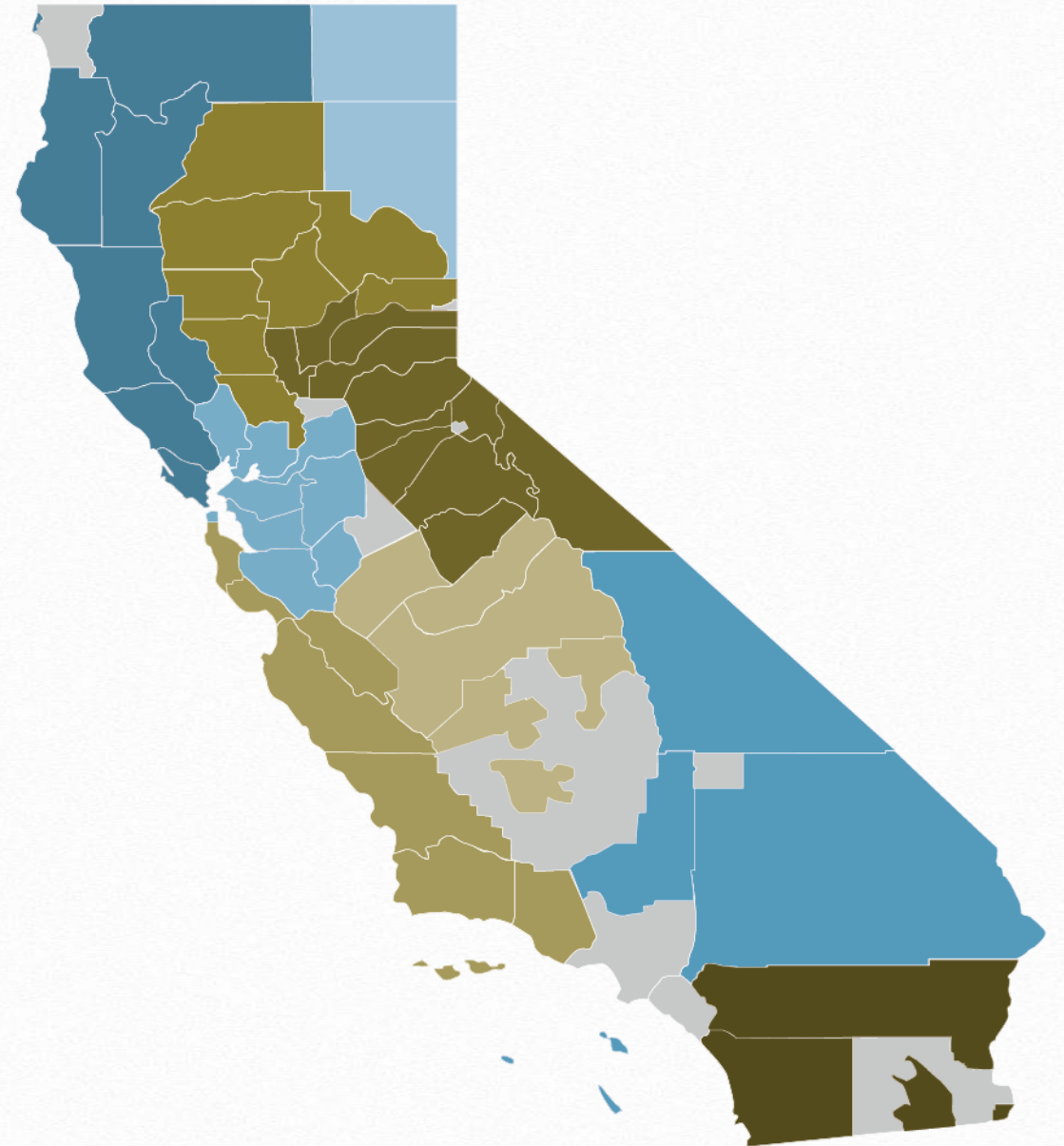


Where We Work

- Statewide
- 98 RCDs
- 10 regions



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RCDs- Your partner in local
conservation and agriculture

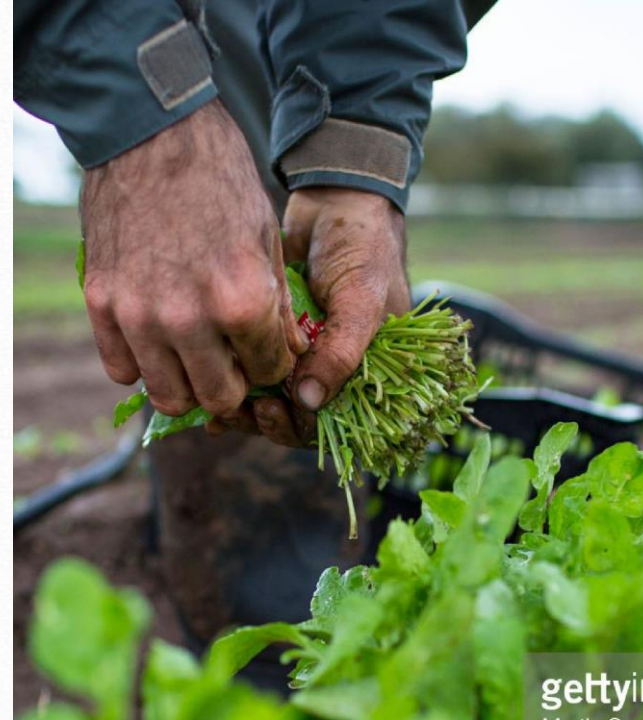
Created Out of the Dustbowl

- Help farmers and ranchers solve critical problems
- Neighbor to neighbor approach
- Local control



Who We Are

- Special districts in Ca
- RCDs understand local context
- Projects are informed by and address community needs
- RCD boards are made up of local landowners and agricultural producers
- We work at the intersection of conservation and agriculture.



FROM URBAN
CENTERS

TO THE
AGRICULTURAL
HEARTLAND



Resource Conservation Districts

- Serve rural, urban, and suburban populations
- Conservation professionals and local experts
- Connect people to technical, financial, and educational resources
- Unique and adaptable





What we do

Supporting Agriculture

- RCDs connect farmers and ranchers to funding and technical assistance.
- Services can include technical assistance and hands-on support with: cover cropping, conservation planning, nutrient management, hedgerow planting, and row arrangement



Education

- K-12 classroom curriculum development and presentations
- Community workshops, forums, and on-farm demonstrations
- On-farm youth education programs
- Leadership development for students interested in agriculture, forestry, farming, and ranching



Technical Assistance

- Planning, design, permitting, construction oversight, monitoring, and grant application support services
- Sediment reduction/erosion control, water conservation and rainwater catchment, water quality protection, groundwater recharge, habitat enhancement, flood management, and nutrient management



**HANDS-ON
SUPPORT**

**FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE**



Wildfire Resilience

- Wildfires can have a devastating impact on local economies, wildlife, and public health
- RCDs work with partners to reduce the negative impacts of wildfire with vegetation management, creating fuel breaks, forest thinning and management planning, and increasing public awareness of defensible space and strategic fuels reduction



Water Conservation

- Educating to reduce water use
- Integrated watershed management planning
- Assistance with Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program compliance
- Irrigation efficiency and monitoring



Examples

- Kern County RCD- water efficiency
- Sierra and Mariposa RCDs- assisting landowners in tree removal
- Grasslands RCDs- in conjunction with the water district- education programs and restoration
- East Stanislaus RCD- soil health hub





Partnerships are key

Relationship with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Partners in statute for over 75 years
- Connect landowners and land managers to USDA programs and services
- Often share technical services and support, office space, equipment
- Regional partnerships to address specific challenges like the tree mortality crisis

Relationship with CA Department of Conservation

- Partners in statute for over 60 years. Support can take the form of financial assistance through grant programs, as well as information and technical support through publications.
- **RCD Financial Assistance Program:** \$2.2 million to help qualified RCDs build capacity and increase effectiveness in serving their communities and addressing local resource concerns.

Resource Conservation Districts

Work with local partners and governments to get the work done. Nothing gets done alone.



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RCDs in Fresno County

- Fresno County has 6 RCDs
- 3 are active
- Could partner with the GSAs to implement conservation practices
- Sierra could expand into Fresno to provide connections between Ag and the urban environment.

Work with GSAs

- RCDs could work with GSAs to be the public outreach and technical support arm of the GSA
- It is publicly accountable, transparent and accessible
- Maintain local control
- PPIC Report highlighting this role



LOCAL CONTEXT

COMMUNITY
NEEDS





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Thank You & Questions

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