

# NRCS Updates from District Conservationist, Alyson Aquino

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*NRCS Staff (from left): Le Hing, Jackie Charbonneau, Katie Bergmann, Alyson Aquino & Kyle Marsh (Partner Biologist)*

It's been a busy and productive year! Our NRCS staff and partners have utilized many USDA Farm Bill Programs to meet the needs of our local farmers, ranchers, and land-managers, and land-owners.

Ling He, the NRCS Range Conservationist, is managing the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and is assisting our ranchers and ranch-managers with vegetative resource issues, rangeland monitoring, noxious

weed control, and re-vegetation projects. Katie Bergmann, the NRCS Engineer, assists staff and clients with the design, surveying, and implementation for all of our projects. Katie has also been the primary contact for the Emergency Watershed Protection program (EWP). EWP was utilized in 2017 for the first time in many years because the intense winter storms in 2016-2017, as many home-owners experienced severe damage to their properties and residences. Jackie Charbonneau, the NRCS Ecologist, leads all the biological assessments, planning, regulatory permitting needs, and ecological oversight of project implementation. This includes being the primary planner for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Livestock Pond Initiative. We are in the fourth year of this Initiative, which targets EQIP funds to the restoration of Livestock Ponds to both provide our ranchers with a reliable drinking water source for livestock and to provide our native animal species with aquatic habitat.

Along with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD), we hope that our programs, workshops, technical materials, and other resources are meeting the Conservation needs of our local community. We sincerely appreciated the opportunity to talk with all of you during the Conservation Partnership Annual Meeting last Thursday. Please feel free to contact any staff member directly with any questions, recommendations, or to discuss our programs. <http://acrcd.org/AboutUs/StaffDirectory.aspx>

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