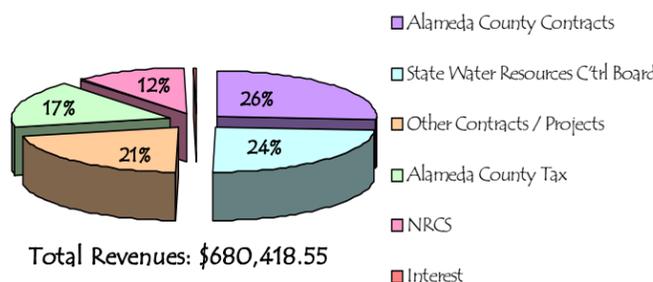
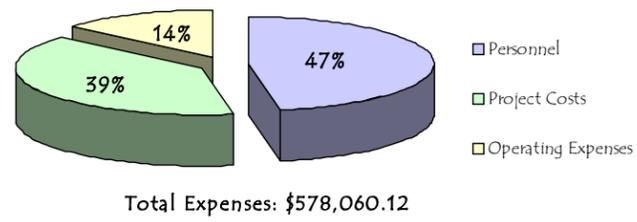


2003 Financial Report

Revenue for Fiscal Year 2003



Expenses for Fiscal Year 2003



Alameda County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors

- Rod Tripp - Board President, East Bay Municipal
- Virginia Coelho - Board Vice President, Coelho Ranches
- Jocelyn Combs - Treasurer, Former Director, East Bay
- Loree Cornwell - Mulqueeney Ranch
- Norman Marciel - Marciel Ranch

Alameda County Resource Conservation District Staff

- Karen Sweet - Executive Officer
- Amy Evans - Resource Conservationist
- Gretchen Heckmann - San Lorenzo Creek Watershed Coordinator
- Laurie Laikam - Financial Manager
- Pete Van Hoorn - Range Conservationist

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

- Terry Huff - District Conservationist
- Amy Bastone - Environmental Engineer
- Erin Norris - Soil Conservationist
- Jackie Shick - Ecologist
- Ivana Noell - Biologist

What is a Resource Conservation District?
 The Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) is both an independent special district and a legal subdivision of state government. Self-governed by a board of directors appointed by the Supervisors, the premise that most about local needs. ACRCD provides leadership in the County and region about natural resources conservation and agricultural issues (the working landscape) through education, outreach, resource services, partnerships and funding.



What is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service?
 The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal resources agency that works hand-in-hand with locals to conserve natural resources on private lands. This assistance is typically provided in the form of technical plans, consultation, education and outreach. We identify resource problems; conduct resource inventories; identify and evaluate alternative solutions and implement solutions to achieve the stated goals through Farm Bill cost-share programs.



What is the Conservation Partnership?
 Since the 1930's, RCDs and NRCS have worked together to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and land managers to conserve soil, water and air. Here in Alameda County, the ACRCD and NRCS have formed the Conservation Partnership in an effort to better coordinate their efforts and to ensure that locally-appropriate, voluntary solutions are proposed to address resource challenges throughout Alameda County. The fundamental principles of natural resources conservation, the working landscape and agricultural heritage provide focus for the Partnership's programs and activities.

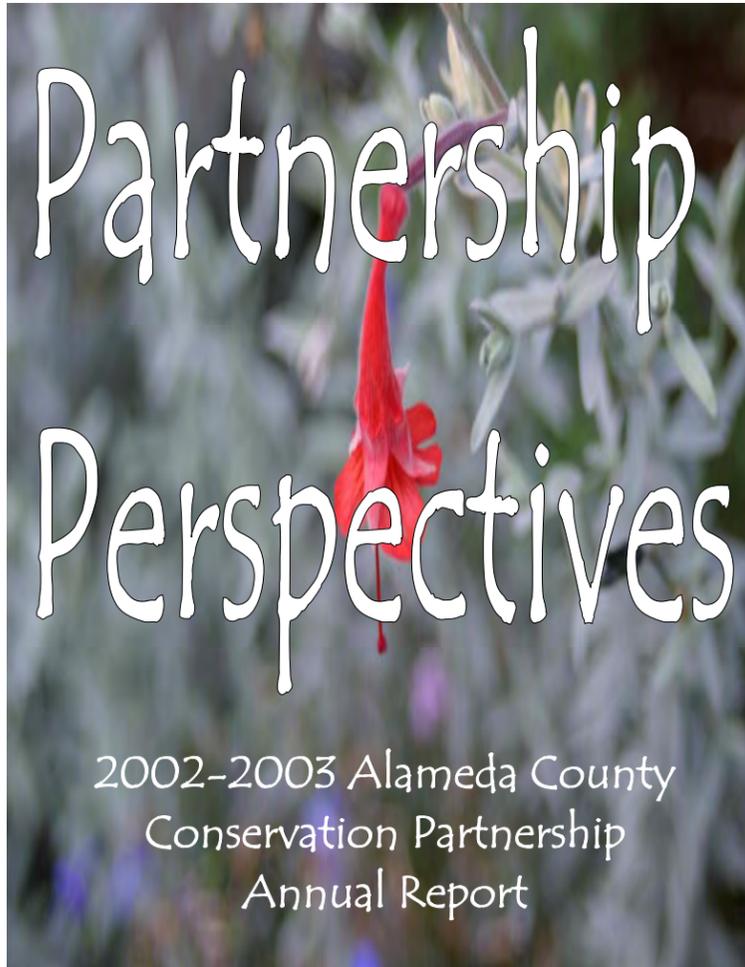


All programs and services of the ACRCD and the USDA NRCS are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.

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 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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 www.baysavers.org
 ACRCD • USDA NRCS
 CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Address Service Requested



The Alameda County Agriculture Center

We're moving!
 In early December, we will be moving into the Alameda County Agriculture Center. Our new address will be 3585 Greenville Road, Livermore, CA 94550.

Palomares Creek Streambank Restoration

The goal of this project was to restore parts of Palomares Creek that were severely eroded. The construction phase of the project was designed to realign the creek to its natural shape, to reduce soil erosion and to improve wildlife habitat. To help stabilize the banks, soil bioengineering (living plant materials are the primary structural component to stabilize slopes) was employed. Biotechnical stabilization (the combined use of living vegetation and inert structural components) also contributed to shoring up the banks. These 'soft' approaches to engineering offered several advantages over traditional concrete and steel methods. They use natural materials, are more aesthetically pleasing, are low-maintenance in the long run and are very cost-effective. Most importantly, these techniques will allow the re-establishment of a balanced, native community capable of self-repair as it adapts to the land's stresses and requirements. *Our Partners included: the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, the Alameda County Clean Water Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Federation, PG&E, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hanford ARC and Shelterbelt Builders, Inc.*



Left: This site suffered from severe erosion. Invasive weeds like cape ivy and periwinkle crowded out local native species. **Center:** The log crib structure consisted of non-native eucalyptus trees which had been removed from the site. **Right:** Once the structures were in place, soil was added on top and covered with coir fabric and a native grass seed mix. Native shrubs and trees will develop extensive root systems that will keep the soil in place once the structures decompose after 20-30 years.

Horse Manure Composting Demonstration

As part of its overall effort to provide resource management assistance to equine facilities, the ACRCDC developed a demonstration compost project at Bar None Ranch in Livermore. An EPA 319 (h) grant through the State Water Resources Control Board funded the work and Alameda County provided matching funds. The San Mateo and Southern Sonoma RCDs developed compost demonstrations as part of the grant project, on which ACRCDC was the lead agency.



Above: Composting is done on a pad comprised of an impervious geofabric liner sandwiched between two 6 inch layers of crushed rock that has been compacted by a roller. This prevents drainage from the pile from leaching into the soil below the pad.

Below: Manure is loaded on top of perforated PVC pipes which allows air to circulate through the pile. This is a cost efficient method for aerating the manure because the pile does not need to be turned. The pile is covered by a breathable tarp when needed to enhance composting and to shed excess moisture.

Educational Materials

Developing and distributing education materials on proper manure management was another key component of the project. The participating RCDs have produced five fact sheets, a slide show and a booklet on composting,



This past year, we have expanded our programs and partners, participated in riparian restoration projects, and installed innovative, resource-friendly technology to help landowners. Take a look at what we have

Byron Conservation Bank

The Byron Conservation Bank is 140 acres of rolling hills in northeastern Alameda County owned by the state Department of Fish and Game.

Open grassland and several ponds provide habitat for wildlife, including species of concern such as the burrowing owl, the San Joaquin kit fox, the tiger salamander, and the red-legged frog. Using properly managed cattle grazing as the chief land management tool, the RCD is working with Fish and Game and a local rancher to maintain good habitat for burrowing owls by keeping grasses low and controlling invasive weeds. Grazing techniques such as fencing and appropriate timing help to protect riparian areas and to support a variety of water fowl amphibian and reptile species. This project demonstrates Fish and Game's recognition of cattle grazing's role in environmental health. This is also a new role for the ACRCDC as property managers.



Above RCD Board member Rod Tripp discusses the project with John Krause from Fish and Game and Sheila Barry from UC Cooperative Extension. **Below:** A view of the Byron property



NRCS Conservation Programs

Over the last year, private landowners have requested information and technical assistance from the NRCS concerning rangeland management. The NRCS offers a 50% cost-share program to help pay for such practices called the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary USDA conservation program for farmers and ranchers that provides financial and technical help to install or implement structural/management conservation practices to treat soil, water, and other related natural resource concerns on eligible agriculture land. Some of the past conservation practices that have been installed in Alameda Co. include fencing, tanks, troughs, spring boxes, pipeline, prescribed grazing and pumping plants just to name a few. These practices help protect the integrity and productivity of the land while providing habitat to wildlife by improving livestock distribution and discouraging access to ponds, streams and springs.



Above: USDA NRCS Soil Conservationist Erin Norris takes GPS readings for a conservation plan. **Above right:** Ranchers and NRCS folks gather to help install a trough and pump designed to better distribute cattle over the range.