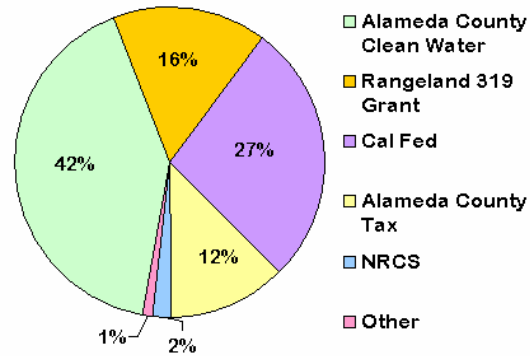


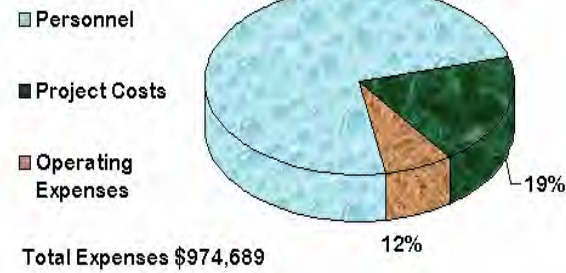
2005 Financial Report

Revenue for Fiscal Year 2005

Total Revenues: \$924,445



Expenses for Fiscal Year 2005



THE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP.... MAKING CONSERVATION HAPPEN IN ALAMEDA COUNTY



The Conservation Partnership employs a locally led and voluntary conservation strategy to facilitate natural resources conservation and enhancement in Alameda County's working landscape. It focuses on long-term agricultural viability and permanent protection of natural resources through various programs and partnerships, like those described in this report. The Permit Coordination program and Wildlife Friendly Pond Program are examples of effective leadership and collaboration with multiple partners. The Partnership participates in various region-wide programs, providing technical expertise and leadership. Loree Cornwell, Virginia Coelho, and Terry Huff represent the Partnership on the Alameda County Agriculture Advisory Committee. Karen Sweet is chairman of the Alameda Creek Watershed Management Planning Group and a member of the Ag Water Task Force. Effective conservation brings additional opportunities.

- ◆ New partners: Environmental Defense
 - ◆ New programs: Technical workshops, wildlife-friendly pond restoration
- Ongoing projects utilize expertise and working landscape focus: Arroyo de la Laguna restoration and fundraising, equine technical assistance and cost-share funds, NRCS programs, implementation of the Agriculture Enhancement Plan.

OTHER NEWS

- ◆ The National Association of Resource Conservation Districts invited the Partnership (Karen Sweet and Terry Huff) to present its innovative approach to conservation in an urban-rural setting. The presentation described the challenges for conservation at the rural-urban edge, and how these challenges can be turned into opportunities. For example, mitigation requirements for a Hayward development funded eucalyptus tree removal at a Fremont creek, and the tree trunks will be used in a major creek restoration project in Pleasanton. By encouraging public-private partnerships through technical assistance and leadership and developing a wide range of conservation funding, the Conservation Partnership can achieve more strategic conservation on the ground.
- ◆ We welcomed new staff members! Carmen Battle, RCD Financial Manager, brings extensive experience in accounting and human resources. Morpheus Anima, the new NRCS Program Assistant has a background in conservation and is helping to keep the NRCS programs running smoothly and efficiently.

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 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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 Phone (925) 371-0154 Fax (925) 371-0155
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 CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Making Conservation Happen in Alameda County

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Alameda County Resource Conservation

Board of Directors

Rod Tripp	East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Virginia Coelho	Coelho Ranches
Jocelyn Combs	Former Director, East Bay Regional Park District
Loree Cornwell	Mulqueeny Ranch
Norman Marciel	Marciel Ranch

Staff

Karen Sweet	Executive Officer
Amy Evans	Resource Conservationist
Pete Van Hoorn	Range Conservationist
Carmen Battle	Financial Manager
Maria Wendler	Project Assistant

USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Terry Huff	District Conservationist
Jackie Charbonneau	Ecologist
Cori Calvert	Soil Conservationist
Ivana Noell	Biologist
Morpheus Anima	Programs Assistant



ACRCD • USDA NRCS

CONSERVATION
PARTNERSHIP

Alameda County Resource Conservation District

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2005

Alameda County Conservation Partnership Programs

Reporting for Fiscal Year 2005

Permit Coordination Program

Some conservation projects require permits from multiple agencies to ensure that environmental requirements are met. Permitting is complex and can take well over a year, and up to several thousand dollars in fees. Unfortunately, this often means that private landowners are less likely to take on the conservation projects that require permits – and these are often projects with important environmental benefits.

With support from the NRCS, Coastal Conservancy, and Sustainable Conservation, the RCD has been working with six regulatory agencies to make permitting simpler, speedier, and more affordable, for nineteen types of conservation projects. We have developed project guidelines that meet environmental regulations and NRCS standards. Landowners will file a single application with our office and the Conservation Partnership will oversee and monitor the projects.

The Alameda County Permit Coordination Program will be available starting 2006. It promotes agricultural sustainability, saves time for everyone involved, and uses public funds more effectively. Most importantly, the program encourages private landowners to voluntarily protect the soil, water, and wildlife on their lands.

County of Alameda Approves Oak Woodlands Management Plan and Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship

The Conservation Partnership assisted the Agriculture Advisory Committee in developing and advocating two important conservation program recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, both of which were adopted.

The *Oak Woodlands Management Plan* describes the ecology of local oak woodlands and provides management guidelines that will assist the County and cities with land use decisions. It also qualifies County landowners to apply for the California Oak Woodlands Easement Program, administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board. NRCS provided technical assistance and Sheila Barry, UC Cooperative Extension, assisted with technical writing.

The *Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship Program* will facilitate conservation easements and stewardship opportunities in the whole county by linking willing easement

sellers with interested land trusts and funding sources, preparing landowners for these opportunities through education and individual consultation, and seeking resources to enhance stewardship to address regional issues such as invasive weed management.



Wildlife-Friendly Stock Pond Restoration

Our county's grasslands and oak woodlands provide excellent habitat for many threatened and endangered species, including two amphibians that use ranch stock ponds for breeding habitat - California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. Many of these ponds were created decades ago and are in serious decline. The Conservation Partnership, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Environmental Defense are creating a "wildlife-friendly" pond program for ranchers who restore and manage their ponds in a way that benefits the amphibians. The program will provide financial cost-share,



technical assistance, permit coordination, and Safe Harbor Agreements to facilitate the restoration of these failing ponds for livestock water and wildlife habitat. The program is a great example of how public agencies and private landowners can work together on the recovery of listed species. One participating rancher said that without the program, "I would have let the pond deteriorate. Restoration makes sound environmental sense."

Rangeland Water Quality Project is Completed

This year saw the completion of our Rangeland Stewardship Program. The three-year program leveraged NRCS Farm Bill funds with a grant from the EPA / Regional Water Quality Control Board, to support water quality-related projects in the Alameda Creek watershed and other unincorporated areas of Alameda County. Projects such as installing water troughs and cross-fencing, and making ranch road improvements, will help ranchers manage their cattle while reducing erosion and improving water quality in the watershed. 20 ranches installed projects through the Program, protecting soil and water on almost 23,000 acres. The program also educated interested ranchers on ranch water quality issues through workshops, handouts, and a tour of a ranch demonstrating several best management practices.



RCD Hosts Technical Species Workshops

In the spring and summer of 2005 the Alameda County Conservation Partnership provided technical training workshops on the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander. The workshops covered the ecology and management of



these two threatened amphibians, and provided classroom and field experience. The presenters were experts on the species: Norman J. Scott, Jr., Ph.D. and Galen B. Rathbun, Ph. D. on the California red-legged frog, and Pete Trenham, species expert on the California tiger salamander. The Contra Costa Water District generously provided access to ponds in the Los Vaqueros



Watershed, where attendees had a chance to see these species in their element, both day and night. The workshops were well-attended by consultants and by staff from the NRCS, other RCD's and other federal, state and local agencies.

Watershed Adventures Program

The RCD conducted 190 classroom programs for its Watershed Adventures program during the 2004-2005 school year. The watershed education program for 4th grade classes in Alameda County, now in its 12th year, is as popular as ever with teachers and students.

Each Watershed Adventures classroom program consists of two classroom visits by dynamic and inspiring RCD Watershed Adventures presenters. The first presentation, "Watershed Explorers", covers non point source pollution, watershed awareness and stewardship. In the second presentation, "Watershed Expressions", students apply what they learned in the first presentation in their paintings of fish fending off pollutants. Students also enter the T-Shirt Art contest.

The RCD appreciates the continued support provided by the funders of the program: the Alameda County Flood Control District, the Alameda County Clean Water Program and the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program. The program is continuing into the 2005-2006 school year.



The 2005 T-Shirt Art contest winner for Oakland schools is seen here wearing her winning t-shirt, and holding her certificate and Watershed Expressions painting.

Equine Facilities Pilot Cost-Share Program

The RCD began working with several equine facilities in the District to plan conservation practices that will control erosion, keep clean water clean, and improve manure management. The facility owners pay approximately 25% of the costs and the RCD contributes planning, practice design, and approximately 75% of the cost. The RCD received mitigation monies from Caltrans and Alameda County to support the RCD's contribution towards the cost of the practices, such as manure storage and storm water control practices.

