

Thank you!



The District sincerely appreciates the following staff members for their service to the District and its constituents and extends best wishes to them in their new career directions.

- ◆ Amy Bastone, NRCS Engineer has a new NRCS position in Michigan. In her tenure here she has engineered many diverse projects, including the Arroyo de la Laguna demonstration project and numerous ranch projects. She provided engineering and educational leadership in the Palomares Creek restoration and school program.
- ◆ Gretchen Heckmann leaves the District to expand her environmental interest and expertise with international opportunities. The District is proud of her important work in the San Lorenzo Creek Watershed, particularly her contributions at Palomares School where the model environmental science curriculum and training for teachers and children helped the school earn its Distinguished School Award.
- ◆ Laurie Laikam spent her tenure at the District diligently and competently upgrading the financial department and contract records. Laurie will be expanding her accounting consultancy.

The Partnership welcomes these talented individuals.

- ◆ Cori Calvert, NRCS Soils Conservationist. Cori transferred with NRCS experience from Madera and Fresno Counties. Her responsibility is the EQIP Program.
- ◆ Maria Wendler, Project Assistant. Maria brings valuable organizational skills that provide project and overall efficiency to the Partnership.

We've Moved!

The Conservation Partnership is excited to reside in the Alameda County's new Agriculture Resource and Event Center. This facility demon-

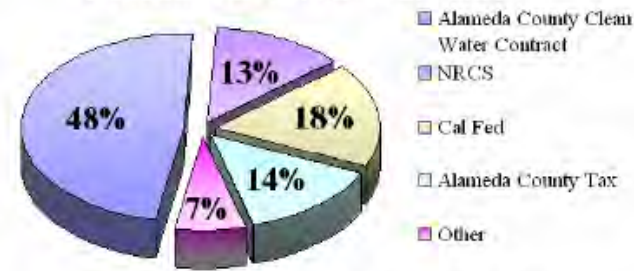


strates the County's commitment to agriculture. You're invited to come by and utilize our extensive natural resources and agriculture library and technical resources.

The Livermore Valley Winegrowers is right next door. The County Planning Department is establishing an agricultural permit center in the building that is designed to serve the permitting needs for East County's agricultural industry and rural residents. The University of California's Master Gardeners program will have an office and a demonstration garden. The Agriculture Commissioner's field station is located right across the lot. The Event Center is quite large and beautiful, and will be available for special events of all types. Contact Garre Winery for Event Center rental.

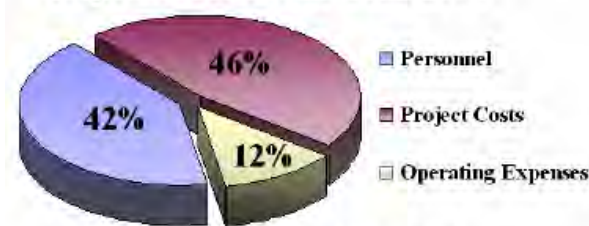
2004 Financial Report

Revenue for Fiscal Year 2004



Total Revenues: \$ 860,572.70

Expenses for Fiscal Year 2004



Total Expenses \$ 758,288.16

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	Mulqueeney Ranch
Norman Marciel	Marciel Ranch

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
Maria Wendler	Project Assistant

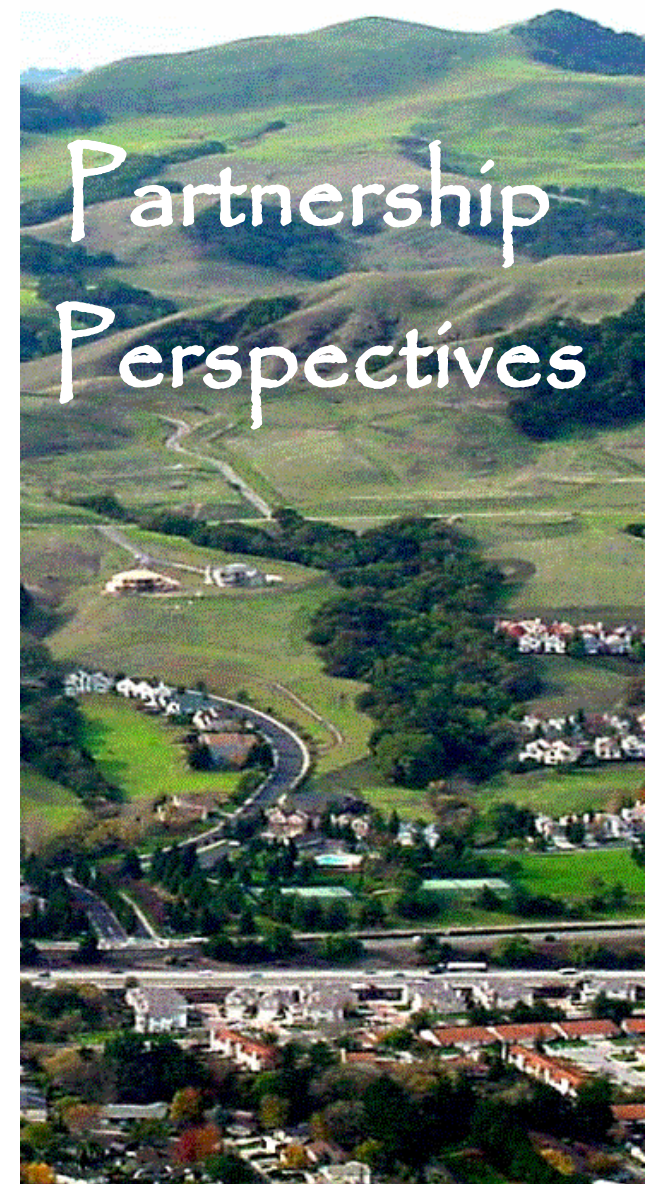
USDA Natural Resources Conservation

Terry Huff	District Conservationist
Amy Bastone	Environmental Engineer
Cori Calvert	Soil Conservationist
Jackie Shick	Ecologist
Ivana Noell	Biologist

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Alameda County Resource Conservation District
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
3585 Greenville Road, Suite 2
Livermore, CA 94550-6707
CONSERVATION Phone (925) 371-0154 Fax (925) 371-0155
PARTNERSHIP www.baysavers.org

Address Service Requested



Partnership Perspectives

Alameda County
Resource Conservation
District

Annual Report
2003-2004

Alameda County Conservation Partnership Programs — 2003-2004

Watershed Adventures Program (formerly called Bay Savers)

Celebrates 10th year!

The Bay Savers program celebrated its 10th year of presentations to 4th grade classes on watershed protection and stewardship, by changing the program's name to "Watershed Adventures", developing a new logo (shown below), adding an art component and refurbishing program materials. Funding for the changes was provided by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The RCD estimates that 50,000 4th grade students throughout Alameda County have been educated through the Bay Savers/Watershed Adventures program during the past decade!



During the 2003-04 school year, the RCD presented in 190 classrooms in Alameda County. In February 2004, the new Watershed Adventures began, and each classroom received two presentations given one week apart. The first presentation, called Watershed Explorers, covers nonpoint source pollution, watershed awareness and stewardship. The second presentation is conducted by an artist under whose direction the students apply what they have learned from the first presentation by painting fish. Students also enter the "Design a T-shirt Contest", using their drawings to show their ideas of watershed protection. Each city in the county, as well as the unincorporated areas, has a winner who receives a t-shirt with their winning drawing printed on it. Classes also engage in stenciling the "no dumping-drains to bay" message on schoolyard stormdrains, and participate in schoolyard trash cleanups.



One of our winners of the Design a T-shirt contest, from Cornell Elementary School in Albany.

Equine Facilities Assistance Program

Through this program, the RCD helped horse stables improve water quality management on their land. There are many steps that stables can take to control erosion, to keep clean water clean, and to manage polluted water. We provided fact sheets and other educational materials, and gave several workshops to stable operators interested in learning about these practices. We are also providing technical assistance and cost-share to several stables in the county to improve manure storage, control storm-water runoff, and prevent erosion. These measures help to protect water quality and riparian habitat. They also benefit stable owners by reducing mud in paddocks and pastures, improving drainage, making manure management easier and more effective, protecting and enhancing nearby creeks, and helping each stable meet regulatory requirements through voluntary efforts.



The educational and technical assistance was funded by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program. Caltrans funded some cost-share for stables, to mitigate for a highway construction project where I-880 crosses the Alameda Creek.



2004 News and Highlights

- ◆ At its annual conference, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts gave special recognition to the District for its leadership in legislative advocacy to enhance Natural Resources Conservation Service funding in California.
- ◆ NRCS presented an award to the District for modeling innovations in partnership with NRCS.
- ◆ President Rod Tripp and Executive Officer Karen Sweet spent several days at the National Association of Conservation Districts Spring conference and on The Hill talking to 20+ Congressional offices about the need to increase NRCS appropriations to California. They also promoted the Arroyo de la Laguna project and Permit Coordination as models and important projects in the District and became better acquainted with national NRCS staff.



Agricultural Enhancement Plan



The District utilizes its Congressional earmark to implement Vision 2010's Agriculture Enhancement Plan (AEP), developed by the agriculture community and Vision 2010. Activities, included: liaison between the agriculture community, governmental agencies and organizations – to make sure that "agriculture is at the table;" affecting public policy and direction in Alameda County's new Agriculture Element to the General Plan; developing a new permitting process for equine facilities; presenting nine agricultural tours in East County as part of the Agriculture Water Task Force and six requested workshops on various topics for agriculturalists; and co-sponsoring a range ride at the Koopmann Ranch for local, state and federal agency officials and media where conservation projects and conservation easement were showcased. NRCS supported the AEP by completing the Tri-Valley region mapping project that is being used by the Agriculture Water Task Force.



San Lorenzo Creek Watershed

Working closely with numerous partners, the San Lorenzo Creek Watershed Project was expanded to include more of the 48-square mile watershed. NRCS Engineer Amy Bastone designed the two remaining restoration projects for the State Water Resources Control Board 319(h) Grant which will be constructed this fall and will help reduce soil erosion in the upper watershed. These projects along with the Palomares Creek restoration will serve as demonstration projects that highlight the effectiveness of bioengineering in creek restoration. The Watershed Coordinator, Gretchen Heckmann, designed and edited a quarterly newsletter dealing with water conservation and pollution education, local history and community events that went to 1,800 residents. She also partnered with the Watershed Project (formerly Aquatic Outreach Institute) to develop a more comprehensive outreach plan to help meet the long term goals set for the watershed by the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program and Partnership staff.



The Equine Conditional Use Permit Streamlining Project

Boarding and riding stables in unincorporated areas of Alameda County require a land use permit from the Planning Department. The application process looks at health and safety issues, and involves several agencies. In recent years, many applicants complained that getting a permit was too confusing, lengthy, and expensive. The County's Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) and Planning Department decided to streamline the permit process in order to encourage voluntarily compliance and to support the equine community. The Community Development Agency funded RCD to lead this effort, which became a model for other permitting programs.



We worked with stable owners and with the County agencies to design a process that would be easier for both applicants and staff, while maintaining the same level of review. Together with the Equine Subcommittee and the AAC, a set of recommendations was developed and officially adopted by the County, in February 2004. The main difference is a change in the type of permit issued, from one that expired after three years to one that does not expire. Approved stables will be reviewed periodically, but will no longer have to submit a new application every three years. There will also be a clear and complete application form, and improved communication between departments during processing. To add more agricultural, equine expertise, there will be a Technical Advisory Committee (of stable operators and natural resource experts) that can offer guidance to applicants and County staff upon request.



There is still work to be done by concerned citizens to implement these recommendations and to take further steps supporting the viability of Alameda County stables.