



# Annual Report

*The Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides leadership in the County and region about natural resources conservation and agricultural issues through education, outreach, resource services, partnerships and funding*

## Mission Creek Non-native Eucalyptus Tree Removal Demonstrates the Conservation Partnership Program

Working together as the Alameda County Conservation Partnership, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) were successful in the removing 55 non-native eucalyptus trees from Mission Creek in Fremont. Don Dillon, Jr., owner of Four Winds Growers, a citrus nursery in Fremont, requested assistance to remove the invasive trees from his property and replant with native trees and shrubs. The trees negatively affected nearby neighbors and the nursery. Once the eucalyptus trees were removed, they were brought to the [Arroyo de la Laguna](#) to be used in a biotechnical project in Sunol to control erosion and stabilize a streambank. Partial funding was provided through mitigation funds from a Hayward development project. The Mission Creek Tree Removal Project demonstrates the Conservation Partnership Program (CPP). The CPP encourages natural resource conservation and stewardship through funding opportunities, technical expertise, and other services. The Alameda County Conservation Partnership brings unique capacities to the CPP, by bringing together resources and implementing efficient and cost effective conservation projects. ☀

## Director Delores “Loree” Cornwell Retires and Brenda Vieux is Appointed

The County of Alameda and the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) commended retiring Director, Dolores “Loree” Cornwell and welcomed Brenda Vieux, appointed by the Board of Supervisors to conclude Cornwell’s term.

Serving the ACRCD eleven years, Cornwell actively contributed to its growth. She has demonstrated civic leadership in the County as Director and President of the ACRCD and as a member of the Alameda County Agriculture Advisory Committee. Supervisor Scott Haggerty, the Board of Supervisors and District Vice President Virginia Coelho commended Loree for her commitment to public service on behalf of the District, the County of Alameda, and for the betterment of her community.



*Photo of Delores Loree Cornwell & Scott Haggerty*

Cornwell is a Livermore native and member of the Mulqueeny ranching family. She was the ranch’s business manager for many years, participating in numerous organizations that have benefited the County of Alameda and her community: Vision 2010, the Alameda-Contra Costa Biodiversity Working Group, and the Alameda County CattleWomen and Contra Costa-Alameda County Cattlemen’s Association.

Brenda Vieux is a member of the Vieux ranching family in Fremont and Livermore that has been ranching for over 100 years. Her father, Don and her uncle, Bob have provided leadership to the agriculture industry, serving as directors of the Contra Costa –

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## Watershed Adventures Reaches 4<sup>TH</sup> Graders in 65 Schools

**Watershed Adventures** (WA) is a watershed education program for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in Alameda County presented by the Alameda County RCD. The 2005-2006 school year marked the program's 12th year. Presenters use a wide variety of exciting teaching strategies, including art to involve students in learning about watersheds, the creek nearest their school and specific actions they can take in their neighborhoods to help keep water clean and healthy for people and wildlife. Two 75-minute, in-class presentations are given one week apart to each class.

- WA presented to 162 classes in 65 schools throughout Alameda County, reaching 4,700 students and teachers in the recent school year.
- Funds are provided by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program.
- Alameda County RCD manages the program and conducts the presentations. ☼



*Students studying the watershed model*

## Equine Facilities Cost-Share Program

This unique program utilizes cost-share and technical assistance funds from Alameda County, NRCS and Caltrans to protect and enhance water quality at horse stables. ACRC and NRCS staff planned and designed the conservation projects and began implementation at three horse stables:

1. Piedmont Stables, Oakland – a covered manure storage area, arena drainage system, and grass filter strip
2. Eden Canyon Ranch, Castro Valley – a manure storage bin
3. Rancho de Los Amigos stable, Castro Valley – a manure composting pad and tarps to cover the windrows and a grass filter strip

Technical assistance was also provided to a group of pasture managers at Eagle Nest stable in Castro Valley who are experimenting with pasture rotation, compost application and reseeding to improve pasture forage. ☼



*California Tiger Salamander and Field visit during workshop*

## Workshops.....A Success Story

The Alameda County Conservation Partnership has hosted a total of 9 workshops since May 2005. Endangered species, natural resources, and agricultural workshops have been presented on these topics:

- ❖ CA Red Legged Frog
- ❖ CA Tiger Salamander
- ❖ Rare Plants
- ❖ Animal ID
- ❖ Alameda Whipsnake
- ❖ CA Rangeland Monitoring

Technical experts present the species workshops that cover the ecology and management of the threatened animals and plants and include classroom and field experiences. The Contra Costa Water District generously provides access to ponds in the Los Vaqueros Watershed, where attendees have a chance to see these species in their element, both day and night.

The CA Rangeland Monitoring workshop, presented by NRCS, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and UC Cooperative Extension provided an overview of establishing monitoring plans and baseline reports. The CA Department of Food & Agriculture introduced Bay Area livestock owners to the National Animal ID System.

The workshops have been well-attended by consultants, landowners and staff from NRCS, other RCD's and other federal, state and local agencies. Some workshops are held on a yearly basis. Topic suggestions and sponsorships are welcome. Please see our website for future [workshop](#) announcements and sponsorship information. ☼

*Conservation practices improve water quality at Equine Facilities*



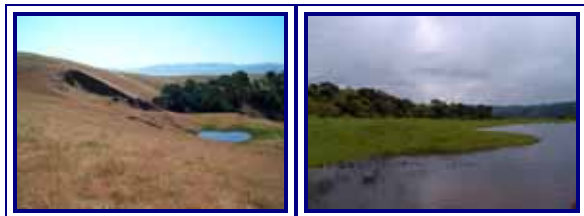
## Two Students Sponsored to Attend Range Camp

The ACRCO sponsored two students to attend Range Camp - Jackson Phillips, Castro Valley and Tyler Moffat, Pleasanton. Phillips and Moffat attended the July ACRCO board meeting to review their camp experiences and to receive their registration reimbursement.

Young men and women, ages 15-18 with a sincere interest in the management of our natural resources are eligible to attend Range Camp at Elkus Youth Ranch, Half Moon Bay. This special educational program is designed to introduce young people to the extent, importance and value of California's rangeland resources. Ecology and practical land management skills are emphasized: plant identification, livestock management, wildlife forestry, fire, range analysis and improvement. It also encourages leadership and good stewardship through interaction with recognized professionals in both classroom and field sessions.

[Range Camp](#) sponsors include: CS-Pacific Section of the Society for Range Management, UC Cooperative Extension, CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts, U.S. Navy – Natural Resources Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, East Bay Municipal Utility District.

TO APPLY IN 2007: Contact Karen Sweet, 925.371-0154 x111. ☀



## Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration and Management Guidelines

After several years of planning, the *Conservation Partnership Program (CPP)* has all of the stock pond program pieces in place and will begin restoration this summer on 12 applications that will enhance and protect this special habitat for the CA Tiger Salamander and the CA Red Legged Frog. Program elements available to private landowners at the Conservation Partnership include: environmental permits from regulatory agencies, engineering and biological assistance, cost-share assistance through NRCS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, CA Coastal Conservancy and a Safe Harbor agreement. To supplement this unique conservation program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is funding development of management guidelines for the property surrounding the ponds, along with statewide education for other programs. ☀

*"Director" continued from page 1*

Alameda County Cattlemen's Association and the Alameda County Farm Bureau. It is natural that Brenda serves as an ACRCO Director. Her uncle, Bob was a Director from 1980 to 1990. Brenda is employed in the produce industry, distributing produce to large chain stores on the East Coast.

"It's my turn as the younger generation of the family to step up and serve the agriculture community - with full support of my family. I have watched the cattle business change over the years. The most important thing I had learned from my father was land stewardship. His deep appreciation for the land was unsurpassed. I hope to pass that down to future generations." ☀

## From the President, Rod Tripp...

***Conservation Partnership...Making Conservation Happen*** was this year's theme. Several new relationships and partnerships were developed that will complement the ongoing ones and to broaden the Conservation Partnership's opportunities to facilitate conservation.

- Caltrans brought mitigation funds for water quality enhancement projects on horse stables
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is providing funds in the Wildlife-Friendly Pond Restoration Project for amphibian management guidelines research and education
- The [Arroyo de la Laguna](#) restoration project will occur this summer. Funding is provided by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Dublin San Ramon Services District, Zone 7 Water Agency, County of Alameda Department of Public Works, Alameda County Water District and Natural Resource Conservation Service
- The Alameda County Partnership for Land Conservation and Stewardship (PLCS) is underway, a collaboration of NRCS, ACRCO and the County of Alameda
- Existing partnership projects continue very successfully, particularly Watershed Adventures, the fourth grade education program

**Board notes.** With gratitude the Board of Directors applauds Loree Cornwell for many years of service on the Board as she retired from the Board. With excitement, the Board welcomes Brenda Vieux to complete Cornwell's term. The incoming RCD President is Jocelyn Combs who promotes the working landscape perspective at LAFCo as a director.

**Website.** Please review the website [www.acrcd.org](http://www.acrcd.org) periodically, where other partnerships, ongoing projects, and conservation information is available.

Thank you to all our Partners!

I especially appreciate the dedicated staff at the Conservation Partnership for their contributions to ACRCO's success. ☀

## CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

### Alameda County Resource Conservation District

#### Board of Directors

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

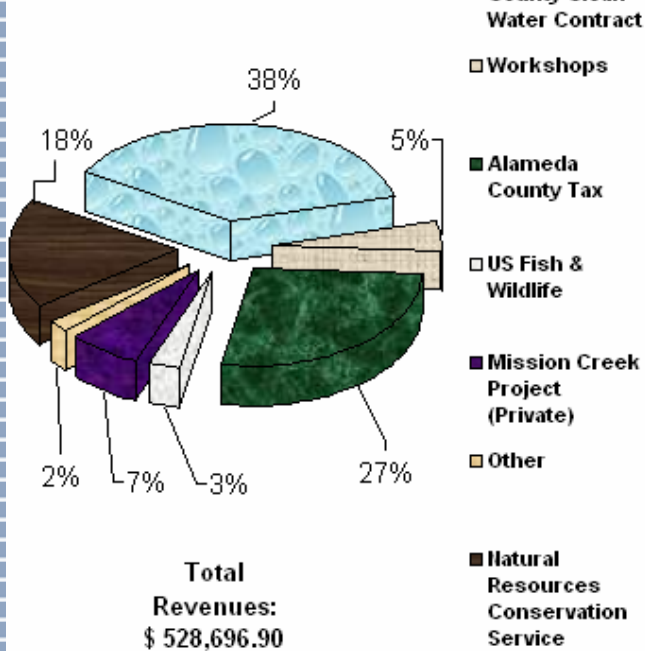
#### Staff

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

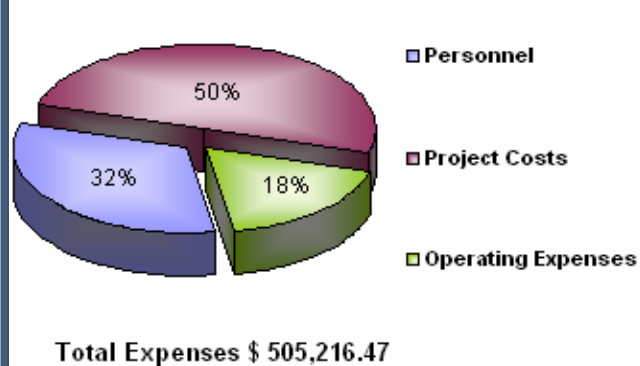
#### USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Terry Huff	District Conservationist
Jackie Charbonneau	Ecologist
Ivana Noell	Biologist
Morpheus Anima	Soil Conservationist
Katie Bergmann	Engineer
Cori Calvert	Soil Conservationist

Revenue for Fiscal Year 2006



Expenses for Fiscal Year 2006



**ALAMEDA COUNTY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP**  
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 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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