

# 2016

# ANNUAL REPORT

Featuring a Special  
2013-2015 Activities  
and Finance Report



## Alameda County Resource Conservation District





# Our Mission

The mission of the Alameda County Resource Conservation District is to provide leadership in the County and region in natural resources conservation and agricultural enhancement through partnerships, education, outreach, resource services and technical expertise.

## Making Conservation Happen

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) is one of the top conservation agencies in Alameda County. The ACRCD provides technical and educational services for natural resource conservation and enhancement. We seek opportunities to demonstrate progressive conservation techniques and facilitate the use of locally-approved and voluntary solutions to resource and agricultural challenges throughout the County. The ACRCD collaborates with key experts, partners and staff to offer an extensive skill set, applying innovative and practical conservation tools. The ACRCD provides technical and project management support for activities such as the development of resource management plans, natural resources inventories, baseline studies, habitat restoration, planning and implementation. We also provide assistance to local agencies, production agriculture, and wild and working lands for a variety of tasks—ranging from coordinating funding, to managing stakeholder relationships, to implementation of on-the-ground projects.

## Conservation Partnership

The ACRCD and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Livermore office work closely to serve the conservation needs of Alameda County. Housed in the same office at the Martinelli Center, these two agencies collaborate as what is known as the **Conservation Partnership** (Partnership). The Partnership leverages expertise from both ACRCD and NRCS staff to provide the best possible services for natural resource conservation and agriculture enhancement, working with many entities, including private landowners, and local, state and federal agencies to develop and implement various conservation and agricultural strategies.

Although the agencies work closely with each other, they have separate funding sources and governance. NRCS programs are primarily funded through the Farm Bill, a comprehensive agricultural and food policy bill passed by the federal government at five year intervals. The NRCS works to accomplish its national mission on a local level by working directly with the ACRCD to provide Farm Bill cost share programs and other technical assistance to local landowners in Alameda County.

The ACRCD is funded through many sources, predominantly grant and contract projects with a small portion coming from a property tax assessed within the ACRCD's service area. The ACRCD is an independent special district within the state of California, locally governed by an independent, appointed board of directors. Resource Conservation Districts are empowered to conserve and enhance agricultural and natural resources within their districts on public and private lands, to educate their constituents, and to collaborate with other organizations to achieve their missions.

**[Above]:** The Arroyo de la Laguna reflects streamside vegetation in the early morning sun.

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## 2013-2015 Special Report |

**Pages 20 through 29**

The last four years have been busy for the Alameda County Resource Conservation District! Between 2013 and 2015 we launched a number of new programs, successfully completed many on-the-ground projects, continued or received new grant funding for a number of our core programs, and worked hard to make a difference in natural resource conservation in Alameda County. Contained within this Annual Report is a special section featuring ACRCDD highlights and financial reports from 2013-2015.

# Messages from Leadership

## A Letter from Our President



I am honored to serve the Alameda County Resource Conservation District and contribute to its important mission to provide leadership in the County and region around natural resource conservation and agricultural enhancement.

I am new to the Board, but not to Alameda County. The Connolly Ranch has been an operating ranch in Alameda and San Joaquin Counties since the 1870s. For three decades we have focused on conservation, placing one of the first conservation easements for San Joaquin Kit Fox and establishing preserves for other threatened and endangered species. I have seen the ranching and conservation benefits of programs such as EQIP, and look forward to learning more from the District's excellent leadership and staff.

This Multi-Year Report describes the latest innovations in resource management, highlights the District's ongoing operations, recent accomplishments, and grant awards, and presents the work of longstanding partnerships and new collaborations. With NRCS, the District has implemented cost-effective solutions to achieve strategic objectives such as assisting rural property owners with field conservation projects and exploring opportunities

to mitigate climate change through carbon farming. The District's initiatives in permit assistance, education, and program coordination with RCDs in neighboring counties is considered leading edge in the State. We hope this report demonstrates the dedication of the District to its mission and we welcome you to learn more about our programs and operations.

The future provides a great challenge to those seeking to protect agriculture and the environment and serve our urban communities. I know our experienced Board, and our skilled management and technical team will meet this challenge and continue to work to promote sustainable agriculture and natural resource conservation throughout Alameda County.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and District staff, we look forward to working with you to continue to identify resource conservation needs and opportunities which support sustainable agriculture, land stewardship, and the implementation of best conservation practices.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Connolly'.

Mark Connolly  
President

Mark Connolly is President of Connolly Ranch Inc., a cow/calf operation located in San Joaquin and Alameda Counties. The Connolly Ranch is a member of the CA Cattlemen's Association, the American Grass-Fed Association, the CA Farm Bureau and the San Joaquin Farm Bureau.

Mark served three terms (13 years) on Tracy Joint Union School District Board of Trustees and is a Director of the CALFAUNA Foundation. Mark also has a civil litigation practice in Tracy and is a graduate of the University of Santa Clara, School of Law, 1982. Mark is a member of the CA Bar Association.

Native *Dodecatheon* (shootingstar) bloom on a grazed hillside in early spring.





## A Message from Our Executive Officer



It is with pride that I write this note for the 2016 Annual Report. The Alameda County Resource Conservation District, like most conservation related agencies, strives to provide the highest caliber of services possible. The ACRCD's staff is diverse and highly qualified, which you will see as you read through this report. As a Special District, we primarily operate through grants applied for and received, and fee for service projects. The District also receives an annual property tax allocation of approximately \$195,000. Resource Conservation Districts are authorized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code.

Our wise and talented Board of Directors are individually appointed by the Alameda County Board Supervisors. The Board of Directors governs the ACRCD and is primarily composed of ranchers and farmers, however, professionals from related fields and citizens with applicable backgrounds round out the composition of the governing body. By-laws set forth maximum term limits of eight years.

The ACRCD determines the scope and emphasis of our programs and projects through both an annual and long-term strategic planning process. New endeavors are either brought to us by other entities, new Farm Bill programs, or through scientific innovations. Staff adeptly create major goal areas and substantiate goal areas with specific objectives and budgets. The Board reviews staff recommendations for annual workplans, requesting modifications if necessary. Please go to the ACRCD website at [www.acrcd.org](http://www.acrcd.org) to view the plans.

I would like to take this opportunity to illustrate the importance of the District's contributions to the agricultural and rangeland community in Alameda County by identifying the types of special projects we develop and implement, which reflect our mission which is to 'provide leadership in Alameda County in natural resources conservation and agricultural enhancement'. Most of the program categories listed below were funded through state and federal grants, an agency requiring the service, or NRCS Farm Bill programs:

- ▶ Climate Resilient Rangeland Improvement Projects Including Pond Restoration for Cattle and Wildlife
- ▶ Water Quality Protection, Enhancement & Conservation
- ▶ Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
- ▶ Federal & State Permit Support for Farmers, Ranchers and Agencies
- ▶ Conservation Education
- ▶ Soil Conservation on Agricultural & Non-Agricultural Lands
- ▶ Fuels Management
- ▶ Urban Resource Conservation

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District is proud of our program achievements, most of which could not have occurred without the support of one or more of our partner organizations. We look forward to continuing to serve Alameda County, and hope to learn about your conservation needs and how we may help you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine Boxer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Katherine Boxer  
Executive Officer



# 2016 Highlights

## What's New?

### New Management: Sunol AgPark

In 2015, the ACRCDC began discussions with Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE) and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) concerning the management of the Sunol AgPark. Sitting in the shadow of the adjacent Sunol Water Temple [pictured], the AgPark is an 18-acre parcel on SFPUC watershed property demonstrating small-scale diversified agriculture in concert with public education and resource management best practices. The site had been carefully managed by SAGE for nearly a decade, and the ACRCDC is excited by the opportunity to take over this role in light of our close partnerships with the SFPUC and its experience supporting local farmers and resource conservation.



Much of 2016 was spent laying the ground work for a smooth transition, from updating leases, licenses and management agreements, to consulting with the farmers and other stakeholders regarding how management can be successfully continued. The SFPUC generously supported both SAGE and the ACRCDC in this transition, facilitating close coordination through the entirety of the process. The ACRCDC will assume full management in early 2017 as SAGE moves on to other exciting projects in the region.

### New Partners: Point Blue Conservation Science



Five years ago the NRCS partnered with Point Blue Conservation Science to add Partner Biologist positions to field offices throughout California. Recently, the Livermore NRCS staff has been augmented with the addition of a Partner Biologist to improve conservation work in Alameda County.

A Partner Biologist's role is to work with landowners to inventory resources and concerns, identify suitable conservation practices, evaluate them from a wildlife perspective, and identify funding programs to incentivize enhancement activities. Biologists will be targeting improvements to wildlife habitat across these landowners' properties, working to create an environment where desired species have a chance to thrive. Through Point Blue's Rangeland Watershed Initiative, Partner Biologists also focus on efforts to re-water California rangelands and work with rangeland managers to implement sustainable practices which can increase soil organic carbon, reduce soil compaction and minimize bare ground. These practices may also bring back year round creek flows and increase forage production, helping to counteract extended drought.

The addition of a Partner Biologist is an example of how the Conservation Partnership continues to grow and develop in order to better serve Alameda County. For more information about Point Blue and their work, visit their website at <http://www.pointblue.org/>.





## Special Award

### Outstanding Conservation Planning Team / Partnership: Wildlife Friendly Ponds

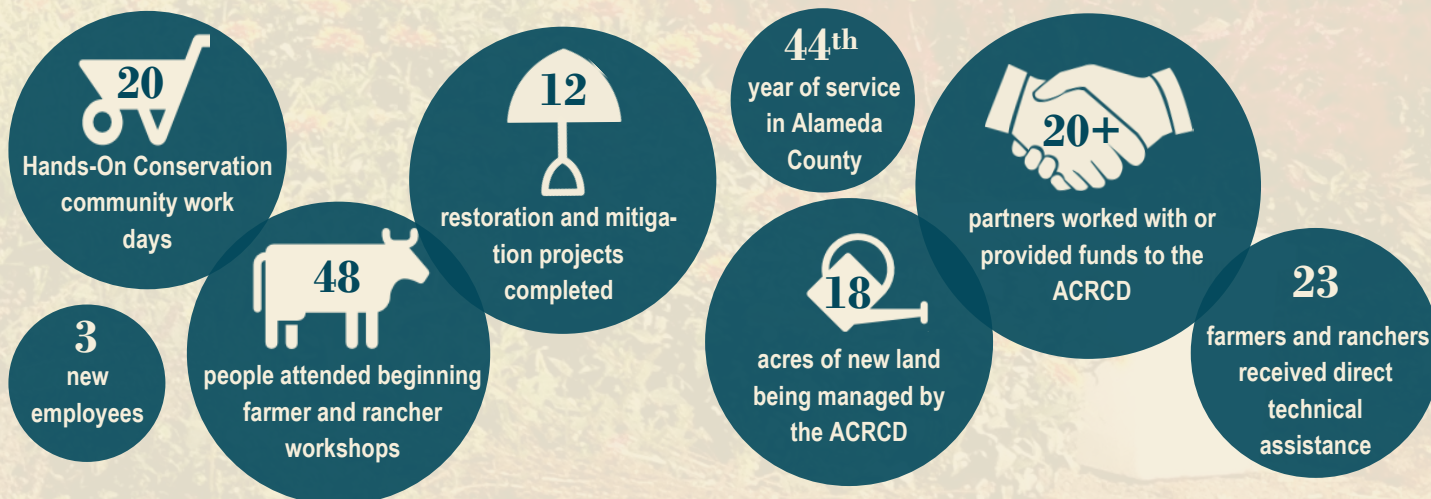
In 2016 the Alameda County Conservation Partnership was recognized with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) and NRCS staff for their efforts to preserve sensitive habitats throughout their jurisdictions. The Wildlife Friendly Pond team, begun over a decade ago, is a collaboration between the agencies that pools resources to help local landowners restore stock ponds on public and private rangelands, which provide important habitat for sensitive species, such as the California red-legged frog. Conservation planners from the Wildlife Friendly Pond team help landowners inventory and understand their resources, and provide them with scientifically sound options for pond and habitat improvement.



*Wildlife friendly pond on private property.*

The team was recognized for their rare and exemplary success of finding mutually beneficial projects for ranchers, rare amphibians, and environmental regulators. They were also commended for their dedication to refining methods for pond improvement, and for the significant growth of the program in recent years. The award was given by the NRCS and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and was presented during the 71st annual California Association of Resource Conservation Districts' conference in Ontario, California. The Wildlife Friendly Pond program received funding from partners including the State Coastal Conservancy, the State Wildlife Conservation Board, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, public and private landowners and the NRCS.

### 2016 by the Numbers





# 2016 Ongoing Work |

## Programs

### Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

#### 2016 Workshops

In 2016, the ACRCDC celebrated its fifth year of providing workshops to beginning farmers and ranchers in Alameda County. To date, the ACRCDC has worked with partners to host over 30 workshops, with topics ranging from land tenure agreements, to managing outdoor hogs, to olive oil production, to meat slaughter and processing.

In 2016, the ACRCDC hosted three new workshops: Ranching for Profit, Introduction to Ranching with Wildlife, and Holistic Management Whole Ranch Planning. These workshops were led by experts from organizations such as the U.C. Cooperative Extension, Holistic Management International, Range Management Consultants Inc., and Swaim Biological. The program will host at least three more workshops in 2017, focusing on subjects including olive tree pruning, cattle production, and grazing plan development. This program is supported through the USDA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant. For more information visit the Beginning Farmer and Rancher webpage: <http://www.acrcd.org/NewFarmersRanchers.aspx>.



#### Technical Assistance

The ACRCDC and NRCS continue to work together to offer one-to-one technical assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers, a cornerstone service of the Program. Technical assistance targets individuals who have just started out in, or who may be considering entering, the agricultural sector. In 2016 technical assistance was given to over a dozen new farmers and ranchers in Alameda County.

NRCS and ACRCDC staff work with interested parties to answer questions about conservation programs and on-the-ground production. We also provide services including on-site consultations, office-based meetings, and resource compilation and dissemination. Through the technical assistance program, we introduce new farmers and ranchers to local experts who may help them as well. Since 2012, Partnership staff has made contact with hundreds of beginning farmers and ranchers through this amazing program.



[Above] A cow eyes passing ACRCDC staff.

[At right] Beginning ranchers attend the Holistic Management Whole Ranch Planning Workshop. Conservation Partnership staff offer technical assistance to a local couple planning to run a small-scale livestock operation on their land.



## Technical Workshops: Native Species of Alameda County

The ACRCD regularly hosts technical workshops designed to assist local landowners, land managers, biological consultants, researchers and other interested parties in better understanding and recognizing the federally or state listed threatened and endangered species that make their homes in Alameda County. The workshops cover information such as species identification and life history, field sampling techniques, and habitat requirements. Workshops are hands-on, typically including one day of in-class learning, and a second day in the field with the wildlife. In 2016, the ACRCD held a California red-legged frog workshop in the Los Vaqueros watershed, marking the 12th consecutive year the ACRCD has hosted this workshop. The workshop was led by Trish and Greg Tartarian, who have over 20 years of combined experience working with native California wildlife. With limited space to ensure active learning for all participants, the workshop quickly filled to capacity. We look forward to hosting more workshops in 2017— including another California red-legged frog workshop in April, as well as an Alameda whipsnake workshop in the summer of 2017. Visit our website at <http://www.acrcd.org/Workshops.aspx> for additional information on dates and registration for upcoming workshops. Below, you can find out more about some of the species we feature in our technical workshops.



The California red-legged frog is the largest native frog in California. Often found in stock ponds, reservoirs and other slow moving or still bodies of water, these frogs do best with habitat features such as aquatic vegetation and deep water for protection from predators. Declining populations due to invasive species and habitat loss led to the listing of this frog as “Federally Threatened” in 1996.



The California tiger salamander is a mysterious creature. A member of the family Ambystomatidae, they are more commonly referred to as “mole salamanders”, because they spend much of their life underground—making their homes in rodent burrows. Threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, the California tiger salamander was listed as “Federally Threatened” in 2004, and “State Threatened” in 2010.



The Alameda whipsnake (also called the Alameda striped racer) needs a variety of habitats—relying on East Bay coastal scrub and oak woodland communities for hunting, rocky areas for hiding and hibernation, and grasslands during and just after mating. Threatened by increased urban sprawl throughout their range, the whipsnake has been listed as “State and Federally Threatened” for over two decades.



# 2016 Ongoing Work

## Programs

### Alameda Creek Healthy Watershed Program

The Alameda Creek Healthy Watershed Program supports implementation of sediment and erosion-reduction best management practices within the Alameda Creek watershed. In 2012, the ACRCD received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco Bay Area Water Quality Improvement Fund for this program. Grant funding was to be used for projects which helped improve important habitat for native and anadromous fish in the Alameda Creek watershed, with completion scheduled for 2017.

To date, six projects have been developed with private ranch managers and another four have been coordinated with public agency partners. Staff from both the ACRCD and NRCS are providing technical expertise, planning projects and monitoring results. The NRCS is assisting with cost-share on implementation. Project practices include establishment of stream buffers, enhancement plantings in riparian areas, developing off-stream livestock water as alternatives to watering from creeks, grazing management planning, and gully repairs. Post-construction monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of projects is ongoing, and will continue into 2017.



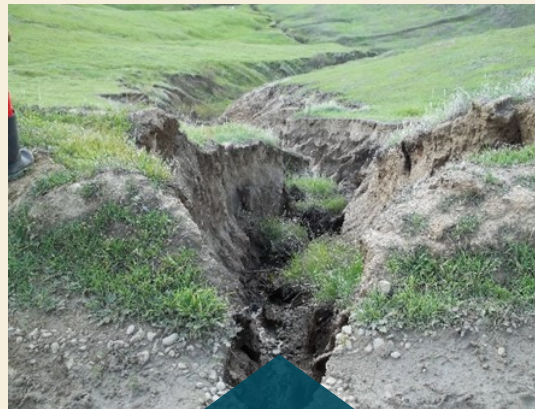
**Before:** An NRCS Range Conservationist conducts vegetation monitoring and identifies opportunities for conservation best practices at a private ranch.



**After:** Follow up monitoring reveals flourishing vegetation after erosion-reduction best management practices were implemented at the same site.



**After [below]:** Two years later, the drainage is capturing sediment and native riparian plantings are thriving.



**Before:** Severe gully erosion visible on SFPUC Sunol Watershed Lands.



**After:** Repairs and mitigation measures have drastically reduced the erosion at this site only a year later.





## Alameda County Rangeland Resilience Pilot Project

Launched in 2015, the Rangeland Resilience Project (Project) will improve distribution of livestock water sources on public lands to enhance habitat, grazing operations, and resilience under climate stressors (e.g. drought). In 2016, the ACRCDC, with funding from the State Coastal Conservancy (Climate Ready Grant), collaborated with the NRCS, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), AECOM Technical Services, and EBRPD and SFPUC's joint grazing tenant to rehabilitate and restore existing water sources throughout the Sunol Regional Wilderness.

Comprised of three major components, the Project is aimed at increasing resilience to climate uncertainties and improving grazing practices through: (1) rehabilitation and redistribution of water resources – focusing on developed springs and existing livestock ponds, (2) monitoring rehabilitated areas for efficacy of watering facility improvements, and (3) outreach to inform land managers of the Project outcomes, and how these outcomes influence best management practices for grazing on naturalized annual grasslands.

Three livestock water distribution projects are currently in progress. An additional livestock water distribution project and at least two pond restoration projects are in development for 2017.



**[Left to Right]** Staff from the collaborating agencies evaluate a site for stockwater improvement;

The grazing manager inspects a spring area scheduled for repair; Conservation Partnership staff prepare for an amphibian species survey in a pond slated for desedimentation.

**[At left]** An ACRCDC Biologist assesses a pond spillway scheduled for repair.



# 2016 Ongoing Work

## Projects

### Supporting Projects Across the County

The ACRCDC provides services for on-the-ground projects throughout Alameda County. Involvement in these projects can vary, ranging from fee for services, to coordinating permits, to direct technical assistance. Often, we serve as the link between the many and diverse stakeholders in a project, taking a leadership role when necessary to get complex projects implemented.

The ACRCDC seeks opportunities to demonstrate progressive conservation techniques and to facilitate the use of locally appropriate solutions for resource and agricultural challenges throughout the County. While we are involved in many projects throughout our district, the following two endeavors highlight some of the many ways the ACRCDC can be of service in on-the-ground project implementation.

### City of Livermore Stream Maintenance Program



Airway Boulevard stream crossing hosts many native species.

In 2013, the ACRCDC began working in a fee-for-service capacity with the City of Livermore in its efforts to implement their newly adopted Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) to address permitting and ongoing maintenance needs within eastern Alameda County. The SMP was developed by the City and their consultant, ICF International, and builds off similar programs in Sonoma and Santa Clara counties.

The ACRCDC is involved to complete the final permitting stages of the program, and will also oversee the implementation. This includes coordinating with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Stream Maintenance Program is intended to provide a streamlined permitting mechanism for the City and their partners to undertake stream maintenance, which will address localized flooding and maintenance needs and jointly improve habitat conditions within the streams for riparian and aquatic habitat.



Heather Lane bridge prior to SMP work to remove excess vegetation restricting water flows.

*Carex barbarae*, a native sedge found in the City of Livermore's riparian areas.





## Stonybrook Creek Habitat Restoration Project

In 2016, the ACRCD oversaw the successful implementation of the Stonybrook Creek Habitat Restoration Project—designed to improve fish passage conditions within Stonybrook Creek, along Palomares Road in Alameda County. The project included the retrofit of an existing County-owned culvert and a full bridge replacement to improve access for native fish, including landlocked rainbow trout and anadromous steelhead.

Stonybrook Creek is a priority stream for restoration of steelhead habitat because of its location in the lower watershed. This creek remains fairly free of urban influences and is spring-fed with cool flows, making it one of the most important salmonid tributaries in our region. Additionally, it is the first tributary off Alameda Creek from the Bay that salmonids will be able to travel once passage is improved downstream at the BART weir.

The project was funded through an appropriation received in 2010 by Alameda County through the NRCS PL566 program. The appropriation was directed to the ACRCD from former Congressman Fortney Pete Stark, with the support of District 1 Supervisor Scott Haggerty. Additional funding was provided through a grant from the EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, San Francisco Estuary Partnership, Alameda County Public Works Agency, Zone 7 Water Agency, and mitigation fine funds from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.



The slope of the culvert combined with the perched outlet was a significant barrier to fish passage



The old culvert conditions produced insufficient water depths and high water velocities limiting fish passage



The boulder jam at the inlet of the culvert served as a full passage barrier within the stream



The bridge replacement and regraded channel with step pools improve passage conditions



Baffles were added to retrofit the culvert to increase water depth and decrease water velocities within the culvert



The boulder jam was removed and the channel regraded into a step-pool morphology

B e f o r e

A f t e r



# 2016 Ongoing Work

## Education and Outreach

### Youth and Community Stewardship

The ACRCDC offers two innovative, ongoing conservation education and stewardship programs for youth: Hands-On Conservation (HOC) and the Palomares Elementary School Watershed Education Program. Both programs educate and give field experience in conservation, stewardship, wildlife enhancement, agriculture, and watershed protection to Alameda County youth. While engaging in stewardship activities in natural and agricultural areas, students also learn about careers and educational opportunities in these fields. Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District's Clean Water Program continues to generously provide primary funding for the programs.

#### Hands-On Conservation



Conceived by ACRCDC staff members nearly a decade ago, the Hands-On Conservation program continues to provide opportunities for local youth and community volunteers to clean up creeks, plant native species to improve wildlife habitat, and remove invasive plants in a number of Alameda County Watersheds.

In 2016, Hands-On Conservation flourished. Nearly 20 workdays and events were hosted by the program, welcoming volunteers of all ages from across the county. The program also developed new partnerships this year, collaborating with the Newark Parks Foundation for plantings and cleanups near Plummer Creek, assisting with workdays at a new restoration site on Crow Creek, and working with the city-led Green Streets project to provide education and stewardship at the new rain gardens in Union City.

#### Palomares Elementary School Watershed Education Program



The Palomares Elementary School Watershed Education program celebrated 15 years of providing outdoor education to elementary school students in Castro Valley in 2016. The program includes weekly creek studies for first through fifth grades at the outdoor classroom along the creek on Palomares Elementary School grounds. The program is led by a former teacher at the school, who also leads the Junior Naturalists and the Palomares Creek Restoration Tour Guides after school programs. The annual Palomares Watershed Science Expo hosted over 1,500 students from 3rd grade classes across the San Lorenzo Creek watershed in May. Students at the Expo rotated through activity stations staffed by local environmental science focused agencies and organizations.



*[Above]* Students from the Head-Royce School participate in a native species planting at the Sunol Ag Park.

*[At left]* Community volunteers participate in a creek clean-up day in Castro Valley; Students check out the creek critters station at the 2016 Expo.



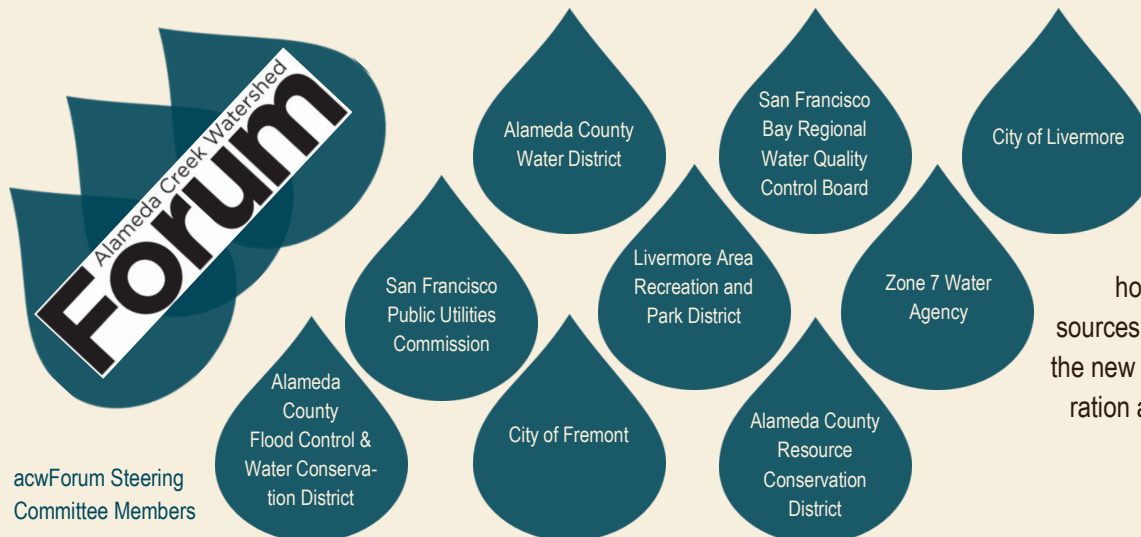
## Clean Water Public Information and Outreach Program

The ACRCD continues to provide assistance to the Alameda County Clean Water Program's Unincorporated Area and Flood Control and Water Conservation District programs via coordination of the Public Information and Outreach Program. This program is mandated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in an effort to raise awareness of the impacts of stormwater pollution in local communities. A large component of the program involves attending outreach events and providing seasonal stormwater pollution prevention tips to the public through interactive games and activities at our booth.

In the fall, we focus on reducing the amount of litter that ends up in our creeks and the Bay, and each spring we talk about using less toxic methods to eliminate pests around the home and garden. We work closely with city representatives through the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program to collaboratively implement outreach efforts that help improve water quality. The Public Information and Outreach Program also includes a storm drain marking program, a Countywide stormwater pollution prevention awareness campaign, maintaining a storm water point of contact, citizen involvement events, and watershed stewardship collaborative efforts.



ACRCD interns provide seasonal stormwater pollution prevention tips to the public through interactive games and activities at the Clean Water Program's booth.



## Alameda Creek Watershed Forum

ACRCD staff continue to provide coordination for the Alameda Creek Watershed **Forum** (acwForum), formerly the Alameda Creek Watershed **Council**. The name change coincided with efforts to update and streamline the group's ability to serve watershed stakeholders. The acwForum serves in a similar capacity as the Council as a voluntary, non-regulatory partnership of stakeholders interested in protecting and enhancing water-related beneficial uses and resources within the Alameda Creek watershed. The change in name to the acwForum and the new website are meant to reflect a renewed focus on information-sharing and collaboration among agencies and organizations that have an interest in working toward a well-managed and restored watershed.

To find out more about the acwForum, visit <http://www.acwforum.org/>.



# 2016 Partners and Clients

## Working Together to Accomplish More

**The ACRCDD is able to accomplish its goals and objectives largely due to our collaboration with other agencies. Our clients and partners play a vital role in furthering our mission of natural resources conservation and agricultural enhancement through funding, in-kind services, and cooperative efforts. We are grateful for their support.**

AECOM • Alameda County Board of Supervisors • Alameda County Fire Department • Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Alameda County Public Works • Alameda County Water District • Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program • Alameda Creek Alliance • Applied Water Resources • Bay Area Rapid Transit • California FarmLink • California Association of Resource Conservation Districts • California Cattlemen's Association • California Coastal commission • California Department of Fish and Wildlife • California Rangeland Conservation Coalition • California Rangeland Trust • California State Coastal Conservancy • Carbon Cycle Institute • Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration • City of Fremont • City of Livermore • City of Union City • City Slicker Farms • Confluence Landscape Contracting and Environmental Consulting • Contra Costa Alameda County Cattlemen's Association • Contra Costa Flood Control & Water Conservation District • Contra Costa Resource Conservation District • Contra Costa Water District • EarthTeam • East Bay Municipal Utilities District • East Bay Regional Park District • Eden Urban Farms • Farm Bureau • Fleet Farming • Friends San Lorenzo Creek • Friends Sausal Creek • Friends of Springtown Preserve • Friends of the Arroyos • Fugro Consultants, Inc. • GHD, Inc. • Gigantic Idea Studio • Guadalupe - Coyote Resource Conservation District • Hanford Applied Restoration and Conservation • Hayward Area Recreation District • Hayward Neighborhood Garden • Holistic Management International • International Rescue Committee • KCI Environmental, Inc. • Livermore Area Recreation and Park District • Mike Love and Associates • National Marine Fisheries Service • Natural Resources Conservation Service • National Center for Appropriate Technology -ATTRA • Newark Parks Foundation • North Oakland Land Trust • Oakland Food Policy Council • Orion Environmental Associates • Palomares Elementary School • Point Blue Conservation Science • San Francisco Bay Joint Venture • San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve • San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board • San Francisco Estuary Institute • San Francisco Estuary Partnership • San Francisco Public Utilities Commission • Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority • State Water Resources Control Board • State Wildlife Conservation Board • Sustainable Agriculture Education • Sustainable Conservation • Swaim Biological • The Nature Conservancy • The Trust for Public Land • The Watershed Nursery • Tri-Valley Conservancy • Trout Unlimited • United States Army Corps of Engineers • United States Geological Survey • United States Environmental Protection Agency • United States Fish and Wildlife Service • University of California Cooperative Extension • Zone 7 Water Agency

California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*) on grazed rangeland in the spring.





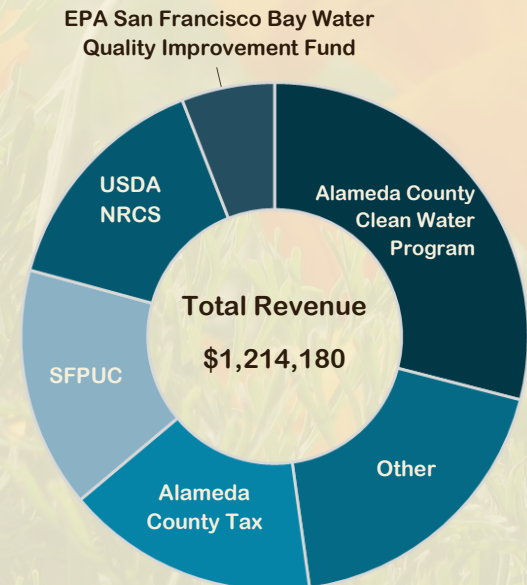
# 2016 Financials

## Operating Revenues and Expenses

### Revenues

#### Revenue for Fiscal Year 2016

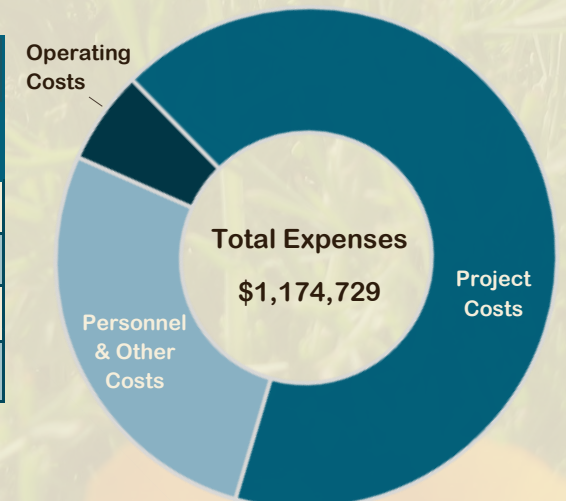
| Revenue Categories                                   | Dollar Amount      | %           |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| Alameda County Clean Water Program                   | \$352,224          | 29%         |
| San Francisco Public Utilities Commission            | \$186,165          | 15%         |
| USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service          | \$180,261          | 15%         |
| EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund | \$72,099           | 6%          |
| Alameda County Property Tax                          | \$195,257          | 16%         |
| Other  | \$228,174          | 19%         |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                                 | <b>\$1,214,180</b> | <b>100%</b> |



### Expenses

#### Expenses for Fiscal Year 2016

| Expense Categories      | Dollar Amount      | %           |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Project Costs           | \$650,352          | 67%         |
| Personnel & Other Costs | \$457,903          | 27%         |
| Operating Costs         | \$66,474           | 6%          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$1,174,729</b> | <b>100%</b> |



The ACRCD strives to minimize costs, while being efficient with expenditures.



# 2016 Staff

## The Conservation Partnership

### Who We Are



*[Top row from left]* Ling He, Kyle Marsh, Jackie Charbonneau, Rachelle Hedges, Susan Ellsworth, Rebekah Reische

*[Bottom row from left]* Amy Evans, Leslie Koenig, Alyson Aquino, Katie Bergmann, Hannah Ormshaw, Ian Howell, Cynthia Butler, Katherine Boxer, Marilyn Harvey

For more information about staff and their areas of expertise, please visit <http://acrcd.org/AboutUs/StaffDirectory.aspx>

### What We Do

ACRCD and NRCS Staff at work in the field.



An ACRCD Biologist meets with a rancher to evaluate a stock pond and discuss management options on the land he leases.



The NRCS Range Conservationist and Ecologist meet with a land owner to discuss weed management on her property.



The ACRCD's Food Systems Specialist visits a beginning avocado farmer at the Hayward Community Garden.



# Board of Directors

## Meet Our Board



**Darrel Sweet, Vice President** Darrel is a fifth generation California landowner and rancher, who is involved with numerous conservation and rangeland management organizations. In addition to working as a Resource Conservation District Director for 19 years, Darrel is the past President of the Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee, The California Rangeland Trust, the California Cattlemen's Association, and the Contra Costa—Alameda County Cattlemen's Association. Currently serving as Vice President, Darrel has been an active member of the ACRCD board since 2011.



**Bill Hoppes** Born and raised in the Bay Area, Bill's education and career have taken him across the United States and back again. Upon completing his M.S. in Environmental Biology at CSU Hayward, he worked as an Environmental Scientist (ES) for the El Paso Natural Gas Company. After earning his PhD from U.I. Urbana-Champaign, he served on the faculty at SUNY, Plattsburgh, was executive director of a non-profit in the D.C. area, and served as an ES with the EPA. Bill joined LLNL in 1991, first as an Environmental Scientist and later as a Water Guidance and Monitoring Group Leader. Since retiring, he has transitioned to supporting conservation through volunteer roles with the Tri-Valley Conservancy, Ohlone Audubon and the ACRCD.



**Dolores Bengston** Dolores was a Park and Recreation Professional from 1968-1998, working as the Director of Parks and Community Services for the City of Pleasanton for nearly 20 years. As Director, she provided support to the Pleasanton City Council and the Park and Recreation Commission to implement an open, citizen driven process. Dolores led city hikes in Augustin Bernal Park and Pleasanton Ridge as well as wildflower hikes for the Pleasanton Garden Club for many years. She volunteers regularly, both locally and internationally, as a member of the Leatherback Turtle Project in Costa Rica, as Co-Chair of the LWVLAV study on Agriculture and Open Space, as a member of Alameda County Agriculture Advisory Committee, and as a member of the E. Alameda County Conservation Strategy Users Advisory Group.



**Dan Sachau, Treasurer** A lifelong resident of the Livermore valley, Dan has spent many years managing land in Alameda County. After receiving his B.S. from Cal Poly, San Louis Obispo in 1976, Dan returned to Livermore to work as a Construction Manager for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). In addition to his 30 year career at LLNL, Dan has been an avid cattle rancher and vineyard owner in the region for many years. Dan has served as the Treasurer since 2012, and in addition to these duties, serves as a member of both the Executive Committee and Finance Committee.



**Laura Mercier** Laura became the Executive Director for Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) in 2011, after having held several roles at TVC since 2002. Prior to joining TVC, she worked 15 years as a Project Manager / Engineer for Boeing in Long Beach, CA. She also consulted as a Project Manager for a wide range of companies including Environmental Education for Kids, Culldez Product Development, and Thermal Press International. In 1998, Laura moved back to Livermore to be closer to family. As Executive Director for TVC, Laura understands what it takes to run all aspects of an organization preserving open space and agriculture land. Laura is excited to assist and support ACRCD to be a strong organization that maintains viable partnerships with the NRCS as well as other public agencies, private landowners and other organizations.



**Marilyn Russell** Marilyn is a third generation rancher, now managing her family's 5,000 acre ranch in Mendocino County. A retired biology teacher, Marilyn taught Livermore HS students about native flora and fauna for over 30 years. Marilyn is an avid equestrian, competing in long distance endurance rides, participating in Historic Trails rides, and currently active as the Vice President of the Tri-Valley Trailblazers. Currently, Marilyn is very involved with the Friends of Tesla Park. A member of the CA Rangeland Trust, Mendocino County Farm Bureau, and CA Rangeland Conservation Coalition, Marilyn is extremely active in ranching and conservation organizations in Alameda County, and throughout California.

## A special thank you to outgoing President Becky Dennis

On behalf of the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, I would like to express the District's deepest appreciation to Becky Dennis for her inspired and tireless leadership as President of the Board of Directors, and as a long-time Board member and Associate Director. Becky's knowledge of the region and its natural resources along with her strong organizational and management skills made her an ideal fit on the Board of Directors. Becky has made lasting contributions to the District which will be long reflected in the District's programs. Join me in sending Becky best wishes as she moves forward in the pursuit of new endeavors!

-Katherine Boxer, Executive Officer



Becky Dennis  
Former President



# Looking Forward

## Programs and Projects Planned for 2017



### Soil Health and Carbon Farm Planning

The ACRCD has begun coordinating with partners, including the Carbon Cycle Institute, NRCS, and regional Resource Conservation Districts, to develop a new program addressing soil health and carbon sequestration on rangelands and croplands in Alameda County. Funding for demonstration projects to test the effects of conservation practices on soil health, soil carbon, soil water holding capacity, and habitat is anticipated in 2017.

**[Above]** An ACRCD Resource Conservationist assists with an NRCS soil sampling and compost application field trial.

### Sunol AgPark

As the ACRCD formally takes over management of the Sunol AgPark in 2017, we look forward to continued collaboration with the SFPUC and support of the eight farms currently located at the park. The Partnership will take time during this first year to revisit several documents that inform management priorities, including the 2008 Sunol AgPark Management Plan and Farm Policy. We will also work to support the AgPark Education Program for area school children as well as various service learning opportunities.



### Alameda County Watershed Symposium

The ACRCD is excited to announce that we will be working with Alameda Flood Control and Water Conservation District to hold a county-wide watershed symposium in early 2018. The Symposium will welcome local watershed stakeholders, and will highlight outstanding water resources management, innovative watershed management solutions, and new research taking place in Alameda County. Work for the symposium in 2017 will include securing a planning committee, developing a symposium theme, and cementing speakers and topics.



### Google Earth Watershed Maps for Eastern Alameda County

**Explore Watersheds**, an interactive, online watershed map, will be expanded in 2017 to include east Alameda County, thus completing coverage for Alameda County. San Francisco Public Utilities Commission joins the partners who collaborated on the 2014 western county map— Fugro Consultants, Alameda County Flood Control District, and the ACRCD— to develop the east county map. New layers will show creeks, water bodies, points of interest, and major stewardship and restoration projects. Explore Watersheds will be available online to the public, and featured as an interactive exhibit at the future Alameda Creek Watershed Center in Sunol.





The Alameda County Resource Conservation District extends a special thank you to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support of the District's programs and projects.

Scott Haggerty, District 1   Richard Valle, District 2   Wilma Chan, District 3   Nate Miley, District 4   Keith Carson, District 5



Century-old olive trees gleam in the summer sun at Hillcrest Ranch in Sunol.



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Alameda County Resource  
Conservation District

# 2013-2015 ACTIVITIES and FINANCE REPORT

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## New or Renewed Grants and Contracts, 2013-2015

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## 2013-2015 Spotlight Stories

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District has accomplished a great deal in the last few years, and we're excited to highlight some of our projects and programs in more detail with our spotlight stories, contained throughout the 2013-2015 Activities and Finance Report. From major grants, to local waterway improvements, to innovative uses of technology for public education, the ACRCD is excited to share what has been keeping us busy!



## A Message of Appreciation to Past President, Jim Perry

The Alameda County Resource Conservation District extends a sincere thank you to Jim Perry, who served as the ACRCD President and as a member of the Board of Directors during the years encompassed in this report, 2013-2015. His work as both a Board Member and President is appreciated by Conservation Partnership staff and Directors.



**[Cover Photo]** Western bluebirds utilize a custom built wildlife escape ramp during their morning bath. This ramp was provided through the Conservation Partnership's Alameda County Water for Wildlife Escape Ramp Project .



# Projects and Programs, 2013-2015

## 2013-2015 Projects and Programs

Between 2013 and 2015 the ACRCO successfully completed many projects, launched a number of new programs and projects, and continued many of our ongoing core programs. The following pages provide a brief overview of these projects and programs.

### Alameda County Ponds Mapping

A component of the State Coastal Conservancy Wildlife Friendly Ponds Program, the Alameda Ponds Mapping project gathered ponds information from six separate sets of data, then distilled this information to create one map point for each known pond in Alameda County. The final count of individual ponds totaled 1,331. This data set can be used to quickly determine water rights, location and species information in ponds as land is evaluated for restoration opportunities for landowners.

### Alameda County Water for Wildlife Escape Ramp Project

The ACRCO, with assistance from the NRCS, received a grant through the Alameda County 2014 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund to provide custom built escape ramps to private landowners at no cost. Ramps were installed in existing livestock water troughs on grazed rangeland throughout the county.

### BART Sabercat Creek Riparian Restoration: Phase 1

To offset riparian habitat losses from the Warm Springs Extension (WSX) project, BART satisfied the mitigation requirement by improving two acres of riparian habitat along Sabercat Creek. The Conservation Partnership was contracted to plan, implement, monitor and maintain the restoration activities.

### BART Sabercat Creek Riparian Restoration: Phase 2 Planting

BART determined that an additional 0.414 acres of riparian habitat would be impacted by the WSX, and provided additional funds to expand the restoration by 0.22 acres, described as "Phase 2", and improve the existing restoration conducted under Phase 1.

### Farm and Ranch Cleanup Grant Project

ACRCO assisted landowners with site assessments and grant applications to help remove legacy solid waste on sites that were, or could have been, used for rangeland or agricultural use.

### Growing Local

The Growing Local Program is intended to provide support to farmers and ranchers within the County and region through a series of initiatives promoting local food systems and markets.

## Altamont Creek Projects

The Conservation Partnership—through the Alameda Creek Healthy Watershed Program—and Zone 7 Water Agency completed two partnership projects on Altamont Creek in north Livermore, designed to increase vegetation cover and reduce streambank erosion. The Altamont Creek Confluence Planting Projects took place in February 2015, with assistance from more than 30 community volunteers who planted native vegetation on bare sections of streambank. Approximately 570 linear feet of streambank were planted with 700 native, locally-sourced plants to address sheet and rill erosion.



Less than a year later, the Altamont Creek Willow Demonstration Project was installed upstream. Native willows were planted to stabilize steep eroding streambanks. Ideally, Zone 7 will be able to adopt techniques from these projects to address future enhancement and erosion control projects. Staff from ACRCO, NRCS, and Zone 7 have enjoyed collaborating on, and learning from, the plantings. To fund this project, the ACRCO leveraged its Healthy Watershed grant from the EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, and Zone 7 is providing resources to support these efforts.



[Top left] Conservation Partnership staff give planting instructions to community volunteers; [Top right] Volunteers work hard to revegetate a bare streambank; [Bottom left] A before photo shows a near barren streambank; [Bottom right] After planting, green plants are beginning to establish and spread on the same bank.



## 2013-2015 Projects and Programs, Continued

### Rangeland Resilience Pilot Project

Launched in 2015, the Rangeland Resilience Project will improve distribution of livestock water sources on public lands to enhance habitat, grazing operations, and resilience under climate stressors (e.g. drought). Read more about this project on page 9 of the 2016 Annual Report!

### Watershed Map of Western Alameda County

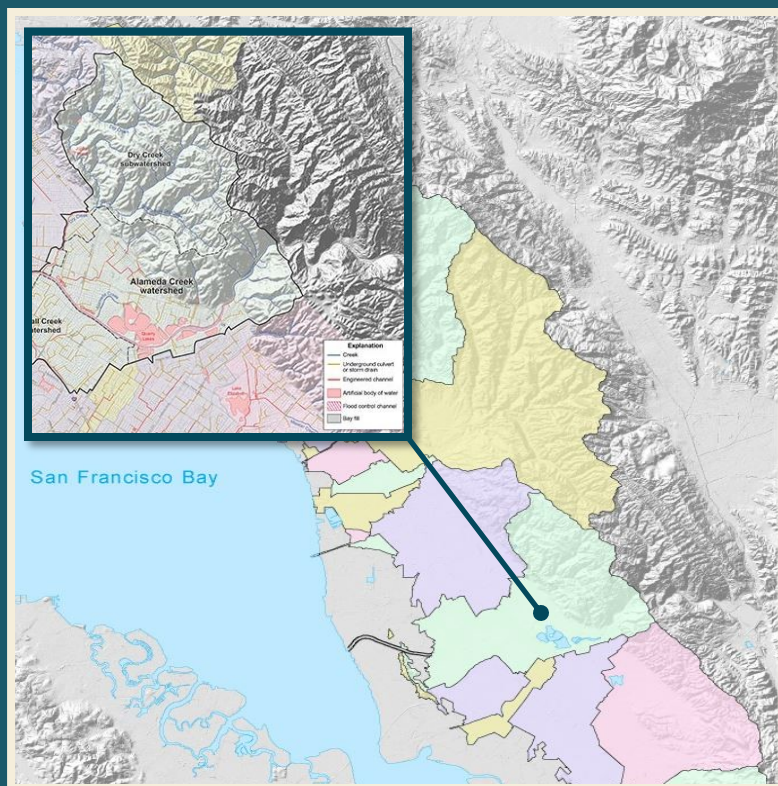
This interactive map features location of, and information about the watersheds located in Western Alameda County.

### Zone 7 Altamont Creek Projects

To reduce streambank and sheet erosion along Altamont Creek, the Confluence Planting Project took place in February 2015 with assistance from volunteers who planted native vegetation on bare sections of the bank.

### Zone 7 Vegetative Stream Bank Treatment Demonstration

The vegetative bank treatment demonstration used native sods and native riparian tree and shrub species to control canal bank failures along flood control canal lines B-5 and G-1-1 in Pleasanton, California owned and managed by the Zone 7 Water Agency.



### Explore Watersheds — An Interactive Map of Western Alameda County

Explore Watersheds is an interactive, online watershed education program that was completed in December 2014, in collaboration with the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (ACFC&WCD), the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (District) and Fugro Consultants. The interactive map features watersheds located in Western Alameda County. The map itself is a KMZ file that is free to download from the ACFC&WCD's website onto your personal Google Earth program. The map was built in layers, allowing users to turn features on and off. Layers include creek restoration projects, creeks, culverts, channels, historical features, roads and points of interest. Each watershed featured in the program contains a link to an information page with details on that watershed, including a downloadable PDF map, flora, fauna, major features, waterbodies, restoration efforts and volunteer opportunities.

This interactive, online watershed program was created to provide watershed tools that are easily accessible and customizable for individual users, and to increase use of watershed maps among naturalists and educators. It is also to be used as a tool to improve public knowledge about local watersheds. The program has been used by educators and environmental professionals since it was completed in 2014. The District has continued to work to keep the data in the program up to date.

[At left] A screen shot of the online interactive map; Each watershed can be clicked on to view additional details such as creek locations, artificial bodies of water, flood control channels, and locations and information about projects conducted by various organizations throughout the watershed.





# Ongoing Projects and Programs

## Hands on Conservation

*This program provides opportunities for local youth and community volunteers to clean up creeks, plant native species to improve wildlife habitat, and remove invasive plants in a number of Alameda County Watersheds.*

## Palomares Elementary School Watershed Program

*Students at Palomares Elementary School are provided outdoor education opportunities, such as weekly creek studies, on school grounds. This program also hosts the Palomares Watershed Science Expo for 3rd grade students.*

## Clean Water Program

*Focused on outreach to members of the public, city representatives and local school children, this program provides information about storm water pollution prevention, litter reduction, permit compliance, and water quality improvements.*

## Alameda Creek Watershed Forum

*The acwForum serves as a voluntary, non-regulatory partnership of stakeholders interested in protecting and enhancing water-related beneficial uses and resources within the Alameda Creek watershed.*

## Wildlife Friendly Ponds Program

*Livestock ponds rehabilitation program focused on habitat improvement and increased availability of drinking water for livestock.*

## Alameda Creek Healthy Watershed Program

*The Alameda Creek Healthy Watershed Program supports implementation of sediment and erosion-reduction best management practices within the Alameda Creek watershed.*

## Wildlife Friendly Ponds Program



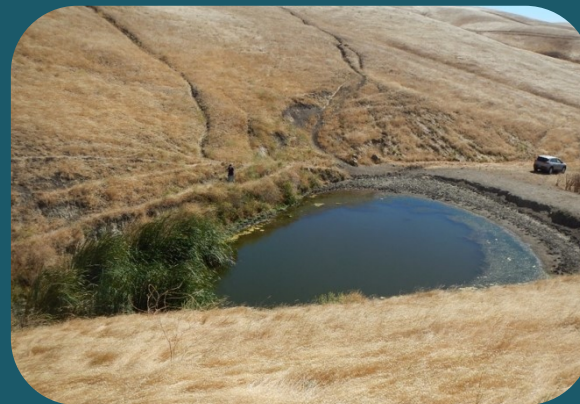
In 2014, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition sponsored the Wildlife-Friendly Livestock Pond Initiative, which provided a regional funding source from the NRCS to cooperators in Alameda and Contra Costa County. Funds were available to private landowners and public agency lessees through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and, in Alameda County, were matched with funds secured by the District from local, state and federal partners. These funds were used to rehabilitate livestock ponds for habitat and to provide a reliable source of drinking water for livestock.

Many of the livestock ponds in the East Bay were built 30-60 years ago, and are now reaching the end of their lifespans. In addition to providing a reliable water source for cattle and other livestock they also provide alternative high-quality aquatic habitat for native animal species, including the California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander. These ponds have become a vital feature on the landscape, as natural aquatic habitats have been converted or altered, and it is important that this supplemental habitat is not lost. Severe drought conditions were magnifying the importance of these ponds as a much-needed water source for livestock and wildlife, and reducing the ability for local ranchers to best manage the rangeland.

Building upon the success of the Wildlife Friendly Ponds program in Alameda County, the ACRCD and NRCS partnered with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District to support and expand pond rehabilitation efforts into Contra Costa County. In 2015, restoration was completed for eight livestock ponds on public and private rangelands.

The Wildlife Friendly Ponds Program continued successfully in 2016—read more about recognition received for this program on page 5—and we look forward to improving more ponds in 2017.

Funding for the implementation of these projects was provided by the NRCS, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Restoration Program and contributions from the landowners. The East Bay Regional Park District and the Zone 7 Water Agency contributed funding towards the projects implementation on their open space rangelands.



*[Above] Before [left] and after [right] photos of a pond which was repaired and desilted through the Wildlife Friendly Ponds Program.*



# Workshops & Field Days



## Outdoor Pig Production Workshop Series

In 2015, the ACRCDD launched a workshop series geared towards outdoor hog producers in the first ten years of production. The Workshop series focused on providing these producers with information about how to support production goals while still practicing sound natural resource management. Two workshops and one field day were offered as a part of this workshop series, and covered topics including how to manage pigs successfully within an oak woodland, how to effectively put hogs on pasture, management tactics for avoiding bare ground, infrastructure design, selecting the best breeds for pasture utilization, nutrition, the role of forage, mast and alternative feeds, and minimizing impacts of hog production while conserving resources.

Workshops included walking tours and presentations, and attendees were provided with a variety of educational materials to take back to their own farms and ranches. Workshops were held at Front Porch Farm in Healdsburg, Root Down Farm in Pescadero, and Magruder Ranch in Potter Valley, with experts from across the country joining to provide their expertise on outdoor pig production.



[Above] Hogs grazing on pasture during the tour at Magruder Ranch

## 2013

After the Grass: A Round-Table Discussion about Livestock Slaughter and Processing in the East and South Bay • California Red-Legged Frog Technical Species Workshop • California Tiger Salamander Technical Species Workshop • Farm and Ranch Succession Planning: Preserving Agricultural Lands for the Next Generation • Farm Hedgerow Workshop and Field Day • Grazing for Specialty Markets: An Introduction to Grass-Fed Beef Production in the East Bay • Introduction to Olive Tree Pruning and Olive Oil Tasting • Managing Soil Moisture: Introduction to Irrigation for Small-Scale Fruit and Vegetable Production • Marketing 101: Developing a Marketing Plan for Veggies, Fruits, and Other Specialty Crops • Olive Production Basics: Introduction to Irrigation Management

## 2014

Agri-Tourism Workshop • Alameda Whipsnake Technical Species Workshop • California Red-Legged Frog Technical Species Workshop • California Tiger Salamander Technical Species Workshop • Conservation Partnership Farm Bill Local Work Group Meeting • Drought Management Challenge for Ranchers • Frog Hollow Farm Tour—Orchard Management • Irrigation Management Workshop and Field Day • J.E. Perry Farm Tour—Cole Crop Production • Magruder Ranch—Outdoor Pig Production Series • Production 101 Workshop for Beginning Farmers • Riverdog & Free Spirit Farm Tours • Weed Management Workshop and Field Day • Yolo Press Farm Tour—Olive Production

## 2015

California Red-Legged Frog Technical Species Workshop • Carbon Farming Workshop • Front Porch Farm—Outdoor Pig Production Series • Grazing Leases Workshop • Irrigation System Evaluation Workshop • Root Down Farm—Outdoor Pig Production Series



# New or Renewed Grants and Contracts

## 2013

- ▶ Conservation Innovation Grant: Niche Hog Production
- ▶ EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Funds
- ▶ City of Livermore Agreement
- ▶ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Funding
- ▶ San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Memorandum of Understanding
- ▶ Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Contract

## 2014

- ▶ 2014 Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund Grant
- ▶ Wildlife Conservation Board Grant
- ▶ USDA Local Food Promotion Program Grant
- ▶ US Fish and Wildlife Partners Program Funds Grant
- ▶ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Funding
- ▶ San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Memorandum of Understanding
- ▶ Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Contract

## 2015

- ▶ State Coastal Conservancy Climate Ready Grant
- ▶ Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant
- ▶ East Bay Regional Park District Grazing Unit Management Plan Area: Plant Composition Monitoring Contract
- ▶ East Bay Regional Park District Garin Newt Pond Restoration Project: Permitting Assistance Contract
- ▶ EPA Healthy Watersheds Grant
- ▶ NRCS Contribution Agreements: Livestock Pond Planning & Implementation, and Community Garden Assistance
- ▶ San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Memorandum of Understanding
- ▶ Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Contract

### Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant



The ACRCDC received renewed grant funding in 2015 to support its work with new farmers and ranchers – i.e. those in the first 10 years of production. This funding, by way of the USDA's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, follows prior funding from the same source which enabled the district to put on a series of workshops, field days and technical assistance offerings between 2012 and 2014.

Through this programming, the ACRCDC engaged a wide range of producers from olive growers to vineyard owners or managers to ranchers and diversified mixed vegetable growers at the Sunol Ag Park. A big part of this work is connecting new producers with the resources they need to succeed in a very challenging industry. These resources include agricultural and resource professionals, other beginning producers, representatives from local markets and more experienced mentor producers – all of whom can help provide insight, support and opportunity during those challenging first years. Between 2012 and 2015, the ACRCDC provided training or technical assistance to more than 100 beginning farmers and ranchers through 21 workshops, 14 field days and many farm and ranch visits.



[At left] Olive pruning workshop at Hillcrest Ranch with Kathleen Elliot;  
[At right] Field day at Free Spirit Farm with Toby Hastings.

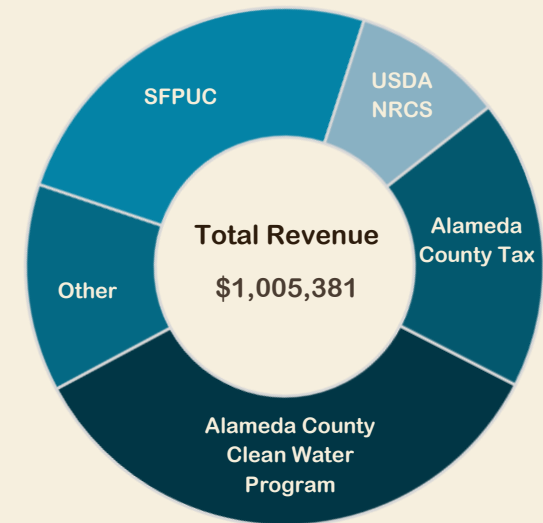


# 2013 Financials

## Revenues

### Revenue for Fiscal Year 2013

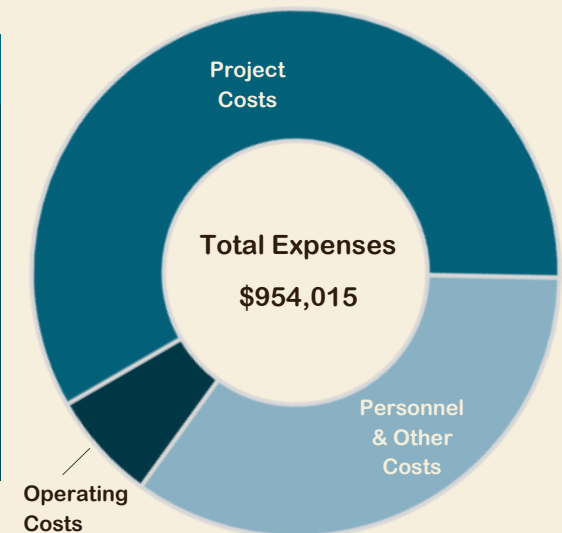
| Revenue Categories                          | Dollar Amount      | %           |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| Alameda County Clean Water Program          | \$348,052          | 35%         |
| San Francisco Public Utilities Commission   | \$249,592          | 25%         |
| USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service | \$95,181           | 9%          |
| Alameda County Property Tax                 | \$182,085          | 18%         |
| Other                                       | \$130,471          | 13%         |
| <b>Total Revenue:</b>                       | <b>\$1,005,381</b> | <b>100%</b> |



## Expenses

### Expenses for Fiscal Year 2013

| Expense Categories      | Dollar Amount    | %           |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Project Costs           | \$559,313        | 58%         |
| Personnel & Other Costs | \$330,755        | 35%         |
| Operating Expenses      | \$63,947         | 7%          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$954,015</b> | <b>100%</b> |



The ACRCD strives to minimize costs, while being efficient with expenditures.

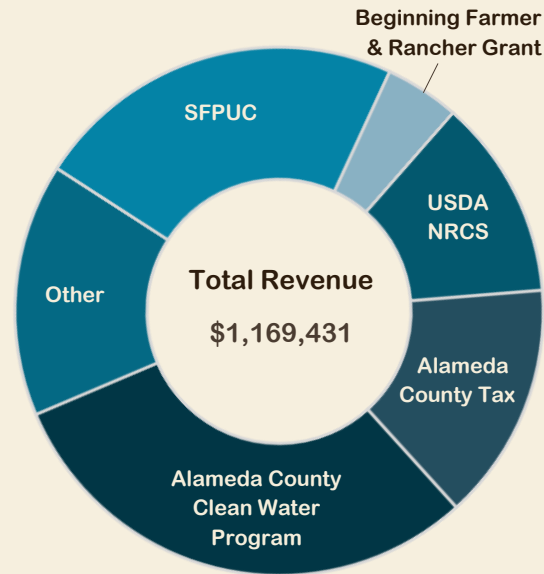
A calf grazes on private land in Alameda County during a Beginning Farmer and Rancher workshop



# 2014 Financials

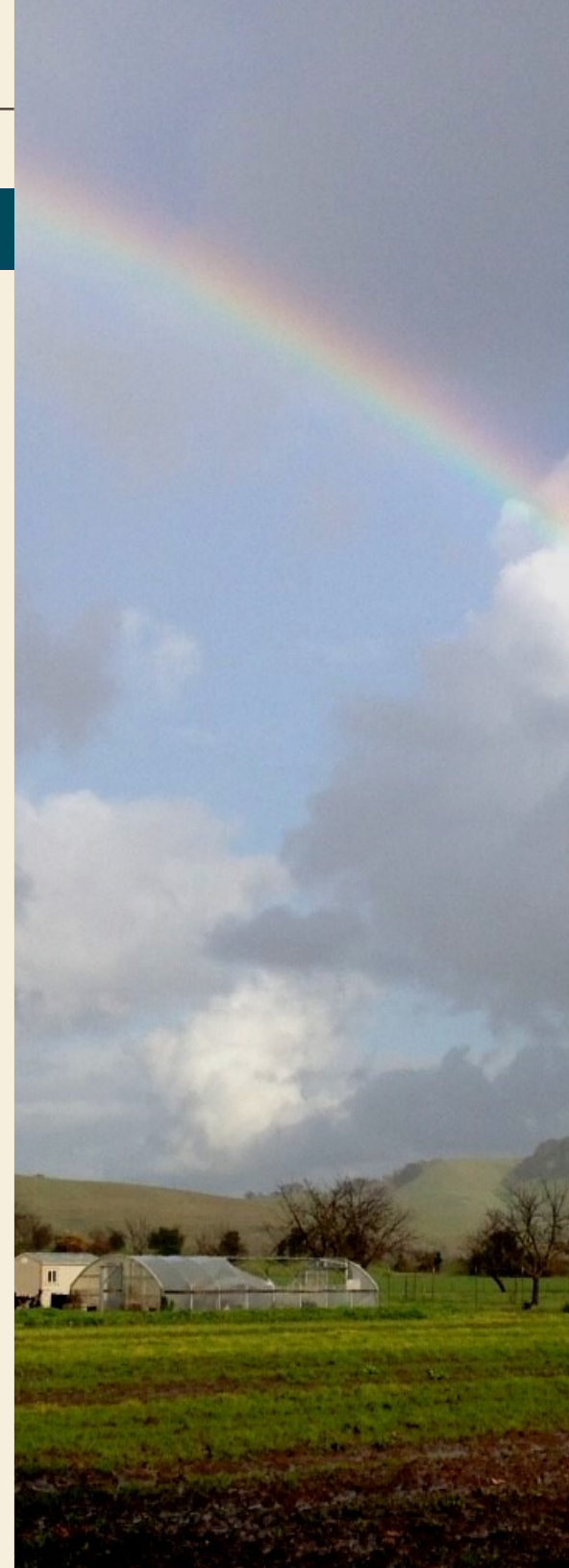
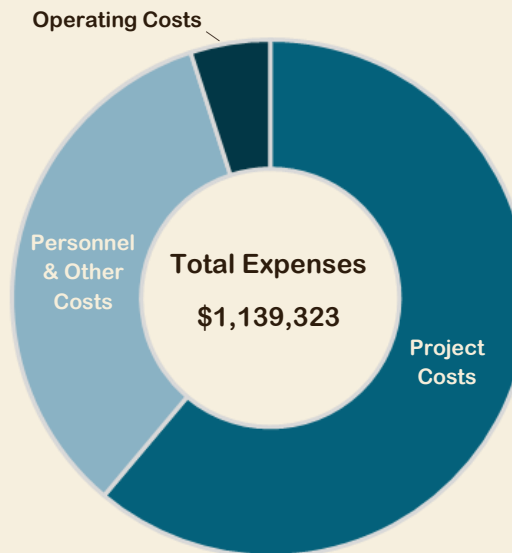
## Revenues

| Revenue for Fiscal Year 2014                           |                    |             |
|--|--------------------|-------------|
| Revenue Categories                                     | Dollar Amount      | %           |
| Alameda County Clean Water Program                     | \$354,618          | 30%         |
| San Francisco Public Utilities Commission              | \$266,482          | 23%         |
| USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service            | \$143,461          | 12%         |
| Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant | \$53,344           | 5%          |
| Alameda County Property Tax                            | \$170,389          | 15%         |
| Other  | \$181,137          | 15%         |
| <b>Total Revenue:</b>                                  | <b>\$1,169,431</b> | <b>100%</b> |



## Expenses

| Expenses for Fiscal Year 2014 |                    |             |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Expense Categories            | Dollar Amount      | %           |
| Project Costs                 | \$705,626          | 62%         |
| Personnel & Other Costs       | \$367,929          | 32%         |
| Operating Costs               | \$65,768           | 6%          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>         | <b>\$1,139,323</b> | <b>100%</b> |





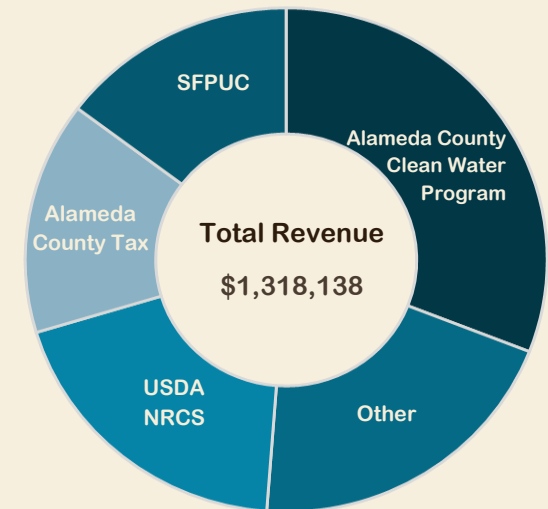
# 2015 Financials

## Operating Revenues and Expenses

### Revenues

#### Revenue for Fiscal Year 2015

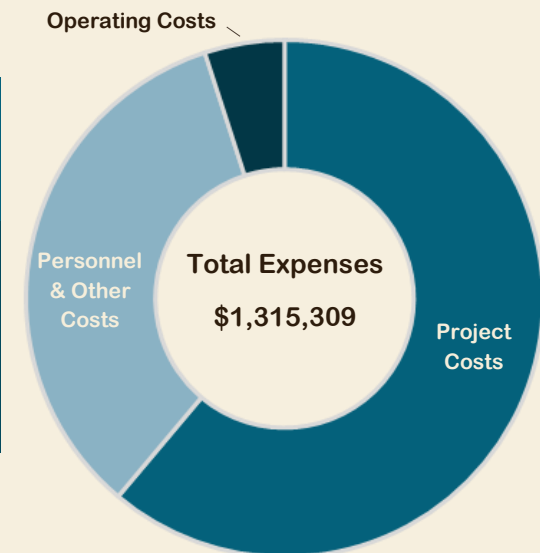
| <u>Revenue Categories</u>                   | <u>Dollar Amount</u> | <u>%</u>    |
|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Alameda County Clean Water Program          | \$407,601            | 31%         |
| San Francisco Public Utilities Commission   | \$252,598            | 19%         |
| USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service | \$196,512            | 15%         |
| Alameda County Property Tax                 | \$194,242            | 15%         |
| Other                                       | \$267,185            | 20%         |
| <b>Total Revenue:</b>                       | <b>\$1,318,138</b>   | <b>100%</b> |



### Expenses

#### Expenses for Fiscal Year 2015

| <u>Expense Categories</u> | <u>Dollar Amount</u> | <u>%</u>    |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Project Costs             | \$804,083            | 61%         |
| Personnel & Other Costs   | \$445,473            | 34%         |
| Operating Costs           | \$65,753             | 5%          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>     | <b>\$1,315,309</b>   | <b>100%</b> |



A rainbow emerges from stormy skies at the Sunol AgPark





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