

*Dear beloved friends of the ACRCO,*  
*Blah blah blah blah blah.....*



Laura Mercier  
ACRCO Board President



Katherine Boxer  
ACRCO Chief  
Executive Officer

### FY 2017 Financial Summary

Expenses (per 2017-2018 audited reports)	
Personnel	\$ 606,491
Contract Services	\$ 1,651,840
Office Expenses	\$ 27,722
Project Permits	\$ 17,645
Equipment & Field Supplies	\$ 14,922
Vehicle & Travel	\$ 14,037
Workshops, Meetings & Events	\$ 11,739
Liability Insurance	\$ 4,989
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,349,385</b>
Income Sources (per 2017-2018 audited reports)	
State grants	\$ 1,492,549
Local and Private Contracts	\$ 364,258
Federal grants	\$ 234,276
Donations, Fundraising & Interest	\$ 17,362
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,190,905</b>

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Alameda County Resource Conservation District  
3585 Greenville Road, Suite 2  
Livermore, California 94550-6710

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## Looking Forward

**Transportation Wildlife Corridor Initiative.** The ACRC D has partnered with the UC Davis Road Ecology Center to establish an initiative to develop and construct transportation wildlife corridors under or over the East Bay's major highways (Interstate 680, Interstate 580, and Highway 84). Wildlife need the capability to move through their natural ranges to survive. Rapidly increasing human population, fast-paced urban development, new highways and infrastructure, and land-use changes in the Bay Area has resulted in geographic islands with diminishing biodiversity on both the east and west sides of the surrounding rangelands and woodlands. If you would like to learn more about this initiative, please contact ACRC D's CEO or visit our new website.

**Monarchs & Milkweeds.** The western population of the monarch butterfly is at high risk of extinction, with their numbers plummeting over 95% in the past decade. To address this pressing issue, the ACRC D and NRCS are working together to develop a monarch program in the county that will focus on restoring milkweed (their host plant) and nectar plants on rangelands. We've received funding from the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission to begin collecting local milkweed seed and are collaborating with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts to apply for additional grants. We plan to host tours of the demonstration sites we are developing in collaboration with 7 ranchers, as well as other educational events. Stay tuned for more soon.

**Urban Agriculture Grant Program.** The ACRC D was thrilled to receive grant funding from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Urban Agriculture Initiative in 2019. This project will address three primary needs: the provision of expanded, site-specific technical assistance including soil health and water quality; workshops on topics critical to the success of natural resources conservation on urban farms, and District staff training and capacity building on relevant topics to urban producers.

**If you or your organization are interested in our programs or services, please contact us at:**

3585 Greenville Road, Suite 2, Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 453-3861 | [www.acrcd.org](http://www.acrcd.org)

Cover photo: Green Valley in Sunol Regional Wilderness in Alameda County (courtesy of USDA).



### Alameda County Resource Conservation District

**ACRC D Board Members:** Laura Mercier (President), Darrel Sweet (Vice President), Dan Sachau (Treasurer), Bill Hoppes, Marilyn Russel, Mark Connolly, and Niki Wentz.

**ACRC D Staff:** Katherine Boxer (CEO), Marilyn Harvey (CFO), Amy Evans, Cynthia Butler, Ian Howell, Susan Ellsworth, Andrew Engstrom, Hillary Sardiñas, PhD., and Kyle Marsh.

### Natural Resources Conservation Service

**NRCS Staff:** Alyson Aquino (District Conservationist), Jackie Charbonneau, Ling He, and Katie Bergmann.

Learn more about our staff and board members at our website [www.acrcd.org](http://www.acrcd.org)



# Alameda County Resource Conservation District

FY2017 & FY2018 Combined Annual Report

*Your Local Partner in Natural Resources Conservation and Agriculture*





# — Alameda County Resource Conservation District —

**Our Mission.** The mission of the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD) is to provide leadership in the county and region to enhance natural resources conservation, preserve wildlife and habitat, rangeland management and agricultural improvements through partnerships, education, outreach, resource services and technical assistance to clients, and funding support when feasible.

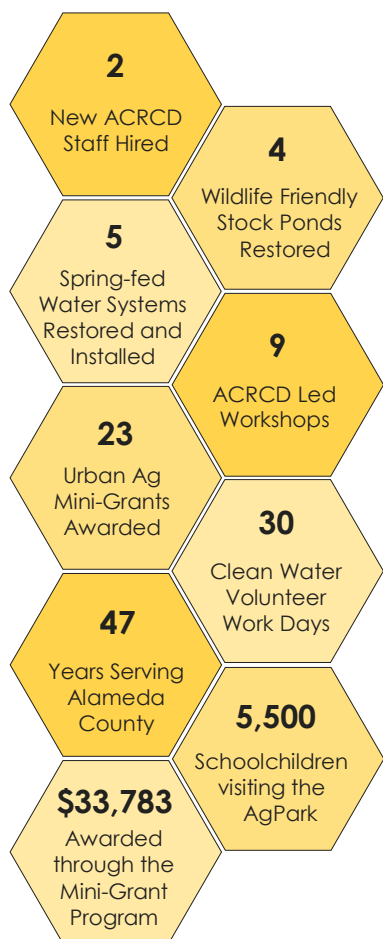
## The Conservation Partnership

The ACRCD and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Livermore staff work closely together to serve the conservation and agriculture needs of Alameda County. Housed in the same office, we work in collaboration as the Conservation Partnership (Partnership). The Partnership leverages expertise from both agencies to provide the best possible services for natural resource conservation and agricultural enhancement. We work with many entities, including private landowners, local, state, and federal agencies, non-profits and the private sector, to develop and implement best practices as applicable to the specific challenges identified.

## Our Services

ACRCD and NRCS provide a variety of services including:

- Ecosystem Management & Habitat Restoration
  - Habitat Assessments
  - Wildlife and Botanical Surveys
  - Restoration Project Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring
  - Streambank Restoration, Protection, and Improvements
  - Planning and Implementation of Transportation Wildlife Corridors
- Rangeland Ecology & Management
  - Development of Grazing Management Plans
  - Rangeland Health Surveys
  - Residual Dry Matter (RDM) and Plant Composition Monitoring
  - Livestock Pond Restoration and other Stockwater Improvements
  - Carbon Farm Planning and Implementation
- Education and Outreach
  - Workshops and Field Tours
  - Rangelands and Environmental Stewardship
  - Agriculture and Food Systems
  - Special Status Species Workshops
  - Conservation and Stewardship Education
- Technical Assistance
  - Landowner and Manager Support (Private Landowners, Manager Lessees, Local, State and Federal Agencies and Private Sector)
  - Urban Agriculture
  - Permitting Assistance
  - GIS Mapping



Learn more about our scope of services, projects, outreach and education events at our newly updated website [www.acrcd.org](http://www.acrcd.org)!



Top: Katie Bergmann (NRCS Engineer) loading hay onto the back of a pickup truck. Middle: A field of colorful wildflowers in bloom at the Sunol AgPark. Bottom: A group of people in a meeting room, with one person pointing at a presentation screen during a discussion at the Alameda County Confluence Conference.



Courtesy USDA



# FY2017-FY2018 Project Highlights

**Rangeland Resilience Project.** The Alameda County Rangeland Resilience Pilot Project increases ecosystem and cattle operation resilience to extreme drought by repairing and redistributing spring-fed stockwater systems and livestock ponds that are beneficial to grazing operations and wildlife. In collaboration with the East Bay Regional Park District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, a private grazing lessee, and the NRCS team, we restored four livestock ponds and five spring-fed water systems in the Sunol-Ohlone area.

**Sunol AgPark & Education Program.** In 2017, the ACRCDD took over the management of the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's Sunol AgPark. Currently within the AgPark, six small-scale organic farms produce fresh foods and flowers for various Bay Area communities. The SFPUC and ACRCDD partnership provides land and technical assistance to the farmers and hands-on environmental education programs for Bay Area school children. During these two years, the AgPark hosted approximately 5,500 schoolchildren on topics related to the Alameda Creek watershed, the water system, and sustainable agriculture.

**Alameda Creek Healthy Watershed Program.** The Healthy Watershed program concluded in 2017 with the completion of nine implementation and monitoring projects on a mix of public and private lands. Partnering with six ranchers and two public agencies, we supported a variety of projects aimed at improving water quality. Implemented strategies included developing three off-stream livestock water systems, developing two grazing management plans, completing two streambank enhancement and stabilization projects, and completing three erosion control efforts in ephemeral drainages and gullies. The program supported land owners and managers responsible for over 22 miles of creeks and drainages across 8,700 acres of land in the Alameda Creek watershed.

**Urban Farm Conservation Mini-Grant Program.** In 2014, the ACRCDD launched the Urban Farm Conservation Mini Grant Program after recognizing an ongoing unmet need to assist small urban food producers with scale-appropriate agricultural practices. Through this program, urban farms and gardens may apply for funds to support conservation practices that also enhance production capacity while enhancing water quality. In FY2017, 14 grants (6 mini-grants and 8 materials and supplies grants) were awarded, totaling \$13,500. In FY2018, 9 mini-grants were awarded totaling \$20,283. Primary funding for this program is provided by the Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District in collaboration with NRCS, UC Cooperative Extension, and USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

**Livermore Stream Maintenance Program.** The City of Livermore's (City) Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) is a streamlined permitting program designed to allow the City to identify and maintain waterways to prevent flooding and improve overall functioning. In 2016, the City contracted ACRCDD to assist the City of Livermore with numerous and ongoing SMP projects, permits and reporting requirements. ACRCDD staff have helped manage multiple stream maintenance projects throughout the Arroyos, including \$1.1 million in storm repair work following the high rainfall year of 2016-17 the destabilized banks and caused floods throughout the region. We also assist with the identification, revegetation and monitoring of mitigation sites which offset any impacts of within stream activities caused by the program.

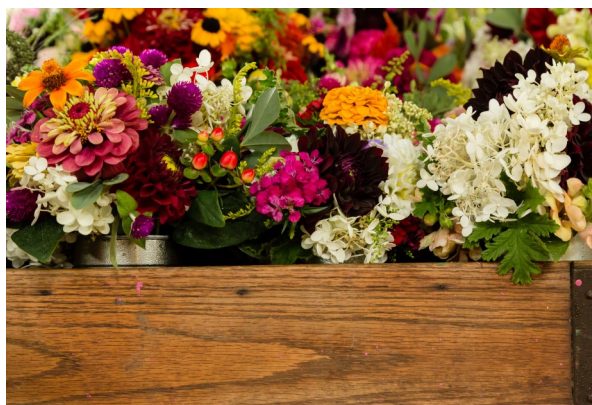
**Carbon Farm Planning.** Carbon farming encompasses a broad variety of agricultural practices that aim to increase the carbon sequestration potential of agricultural operations. We have begun assisting landowners, land managers, and various stakeholders in planning and implementing agricultural projects that will enhance soil conditions and improve carbon sequestration in soils and vegetation. Some examples of these practices are: compost application, prescribed grazing management, planting cover crops, wind breaks, riparian plantings, and hedgerows. We are able to offer additional assistance to farmers and ranchers with carbon farming related objectives by helping to locate funding sources, developing site-specific carbon farm plans and implementing projects, and measuring the efficacy of those projects. Contact us for more information!

**Wildlife-Friendly Ponds Program.** We continue to partner with ranchers through our Wildlife-Friendly Pond Program to enhance stock ponds to provide habitat for listed amphibians while also providing drinking water for cattle. During the last two years we have restored 4 ponds in Alameda County. Projects have included de-sedimentation as well as embankment and spillway repair. NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continues to prioritize ponds and fund projects and the Partnership continues to seek additional funding opportunities to help incentivize rancher and agency participation in the program.

**Alameda Watershed Maps.** The Alameda County Watershed Maps project has been completed by the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, in collaboration with SFPUC, Fugro Consultants, and the ACRCDD. It is an interactive, online map of every watershed in Alameda County that lets professionals, educators, and outdoor enthusiasts explore and learn more the watershed. If you would like to learn more about this exciting project go to [www.acffloodcontrol.org/resources/explore-watersheds/](http://www.acffloodcontrol.org/resources/explore-watersheds/).



(er) feeding hay out of  
e: Flowers in bloom at  
tions after a panel  
ounty Watershed  
ce in 2018.





# Outreach, Education, & Workshops

**Day in the District Symposium.** The goal for the 2019 'Day in the District' Symposium was to provide an innovative outreach event that would highlight the expertise and diversity of the District's multiple programs and projects. The target audience was key decision makers from local, county and state agencies as well as private corporations. District 16's newly elected Assemblywoman, Rebecca Bauer-Kahan provided the opening remarks and David Bunn, the Director of the California Department of Conservation, provided the keynote luncheon address. The ACRCDD was pleased to host over eighty attendees from a variety of agencies and organizations.

**Alameda County Watershed Confluence.** The Alameda County Watershed Confluence Conference was designed to provide a forum for local groups, community members and representatives from the public and private sectors interested in creek and watershed health to meet, network, share innovative ideas and inspire new partnerships in watershed management in Alameda County. Our staff assisted in the planning of this event, as well as a collaborative presentation and our own Amy Evans received the 'Youth Educator' Award.

**Clean Water Public Information and Outreach.** RCD staff continued to coordinate and participate in a wide array of events and projects that serve to educate the community in ways to reduce stormwater pollution in county watersheds, including hosting outreach booths at community festivals and environment-themed events. In addition, the Palomares Elementary School's Watershed Education Program in Castro Valley provides outdoor, creekside lessons to students and visiting schools. Clean Water Volunteers provides opportunities for the public to clean up local creeks and enhance habitat, such as at Coastal Cleanup and Earth Day. These activities are implemented by the RCD to assist the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in meeting their clean water goals and requirements.

**2017-2018 Workshops.** The ACRCDD's 2017 and 2018 professional workshops included: Yolo Press and Yolo Bulb Field Day, Olive Tree Pruning Field Day, Beginning Olive Producer's Group Meeting, Alameda Whipsnake Workshop, California Red-legged Frog Workshop, California Tiger Salamander Workshop, Getting the Lease Workshop, Livestock Production 101, and Ranching 101. Workshops were held both in the field and classroom.



CA Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan giving the opening remarks at 'Day in the District'.

Be sure to check out the new **RCD Project Tracker** at [www.rcdprojects.org](http://www.rcdprojects.org)! The Project Tracker was created to help our partners stay informed about projects in development and those that have recently been completed. Over 100 projects from 18 different RCD's from around the state have been entered.



Staff and Partners assessing a livestock pond for wildlife habitat value and restoration needs.



Amy (left) receiving the "Youth Educator" Award at the Alameda County Watershed Confluence in 2018!



Amy leads volunteers in planting native plants at Bay Trees Park in Castro Valley on the MLK Day of Service in January 2019 with community volunteers and Friends of San Lorenzo Creek.

## Amy Evans retiring after 35 years of service at ACRCDD!

Amy is retiring in June from the ACRCDD after a career of nearly 35 years. She began part time work as a graduate student intern in 1981 doing creek erosion fieldwork with NRCS (then Soil Conservation Service) and learning how conservation measures can be effectively applied on the land. Her next area of work included leading two multi-RCD, grant-funded programs that helped integrate best practices in conservation "on the ground" at equine facilities. During this time Amy also helped spearhead, then lead the RCD's long- running classroom education programs 'Bay Savers' and 'Watershed Adventures', with their interactive presentations that inspired many thousands of 4th graders to care for our watersheds. Over the last 10 years Amy has been focused on Hands-On Conservation and Clean Water Volunteers, both field-based stewardship programs that have provided students and community members opportunities to directly enhance watershed health in many areas of Alameda County.

Amy recognizes and appreciates the ongoing funding and support for these conservation education and stewardship programs from the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and Clean Water Program over the past 20 plus years, which has helped both the Flood Control District and the ACRCDD reach their goals to engage the public in the care of our watersheds.

Amy has a contagious enthusiasm for conservation, education and watershed stewardship that has resulted in long-standing partnerships with local organizations and volunteers that share those common interests.

Amy plans to continue her involvement in environmental stewardship as a volunteer at Alameda Creek Alliance's monthly workdays at their restoration site along Alameda Creek in Niles near where she lives, so come join her there!

*Thank you for your many years of hard-work and dedication, Amy!*