

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Board Meeting

December 5, 2019

Board of Supervisors Chambers

891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: Meeting opened by R. Dean-President @ 6:00 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: S. Beckman; R. Dean-President; K. Hafley; M. Robie; F. Schabram; N. Valente -Treasurer G. Long-Executive Director; Mary Cole-Admin Dana Simpson-Staff Accountant

Board Members & Staff Absent

Others Present: Pete Padelford; Terry Stone; Supervisor Dennis Mills; Steve Daas, Regine Miller

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment: Terry Stone said she has ten projects she would like to work together with CCRC.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Moment of Silence for Tom Sullivan – President Dean requested a minute of silence to remember our founding board member Tom Sullivan for his passing in early November.
2. Approval of 11/07/19 Minutes. Board Action – **S. Beckman made motion to approve, F. Schabram second. On a 6-0-0 vote, minutes were approved.**
3. Approval of Finance Reports – **F. Schabram made motion to approve, N. Valente second. On a 6-0-0 vote, reports were approved.**
4. RCD Partners – G. Long reported for NRCS that they are getting more people signed up and taken care of. Also they hired a new forestry person.

New Business:

5. Resolution 2019-08 Integrate Secretary and Treasurer – No discussion. **N. Valente made motion to approve the Resolution, K. Hafley second. On a 6-0-0 vote, Resolution 2019-08 was approved.**
6. Discuss partnership with Calaveras Healthy Impact Products (CHIPs) – Regine Miller described CHIPs as a small nonprofit in West Point started in 2004. Its focus is on forest preservation in parks and some private lands. It holds power contracts with PG&E for biomass fuel. Administers grants for themselves and others. They asked if we would be interested in working with them as part of the community outreach portion of the Arnold/Avery Fire Hazard project.
7. Board Nominations – Sid Beckman was nominated to be President, Nic Valente was nominated to be Vice President and Bob Dean was nominated to be Secretary/Treasurer. **F. Schabram made motion to approve the slate of officers, K. Hafley second. On a 6-0-0 vote, election was approved.**
8. Presentation of new District Policy on Selection of Contractors– G. Long presented a new policy and asked the board to read and consider for a vote at next month's meeting.
9. Discussion on how to expand grant proposals to include more of Calaveras County – Ideas is to form an ad hoc committee to make a list of projects. The committee should include some outside people. The first meeting will be held in Keith's office. Volunteers include Keith Hafley, Mike Robie, Nic Valente, Francis Schabram, Bob Dean, Gordon Long and Terry Stone.

Supervisor Mills noted he polled the Board of Supervisors and received a 5/0 vote to hire a grant writer that may be available to help us. G. Long spoke with CARCD to see about getting baseline funding to California RCDs.

10. Discussion of establishing work days for the renovations – Mold test is being conducted tomorrow
Work will start in January.

Old Business:

11. Common Ground Lease – G. Long reports lease has been signed. Next year S. Beckman will propose forming a committee to discuss property management opportunities.
12. Progress on Mill Woods – Pete Padelford reported monies are coming in to pay the contractor so they are finishing the work projected to be two weeks out.
13. PGE Fuel Reduction Grant Progress – Pete Padelford reported he has received most of the ROE’s to start. He had the bidding process, selection of contractor and work is to be done by 11/26/19 although they have 40 days in which to get it done. The property owners were notified that this grant does not provide for maintenance of this initial work and that this will be up to the owners to complete.
14. CalFire Grant Applications – G. Long reported that Jill Micheau has submitted two grants that we are waiting to hear back on.
15. DOC Grant through ACT – G. Long reported he attended a meeting with Carbon Cycle Institute (CCI) on regional collecting plans for one big grant that will use all of the RCDs. Its goal is to improve soil health.
16. Office Renovation Update–As noted earlier, G. Long and K. Hafley will be conducting the mold test to determine how much reno needs to be done.
17. Board Reports – K. Hafley noted our website does not include the word ‘County’ in our name. F. Schabram asked how T. Sullivan’s seat will be filled. The County will post an opening for 30 days and then choose one to join our board.
18. Staff Reports – G. Long reported he was asked by the Calaveras High Ag Dept to be on their board. He will be attending a hardwood meeting next week.

Adjournment of regular meeting. Motion to close monthly meeting of the Calaveras RCD initiated by N. Valente, 2nd by S. Beckman. Motion carries on a 6-0-0 vote. Meeting adjourned @ 7:30 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 2, 2019.

Meetings adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Attest:

President, Sid Beckman _____

Date _____

Secretary, Bob Dean _____

Date _____

Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Board Meeting

January 2, 2020

Board of Supervisors Chambers

891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA

Call to Order: As there was no quorum, the meeting was just a discussion of some of the agenda items. It was opened by S. Beckman-President @ 6:00 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: S. Beckman-President; K. Hafley; M. Robie; G. Long-Executive Director; Mary Cole-Admin Dana Simpson-Staff Accountant

Board Members & Staff Absent: R. Dean-Secty/Treas; F. Schabram; N. Valente-VP

Others Present: Pete Padelford; Terry Stone; Bobette Parsons (NRCS); Sharon Romano

Pledge of Allegiance – not done as it wasn't an official meeting.

Public Comment: B. Parsons reviewed her report.

Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of 11/07/19 Minutes. Board Action – **Tabled.**
2. Approval of Finance Reports – **Tabled.**

Old Business:

1. Common Ground Lease – No discussion.
2. A. Building Renovation – K. Hafley reviewed the Mold Report noting that nothing too bad was found. Suggested removing just the affected sheetrock up to the end of visible mold. Treat area with bleach. Open all windows to ventilate and dry out. Recommend getting another air quality reading after this before sealing walls back up.

B. Tabled.

C. Mill Woods Review - P. Padelford reported there are 4-5 days of work left to do. None of the trees previously marked for PGE will be taken down. They will need to remove those. The next community meeting will be Jan. 11 at 10 am in the Mill Woods Community Center.

D. Update on ACT Grants and Projects – G. Long reported working on the grant budget. Working on a Carbon Cycle grant.

E. Grant Updates – G. Long reports waiting to hear about being a hub.

New Business:

1. All New Business was Tabled.

Adjournment of regular meeting. Meeting adjourned @ 6:30 pm.

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, February 6, 2020.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Attest:

President, Sid Beckman _____

Date _____

Secretary, Bob Dean _____

Date _____

Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

Profit & Loss

12/31/19

July through December 2019

Accrual Basis

	<u>Jul - Dec 19</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Investments	
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	2.54
Total Investments	2.54
Program Income	
Program Revenue	100,005.77
Total Program Income	100,005.77
Rental Income	4,428.36
Total Income	104,436.67
Gross Profit	104,436.67
Expense	
Contract Services	
Grant Administration	7,763.00
Accounting Fees	3,118.75
Outside Contract Services	89,346.10
Total Contract Services	100,227.85
Facilities and Equipment	
Property Taxes	150.00
Facility Maintenance	406.89
Utilities	2,794.78
Total Facilities and Equipment	3,351.67
Operations	
Website	179.40
Computer Software	119.88
Postage, Mailing Service	277.40
Supplies	324.96
Total Operations	901.64
Other Types of Expenses	
Memberships and Dues	390.27
Other Costs	102.35
Total Other Types of Expenses	492.62
Travel and Meetings	
Travel	145.80
Total Travel and Meetings	145.80
Total Expense	105,119.58
Net Ordinary Income	-682.91
Net Income	<u>-682.91</u>

Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

Balance Sheet

12/31/19

As of December 31, 2019

Accrual Basis

	<u>Dec 31, 19</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Checking	25,240.32
Total Checking/Savings	25,240.32
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	42,773.13
Total Accounts Receivable	42,773.13
Total Current Assets	68,013.45
TOTAL ASSETS	68,013.45
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	45,629.27
Total Accounts Payable	45,629.27
Other Current Liabilities	
Unearned or Deferred Revenue	7,985.39
Total Other Current Liabilities	7,985.39
Total Current Liabilities	53,614.66
Total Liabilities	53,614.66
Equity	
Retained Earnings	15,081.70
Net Income	-682.91
Total Equity	14,398.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	68,013.45

Calaveras County Resource Conservation District
Check Detail
December 2019

Type	Num	Date	Name	Item	Account	Paid Amount
Bill Pmt -Check	275	12/02/2019	Calaveras Public U...		Checking	
Bill		12/02/2019			Utilities	-66.52
TOTAL						-66.52
Bill Pmt -Check	276	12/02/2019	San Andreas Sanit...		Checking	
Bill		12/02/2019			Utilities	-126.54
TOTAL						-126.54
Bill Pmt -Check	278	12/05/2019	RonWright Logging		Checking	
Bill		09/09/2019	Cal Fire:Mill Woods	Contracto...	Outside Contract Se...	-8,766.00
Bill		09/09/2019	Cal Fire:Mill Woods	Contracto...	Outside Contract Se...	-3,234.00
TOTAL						-12,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	279	12/05/2019	Dana Simpson		Checking	
Bill		12/02/2019			Accounting Fees	-162.50
			Cal Fire:Mill Woods	Accountin...	Accounting Fees	-100.00
			PG&E:PGE 2019	Accountin...	Accounting Fees	-140.00
			Murphys East	Accountin...	Accounting Fees	-12.50
TOTAL						-415.00
Bill Pmt -Check	280	12/17/2019	Calaveras Public P...		Checking	
Bill		12/17/2019			Utilities	-116.20
TOTAL						-116.20
Bill Pmt -Check	281	12/17/2019	CARCD		Checking	
Bill		12/17/2019			Memberships and D...	-204.27
TOTAL						-204.27
Bill Pmt -Check	282	12/17/2019	Mary Cole		Checking	
Bill		12/17/2019			Outside Contract Se...	-825.00
					Website	-179.40
TOTAL						-1,004.40
Bill Pmt -Check	283	12/17/2019	PG&E- V		Checking	
Bill		12/17/2019			Utilities	-128.54
TOTAL						-128.54
Bill Pmt -Check	284	12/17/2019	Gordon Long		Checking	
Bill		12/17/2019			Facility Maintenance	-120.98
TOTAL						-120.98

**Calaveras County Resource Conservation District
Check Detail
December 2019**

<u>Type</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Paid Amount</u>
Bill Pmt -Check	285	12/23/2019	RonWright Logging		Checking	
Bill		09/09/2019	Cal Fire:Mill Woods	Contracto...	Outside Contract Se...	-11,181.00
TOTAL						-11,181.00
Bill Pmt -Check	287	12/31/2019	Dana Simpson		Checking	
Bill		12/31/2019			Accounting Fees	-237.50
TOTAL						-237.50

Calaveras County Resource Conservation District
Deposit Detail
December 2019

Type	Num	Date	Name	Account	Amount
Deposit		12/04/2019		Checking	11,495.62
Payment	63035...	12/04/2019	Cal Fire:Mill Woods	Undeposited Funds	-11,495.62
TOTAL					-11,495.62
Deposit		12/17/2019		Checking	1,012.15
Payment	16000	12/17/2019	Common Ground	Undeposited Funds	-425.00
Payment	11160...	12/17/2019	UCCE	Undeposited Funds	-347.15
Payment	1003	12/17/2019	Mother Lode Bonsai ...	Undeposited Funds	-240.00
TOTAL					-1,012.15
Deposit		12/23/2019		Checking	25,779.25
Payment	63-19...	12/23/2019	Cal Fire:Mill Woods	Undeposited Funds	-25,779.25
TOTAL					-25,779.25

Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne (ACT) Carbon Farming Regional Hub Proposal

Statement of Purpose

Carbon Farming in California has proven to be a progressive and increasingly effective way to help mitigate effects of climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and enhancing land productivity at the same time. Since 1984, over 1.4 million acres of California agricultural land have been converted from agricultural to other uses (California Department of Conservation 2015), dramatically reducing the potential for these landscapes to sequester carbon and provide other valuable ecosystem services. The Central Sierra Region is home to Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne County RCDs and encompasses a total of 2,442,072 acres. This proposal seeks to provide a compelling roadmap to develop a regionally-focused Carbon Farming Hub that includes Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne (ACT) RCDs. Carbon farming provides an opportunity to rebalance the carbon cycle in a way that can meaningfully ameliorate climate change, build resilience to drought, and increase our agricultural productivity naturally (Carbon Cycle Institute [CCI] 2019). There is great potential for carbon farming to be a catalyst for change in the region, bringing working landscapes and public lands in conversation around the shared goal of carbon sequestration, ecosystem service enhancement, and agricultural viability.

Summary of Region

ACT Hub Partnership

The Central Sierra Region is characterized by a wide variety of agricultural operations, land uses, and management styles. The ACT Hub includes areas within Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne RCDs boundaries. An existing cooperative partnership agreement serves to coordinate RCD programs within the ACT Hub region; the MOU will be expanded to include regional Carbon Farm Planning (CFP) in support of this proposal. The ACT Hub will also include neighboring RCD's depending on the RCD's interest that are not covered by other Hubs within the scope of the ACT Hub's outreach efforts; other RCDs however will not be included in the administration of the ACT Hub's programs. Potential RCD's included in the Area of Influence of the ACT Hub include: El Dorado RCD, Georgetown Divide RCD, Sloughhouse RCD, and Alpine RCD. Figure 1 includes a map that calls out the ACT Hub operating area as well as its Area of Influence. The ACT Hub Area of Influence is also defined and extends beyond the operating boundary. The ACT Hub anticipates that surrounding RCDs within the Area of Influence will be supported by the Hub's activities, including education and technical assistance sharing when possible. Regional Carbon Farm planning will be focused on the ACT Hub's operating area.

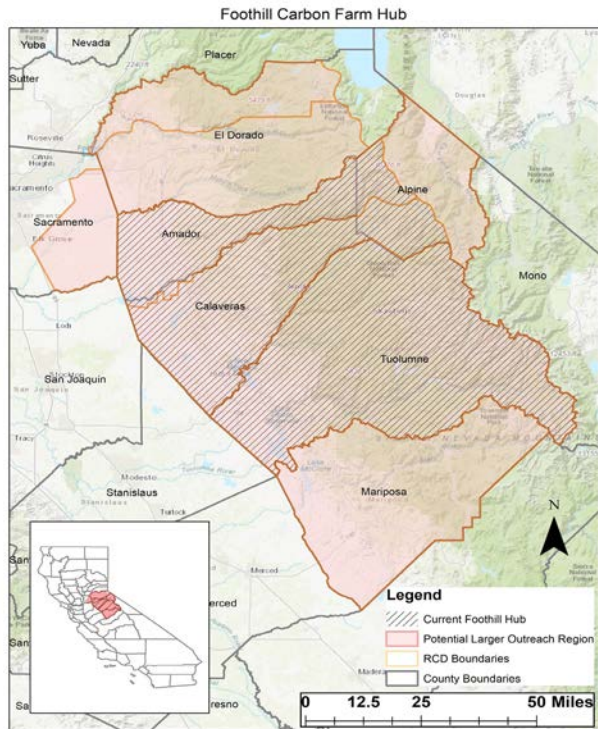


Figure 1

ACT Hub Landscape and Land Uses

Emphasis of CFP within the ACT Hub region will be focused on farms, vineyards, ranches, riparian areas, and forested land. The region is home to the Tuolumne, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Mokelumne, and Cosumnes Rivers, which provide crucial drinking and irrigation water not only to the ACT Hub region, but also to the Central Valley; the water originating from the Central Sierra Region therefore is of state-wide significance. With over 1.3 million acres of forested land and 1.1 million acres of agricultural land, the ACT Hub region is also home to many significant wildlife corridors and habitats that provide ecosystem services to the region and beyond.

The ACT region encompasses a total of 3,900 square miles of private and public land, including over 1,500 farms that produce \$119 million dollars' worth of agricultural goods annually. Within the region are grape growers, hay farmers, cattle ranchers, and other producers who manage private land. The remaining public land is managed by agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation. These public lands also represent a critical resource for California's cattle ranchers, in particular, who graze seasonally on permits. Such relationships exemplify the interdependence of stakeholders and landscapes

in the ACT Hub region. See Table A for further land use categorizations by county and number of acres.

Table A: Breakdown of Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties by land use and type.

	Amador	Calaveras	Tuolumne
Total Land	363,500	662,791	1,415,781
Public Land	86,651	121,611	1,114,285
Timber Preserves	28,021	83,978	83,978
Pasture + Range	156,801	200,000	Unknown
Land in Farms	155,187	212,140	108,675
Agricultural Preserves	93,113	143,000	108,843

(County Crop Reports 2018)

Regional Climate Considerations

With changing climates, Sierra foothill agriculture is faced with adapting to higher temperatures, potential for decreased water supply, [increase fire threat, increased pressure for development and other land use changes](#), and other issues [\(please summarize other issues\)](#). Planning for these changes and implementing the ACT Hub CFP will help to prepare producers by making their operations more resilient. Many of the agricultural operations within the ACT region are family-owned and operated and depend on the vitality of all natural resources. CFP will be an important tool for these operations, helping to capture the value of the ecosystem services provided to the region and beyond.

The benefits are recognized by a broader community as ecosystem services and often generate much of the attention surrounding the potential for agriculture to be a climate beneficial carbon sink. The ACT Hub will prioritize contextualizing broader climate considerations in the real stewardship efforts of producers so that the value of these ecosystem services can be better captured by producers [in the form of through the development of -markets for carbon and other ecosystem servicese, arbon credits](#) or other means of remuneration [\(we would suggest keeping this broad, such as "markets for carbon and other ecosystem services"\)](#).

Commented [AP1]: At the 1/27 meeting we talked a bit about emphasizing the need for developing these markets and developing a network of growers/ranchers that could combine efforts to create a larger local market.... Does that make sense to add in here?

Benefits of Carbon Farming

The three counties within the ACT Hub region contain a large amount of rangeland. Typically, the rangelands of the ACT Hub are grazed seasonally and minimally altered by seeding, tillage,

or irrigation. As a result, ACT Hub rangelands already hold significant amounts of carbon, an estimate supported by research that shows approximately 33% of the world's carbon reserves are found in rangelands. (USDA-ARS 2004). As such, the ACT Hub region is already employing CFP principles without even necessarily realizing it. Encouraging landowners in the ACT Hub region to formally participate in CFP and strengthen practices that achieve heightened agriculture production while protecting carbon reserves presents another opportunity to expand CFP. The ACT Hub region therefore offers great potential to maximize the direct benefits of carbon farming, and likely these benefits can be felt beyond the geographically-defined ACT Hub region. Coordinating working landscapes and public lands, the ACT Hub will facilitate the conversation around the shared goal of improving soil health, carbon sequestration, and agricultural viability.

ACT Hub Role

The ACT Hub will identify and describe an appropriate methodology to ensure the quantification of existing "baseline" soil carbon levels ~~is~~are efficient, standardized, and feasible. Attaining a baseline is an important step in ~~developing a foundation that can be used to measure impacts of implemented management practices-recognizing and quantifying the current stewardship and positive impacts made~~ by ranchers ~~and growers~~ in the region. Directly correlating current ~~knows~~ and ~~accepted~~ practices that offer improvements to soil health and carbon sequestration could bolster support and enthusiasm for CFP.

Commented [2]: baseline cannot reveal past trends, which would be needed to quantify positive (or negative) impacts of past practices....

The ACT Hub will, through coordination with CCI and other CFP Hubs, use the best available science to develop a method of documenting and quantifying the benefits achieved through CFP. The Act Hub will include identification of additional benefits relating to CFP and will help further develop partnerships that drive new projects as the needs and values of producers are understood. Multiple benefits of CFP are summarized in Table B.

Benefits Beyond Carbon Farming

Multiple benefits are often of great significance to producers as they have agronomic benefits that realize the direct value of carbon sequestration within the context of agricultural production. Increased water infiltration and decreased soil erosion, for example, are critical improvements related to CFP practices that producers in the region value. Identifying and quantifying the multiple benefits that CFP can provide will promote partnership building and support, as well as optimize CFP efforts to broaden its reach and investments. In many cases, the multiple benefits of carbon farming capture the attention of producers and incentivize the adoption of CFP.

Table B: Summary of Multiple Benefits	
Benefit Theme Category¹	Description and Relevance to CFP
Water (includes water quality, water quantity, flooding)	Water quality: Pollutant/sediment-laden runoff is reduced/eliminated when soil health is optimal. In addition, improving infiltration also enhances water quality through biofiltration. Water quantity: Maximizing infiltration enhances the opportunity for water to infiltrate, penetrate, and ultimately recharge surface and groundwater. Flooding: Risk is reduced when soil health is enhanced. Infiltration reduces runoff and aggregation of storm flows in areas prone to flooding.
Energy (e.g., energy use and production)	Carbon farming can transform agricultural operations from net emitters of CO ₂ to a net sinks of CO ₂ , also potentially providing offsets to other net emitters of CO ₂ that cannot directly reduce their footprint. Agriculture is the only human activity that can directly not only reverse, but improve upon the amount of carbon sequestered. Enhanced soil health will also directly benefit the amount of energy resources that goes into growing food and forage (i.e., less/no imported feed, less water use, lower equipment usage, etc.).
People and Community (e.g., local economy, health and safety, resilience)	Carbon farming promotes agricultural productivity and resilience, which is directly correlated with community health. Practices that sequester carbon and support health and vitality of the landscapes that provide food to communities throughout and beyond the ACT Hub region will result in more resilient and healthy human communities. Maintaining and enhancing agricultural production will continue to improve and even increase livelihoods to all those connected to growing food, from actual farmers and ranchers to the expanded human economy.
Risk and Uncertainty (e.g., stranded assets and system resilience)	By promoting carbon sequestration, CFP is part of the puzzle that could support mitigating threats and effects of climate change. The CFP practices are forward thinking and built upon a premise of resilient and regenerative landscape. Some CFP practices have been employed for hundreds of years without the foresight that promoting land productivity also sequesters carbon.
Land and Environment (e.g., habitat and biodiversity, air quality, and greenhouse gases)	CFP offers climate change mitigation and ecosystem services. Cooler soil temperatures encourage more biological activity, increasing the amount of organic matter created and resulting in greater levels of water infiltration and carbon sequestration. CFP practices also provide ecosystem services while improving soil organic matter and water holding capacity (Foely et al. 2005)
1- Benefit themes for identification of relevant benefits defined by Pacific Institute (Diringer et al 2019)	

Current Carbon Farming Activities

Municipalities and county governments within the ACT Hub region have had limited participation in CFP processes to date. CFP as a framework for working lands management is a relatively new paradigm for the region, but presents an opportunity for local governments to be a catalyst for climate mitigation, recognizing the numerous benefits it represents for their constituents. The current participation in carbon farming stems mainly from landowners interested in the climate and agronomic benefits of carbon farming practices. The region is generally supportive of soil health initiatives that strengthen the viability of local farms and ranches. **The ACT Hub will focus on conveying the relevance of carbon farming to other local municipal agencies to amplify potential impact.**

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The addition of a regional CFP coordinator will make the technical assistance available throughout the state accessible to local producers who understand the threat of climate variability and are interested in increasing the resilience of their operations. To date, the scope of the planning and implementation process has been limited by lack of accessible planning and technical implementation assistance. There is one CFP actively in development in the ACT region, with more farmers and ranchers interested. Amador RCD, the Carbon Cycle Institute, and Fibershed have provided planning and soil testing assistance to the active CFP with funding from Patagonia's Corporate Grants Program. Assistance with mapping, quantification, and identification of appropriate practices have been the primary means by which these groups supported landowners. The CFP has benefitted from a Western SARE grant which was awarded to the Amador RCD and UCCE for compost application on rangeland. Although this project has unique education and research objectives, the producer received 130 tons of compost which was spread on three acres of rangeland at no additional cost to the producer. It is funding opportunities like this that underscore the value of the planning process to producers and strengthen partnerships with other organizations. The Amador RCD has also received funding to provide technical assistance to agricultural operations to assist with the application to the Healthy Soils Incentive Program funding. The Amador RCD will emphasize the connection of soil health and carbon farming. This funding will be used to not only help landowners fund and implement projects but also as an educational tool to increase landowners understanding of carbon farming principles.

Commented [3]: I hope this is yards, not tons?!

Commented [PH4]: I would include a description of the CDFA TA grant awarded to Amador RCD. How can you leverage those funds in the development of the Hub?

Carbon Farming Needs & Capacity Building

Carbon, although a framing principle for the planning process, is not always understood by producers as central to productive landscapes. This education process is lengthy and requires additional resources if it is expected to capture the producer's interest in a meaningful way. Connecting the science behind carbon farming to the production techniques requires further assistance and poses the biggest challenge for producers as they struggle to transition away from familiar practices. This is one of the most sensitive areas in the planning process as it is often costly for producers and is associated with a steep learning curve. As a result, the Hub will anticipate continued need for implementation assistance in order to minimize risk and establish trust with producers. Do the responsibilities summarized below constitute the entire range of

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needs and capacity building? If not, could you describe other needs and capacity building the Act Hub will focus on, in this section?)

Below is a summary of the Needs and Capacity Issues, these needs are further discussed in the “Responsibilities for Coordinator” Section.

- Inadequate capacity to provide the necessary technical assistance for project and plan development and implementation.
- Limited understanding of carbon farm planning and climate beneficial practices.
- Subcontractor/specialist/UC or CSU partnerships for GHG, soil carbon measurements and improving on-farm soil carbon storage data.
- Limited regionally coordinated efforts that take advantage of opportunities to support plan development and on-farm implementation.
- Lack of regionally coordinated carbon farm plan partnerships with local, non-profit, state and federal agencies, UC/CSU researchers and others to help inform, review, and potentially partner in plans, practices and novel research projects.
- Limited understanding of the needs of partners and agricultural operations to address concerns and benefits of implementation of practices.
- Limited forest health programs limited support for forestland owners to keep their lands a net carbon sink rather than a carbon source in an age of climate change and intensifying wildfires.
- Limited landowner-friendly Best Management Practices (BMPs) and scientific resources on multi-beneficial practices for agricultural, rangeland, forestland and urban open space management (e.g., carbon farming and bird habitat; carbon forest farming and reintroducing prescribed fire).
- Lack of CAPs or Green House Gas (GHG) inventories in the ACT region. The ACT Hub would educate on the local level for the creation of CAPs and GHG inventories.
- CFP benefits of agriculture are not currently included in the region’s General Plan. The Coordinator would work on local and state-wide to integrate agriculture and soil health benefits into planning and policy.

Responsibilities for Coordinators

Capacity Building: Writing a Regional Carbon Farm Plan

In building the capacity for carbon farming at the local level, the coordinator will work to create a regional CFP. The regional CFP will identify soil types, watersheds, land use along with other resources and develop a Plan that broadly covers the diversity of the region. This Regional Plan will be used to assist landowners in developing their own plans by reviewing the, to match them with the carbon farming practices that are best suited for their site and the production system. The regional plan would further analyze local agriculture, focusing on the most common production systems and creating suggestions based on the aggregated regional natural resource data. The coordinator would use existing partnerships, such as with NRCS, to draw from their updated soil survey to inform the plan.

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Commented [PH6]: Let’s talk about this. CCI is working with other RCDs on CAPs. There is a real opportunity for RCDs to take leadership roles, particularly in rural counties where agriculture and/or forestry is the primary land use. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is considering their RCD as the CAP lead...

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Commented [PH7]: Innovative idea! Would love to talk with you more about it.

Commented [8]: please clarify the meaning of site in this sentence, is this an individual farm? If so, please explain how does the regional CFP differ from an individual CFP?

In building capacity for the Hub, the coordinator will focus on creating the necessary constraints that will define the region. Ultimately, there will not be enough resources to treat each property with site specific testing. As a result, the coordinator must identify existing resources within the region that can help define its unique soils, hydrology, biology, and other related natural resources. In compiling this information, the coordinator will create a soil-focused, region specific portfolio of natural resources and the related carbon farm practices best suited to the region. Once compiled, the coordinator will synthesize the information, making it available for producers in a user-friendly, practice-oriented format.

This regional plan would serve as a reference point for interested producers and offer localized data which would in turn contextualize their own operations and unique resource concerns. The regional plan would include a map of the ACT districts with soil and watershed overlays to capture the carbon sequestration potential and demonstrate it to interested land managers. The regional plan could also be shared with board of supervisors, agricultural commissioners, PG&E, and ACT water districts to outline the need for increased climate and agricultural elements in the General Plan.

TA on Carbon Farm Planning and Implementation

The duty of the coordinator will be to identify and make accessible the necessary technical assistance providers. The coordinator will take on the responsibility of organizing the appropriate workshops, one-on-one consulting, and group sessions based on the specific needs of producers in the region. Considering the variable needs of the region, stakeholders, and climate, it is unrealistic to expect the coordinator to provide technical assistance themselves. Rather, the Hub will strategically engage with its partners to provide the necessary assistance.

Coordination

The coordinator will determine potential partnerships to form the CFP program. They will analyze existing capacities of local groups like NRCS, UCCE, and others. The coordinator will be responsible for identifying gaps in these programs and conducting outreach to other groups to fill them. Upon forming the core partnerships, the coordinator will create outreach materials to distribute to producers in the area and make known the resources available to them through the CFP program. The coordinator will be the primary point person who will bring producers and technical assistance providers to the planning process and will facilitate the working relationship between them.

The ACT Hub has many existing and potential partnerships that will help in the Hub's carbon farming efforts. The essential partners remain landowners and managers, who have the biggest potential to protect biodiversity and provide clean water and air to the greater region. The Hub will work with a variety of property owner's, including private agricultural operations, public lands, tribal lands, managed wetlands, riparian areas, lands managed by land trusts, and others. The Hub will strategically work with partners to build effective coalitions that avoid unnecessary duplications in regional conservation efforts.

Planning & Implementation

The Hub recognizes that certain groups will be more involved in the planning and implementation processes at the ACT Hub. These groups, like NRCS and UCCE, will have pre-existing relationships with producers and a deep understanding of the region and its unique needs. These partnerships will be essential in building the capacity of the Hub and will be involved in the initial strategic planning phases of the Hub to ensure that future collaboration will be successful. *See full list of partners in Attachment A.*

Commented [PH9]: While we appreciate your commitment to your partners, and are excited that this Hub will work in an interdependent way with NRCS and UCCE on building the Hub, we hope you leave the door open to building RCD capacity to do conservation and carbon farm planning with producers.

Advisory

The Hub will benefit from connecting with local groups working on relevant issues such as fuel load reduction, dead tree removal, and water quality concerns. These groups will form an advisory panel which will be referred to as programs are developed and implemented to ensure collaboration and avoid duplications of existing efforts. *See full list of partners in Attachment A.*

Outreach

Many local groups such as ACT region Farm Bureaus, Cattlemen's Associations, and Farmers Guild will be essential in building a network of interested landowners. Working with such groups to share information about the Hub and CFP will ensure the program taps into the strong connections these organizations have established with their members. *See full list of partners in Attachment A.*

Sampling, Monitoring & Verification

Organizations like Point Blue Conservation Science and the American Carbon Registry have well-established monitoring and credit programs. Connecting with these groups to understand their programs and how they might fit into the Hub will capitalize on the wealth of knowledge these groups already have. It will also give the Hub opportunities to connect landowners to their existing services. *See full list of partners in Attachment A.*

Commented [PH10]: Point Blue has a monitoring program and ACR is an offset registry. At this time, the cost of monetizing offsets is prohibitively high, while the price per ton of CO2 is very low. We are looking for other, less rigorous ways to value carbon.

Commented [11]: I could not find this attachment

Needs Assessment

As the coordinator initiates outreach to potential partners, they will conduct a needs assessment. The needs assessment will aim to reach public and private land managers and partners to further identify potential areas of collaboration on projects of mutual benefit. Working groups will be thoughtfully developed to conduct the needs assessment. These assessments will be tailored for each audience and will be used to inform the program's focus. Topics to be addressed in the needs assessment will include:

Commented [12]: could this be done within the context of the local working groups?

- Primary resource concerns
- Access to carbon farming tools (no-till drills, compost spreaders, etc.)
- Funding and revenue opportunities
- Education gaps
- High risk areas (fire, erosion, etc.)
- Socially Disadvantaged Communities

The needs assessment will be used to set an operating framework for the program. It will be a crucial step in ensuring that the program is reflective of the region's unique stakeholders and resource concerns. It will serve as a benchmark by which the Hub can communicate with other Hubs and create detailed state-level reporting on CFP and its effectiveness.

Funding

Generating funding will be a crucial job for the coordinator. As each RCD has varied levels of existing funding, it will be essential that the coordinator can secure project specific funding for the CFP program. Available funding will ultimately define much of the program's capacities and it will depend on the coordinator's discretion to scale the program appropriately. Funding opportunities for the CFP coordinator to pursue include:

- Healthy Soils Demonstration and Incentives Program
- Patagonia Corporate Grant Program
- Western SARE Farmer & Rancher Program
- Environmental Mitigation funds
- NRCS RCPP - Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant
- NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant
- Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Funding

Outreach

Connecting with stakeholders will also be a primary focus for the coordinator. In order to effectively communicate the program's goals and intentions, the coordinator must have clear communication skills and a deep understanding of carbon farming and the associated stakeholders. As carbon farming itself is evolving, the coordinator must readily adapt as new research is released and additional targets are set by scientists and policy makers.

At the outset of the program, it will be the coordinator's duty to create clear, accessible outreach materials that effectively communicate the program's goals. Translating high-level research and distilling it down into practical, locally relevant material will be crucial in gaining regional support for program. Examples of outreach projects include creating CFP pages for each RCD website, complete with a description of the program, explanation of CFP, and links to relevant research and funding opportunities. Outreach material will ensure that the following topics are covered:

- Soil health principles
- Agriculture's climate mitigation potential
- Local carbon farming projects (grazing for wildfire prevention, compost application trials, riparian restoration workshops, soil testing seminars, etc.)
- Funding opportunities for producers
- Relevant policy (federal, state and local government)
- Carbon Credits & Verification

Commented [PH13]: Excellent and much needed. CCI would like to work with you on developing outreach materials for the Network.

Policy & Climate Action Plans (CAPs)

Currently, there are no CAPs or Green House Gas (GHG) inventories in the ACT region. The ACT Hub would advocate on the local level for the creation of CAPs and GHG inventories in the ACT region, ensuring that the CFP benefits of agriculture are included in the General Plan. The Hub will further advocate on the local and state level for policy that supports regional carbon farming initiatives. It will ensure that stakeholders are represented when important climate and agricultural policies are formed. The coordinator will be present at strategic listening sessions to advocate for continued improvement to existing programs such as Healthy Soils Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and others.

Commented [PH14]: Let's talk about this. CCI is working with other RCDs on CAPs. There is a real opportunity for RCDs to take leadership roles, particularly in rural counties where agriculture and/or forestry is the primary land use. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is considering their RCD as the CAP lead...

Commented [PH15]: Fantastic to see this level of comment to policy engagement.

Commented [PH16]: The RCD Project Tracker was designed and built to track the ecosystem service benefits of RCD programs and projects, including carbon accounting. Please contact Patricia for a tutorial of that system.

Tracking Implementation and Benefits

Ensuring that all past, current, and future initiatives of the program are tracked in a consistent manner will be another responsibility of the coordinator. Defining what qualitative and quantitative information should be included in the reporting will depend on the specifics of the program, but should not leave out the following data points:

- Who is participating in program?
- Has the program been able to capture all interested stakeholders?
- What is being implemented and how?
- Who is conducting testing (if it's included) and what soil health metrics are they focusing on?
- If Comet Planner is used, what is projected climate benefit of implemented practices?

Governance and Decision-Making

Scope & Priorities

The purpose of the coordinator's work, which typically consists of professional and administrative assignments, is to advise and motivate individuals and organized groups of landowners to address resource concerns on their agricultural or forested land, creating CFP as a result. The coordinator prepares CFPs to identify opportunities for carbon capture and how to treat resource concerns identified during field inventory. Working efficiency affects the quality and protection of natural resources in the county.

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Commented [17]: more correctly, the CFP is created to identify opportunities for carbon capture and in the process addresses resource concerns.

The Hub's scope will primarily be defined by the region and its needs. The Hub will also advocate on the state-level and will coordinate with other Hubs to do so effectively. Of the Hub's priorities the main will be:

1. Educate agricultural producers, public agencies, and other land managers about the carbon sequestration potential of the land they steward.
2. Assist producers and other land managers who wish to transition from net emitters to net sinks of carbon.
3. Share the work of the Hub with the general public who ultimately benefit from clean water, air, and vibrant ecosystems.

4. Assist producers in acquiring funding to implement CFP on their properties.

Administration Governance

In May of 2019 Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne RCDs entered into a cooperative partnership formalized by the adoption of the -Amador - Calaveras - Tuolumne (ACT) partnership agreement. This document establishes a partnership between ARCD, CCRCD and TCRCD to coordinate and implement natural resource programs within Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties. Through the implementation of this partnership, ARCD, CCRCD, and TCRCD will work to promote the wise use of natural resources within the region. This partnership agreement will be the framework for the ACT Hub. Each program/project the ACT group works on starts with the development of an appendix to the original partnership agreement. The appendix includes specific administration and budget details to the program/project; each board votes to approve or reject the appendix to the partnership agreement and any subsequent changes. The planning group is in the process of developing the Carbon Farming Hub/Soil Health appendix to the ACT partnership agreement.

The ACT Partnership Agreement requires each RCD to appoint one board member and an alternate to represent their RCD in management decisions of the partnership. Management decisions regarding this partnership and its project are made by consensus. Each program/project will have a working group that consists of an appointed board member and the RCD District Managers; the board member appointed may vary depending on the project and the board members varying interests and expertise.

The ACT Partnership Agreement Soil Health appendix will identify the working group, an appointed board member from each RCD and the DM from each RCD. This working group will be responsible for reviewing the progress of the program and future over-arching management decisions.

Anticipated ACT Partnership Agreement Appendix Details:

The ACT Hub has not yet decided which RCD will act as the lead and administrator of the coordinator position. The selection of the RCD will be made by consensus and will depend on the timing, funding source, RCD capacity, and other factors as funding sources are identified. The lead RCD will be responsible for grant and employee administration, as well as coordinating the ACT meetings associated with this program. The administering RCD will provide the 'home-base' office for the coordinator. Due to the variability and large area of the region each RCD will provide office space for partial time housing of the coordinator.

Expected Outcomes

Below is a table that outlines the goals, objectives, and deliverables that will be expected of the CFP coordinator. The duties are not limited to what is stated below. The full position description of the coordinator can be found in Attachment B.

Table C: Goal/Duties for Coordinator	Objective	Deliverables
Capacity Building	Develop the ACT Hub so as to encourage participation from a wide range of stakeholders.	Create a website or webpage detailing the ACT Hub and its programs. Hold a strategic planning meeting with potential primary collaborators, like NRCS and UCCE.
TA Planning / Implementation	Identify TA needs in the region and build relationships with TA providers to fill those needs.	Create MOU outlining expectations with necessary TA providers.
Partnership Coordination	Build a coalition that supports carbon farming initiatives by streamlining communication and collaboration between relevant groups.	Build a communication and tracking channels via Google Docs, Evernote, or other information sharing platforms to organize and store information regarding relevant initiatives. Write an annual report that tracks numbers of acres and producers in program as well as tons of CO ₂ e sequestered.
Conduct a Needs Assessment	Identify priority issues with local producers, TA providers and agencies.	Conduct a survey with local producers, TA providers, and agencies.
Research/Acquire Funding	Assist with the identification of research gaps in the region. Promote the ACT Hub and advocate for continued funding from a variety of potential sources.	Receive funding for 2 original research or demonstration projects that explore the viability of CFP practices in the region.

Commented [PH18]: Excellent. Strategic partnership development and building the Network with external partners is crucial to our collective success!

Commented [19]: I would say "help" identify research gaps and suggest to partner with UCCE and other organizations with the capacity to do research

Conduct Outreach	Create clear messaging that promotes the ACT Hub and generates interest from Landowners.	100 Landowners reached through outreach and added to listserv. Facilitate or participate in at least five workshops. Develop standardize intake and selection procedure.
Regional Planning	Participate in regional planning to increase the focus on agriculture and climate issues.	Attend or comment on at least 4 listening sessions for funding programs. Biannually attend Board of Supervisors meetings to advocate for regional planning that supports CFP.
Tracking Implementation and Benefits	Create efficient Create <u>efficient</u> and accessible systems <u>or tailor an existing system</u> to track the progress of the ACT Hub, and the benefits its programs have provided to the region.	Create a portfolio for each landowner involved in the program. Spreadsheets documenting landowner's CFPs, TA providers involved, and research projects conducted should be included.
Table D: Goal/Duties for TA Provider	Objective	Deliverables
Implementation	Assist landowners with identifying resource concerns and connecting them to CFP process.	Documented interactions with landowners that can be shared with coordinator.
Communication	Create working relationships with coordinator that facilitates efficient communication about interaction with landowners and regional needs for CFP development.	Regular meetings with coordinator to discuss regional CFP needs.
Outreach/Planning	Assist coordinator in developing outreach materials that effectively communicate the science behind CF practices. Actively participate in the individual and regional planning process as it relates to CFP.	Creation of regular newsletter, CFP webpage for RCD website, and advertisements for workshops. Provide feedback on regional CFP.

Commented [PH20]: Project Tracker can do all of this for you.

Evaluation: Measure of Success

The coordinator will be expected to both measure the success of the CFP program and the role of the coordinator within the program. Creating surveys at the beginning and end of each prolonged interaction with landowners will help measure the impact of the program and inform means of improvement. Ensuring that the deliverables stated in Table C are met will also be a way for the program to create benchmarks. Tracking deliverables in the form of spreadsheets and photos stored in Google files or other accessible platforms will help create transparency and improve communication efficiency. The ACT region RCDs will ultimately be responsible for reviewing on an annual basis the progress of the Hub. This will be accomplished through the and Soil Health Working Group identified in the ACT Partnership Soil Health Appendix.

Commented [21]: What role with the Hub's governance body play in evaluation?

Budget for Regional Coordinator and Hub Governance

The budget for the development of the ACT Carbon Hub includes funding for a full time coordinator position over a ~~three year~~ three-year time period. A ~~three year~~ three-year time period is adequate to establish a sustainable and successful program that involves significant planning, program development and implementation. The budget also includes a ~~3/4 time~~ full time technical assistance (TA) contractor for the second and third year of program development. The TA contractor would provide direct assistance to landowners to develop CFP, design practices, secure funding and implement practices on working lands. The budget includes funding for 8% of the District Managers time for the lead RCD to administer the program and supervise the coordinator and TA contractor.

Commented [PH22]: You might consider increasing your budget for outreach and education (website development; workshops; educational materials etc.)

Commented [PH23]: I would consider increasing your budget to include software such as GIS, GPS, and data acquisition for the regional CFP.

Commented [24]: is this enough?

The billable rates include indirect costs for the RCDs; no additional indirect costs are included in the budget. The budget includes mileage, office supplies, workshop/outreach supplies, field equipment and field sampling costs.

CARBON FARMING NETWORK - REGIONAL HUB BUDGET, TF			
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Personnel			
STAFF			
Coordinator (\$93,000/year @ 100% FTE)	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$93,000
Supervisor (\$100,000/yr @ 10% FTE)	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Technical Assistance (\$65,000 @ 100% FTE)	\$30,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
[add additional staff entires, as needed]			
Staff Benefits (Benefit rate as % x total salaries)			
<i>Total Staff</i>	\$133,000	\$168,000	\$168,000
Hub Governing Body (for governance, admin and/or fundraising)			
(Year 1: 60 hours/year x 3 members @ \$75/hour)(Year 2&3:40 hours/year x 3 members @ \$75/hour)	\$13,400	\$9,000	\$9,000
Consultants (including governance, graphic design, etc)			
Consultant #1 (provide short description and enter estimated hours X hourly rate)			
Consultant #2 (for example: 100 hours @ \$100/hour)			
(add additional entries for consultants, as needed)			
<i>Total Personnel</i>	\$146,400	\$177,000	\$177,000
Operating Costs			
Travel			
(Please describe, e.g. mileage, lodging, transportation, etc)			
Mileage	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Lodging	\$300	\$300	\$300
Meals and Incidentals	\$150	\$150	\$150
(add additional entries for consultants, as needed)			
Equipment and Supplies			
(Please describe each entry, e.g. field equipment, soil and water monitoring/remote sensing, software, AV and/or computer equipment, materials, etc)			
Computer/Programs	\$700	\$150	\$150
Soil & Plant Analysis	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
Field Equipment	\$200	\$2,000	\$2,000
Communications/Publishing			
Postage/Mailing	\$300	\$200	\$145
Printing	\$600	\$400	\$400
Workshop Supplies/Refreshments	\$450	\$450	\$450
<i>Total Operating Costs</i>	\$12,250	\$15,200	\$15,145
Subtotal Expenses	\$158,650.00	\$192,200.00	\$192,145.00
Indirect Costs			
Indirect rate included			
TOTAL	\$158,650.00	\$192,200.00	\$192,145.00

**West County Projects Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Notes
January 9, 2020, Jenny Lind Fire Station**

Attendees:, Keith Hafley, Mike Robie, Sid Beckman, RCD Board of Directors, Gordon Long, RCD Executive Director, Kevin Wright, Calaveras County Ag Commissioner, Ben Stopper, Supervisor District 5

Discussions resulted in the following action items to carry forward:

1. Weed abatement program
 - Collaboration with Calaveras County Ag Department and Central Sierra Cooperative Extension in preparing California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) 2020 Noxious Weeds Grant application.
 - Grant award would be \$40,000 and could be spent on;
 - Continuing treatment of populations of A rated weeds in the county (\$8,000)
 - Printing additional copies of Field Guide (\$2,000)
 - Providing additional funding (\$30,000) to existing county roads spray program to target areas where spraying would provide roadside fuelbreaks to slow or prevent the spread of range fires. Private property owners would participate under agreement. Also purchase of ATV mounted spray equipment that could be lent to landowners for treatment of noxious weeds on private property.
 - There is potential for out-year funding to continue treatment.
2. Fire Prevention and Fuel Treatment
 - The RCD will collaborate with Calaveras Foothills Firesafe Council on development of the county-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. This can improve the ability to obtain funding and increase pace and scale of treatment.
 - With County Supervisors support: begin development of integrated county-wide fuel treatment mapping program. Final product would be a GIS database of completed fuel treatments, treatment type, date of accomplishment and maintenance schedule that is available to fire department and the public. Partners would be Calaveras County Office of Emergency Services, County Office of Geographic Information Services and others (e.g. Amador and Tuolumne counties, Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group, CALFIRE).
 - Develop maps of fire districts in the western county to use in fuel treatment project planning.
 - Follow-up on status of County Fire Marshall position.
3. Recruit grant writers and utilize existing grant writers to mentor

**Block Grant Application: Recovering and Sustaining Monarchs and Pollinators through
Resource Conservation Districts**

***Use N/A where appropriate**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name			
Total Project Cost (round to nearest \$1,000)	\$	Amount Requested	
Start Date		End Date	
Habitat Type/Acres	<i>[Habitat type may include breeding habitat, migratory habitat, and overwintering sites.]</i>		

PROJECT LOCATION INFO

Specific Location (APN or Address or Coordinates)	
---	--

APPLICANT INFO

Organization	<i>[Name of your Resource Conservation District]</i>		
Contact Person		Title	

Phone		Email	
Address			
Signatory Name		Title	
Address			

LANDOWNER INFO (IF APPLICABLE)

Organization Type	<input type="checkbox"/> State Government <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Private Landowner <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Organization Name			
Contact Person		Title	
Phone		Email	
Address			

CHECKLIST

NOTE: The following information must be attached to the application.

- Project location map and photos showing project area for implementation and site specific planning projects
 - Not applicable, this is a Technical Assistance Project

- Detailed project drawing for implementation projects (a sketch or map showing relevant features of the proposed restoration project, include engineering design drawings, if available)
 - Not applicable, this is a Technical Assistance Project

- Land Tenure/Site Control/ Landowner Access Agreements for projects with on-the-ground work for the life of the project, including monitoring (which WCB defines as 10 years from the date of their board approval, 8/27/2029). *When an applicant does not have tenure at the time of proposal submission, but intends to establish tenure via an agreement that will be signed prior to grant execution, the applicant must submit a template copy of the proposed agreement, memorandum of understanding (MOU), or permission form at the time of proposal submission. If the project is funded, the fully executed and recorded agreement is due with the first quarterly invoice/report. Example Landowner Access Agreement template is provided.*
 - Not applicable, this is a Technical Assistance Project

- Budget by task, template provided

- Application is signed

RCD Project Application

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

1. Please select the WCB Monarch and Pollinator Rescue Program priority that your project falls into. You may select all that apply.
 - Restoration or enhancement of overwintering monarch butterfly habitat.
 - Projects in this category will only be considered if they are taking place on known overwintering sites. Please check this box to confirm that your proposed project will restore or enhance an existing overwintering site.
 - Restoration or enhancement of monarch butterfly and other pollinator breeding, foraging and migration habitat on private and public lands. *Note: Project must be CEQA exempt.*
 - Technical assistance for the purpose of recovering and sustaining populations of monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
 - Technical assistance projects will be prioritized if they include an education and/or outreach component. Please check this box if your project includes education and/or outreach.
2. How will the proposed project provide benefits to monarch butterflies and other pollinators? Provide a detailed description of the project purpose and background. Clearly articulate the goals and objectives.

SITE DESCRIPTION (FOR IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS)

3. Approximately how large is the habitat project area?
4. Please describe the current habitat conditions at the project site (weed pressure, slope and aspect, soil type, etc.) where implementation activities will take place.
5. Describe the habitat site preparation plan.
6. Describe the irrigation needs for the site (e.g. is irrigation available? If so, what type(s)?)

PROTECTION FROM PESTICIDES (FOR IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS)

In this section, describe the pesticide (including but not limited to: herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and miticides) used in and around the project area as well as how the project area will be protected from these pesticides. Past or current pesticide use does not automatically disqualify a habitat application. Instead, it helps guide location and management options.

7. Are pesticides, including the planting of treated seed, used in the specific habitat project area? If yes, please list the following: pesticide names (product and/or active ingredient), frequency (e.g. #x year), timing of use (month(s)), and method(s) of application (e.g. aerial, backpack sprayer).

8. Are pesticides, including the planting of treated seed, used on the property within 200 ft of the specific habitat project area? If yes, please list the following: pesticide names (product and/or active ingredient), frequency (e.g. #x year), timing of use (month(s)), and method(s) of application (e.g. aerial, backpack sprayer). *

9. If the landowner is using pesticides on the property within 200 ft of the project site, what plans are in place to mitigate possible harm to plants and/or insects? Check all that apply.

- Establish a spatial buffer between pesticide use and habitat (targeted herbicide applications can be made to manage weeds)
- Establish a vegetative buffer of non-attractive plants between pesticide use and habitat
- Do not apply insecticides (or other pesticides that might harm pollinators) when monarchs are present (MONTHS)
- Select short residual products and apply them only at night
- Use targeted methods of application that limit off-site movement (e.g. precision application equipment, spot spraying)
- Implement non-chemical practices that reduce reliance on pesticides
- Other mitigation measures (please describe)

MILKWEED AND NECTAR RESOURCES (FOR IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS)

10. If known, approximately how many individual milkweed plants do you anticipate needing for this project?

11. If planting milkweed, what species are you planning to use? Do you have a confirmed milkweed supplier? If not, please describe how you plan to obtain the necessary milkweed for the project.

12. If applicable, please describe the diversity of nectar sources that are or will be available seasonally at the project site. A useful resource from Xerces Society is available from CARCD's member dashboard, Resources>Monarchs.

APPROACH AND FEASIBILITY

13. How will the proposed project be carried out? Provide a detailed description that clearly shows the approach is well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project and that the methods and technologies are appropriate.

Additionally, for Implementation Projects:

- a. Describe how your site may provide connectivity to other nearby habitat areas.
- b. Describe how your project creates or expands habitat.
- c. Describe the landowner's involvement.

d. Describe how your project will implement BMPs for monarch and pollinator habitat. These are helpful resources discussing BMPs for monarchs: https://xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/19-033_01-CA-Central-Valley-Monarchs_web.pdf<https://xerces.org/managing-monarchs-in-the-west/>

DIVERSITY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF BENEFITS

DURABILITY OF INVESTMENT

14. Projects (including Technical Assistance and Implementation) should lead to reasonable and logical benefits that are likely to be sustained beyond the life of the grant, given current economic, climate, and land use planning projections. Implementation grants shall require a long-term management plan of the grantee to maintain the improvements. Describe the extent to which a project will deliver enduring sustainable benefits for pollinators. What are the provisions to maintain the benefits and for what period of time? Note: WCB prioritizes projects with sustainable benefits of 3 years or more, ideally beyond 10 years.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

15. With input from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), CARCD has developed standard data gathering and reporting protocols that will need to be used by all participating RCDs through February 2022 (After that, only the “Annual Monitoring” (see template provided) is expected through August 2029).

- Checking this box indicates that you have read and agree to use the Monitoring Plan designed by the TAC provided with the project request materials, if applicable.

Baseline data must be collected using the Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT) developed by the Environmental Defense Fund. Data collected will be used to assess success of forage and breeding habitat improvement activities. EDF provides an HQT manual and, where possible, CARCD will provide training. Follow this link to the HQT host site:*

<http://www.monarchhabitatexchange.org/tools> The most up-to-date Western Region materials are posted in CARCD's member dashboard, Resources>Monarchs.

- Checking this box indicates that you agree to use the HQT in the project, if applicable.

Monarch sightings will be tracked via the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper. The Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper is a project through the partnership of The Xerces Society, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Follow this link for more information and to register:*

<https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/>

- Checking this box indicates that you agree to use the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper, if applicable.

Milkweed identification will be supported through the use of the iNaturalist app and website (<https://www.inaturalist.org/>) where appropriate. Where RCDs are conducting overwintering site improvements, the Xerces Society Monarch Thanksgiving Count* will be utilized (<https://www.westernmonarchcount.org/>)*

- Checking this box indicates that you agree to use iNaturalist and Xerces' Monarch Thanksgiving Count, if applicable.

16. For projects involving restoration or construction, please describe the following:

- Who will be responsible for implementing ongoing management and monitoring through February 2022? Provide key contact information if another agency, program, or individual will be collecting, storing, and evaluating the data.
- Beyond the proposed estimated completion date, who will be responsible or what options will the applicant pursue for funding the projects' long-term (through August 2029) monitoring, maintenance, and management?

17. Annual Monitoring reports (template provided) shall be required for the life of the project (until August 29, 2029), comparing long-term success with the grant project's final restoration report.

- Describe your plans for implementing adaptive management strategies, if necessary.
- Who is responsible for analyzing any data and issuing reports during the grant period ending in February 2022 using the tools mentioned above and the templates provided by CARCD?

18. Does this project require a Landowner Access Agreement?

- Yes
- No

Is the landowner amenable to the terms of maintenance and monitoring and do they understand that a Landowner Access Agreement must be notarized and, while it is not a lien, it must be recorded with their deed? See the Landowner Access Agreement provided with these application materials, as well as [Solicitation Section 5.7](#).

- Yes
- No

Does the landowner have access to necessary resources (e.g., water rights, infrastructure improvements) that are necessary to complete the project?

- Yes
- No

Describe:

SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES

19. Please provide a chronological work plan to illustrate how the project will be completed by March 31, 2022. Provide sufficient detail to illustrate how each element of the project will be implemented (e.g. methods/techniques used, material and equipment necessary to complete each element of the project).

BUDGET

20. This block grant will cover 70% of a project's total cost. You will be required to provide the remaining 30% as cost share/match (cash or in-kind) from non-WCB sources. Using the attached Budget template, provide a complete line item budget for the proposed project within the tasks framed out by CARCD. Provide a complete list of all partners contributing toward the project and include all sources of cash and in-kind services. If in-kind services are to be used as part of the matching requirement, please explain the type of service that will be provided, the number of hours the service will be provided, and the hourly rate associated with the service. Cost share must be used to support the proposed project and must be spent during the WCB grant term. Also, be sure to identify any funding that is available for long-term operation and maintenance costs.

PROJECT READINESS (FOR IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS)

21. Projects must be CEQA exempt to be eligible for this funding. Please explain why your project does not fall under CEQA.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

22. CARCD and the WCB recognize the need for consultation regarding projects that affect California tribal communities. As such, applicants should make every effort to involve Native American Tribes or stakeholder groups as appropriate. Describe your efforts to that effect.

23. Will the project include work undertaken by the California Conservation Corps or a Local Conservation Corps?

24. Is this project located within a disadvantaged community and/or will it provide benefits to disadvantaged communities (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>)?

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- I understand this is an application and not a guarantee of funding through the CARCD Block Grant Program. If the WCB approves this application, a sub-contract will be

executed between CARCD and the RCD to outline responsibilities and requirements of the program.

Applicant Name (Print)

Applicant Signature

Date
