

# PLACER COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2006-2007 Annual Plan

Adopted 7/25/06

**MISSION:** *The Placer County Resource Conservation District is dedicated to identifying natural resource management and conservation issues, providing education and technical assistance or direction to private landowners/operators and local entities. Independently and in collaboration with other local, state and federal agencies and organizations, the RCD will implement programs and plans to conserve and enhance the natural resources of the District while inspiring and mobilizing public conservation awareness and involvement.*

The RCD 2006-2007 Annual Plan (Plan) is based on the Board adopted RCD 2004-2009 Strategic/Long Range Plan to develop and implement conservation assistance programs in the areas of: watershed planning; water conservation; reduction of topsoil erosion; wildlife habitat improvement, enhancement, and preservation; political communication and public education.

The RCD 2006-2007 Annual Plan represents a continuation in structure and form which extends the general concepts adopted for the RCD 2005-2006 Annual Plan. Although continuity is maintained, the RCD 2006-2007 Annual Plan contains revisions that reflect RCD Board direction provided during their annual planning meeting.

The Board discussed Placer County's changing landscape and competing environmental values where increasing urbanization is creating a need to evaluate how we market our services over time to adapt to these changes. Our conservation assistance effort must respect changing conditions where smaller parcels are emerging and create a challenge of providing services to private landowners, government agencies and other community groups within the following Plan Goal areas: **Fuel Load Reduction**/Fire Safety efforts which include developing a cost share program with NRCS for GIS technical assistance; **Small Landowner Assistance** programs such as riparian area and pond management, proper application of pesticide and herbicide; **Urban Erosion Control**, which includes assistance to Placer County regarding storm water management efforts, **Watershed Activities** that assist and promote collaborative efforts within defined watersheds, and **Education Activities** targeted at school age children, 4-H'ers and Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Implementation of these Plan Goal areas, which represent RCD Board priority issues and opportunities, will be accomplished through partnerships with agencies/entities, public education and outreach efforts, promoting and assisting NRCS programs for farmers, brochures and website development, continued support of watersheds efforts, and submission of proposals for grants and contracts. RCD staff will strive to implement activities within these program areas by obtaining contracts and grants which will

supplement normal RCD tax revenues. Staff will seek to obtain grants large and small for “on-the-ground projects”.

*While each program area lists a number of issues, the first five issues continue to represent the highest priority for 2006-2007 implementations. However, all issues are important and will be addressed as staff time and funding permits.*

**Goal: Fuel Load Reduction; By June 2007 the RCD will reduce fuel load by 2,000 tons; assist NRCS and CDF in improving forest health on 350 acres; assist Placer County in treating 20 acres on Hidden Falls Regional Park and 4 acres on Squaw Valley Park.**

Strategy and Priority Actions:

1. Provide Landowner Technical Assistance as Requested
2. Administer existing WUI Grant & Chipper Program/Fire Safe Inspection Programs
3. Support NRCS with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Healthy Forest Practices and CDF with California Forest Incentive Program (CFIP) as requested in improving forest health.
4. Prepare proposals through CFIP to treat fuel load for Placer County Parks Division.
5. Administer CDF Forestry Stewardship Program Committee Grant & Participate in CARCD Forestry & Fuels Mgt Subcommittee
6. Administer RCD/NRCS GIS contract and coordinate with Nevada, El Dorado and Georgetown Divide RCD's to identify fuel load reduction projects.
7. Support and Participate in Placer County Fire Safe Alliance and councils as requested.

Implementation Strategy:

Our implementation strategy is to support our healthy forest and fuel load reduction partners (NRCS, USFS, BLM, CDF, HSRC&D, Placer County, Cities, Fire Safe Alliance and Fire Safe Councils) in obtaining and/or administering grants to promote California Forestry Incentives Program (CFIP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) as a tool to reduce fuel load and promote healthy forest activities.

While the focus of this strategy is toward improving forestland health, the RCD is committed to provide assistance to urban areas as well. Participation in the Fire Safe Alliance and Fire Safe Councils may lead to Coffee Klatches co-hosted by the RCD to serve landowners in high and very high fuel load areas.

Deliverables include:

1. Management of existing grants/contracts which include the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant.
2. Manage the CDF Forest Stewardship Committee grant.
3. Create and manage the Cooperative Agreement with NRCS before September 2006 for GIS support with the intent of assisting NRCS and CDF with EQIP/CFIP programs.
4. Prepare CFIP proposals to assist Placer County Parks.

5. Participation on the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance and Community Fire Safe Councils will maintain relationships with partners at all levels and will promote future grants to treat acres and/or achieve tonnage goals.
6. At County request, the RCD will provide technical assistance (including site-specific recommendations) for erosion and sediment control, water conservation, vegetation management and hazardous fuel load reduction.

**Goal: Small Landowner Assistance; By June 2007 the RCD will assist 25 new and follow-up with 20 previous landowners, develop landowner grants and conduct 5 workshops.**

Strategy and Priority Actions:

1. Provide Technical Assistance to Landowners.
2. Assist NRCS with EQIP/CSP/WHIP Workshops
3. Administer Prop 50 American Basins Working Landscapes Project
4. Administer Red Sesbania invasive weeds eradication project
5. Conduct erosion control, irrigation, pasture management, invasive species, and riparian habitat restoration workshops
6. Develop Implementation Grants
7. Support HSRC&D programs serving small landowners (see HSRC&D '06-'07 Annual Plan).

Implementation Strategy:

The RCD implementation strategy is to continue providing on-going technical assistance to homeowners, landowners and/or operators in the conservation of natural resources. Technical assistance is provided directly by RCD staff or in partnership with NRCS; Ducks Unlimited; Sutter, Nevada, and El Dorado/Georgetown Divide RCD's; UC Extension Service; and High Sierra RC&D. Scheduling of workshops will be coordinated and completed with partner agency consultation and based on appropriate time of year. Workshop topics of interest will include but not be limited to Irrigation Water Management (IWM), invasive weeds eradication and management, voluntary landowner activities in reducing impacts from herbicide/pesticide application, integrated pest management, erosion control and water efficient irrigation system designs.

The RCD will participate with NRCS in the promotion of the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) to develop wetland habitat sites, Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), solicit grants to promote NRCS Backyard Conservation program to the public and students, cooperate with Sutter RCD and Ducks Unlimited to promote programs/projects such as NRCS Conservation Security Program (CSP) for maintaining and enhancing natural resources which might include crop rotation, cover crops, conservation tillage, prescribed grazing, filter strips, grassed waterways, managed access to streams, nutrient and pest management and irrigation water management and promotion of the rice roller.

RCD staff will also attend workshops and training seminars provided by funding agencies to instruct applicants in preparing successful proposals.

Deliverables include:

1. The RCD will cooperate with partner entity/agencies to organize and help conduct workshops
2. Staff will provide technical assistance (as requested) to landowners and prepare grant proposals.
3. Working with NRCS, RCD staff will complete periodic follow-up phone calls and/or field visits with past RCD/NRCS clients.
4. Cooperate with partners to establish an invasive weed eradication effort.

**Goal: Urban Erosion Control; By June 2007 the RCD will reduce erosion from 15 construction sites, conduct three (3) construction industry training courses and up to three (3) county staff trainings, and continue to assist in reviewing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP).**

Strategy and Priority Actions:

1. Provide Urban Erosion Control Assistance for County and Municipalities
2. Assist Placer County with Squaw Valley TMDL's and water quality monitoring program
3. Develop or refine SWPPP, provide Storm Water Monitoring, & Staff Training
4. Provide site plan and grading review training for county employees
5. Assist Placer County with outfall inventory and Martis Valley Water Quality Program
6. Provide "communication nexus" for TAC/ARWG-Sediment Study

Implementation Strategy:

The RCD will provide on-site technical assistance pertaining to erosion and sediment control to Placer County and the Cities of Roseville, Auburn and Lincoln. These technical assistance efforts are included in approved contracts and generally relate to proposed urban construction sites. RCD staff will review grading/winterization/plans and/or monitor erosion and sediment control BMPs as requested. It is anticipated that several trips per site will be required for follow up. RCD will review and revise SWPPPs for Placer County. RCD staff will also participate in the American River Watershed Sediment Study which is somewhat affected by urbanizing areas in the Colfax, Foresthill, and Auburn areas. RCD staff participation is funded through the Sediment Study Grant. The District will assist the American River Watershed Group (ARWG) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in reviewing findings related to the Sediment Study. Potential projects such as habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, vegetation management, and hazardous fuel load reduction activities may result from the Study.

Deliverables include:

1. Staff will provide recommendations and comments to the County of Placer and Cities on construction site erosion control plans

2. Staff will review and make recommendations to the North Fork American River Trail SWPPP.
3. Staff will participate on the ARWG and TAC in scheduled meetings by preparing associated agendas, minutes, and progress reports regarding Tetra Tech accomplishments.
4. Staff will conduct construction industry training courses and county staff trainings

**Goal: Watershed Activities; By June 2007 the RCD will support six (6) established watershed groups/collaborative efforts.**

Strategy and Priority Actions:

1. Administer DOC American River Watershed Coordinator Grant
2. Administer DOC Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator Grant
3. Administer the Clean Water Act; Section 319 (h) grant to support invasive species eradication, water quality monitoring training for citizen volunteers
4. Implement partnership with Auburn Recreation District/Wetland/Habitat Management for Atwood Phase III
5. Support American River Watershed Group/ARD Watershed Education Center
6. Support the Bear River Watershed Group
7. Coordinate with the CA Bay Delta Authority/Sacramento River Watershed Program
8. Participate in the Truckee River Watershed Council Projects & Assessments Committee
9. Support the American Basin Watershed Council
10. Support the American Basin Working Group
11. Participate in the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) Planning process

Implementation Strategy:

The RCD will participate and provide support with established watershed groups, as identified in the County/RCD contract. RCD staff will implement existing DOC grants for watershed coordinators as well as complete the administration of the existing Clean Water Act (Section 319 h) grant.

Deliverables include:

Develop collaborative partnerships in the areas of conservation, water quality, and water efficiency to provide reliable capacity and enhance natural watershed ecosystem values. Incidental deliverables will be those projects implemented by and through each of the watershed groups. A list of active projects for each of the watershed groups will be provided by June 2007.

**Goal: Education Activities; By June 2007 the RCD will organize one (1) Placer County Agricultural Tour, prepare ten (10) news releases, One (1) Annual report, two (2) newsletters, support conservation efforts of three (3) high schools, promote local conservation activities and continue to develop and maintain an RCD website.**

Strategy and Priority Actions:

1. Develop & Support '07 Placer County Ag Tour

2. Develop Newspaper Articles/Press Releases and Newsletters
3. Promote and support CARCD Speak-off Contest
4. Promote and support Range Camp, Support Nature Bowl &/or CA Envirothon
5. Develop and maintain RCD Website
6. Participate in Gold Country Fair, Foresthill Wildfire of the Divide and Meadow Vista Pioneer Day Events

Implementation Strategy:

RCD staff will organize, with participation from our partners, the '07 Placer County Ag Tour and participate in the annual Lincoln High School Farm Conference. Staff will draft and distribute appropriate press releases and television/radio announcements on seasonal resource management topics and to publicize existing RCD/NRCS programs (including newspaper inserts, if appropriate) to promote watershed stewardship, conservation activities, fire safe concerns, and forest management issues.

Provide presentations and information about the CARCD Speak-off Contest, work with the UC Extension and the 4H to select a high school student to represent the RCD at the annual Range Camp competition, and work with individual students and teachers as requested for the CA Envirothon.

RCD staff will establish and maintain a web site for the RCD with current information, archives and links to relevant information and agencies.

Staff will continue to build active partnerships with local high schools in the natural resource curriculum. As requested, staff will provide assistance to school groups and classes for field trips to visit business, farms, ranches, and other agricultural operations to observe and learn about agriculture in Placer County. This could include providing seed money to schools to establish a means of assisting individual classes. The RCD will collaborate with Placer Nature Center on educational programs including partial financial support for the Nature Bowl. Continue to promote the Foresthill Farmers' Market Association and its brochure identifying farmers' market schedule.

Continue to work with the American River Watershed Institute on items of mutual interest, especially utilization and maintenance of the French Meadows Research Facility (formerly know as the Dam Keeper's House).

As requested, speak to community organizations (service clubs, trails and equestrian groups, youth groups on topics relating to forestry, recycling, water quality, agriculture, watershed awareness and other natural resource issues.

Deliverables include:

Provide displays (and staffing) for local fairs, festivals, home & garden shows, and other public activities in Placer County communities. Participate in appropriate regional activities, such as the American River Confluence Festival, Salmon Festival, Wildfire Awareness Week, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Creek Week, Fire on the Divide, Pioneer Day, etc.

**Goal: Administration; By June 2007 the RCD will implement its 2006-2007 Annual Plan through an adopted budget and comply with local, state and federal accounting rules and regulations and carry out normal administrative duties.**

Strategy and Priority Actions:

1. Prepare agenda for RCD regular, special and committee board meetings.
2. Prepare RCD budget, monthly, quarterly & annual accounting, regular board reporting data and information.
3. Training - Irrigation/Erosion Certification, GIS/GPS, Computer security, etc.
4. Assist walk-ins, respond to phone calls, emails, mail, prepare payroll, maintain District insurance coverage, and participate in miscellaneous staff, Agricultural Center, EQIP, etc. meetings.
5. Continue inter-agency networking and appropriate interagency MOU and/or agency agreement development.
6. Develop relationship with Sierra Nevada Conservancy
7. Attend CARCD Annual Meeting and Regional Meetings
8. Develop Relationship with PG&E Stewardship Council and Placer Land Trust
9. Participate in "Day in the Capitol".
10. Attend High Sierra RC&D Meetings and coordinate annual planning activities
11. NRCS vehicle maintenance
12. Attend NACD Conferences as appropriate
13. Explore RCD Capital Improvements-Building options

Implementation Strategy:

RCD staff will maintain accounting records and present a financial report to the Board each month; the RCD Board will fund an annual audit.

RCD staff and contractors will prepare and submit activity reports monthly, quarterly and final reports to the RCD Board, the county, and any state and/or federal grants requiring such reports. RCD staff will support grant activities through "Technical Advisory Committee" (TAC) collaboration and grant management services. RCD staff will continue to support NRCS Community Technical Assistance, Farm Bill Programs, and other related activities through the Local Working Group and with landowners.

Continue to work with the County of Placer, the Cities of Lincoln, Roseville, and Auburn on budget development and management of RCD joint-work and assistance programs. RCD Directors and staff will contact local "decision makers" to inform and advocate for collaborative projects.

Continue to build partnerships with agencies, citizens' groups and organizations to further the goals of conservation stewardship and management of natural resources including participation on the Placer County Conservation Plan Inter-Agency Working Group with the preparation of the Placer County Conservation Plan, American Basin Working Group, and with adjacent RCD's and NRCS in developing GIS data.

RCD staff and/or NRCS and/or RCD Director(s) will attend various RCD, CARCD, NACD meetings, weed management area meetings, joint powers authority (JPA) meetings and other meetings deemed necessary for RCD operations.

RCD staff will attend technical training sessions (continuing education), which will retain “certification status” in the areas of Erosion/Sediment Control and Irrigation Water Management.

Staff and contractors will complete general office duties as needed such as receptionist duties; receiving and replying to letters, e-mail and phone calls; acquisition of office equipment/supplies, printing and similar services; producing agendas, minutes, and mailings.

RCD staff and Board will review the RCD 2004-2009 Strategic/Long Range Plan at least once annually and prepare an Annual Work Plan. RCD staff will coordinate with NRCS in identifying availability of NRCS staffing during an Annual Workload/Annual Plan analysis.

Work with federal, state, and local governments and watershed groups on watershed projects that coincide with the mission and goals of the RCD.

Deliverables include:

Staff will prepare an Annual Plan with proposed budget by September 2007.

RCD staff will prepare RCD Board agendas with appropriate financial and monthly narrative staff/consultant reports.

RCD staff will participate with partners in attending collaborative meetings with decision makers, scheduled conferences such as “Days in the Capitol” as directed by the Board.

Staff will attend technical training to retain “certification status”.