

**Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
March 18, 2020 5:30pm
TCRCD/NRCS Partnership Office: 81 N. Washington St. Suite B, Sonora, CA 95370**

Our mission is to help landowners and residents voluntarily improve quality of life within Tuolumne County through improved management of the land and natural resources today and in the future.

Teleconference Information

Dial-in number: 401-283-4162 PIN: 30246

Webcast: <https://www.uberconference.com/tcrcd>

Call to Order

Roll Call: Stuart Crook, Stephen Dietrich, Kirk Ford, Missy Marino, Maiya Morrison, Jim Phelan, Galen Weston

Public Comment

(5 minutes per item maximum) We would like to welcome the members of the public who have taken the time to bring their concerns to this meeting. Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any matter within the Board's jurisdiction. This need not be related to any item on the agenda; however, the Board cannot act on an item unless it was noticed on the agenda.

Business

1. Discussion and action related to February Meeting Minutes.
2. Discussion and action related to NRCS CARCD Memorandum of Agreement.
3. Discussion and action related to TCRCD Grant Program Updates:
 - a. Landowner Stewardship Program
 - b. Water Conservation Program/Landowner Resiliency Program
 - c. RCPP Forestry Program
 - d. Amador Calaveras Tuolumne Carbon Hub
 - e. NFWF Resilient Communities Proposal
 - f. WCB CARCD Monarch Block Grant Proposals
 - g. Pending Project Proposals
2. Discussion and action related to Financial Update.

District Manager Update

NRCS Update

Correspondence and Announcements

Other Matters at the Discretion of the Chair

Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact District Manager Lindsay Mattos at (209) 984-0500. Notification 48 hours prior

to the meeting will enable the TCRCD to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II)

**Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting MINUTES
February 19, 2020 5:30pm
TCRCD/NRCS Partnership Office: 81 N. Washington St. Suite B, Sonora, CA 95370.**

Call to Order: 5:35pm

Roll Call: Stuart Crook, Stephen Dietrich, Kirk Ford, Missy Marino, Maiya Morrison, Jim Phelan, Galen Weston

Public Comment: None.

Business

1. Discussion and action related to CSDA Field Coordinator Update and Consideration of AB 2093. Update from field representative Dane Wedle on AB 2093 and discussion by the board on crafting a letter explaining the impact to the district.
2. Discussion and action related to January Meeting Minutes. Motion by director Morrison to approve the minute, second by director Phelan, motion passed unanimously.
3. Discussion and action related to TCRCD Grant Program Updates:
 - a. Landowner Stewardship Program
 - b. Water Conservation Program/Landowner Resiliency Program
 - c. RCPP Forestry Program
 - d. Cedar Ridge Fuel Reduction Project
 - e. Amador Calaveras Tuolumne Carbon Hub
 - f. Pending Project Proposals

L. Mattos provided updates on each of the projects the RCD is currently working on. The Cedar Ridge proposal was not recommended for funding by Sierra Nevada Conservancy, TCRCD will continue to work with the Forest Service to find funding for the project. L. Mattos also gave an update on project proposals being submitted in February.

2. Discussion and action related to TStan IRWM Administration. Update provided by L. Mattos and director Ford on the IRWM and the services TCRCD provides.
3. Discussion and action related to Financial Update. Report provided to board members, no action.

District Manager Update: None.

NRCS Update: Written report provided.

Correspondence and Announcements

Other Matters at the Discretion of the Chair:

Adjournment: 6:44pm

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact District Manager Lindsay Mattos at (209) 984-0500. Notification 48 hours prior

to the meeting will enable the TCRCDD to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II)



February 3, 2020

To: Resource Conservation District Board Members

Subject: New State-Level Memorandum of Agreement between NRCS, CARCD and individual Resource Conservations Districts

We are excited to report our joint efforts to finalize a new state-level Memorandum of Agreement between CA-NRCS, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) and each individual Resource Conservation District (RCD) has been completed. The original national MOA template has been reviewed and edited by the CARCD board members after which, a draft copy was distributed to all RCDs in July/August 2019 for their review and concurrence. Attached is the final RCD-MOA, MOA attachments and a MOA fact sheet.

NRCS District Conservationists across the State will present this MOA to the RCD Directors with the appropriate RCD name in the agreement for signature. After the RCD signs the MOA, we will provide the agreement to Don Butz, President, CARCD, for signature and he will return the agreement to Carlos Suarez, State Conservationist. A copy of the final signed agreement will be returned to each RCD. The original copy of each agreement will be kept at the CA-NRCS state office.

For the board's information, attached is a MOA fact sheet which includes the following:

- Background information;
- Why a new agreement is necessary;
- Why a name change;
- What's in the new agreement, and are there any negative impacts;
- History of our partnerships;
- What we can do together, and the intent.

If you have any questions please contact Gayle Barry, Special Assistant to the State Conservationist at 530-792-5661 or gayle.barry@usda.gov.

Thank you so much for your continued partnership.



Carlos Suarez
State Conservationist

with attachments:
RCD-MOA
MOA Attachments
MOA Fact Sheet



Memorandum of Agreement Fact Sheet

Background Information:

NRCS is in the process of replacing the current State Level Cooperative Working Agreement (CWA) (signed in 1999), with each Resource Conservation District, with a new **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)**.

- Currently NRCS has a state level Cooperative Working Agreement with each Resource Conservation District. These Cooperative Working Agreements will be replaced with a new Memorandum of Agreement.
- The Memorandum of Agreement is between California-NRCS, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and each Resource Conservation District.
 - The Memorandum of Agreement documents the relationship and basic framework for the cooperation between NRCS, and the Resource Conservation District on a statewide basis.
 - Neither funding nor things of value can be transferred through the Memorandum of Agreement.
 - The Memorandum of Agreement is not a legally or financially binding document.

Why New Agreements with Resource Conservation Districts:

- NRCS now falls under a new branch of USDA called Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC). The administrative functions of the component Agencies (NRCS, FSA and RMA) have been merged. Thus, numerous supporting documents are being looked at with fresh eyes, including the Agreements that Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and NRCS have operated under with conservation districts for the last 80 years. Now we are being directed to reformat and re-sign these documents to bring them up-to-date and make them consistent with the language used across FPAC.

Why a Name Change:

- The reason to change the name from Cooperative Working Agreement to Memorandum of Agreement is to ensure the correct and legal use of the partnership agreement.
 - The state level Cooperative Working Agreement was previously improperly used as a Memorandum of Agreement, which documents the working relationship between NRCS and RCD's but is not legally or financially binding
 - Memorandum of Agreements are very different from Cooperative Agreements, which are used for securing agreements of monetary

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Memorandum of Agreement Fact Sheet

value or imply transfer of funds. Memorandum of Agreements cannot be used in exchange of monetary value or transfer of funds.

- Cooperative Agreements are legally or financially binding and imply there is some type of monetary transfer and is a legal or financial binding document.

What's in the New Memorandum of Agreement:

- Several additions have been made to the Memorandum of Agreement which were highlighted in the 2018 Farm Bill and subsequently prompted NRCS to review the Cooperative Working Agreement for quality assurance. The Memorandum of Agreement has been updated nationally with a statement of mutual benefit. The following language additions have been made:
 - Emphasis on locally-led voluntary conservation has been added;
 - Specific language on what NRCS and the RCD's shall do regarding locally-led voluntary conservation and adherence to technical standards;
 - To include language on data and information sharing; and
 - A section on general provisions that address period of performance, amendments and transfer of funding or non-monetary resources.

Are there any negative impacts?

- We *do not expect this to have any negative impacts* on our relationship with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, or individual Resource Conservation Districts. In fact, this is a positive thing that we will be codifying in current terms the historic relationship between NRCS and our District partners. It's not surprising that across 50 states, 2 territories and 85 years our many agreements have gotten a bit "individualized." FPAC is developing a standard template and now our agreements will be similar from Alabama to Wyoming.

History of Partnerships:

- The Brown Creek Soil Conservation District in North Carolina signed the first Memorandum of Understanding, (currently called a Cooperative Working Agreement and soon to be replaced by a new Memorandum of Agreement) with USDA in 1937. The acreage in districts topped the two billion mark in 1973. Beginning in 1980, Native Americans organized districts and began receiving assistance from NRCS as well.
- Partnerships expand the reach and depth of conservation on the land. It is our duty to provide quality assistance to farmers, ranchers and landowners to ensure protection of our nation's lands. Individually the federal and state agencies, nonprofit groups, and Resource Conservation Districts that comprise our conservation partnerships have a diversity of expertise in discipline,

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Memorandum of Agreement Fact Sheet

location/area, and focus. As partners in conservation, these groups share their unique areas of expertise and conservation work to put more conservation on the land.

What we can do together:

- Approve conservation plans, in accordance with conservation policy;
- Provide technical assistance;
- Provide administrative support;
- Lead the locally led process;
- Provide input on local natural resource concerns and recommendations to NRCS for Conservation Technical Assistance programs;
- Lead local communication and public participation;
- Assist with outreach programs;
- Convene the USDA local working group; and,
- Become a certified TSP.

The intent is:

- Continued support of customer service;
- Strengthen and modernize conservation delivery;
- Outreach to new and existing farmers and partners;
- Encourage a voluntary approach; and,
- Practical approach to conservation of water, soil and environment

If there are any questions concerning the new state-level Memorandum of Agreement, please contact the local District Conservationist or the Area Assistant State Conservationist. Assistant State Conservationist contact info:

- Area 1, Tony Sunseri, 530-737-5217 or tony.sunseri@usda.gov
- Area 2, Kay Joy Barge, 893-975-7763 or kay.joybarge@usda.gov
- Area 3, Sharon Nance, 559-490-5218 or Sharon.nance@usda.gov
- Area 4, Curtis Tarver, 951-684-3722 or Curtis.tarver@usda.gov

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
AND
Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District, State of California
AND THE
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is entered into between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (hereafter referred to as NRCS) and the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (hereafter referred to as Resource Conservation District), and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

The NRCS and Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (referred to jointly as the Parties) have common objectives of delivering technical and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, forest stewards, and other entities to voluntarily protect, restore, and enhance the productivity of American agricultural lands. The Parties recognize the importance of natural resources, the wise use and management of these natural resources, and, as appropriate, the protection and/or development of these natural resources. This agreement is made and entered into with the objectives of:

- Continuing to support the delivery of excellent and innovative customer service;
- Recognizing conservation planning as foundational to our work and working together to meet the conservation planning assistance needs of our cooperatives/customers.
- Strengthening and modernizing conservation delivery to optimize efficiency and effectiveness;
- Continuing and broadening our outreach to existing and new customers and partners;
- Supporting science-based decision making as close to the resource issue/opportunity as possible;
- Encouraging a voluntary approach with landowners as the primary means of accomplishing conservation goals; and
- Using sound approaches to strengthen each Party and its role in the delivery of soil, water, and related natural resource conservation across the nation.

II. BACKGROUND

The NRCS and Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District share a rich history of collaborating to deliver comprehensive technical and financial assistance to farmers, ranchers, forest stewards, and other entities to voluntarily protect, restore, and enhance natural resources.

The Soil Conservation Service was established in 1935 (renamed NRCS in 1994 to reflect its broader conservation mission). NRCS is committed to “helping people help the land.” It provides assistance and resources for conservation practices that improve water and air quality, prevent erosion, restore wetlands, and enhance wildlife. NRCS’s approach to mission delivery and customer service is deeply rooted in the notion that locally-led, voluntary efforts yield the most effective and productive outcomes. Locally-led conservation is the principle that farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards know their lands better than anyone else based on their personal knowledge and experience with those lands. As such, they are best positioned to make optimal decisions for the benefit of their operations, their natural resource conditions, and their communities.

The first Conservation District was established in 1937 to provide local leadership in natural resources management. Resource Conservation Districts serve as the link between federal and state agency resources with the local farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards. They are responsible for promoting and carrying out their conservation programs by assisting communities and its members develop, apply, and maintain appropriate conservation practices and resource management systems. They are authorized to provide broad area planning and implementation assistance to units of government. They are a focal point for coordinating and delivering conservation technical assistance and funding to their respective communities.

III. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT

In conjunction with the NRCS, the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District coordinates and implements locally led conservation plans because of to their connections to Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments; private resources; and the public. The Parties agree to facilitate cooperation, collaboration, and agreement between agencies, landowners, and other stakeholders; develop comprehensive conservation plans; and bring those plans to the attention of landowners and others within the district.

In addition, the Parties recognize the importance of working together to broaden strategic assessment and planning under the authority of the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of soil, water, and related natural resources. The Parties further recognize that natural resources are finite and under increasing pressure from a variety of impacts and demands. Soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy are all addressed under the programs, initiatives, and partnership efforts of the Parties.

In order to deliver the necessary technical and financial assistance to enable locally-led, voluntary conservation, the Parties agree to adhere to the principles, roles, and responsibilities outlined in this Section of the MOA. This MOA does not affect or modify existing regulations or agency responsibilities and authorities. Moreover, this MOA does not commit either party to activities beyond the scope of its respective mission and statutory authorities.

A. Locally-Led, Voluntary Conservation

The Parties agree that locally-led, voluntary conservation must be driven by natural resource conservation needs, rather than by funding. Its primary focus is to identify natural resource concerns, along with related economic and social concerns. Locally-led conservation consists of a series of activities and phases that involve community stakeholders in natural resource planning, implementation of solutions, and evaluation of results:

As funding and other resources allow, the Resource Conservation District agrees to:

- Assist NRCS in promoting USDA programs by participating in outreach and community education activities.
- Advocate for a strong natural resource conservation program by keeping appropriate boards, landowners, legislators, county agricultural commissioners, and other key stakeholders apprised of District conservation activities.
- Assemble and chair the USDA local working group, as chartered under the State Technical Committee and authorized by 7 CFR 610, Part C to encourage public participation.
- ❖ Refer to MOA Attachments, Appendix B, which is a full text of 7 CFR 610, Part C and available upon request. The language for the State Technical Committee authorized by 7 CRF 610, Part C may change, in the future, with a new farm bill. To see the latest State Technical Committee authorization, go to:

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/7/part-610/subpart-C>

*Legal Information Institute; Electronic Code of Federal Regulations; Title 7. Agriculture; Subtitle B. Regulations for the Department of Agriculture; Chapter VI NRCS, Subpart B, Conservation Programs; NRCS 7 CFR Subpart C-State Technical **Committees**.*

- Encourage diverse participation in local working groups through community outreach and education, to include stakeholders from historically underserved communities.
- Open local working group meetings to the public and provide public notice of meetings to federal, state, Tribal entities, local agencies and community stakeholders, including using Tribal publications if they exist in the district, including historical lands.
- Develop the agenda and associated materials/information for local working groups and distribute at least 14 calendar days prior to the meeting.
- Develop and file local working group meeting records at the local NRCS office within 30 calendar days of the meetings.
- Adhere to local working group responsibilities and standard operating procedures, as documented in NRCS policy, Title 440, Part 500 - Conservation Programs Manual, Locally Led Conservation.
- ❖ Refer to MOA Attachments, Appendix C, which is a full text of Title 440, Part 500- Conservation Programs Manual: Locally Led Conservation and is available upon request. Title 440, Part 500 -Conservation Programs Manual, Locally Led Conservation may be revised in the future. To see the latest Title 440, Part 500 - Conservation Programs Manual, Locally Led Conservation go to:

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/RollupViewer.aspx?hid=27712>

- Develop a conservation needs assessment through broad-based community participation and in accordance with NRCS policy and procedures. This will provide a basis for making decisions about local priorities or policies in all local conservation programs.
- Recommend local natural resource priorities and criteria for NRCS conservation activities and programs based on the conservation needs assessment and public input.
- Develop a Long-Range Plan every three (3) to five (5) years and an Annual Plan of Work and/or Plan of Operations each year, or as specified in state statute. These documents must incorporate local and community inputs.
- Identify NRCS program resources, develop and implement conservation plans and work with NRCS to evaluate/measure the technical and community impacts.
- Update NRCS on conservation activities of local and state advisory committees and community groups attended by resource conservation district board members and staff.
- Cooperate and collaborate across other resource conservation districts, as appropriate and as permitted by state statute.

NRCS agrees to:

- Support outreach activities and ensure the Resource Conservation District is kept informed of NRCS activities and programs on at least a monthly basis. This includes bringing technical and financial assistance opportunities (including matching fund strategies) to the attention of the Resource Conservation District.
- Work cooperatively to solicit and leverage community recommendations to inform priorities that guide the delivery of NRCS conservation programs.
 - Designate a NRCS representative to participate in Resource Conservation District meetings and events, including local working group meetings. Alternatively, NRCS will chair the local working group should the Resource Conservation District be unable or unwilling to.
 - Develop and transmit written notifications to the local working group members as to the decisions made in response to their recommendations within 90 days.
- Respond to requests from the Resource Conservation District for technical guidance and assistance.

- Partner with local and Tribal entities and agencies, as well as community groups where possible, to further Resource Conservation District natural resource conservation goals and objectives.
- Attempt to align program priorities within the resource conservation district with the natural resource concerns identified by the local working group.
- Provide an annual summary of NRCS accomplishments to the Resource Conservation District.
- Work with resource conservation districts to identify NRCS program resources, develop and implement conservation practices/plans and to measure the technical and community outcomes of conservation efforts.

B. Adherence to Technical Standards

The Parties agree to the use of science-based decision-making to address local natural resource issues. Implementation of sound conservation plans and practices will strengthen each party, as well as their roles in the delivery of soil and water conservation.

The Resource Conservation District agrees to:

- Adhere to Federal, State, Local, and Tribal laws and regulations.
- Utilize NRCS policies and procedures, including the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), and/or other science-based technical standards as applicable to the local conservation priorities and activities.
- Leverage and promote use of USDA technologies and software applications, as appropriate.
- When implementing NRCS conservation practices on behalf of, or in partnership with NRCS, assign conservation practice job approval authority to its personnel based on employee knowledge, skill, and ability level, and within applicable laws and guidelines. Obtain NRCS concurrence for job approval for practices involving USDA authorities or programs.
- As funding and other resources allow, participate in local, state, and national opportunities for policy, program, and project development.

NRCS agrees to:

- Develop, update, and disseminate technical standards, policies, and procedures.
- Seek input and comment from communities on natural resource conservation policies and issues.
- Inform the Resource Conservation District and communities when pending NRCS statutes, laws, regulations, policies, or procedures may have a significant impact on the community.
- Develop and provide access to USDA technologies and applications to facilitate shared standards, as appropriate.
- Evaluate non-NRCS employees and assign job approval authority in accordance with NRCS policy and consistent with State laws when districts are implementing NRCS conservation practices in partnership with, or on behalf of, NRCS.
- Provide engineering job approval, when Resource Conservation Districts are implementing NRCS conservation practices in partnership with, or on behalf of NRCS, as based on job class and in accordance with NRCS policy and Federal, State, and local laws, regulations and codes.
- Provide conservation planning certification for Resource Conservation District employees, as requested, and in accordance with NRCS policy and Federal, State, and local laws, regulations and codes.
- Create and promote opportunities for the Resource Conservation District board members and staff to participate in NRCS policy, program, and project development.

- Provide technical or other training for Resource Conservation District employees in conjunction with its own training, or as separate events. Training must be consistent with and in support of NRCS’s mission objectives. As such, the principal emphasis will be on the support and delivery of field-based conservation technical assistance.

C. California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) serves as a strong advocate, technical resource, and partner to RCDs in achieving the vision for the RCD field. CARCD builds the network and local impact of RCDs in California, strengthening locally-led conservation and stewardship of natural and agricultural resources. CARCD believes Resource Conservation Districts have greater impact working collectively than working alone and a strong State Association provides a powerful voice for their needs.

CARCD agrees to:

- Participate in State level work groups, committees, and public venues to educate partners and funders about the critical role RCDs play across communities in California.
- Work with State and Federal Agencies to define the potential for CARCD to serve as lead funding recipient in a model where partnerships with one or more RCDs will enhance strategic or program outcomes.
- Develop tools for all RCDs that want to explore the potential for greater conservation involvement and input to conservation efforts.
- Conduct surveys as needed of RCDs to identify partnership needs.
- Plan and host a state-wide Annual Conference with content driven by the conservation needs of California.
- Identify existing resources (NACD, CSDA, NRCS) for webinars and trainings focused on conservation.
- Host an online RCD-exchange portal to include an RCD directory, event calendar, communication and capacity building tools, message boards, and a Resource Library for all RCDs to provide information that can be posted.
- Develop management training series to build the capacity and competencies of District Managers to implement local conservation priorities and chair local work group meetings.
- Develop a board training series to support board effectiveness.
- Provide targeted support to regional networks.
- Develop and disseminate tools for engagement and relationship-building with government decision-makers.

D. Data and Information Sharing

Any information furnished to NRCS under this agreement is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). Cooperators providing technical or financial assistance under USDA programs may have access to information that must not be subsequently disclosed and may only be used for the purpose of providing that assistance. The parties also acknowledge that resource conservation districts are subject to the California Public Records Act.

See Appendix A, “ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF PRIVACY OF PERSONAL AND GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PROGRAMS.” The signatory agrees to abide by these requirements as a condition of receiving access to such information.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Period of Performance

This MOA takes effect upon the signature of the Parties and shall remain in effect until mutually modified or terminated.

B. Amendments

This MOA may be extended or amended upon written request of either Party and the subsequent written concurrence of the other. Either of the parties may terminate this MOA with a 60-day written notice to the other.

This state-level MOA may be supplemented by a local-level MOA, if desired and mutually agreed to by the parties. The local-level MOA reflects locally developed detailed working arrangements, to include NRCS's and Resource Conservation District's Annual Workplan and/or Plan of Operations. These may include, but are not limited to, documenting specific goals and objectives, action items, provision for documentation of accomplishments, schedule of planned events, and assignment of responsibilities.

C. Transfer of Funding or Non-Monetary Resources

This MOA is established to document the collaborative relationship between the Parties. Nothing in this MOA shall require either Party to obligate or transfer funding, or anything of value. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Office spaces and equipment/supplies
- Vehicles and associated expenses (e.g., fuel, maintenance)
- Computers, software, and technical equipment

The transfer of funding or other resources of value among the Parties requires execution of a separate agreement. The appropriate instruments include:

- Cooperative Agreement (2 CFR 200.24), which allows federal agencies to transfer a thing of value to the State, local or Tribal government, or other recipient to carry out a public purpose authorized by law of the United States.
- Contribution Agreement (7 CFR 6962a), which is a unique statutory authority allowing NRCS to enter into an agreement with a non-federal entity that shares a mutual purpose in carrying out NRCS programs. All parties must contribute resources to the accomplishment of these objectives.
- Reimbursable Agreement (31 USC 686; PL 90-577), which allows federal agencies to provide specialized or technical services to State and local governments.

D. Other

This MOA is not intended to, and does not create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

All activities and programs conducted under this MOA shall be in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions contained in Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-250); and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. Also, they will be in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7 CFR Part 15, subpart A), which provide that no person in the United State shall on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of an applicant or recipient receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any Agency thereof.

All activities, funded by the NRCS, shall be in compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D).

V. SIGNATURES

Tuolumne County RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Kirk Ford, Chairman, TCRCB Board of Directors

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

_____ **Date: _____**
Don Butz, President

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

_____ **Date: _____**
Carlos Suarez, State Conservationist

Appendix A

Acknowledgement of Requirements for Protection of Privacy of Personal and Geospatial Information Relating to Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs

SEC. 1619. INFORMATION GATHERING. (Appendix C – Section 1619 of the 2008 Farm Bill)

- (a) GEOSPATIAL SYSTEMS. — The Secretary shall ensure that all the geospatial data of the agencies of the
- (b) Department of Agriculture are portable and standardized.

(b) LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURES. —

(1) **DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATION.** — In this subsection, the term “agricultural operation” includes the production and marketing of agricultural commodities and livestock.

(2) **PROHIBITION.** — Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), the Secretary, any officer or employee of the Department of Agriculture, or any contractor or cooperator of the Department, shall not disclose—

(A) information provided by an agricultural producer or owner of agricultural land concerning the agricultural operation, farming or conservation practices, or the land itself, in order to participate in programs of the Department; or

(B) geospatial information otherwise maintained by the Secretary about agricultural land or operations for which information described in subparagraph (A) is provided.

(3) **AUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES.** —

(A) **LIMITED RELEASE OF INFORMATION.** — If the Secretary determines that the information described in paragraph (2) will not be subsequently disclosed except in accordance with paragraph (4), the Secretary may release or disclose the information to a person or Federal, State, local, or tribal agency working in cooperation with the Secretary in any Department program—

(i) when providing technical or financial assistance with respect to the agricultural operation, agricultural land, or farming or conservation practices; or

(ii) when responding to a disease or pest threat to agricultural operations, if the Secretary determines that a threat to agricultural operations exists and the disclosure of information to a person or cooperating government entity is necessary to assist the Secretary in responding to the disease or pest threat as authorized by law.

(4) **EXCEPTIONS.** — Nothing in this subsection affects—

(A) the disclosure of payment information (including payment information and the names and addresses of recipients of payments) under any Department program that is otherwise authorized by law;

(B) the disclosure of information described in paragraph (2) if the information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form without naming any—

(i) individual owner, operator, or producer; or

(ii) specific data gathering site; or

(C) the disclosure of information described in paragraph (2) pursuant to the consent of the agricultural producer or owner of agricultural land.

(5) **CONDITION OF OTHER PROGRAMS.** — The participation of the agricultural producer or owner of agricultural land in, or receipt of any benefit under, any program administered by the Secretary may not be conditioned on the consent of the agricultural producer or owner of agricultural land under paragraph 4(c).

(6) **WAIVER OF PRIVILEGE OR PROTECTION.** — The disclosure of information under paragraph (2) shall not constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege or protection under Federal law, including trade secret protection.