



2020 - 2021 Annual Plan

Introduction

The Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) was formed in 2005. Our service area is consistent with the political boundaries of Tuolumne County and includes the City of Sonora. We cover the entire 2,229 square miles of Tuolumne County and work with individuals, land owners, growers, ranchers, public agencies, non-profit organizations and corporations to accomplish our goals.

Our vision is a county where natural resources and rural features are valued and protected by landowners, residents, and tourists alike with the RCD known as the go-to organization to help make this happen.

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.

The function of the TCRCD is to take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of local land managers and citizens with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

The TCRCD is governed by a 9-member voluntary Board of Directors appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and the Sonora City Council and regulated under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code.

Primary Focus Areas

Water Resources

Fuel Load Reduction, Forest Management, and Soil Quality

Noxious Weed Control and Range, Pasture, Grazing Management

District Operations/Education and Outreach

Land Stewardship

This Annual Plan covers the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Through its implementation the TCRCDD will provide programs and services consistent with the district's mission. The plan will be implemented within the context of the programs currently funded and coordinated so that the district's programs build upon and support one another.

The programs and activities of the district will be adaptively managed and implementation will necessarily be dependent upon available resources and staffing. The Annual Plan can be amended by the TCRCDD Board of Directors at any time during the year.

Issues of Focus

Given competition for grant funds and other constraints related to grant funding, implementation of district programs to address resource issues is challenging. To achieve our goals, it is critical that the TCRCDD prioritize actions to meet the natural resource conservation needs of Tuolumne County.

Resource issues of focus for the year include:

- Water Use Efficiency
- Watershed Education
- Land Stewardship
- Watershed Scale Collaboration
- Forest Health

Many of these issues are intricately connected and the TCRCDD will strive to focus efforts where they will be most cost-effective. We will also support and engage with the community and other organizations as often as feasible to meet common goals.

Goal 1: Promote water use efficiency.

Actions:

- Continue to offer landowner planning programs for stormwater, rainwater harvesting, etc.
- Continue rainwater catchment and water use efficiency rebate programs.

Tasks:

- Implement Landowner Resilience Program within Tuolumne and Stanislaus watersheds.
- Implement water conservation demonstration projects.
- Update and maintain watertoolkit.org.
- Research grant funding and apply for grants.
- Research opportunities to collaborate on specific projects or issues.

Funding:

- Prop 84 IRWM Round 2 and Drought Grants

Goal 2: Continue to provide watershed education to residents and students within the district.

Actions:

- Work with Tuolumne River Trust to provide education to elementary and high schools.
- Incorporate education into outreach events.

Tasks:

- Continue to partner with TRT on education and materials for schools.

Utilize RCD's educational tools including Augmented Reality Sandbox and Rainfall Simulator.

Utilize the Mobile Water Learning Lab at local events.

Plan tours and workshops at BMP demonstration sites.

Funding:

Prop 84 IRWM Round 2 and Drought Grants

Goal 3: Inform, Support, and Encourage land stewardship, and conservation projects on local ranches and farms through grant funding including EQIP and others.

Actions:

Implement Landowner Resilience Program with land stewardship practices.

Incorporate pollinator education and habitat into land stewardship projects.

Tasks:

Demonstration tours of successful projects (Including rainwater storage, stormwater management, livestock water and fencing enhancements.)

Update and maintain the watertoolkit.org with land stewardship Best Management Practices.

Collaborate with CARCD and ACT partnership.

Funding:

Prop 84 IRWM Round 2 and Drought Grants

Goal 4: Foster Collaboration and Cooperation among Multiple Watershed Interests

Actions:

Continue providing administration for the Tuolumne Stanislaus IRWM.

Pursue new opportunities to convene groups of landowners to promote watershed stewardship.

Continue to collaborate with other local agencies and nonprofits.

Tasks:

Continue to work with the TS IRWMA and Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions collaboratives.

Research opportunities to collaborate on specific projects or issues.

Utilize opportunities to partner with neighboring RCDs.

Funding:

TCRCD General Fund and Fee for Service

Goal 5: Improve forest health for reduction in fire threat with fuel reduction projects.

Actions:

Continue to work with Amador and Calaveras RCD's on RCPP Forestry project.

Continue to coordinate with partners on development of fuel reduction projects.

Task:

Provide support to ACT partnership in the implementation of RCPP grant.

Meet with landowners, collaborative groups, nonprofits, and agencies to coordinate and develop projects.

Continue to work with the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions and Highway 108 Fire Safe Council collaboratives.

Funding:

CARCD RCPP Forestry Grant

TCRCD General Fund and Fee for Service

2020 - 2021 Personnel

The TCRCO anticipates that it can provide the services described in this Annual Plan with existing staff, directors, and partners. Any unanticipated vacancies in staff or on the Board of Directors will be filled in a timely manner during the year.

Board of Directors:

Kirk Ford, Board Chair
Jim Phelan, Vice Chair
Missy Marino, Secretary/Treasurer
Galen Weston
Stephen Dietrich
Maiya Morrison
Stuart Crook
(2 Vacancies)

Staff:

Lindsay Mattos, District Manager
Carolyn Lott, IRWM Facilitator

Partners:

Watershed Progressive
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Amador Resource Conservation District
Calaveras County Resource Conservation District
Twain Harte Community Services District
Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority
Tuolumne County
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

2020 - 2021 Budget

As of June 17, 2020, the TCRCO Board of Directors adopted a budget for fiscal year 2020-2021 in which anticipated revenues are \$ 1,340,900.10 and anticipated expenses are \$ 1,340,900.10 . Throughout the fiscal year, staff, the Secretary/Treasurer, and the Directors will review the budget and make amendments as appropriate.

Grant Agreements, Contracts, Professional Services

As of the writing of this Annual Plan, the following grant agreements, contracts, and professional services agreements have been received or are anticipated to implement the preceding programs and actions of the district:

Grant Funding:

Proposition 84 IRWM Round 2 - Landowner Stewardship Program

Proposition 84 IRWM Round 2 - Grant Administration
Proposition 84 IRWM Drought - Regional Water Conservation Program
ACT RCPP Forestry Program

Fee for Service:

Proposition 84 IRWM Drought - Grant Administration
Tuolumne-Stanislaus IRWM Authority - Administration

Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District Annual Plan 2020-2021 adopted June 17th, 2020.