



# SLOUGHHOUSE

## Resource Conservation District

HERALD | SLOUGHHOUSE | WILTON

### Regular Meeting of the Board Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District Agenda

When: January 15, 2025  
Where: **\*NEW LOCATION\***  
Sloughhouse RCD Office  
13147 Jackson Rd.  
Sloughhouse, CA 95683

or

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85766858945>  
Meeting ID: 857 6685 8945

Time: 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any matter on the agenda before or during its consideration of the matter. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person and no more than fifteen (15) minutes per topic. For good cause, the Board Chairman may waive these limitations.

**AGENDA ITEM TIME FRAME** – All time allotments are suggested by staff and are an estimate only and subject to change.

**ACCESSIBILITY** - If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact SRCDD Staff before the day of the meeting via email [info@SloughhouseRCD.org] or telephone [916-526-5447] to discuss your accessibility needs.

1. **SWEARING IN/OATH OF NEW BOARD DIRECTORS**
2. **OPENING / CALL TO ORDER**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR (Non-Agenda Items)**

**TREASURY REPORT:**

*Sloughhouse RCD Treasurer will provide a report on fiscal updates.*

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

*Any Board member may request and remove any item from the consent agenda and place that item on the regular portion of the agenda as specified.*

- a. Agenda – January 15, 2025
- b. Minutes – December 18, 2024
- c. Financial Report – January 2025

**REPORTS:**

- a. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report
- b. SRCD Board Reports

**GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS:**

1. SRCD Office Hours
2. SRCD 5-Year Plan Updates
3. RCD Letter on the Delta Tunnel
4. Sacramento Valley Conservancy project collaboration
5. Grant Updates
  - a. Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program (CAPGP)
  - b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA)
  - c. DWR Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP)

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS:**

6. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

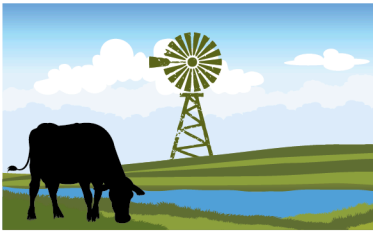
**INFORMATIONAL / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7. SRCD Staff Report

**IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

*Board Members may request items to be placed on future agendas.*

**ADJOURNMENT**



# SLOUGHHOUSE

## Resource Conservation District

HERALD | SLOUGHHOUSE | WILTON

### Meeting of the Board - MINUTES Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

When: Wednesday, December 18, 2024  
Where: Rancho Murieta Community Services  
15160 Jackson Rd.  
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

or

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85766858945>  
Meeting ID: 857 6685 8945

Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Board Members: Barbara Washburn, Herb Garms, Gary Silva Jr., Jay Schneider  
Associate Directors: Teresa Flewellyn  
Staff: Brittany Friedman, Chris Timmer

*\*\*A recording of this meeting can be found on the Sloughhouse RCD website at:  
<https://srcd.specialdistrict.org/meetings> \*\**

#### **OPENING**

*Chairman Garms called the meeting to order at 11:35am.*

#### **CLOSED SESSION (STAFF EVALUATION, GOVT CODE 5497, DISTRICT MANAGER)**

*Chairman Garms adjourned the Closed Session at 12:10pm and provided a report that the Board had provided the District Manager with an official evaluation as well as general feedback. No action was taken.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any matter not on the Agenda within the Board/District's jurisdiction.

#### **TREASURY REPORT**

Treasurer Gary Silva provided an update on SRCD's financials including the current invoices for the month. It was suggested that, since Sloughhouse RCD is expanding and conducting two simultaneous audits, a bookkeeper may be a helpful addition for financial accuracy and ease.

Drafted on:  
12/18/2024

Staff will look into potential options and if needed, place an advertisement or part-time assistance.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. Agenda – December 18, 2024
- b. Minutes –November 13, 2024
- c. Financial Report – December 2024

*Director Schneider moved to approve the consent calendar.  
Director Carter seconded the motion.  
The motion passed with all in favor.*

**REPORTS**

- a. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
NRCS Representative Toney Tillman provided a report on deadlines for EQIP, IRA and NAPI. Applications are still open through March 31, 2025. Climate smart programs and ACT NOW applications are also available through January 31, 2025.
- b. Sacramento County Ag. Commissioners Report  
None.
- c. SRCD Board Member Reports
  - Director Carter reported on the Avian flu Outbreak that has affected local livestock and dairies. Quarantine is occurring throughout the region and will continue until an unknown date. This may affect farmers and ranchers throughout California.

**GENERAL BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS**

**1. SRCD Board Appointment Updates**

Sloughhouse RCD’s submission to the County on the Board Appointments of Jay Schneider, Lindsey Carter and Teresa Flewellyn were approved and will go into effect on January 1, 2025. In looking over Board appointments, staff found that the Board is overdue to complete the Ethics Training. Staff is recommending that the Board schedule and take the training by March 1, 2025 to ensure we are compliant with State and Board Regulations. Staff will look into the details of scheduling this with legal and report back to the Board.

**2. Grant Updates**

**a. Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program (CAPGP)**

Staff provided a report/update on the CAPGP grant. There are currently 6 landowners working with Technical Service Providers (TSP’s) with 6 plans completed. The first invoice has been submitted to CDFA for reimbursement. Staff is still continuing outreach efforts for this grant as there are 10 spots remaining. The Board discussed outreach strategies to fill the Carbon Farm Plan spots. It was suggested to release a report as an example if the contact information and specifics can be removed. Staff will check with CDFA to see if this is permissible.

**b. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)**

Program Coordinator Chris Timmer provided a written report on the WETA program. Staff attended the CDFA OEFI CSA Technical Assistance Conference that was hosted for TSA providers throughout the state. This was a 2-day conference that focused on the CDFA WETA, SWEEP, HSP, AMMP. Six Well Pump Efficiency tests were performed on Monday November 4th, 2024 with collaboration from Herb Grams, Davis Ranch and Strutz Farms. One irrigation evaluation was conducted on an irrigated pasture with a buried solid set sprinkler system. The water source is from a surface water reservoir and not groundwater. Staff will also be presenting at the Sac Safety Seminar in January.

**c. DWR - CalSIP stream gage grant**

DWR is currently seeking to fund public entities to improve stream gage infrastructure and bridge data gaps as part of the Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP). Through CalSIP, public agencies can receive technical assistance to upgrade, reactivate, or install new surface water monitoring stations, at no additional cost to them, that will share important streamflow data that can help inform water management decisions.

Staff submitted an application on October 31, 2024 to reactive 3 stream gages (2 in the Cosumnes Subbasin and 1 in the South American Subbasin). The application requested a total of \$190,000 per stream gage to cover engineering, telemetry and staff time costs. If awarded, SRCD will need to fund maintenance expenses for the gages out-of-pocket beginning in 2027. CalSIP serves to execute funding agreements as soon as reasonably possible with a deadline to award by March 1, 2025, and to fully execute agreements by June 30, 2025. Gages should be fully operational by October 1, 2026.

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY ACTION ITEMS**

**3. Cosumnes Groundwater Authority**

**a. General Board Discussion**

Director Carter provided an overview on the CGA GSP updates and the steps needed to make and implement specific changes. Staff displayed the PMA's written into the GSP along with the funding requested. These will most likely be amended after the GSP review in 2027. The board discussed what projects SRCD could implement if not what is listed in the GSP. The SRCD GSA Board should continue to look at potential project options and discuss further. It was suggested that we look at the Santa Cruz RCD Meter projects they have done in the past for inspiration and ideas.

**4. South American Subbasin GSP Implementation**

Sloughhouse RCD attended the SASb Executive Committee Meeting on November 21, 2024. A 24-25 FY budget was approved with a decision that any budget savings will be carried over to mitigate the costs of the GSP update. SASb is estimating the GSP evaluation and update will cost approximately \$900,000. Staff presented the draft Scope and GSP Budget to the Board.

SRCD is currently represented by one representative and has an assignable GSP Administration and Implementation cost of 3.7%. Member contribution agreements will be sent out in early Spring to the GSA's. It was suggested to have it legal at a future Board meeting to discuss fees on the SASb side of SRCD. There may be 7 or fewer growers in our district area that we would need either an MOU or Prop 26 to collect fees from.

## **INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7. SRCD Staff Report**

Staff has been working with Blomberg and Griffin Accounting to complete the FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 Audits. This will likely take several months before a written report will be presented to the Board. Consultant Rick Wood has offered to advise/assist staff if needed.

- Staff attended the CARCD Conference on December 10 – 12, 2024. The Conference included presentations on grant projects and ideas, potential partnerships and the general exchange of ideas between RCD staff. Several follow-up meetings will take place based on connections made at the conference.

- Due to scheduling conflicts, the scheduled meeting in January 2025 have changed and are reflected on the Sloughhouse Calendar.

- January Meeting: Wednesday, January 15 from 12:30 – 3:30pm

## **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

Office Hours

5-Year Plan Updates

Delta Tunnel Letter

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Chair Garms adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.*

# Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

## Expenses Needing Board Approval

All Dates

DATE	AMOUNT	MEMO/DESCRIPTION
CARCD		
01/10/2025	16,216.38	Staff Wages - December 2024
<b>Total for CARCD</b>	<b>\$16,216.38</b>	
Innovative Ag Services		
12/30/2024	29,160.00	Conservation Plan Payment #3
<b>Total for Innovative Ag Services</b>	<b>\$29,160.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,376.38</b>	

# Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

## A/R Aging Detail

As of January 10, 2025

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	CUSTOMER	DUE DATE	AMOUNT	OPEN BALANCE
Current						
01/10/2025	Pledge	10001180186128	California Department of Food and Agriculture	02/09/2025	23,621.53	23,621.53
01/10/2025	Pledge	10001180186129	California Department of Food and Agriculture	02/09/2025	42,400.00	42,400.00
01/03/2025	Pledge	10001180186127	Cosumnes Groundwater Authority	03/04/2025	9,000.00	9,000.00
<b>Total for Current</b>					<b>\$75,021.53</b>	<b>\$75,021.53</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$75,021.53</b>	<b>\$75,021.53</b>



# Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

## Balance Sheet

As of January 10, 2025

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts (Sac County + Five Star Bank)	
Operations Sustainability Reserves (6576) - 2	257,318.24
Public Checking (2162) - 2	61,968.45
Special Projects Reserve (6568) - 2	257,318.24
<b>Total Bank Accounts (Sac County + Five Star Bank)</b>	<b>\$576,604.93</b>
Accounts Receivable	<b>\$72,396.53</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$649,001.46</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$649,001.46</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities (Accounts Payable)	<b>\$45,376.38</b>
Equity	
Opening balance equity	565,311.79
Retained Earnings	41,167.94
Net Revenue	-2,854.65
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$603,625.08</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$649,001.46</b>

# Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

## Budget vs. Actuals: SRCD FY 24-25 Budget - FY25 P&L

July 2024 - June 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
<b>Revenue</b>				
4600 Services (Staff Support)	27,375.00	65,000.00	-37,625.00	42.12 %
Contributed income				
4500 Grant Income	164,034.64	154,025.00	10,009.64	106.50 %
<b>Total Contributed income</b>	<b>164,034.64</b>	<b>154,025.00</b>	<b>10,009.64</b>	<b>106.50 %</b>
Investment income				
4900 Interest Income (94941000)	1,903.26	18,000.00	-16,096.74	10.57 %
<b>Total Investment income</b>	<b>1,903.26</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>	<b>-16,096.74</b>	<b>10.57 %</b>
Other Income				
4100 Tax Revenue (91-)		177,813.00	-177,813.00	
4200 Groundwater Sustainability Fee		222,903.00	-222,903.00	
4300 Intergovernmental Revenue (95-)		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
4700 Misc. Other Revenue (97979000)	2,340.00	2,000.00	340.00	117.00 %
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>2,340.00</b>	<b>404,716.00</b>	<b>-402,376.00</b>	<b>0.58 %</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$195,652.90</b>	<b>\$641,741.00</b>	<b>\$ -446,088.10</b>	<b>30.49 %</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$195,652.90</b>	<b>\$641,741.00</b>	<b>\$ -446,088.10</b>	<b>30.49 %</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
5370 Office Supplies (Consumable) (20207600)	12,121.97	20,000.00	-7,878.03	60.61 %
Bank fees & service charges				
5200 Assessment/Collections Services (20250700)		1,750.00	-1,750.00	
<b>Total Bank fees &amp; service charges</b>		<b>1,750.00</b>	<b>-1,750.00</b>	
Internet & TV services	780.00		780.00	
Memberships & subscriptions				
5260 Dues, Memberships, Subscriptions, Publications, etc. (20206100)	3,264.50	4,000.00	-735.50	81.61 %
<b>Total Memberships &amp; subscriptions</b>	<b>3,264.50</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>-735.50</b>	<b>81.61 %</b>
Shipping & postage				
5340 Postage/Shipping (20292200)		3,000.00	-3,000.00	
<b>Total Shipping &amp; postage</b>		<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>-3,000.00</b>	
Small tools & equipment				
5280 Equipment, Tools, Furniture (<\$5k)	5,589.33		5,589.33	
<b>Total Small tools &amp; equipment</b>	<b>5,589.33</b>		<b>5,589.33</b>	
<b>Total 5370 Office Supplies (Consumable) (20207600)</b>	<b>21,755.80</b>	<b>28,750.00</b>	<b>-6,994.20</b>	<b>75.67 %</b>
5510 CDFA Conservation Ag Planning Grant (CAPGP)	67,340.00	2,000.00	65,340.00	3,367.00 %
5520 CDFA Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)				
5221 WETA Personnel - Salaries & Wages	42,325.23	77,613.00	-35,287.77	54.53 %
5222 WETA Supplies	161.17	6,000.00	-5,838.83	2.69 %
5223 WETA Travel	807.34	1,808.00	-1,000.66	44.65 %
5224 WETA Contractors/Labor Costs	3,793.42	15,000.00	-11,206.58	25.29 %
5225 WETA Other Direct Costs	140.00		140.00	
<b>Total 5520 CDFA Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant (WETA)</b>	<b>47,227.16</b>	<b>100,421.00</b>	<b>-53,193.84</b>	<b>47.03 %</b>
Contract & professional fees				

# Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

## Budget vs. Actuals: SRCD FY 24-25 Budget - FY25 P&L

July 2024 - June 2025

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
5330 Other Professional Services (20259100)	1,900.00	15,000.00	-13,100.00	12.67 %
5380 Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Contribution (20281204)		149,413.00	-149,413.00	
5390 South American Subbasin SGMA Contributions (20289900)	7,127.00	9,000.00	-1,873.00	79.19 %
Accounting fees		3,500.00	-3,500.00	
Investment management fees	-11,548.49		-11,548.49	
Legal fees				
5350 Legal - General (20253100)	5,244.00	20,000.00	-14,756.00	26.22 %
5355 Legal - Groundwater (20253100)	828.00	15,000.00	-14,172.00	5.52 %
<b>Total Legal fees</b>	<b>6,072.00</b>	<b>35,000.00</b>	<b>-28,928.00</b>	<b>17.35 %</b>
<b>Total Contract &amp; professional fees</b>	<b>3,550.51</b>	<b>211,913.00</b>	<b>-208,362.49</b>	<b>1.68 %</b>
Grant Writing/Youth Education		10,000.00	-10,000.00	
Insurance	2,276.15		2,276.15	
5300 Insurance (20205100)		4,000.00	-4,000.00	
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>2,276.15</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>-1,723.85</b>	<b>56.90 %</b>
Interest paid	-9,685.04		-9,685.04	
Occupancy				
Cleaning	200.00		200.00	
Rent	6,000.00	18,000.00	-12,000.00	33.33 %
Utilities	500.00	6,000.00	-5,500.00	8.33 %
<b>Total Occupancy</b>	<b>6,700.00</b>	<b>24,000.00</b>	<b>-17,300.00</b>	<b>27.92 %</b>
Payroll expenses				
Salaries & wages				
5000 Staff Expenses (20254100)				
Staff Costs (Friedman)	55,709.17	120,351.00	-64,641.83	46.29 %
Staff Costs (Timmer)		29,649.00	-29,649.00	
<b>Total 5000 Staff Expenses (20254100)</b>	<b>55,709.17</b>	<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>-94,290.83</b>	<b>37.14 %</b>
<b>Total Salaries &amp; wages</b>	<b>55,709.17</b>	<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>-94,290.83</b>	<b>37.14 %</b>
<b>Total Payroll expenses</b>	<b>55,709.17</b>	<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>-94,290.83</b>	<b>37.14 %</b>
Travel				
5400 Transportation (Travel, Mileage)	293.80	1,500.00	-1,206.20	19.59 %
<b>Total Travel</b>	<b>293.80</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>-1,206.20</b>	<b>19.59 %</b>
Uncategorized Expense				
5250 SRCD GSA Expenses (General)	3,340.00		3,340.00	
5270 Education, Training, & Staff Development (20203600)		6,000.00	-6,000.00	
5320 Misc. Expenses (20227504)		4,000.00	-4,000.00	
<b>Total Uncategorized Expense</b>	<b>3,340.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>-6,660.00</b>	<b>33.40 %</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$198,507.55</b>	<b>\$542,584.00</b>	<b>\$ -344,076.45</b>	<b>36.59 %</b>
NET OPERATING REVENUE	<b>\$ -2,854.65</b>	<b>\$99,157.00</b>	<b>\$ -102,011.65</b>	<b>-2.88 %</b>
NET REVENUE	<b>\$ -2,854.65</b>	<b>\$99,157.00</b>	<b>\$ -102,011.65</b>	<b>-2.88 %</b>

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: January 15, 2025

Agenda Item #: #1

Agenda Item Subject: **SRCD Office Hours**

To: SRCD Board of Directors

From: Brittany Friedman, District Manager

---

**Updated Office Hours**

Staff, as of January 2025, have maintained office hours of Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 5:30pm. Board members and members of the public are welcome to come into the office at these times. Staff often comes in other days of the week, as well, but it is not mandatory nor is it necessarily open to the public unless a specific meeting time is agreed upon.

Staff will be purchasing a PC computer for the Office so that guests/Board members may access the internet and conduct work as needed. Otherwise, staff is still maintaining home offices for three days of the week.

**Staff Recommendations**

- Provide feedback on updated office hours

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: January 15, 2025

Agenda Item #: #2  
Agenda Item Subject: SRCD 5-Year Long Range Plan

To: SRCD Board of Directors  
From: SRCD Staff

---

**Background**

The SRCD 5-year Long Range Plan was created in 2022 and spans until 2027. Staff is bringing the Plan back before the Board to have a mid-point check-in and make changes as necessary.

Priority focus areas include:

- Water Sustainability
- Water Health
- Soil Health and Conservation
- Hazard Planning and Support
- Protection of Rural Lifestyle
- Community Engagement
- District Operations

Staff's main objective is to ensure that SRCD is making progress on these goals, and if not, to revise our course of action and set short-term goals with the assistance/guidance of the Board to achieve these long-term plans.

**Attachment:** [SRCD 5-year Long-Range Plan \(22-27\)](#)

**Recommendations:**

Form a sub-committee to address the priority focus area goals and their status/progress

A stylized, light green water tower with a circular top section divided into many radial segments, resembling a fan or a sunburst. The tower's legs are also stylized and light green.

# **SLOUGHHOUSE**

## **Resource Conservation District**

**5-year Plan  
(2022-2027)**

## Table of Contents

<b><i>Mission, Vision, and Goals</i></b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b><i>Priority Focus Areas for SRCD:</i></b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Priority Focus Area – Water Sustainability</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Priority Focus Area – Watershed Health</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Priority Focus Area – Soil Health and Conservation</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Priority Focus Area – Hazard Planning and Support</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Priority Focus Area – Protection of Rural Lifestyle</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Priority Focus Area – Community Engagement</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Priority Focus Area – District Operations</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## Mission, Vision, and Goals

The Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) 5-Year Plan is intended to inform the work of SRCD, embrace opportunities to broaden and enhance the range of SRCD's activities, and to meet requirements set forth in Government Code Section 9084.

**Our Mission:** To serve the diverse constituency within the SRCD to become better stewards of our natural resources through education, outreach, and implementing conservation projects to advance the long-term sustainability of working landscapes, rural life, and our unique environment.

**Our Vision:** To support management of natural resources through collaboration with partners in the district to successfully balance the wide range of programs that protect groundwater for long-term sustainability, soil for agricultural productivity and environmental values, surface water for multiple uses including agriculture, fish, and wildlife, and natural areas for their habitat value.

**To operationalize the adopted SRCD mission and vision, the following set of goals have been identified:**

1. Achieve long-term natural resource sustainability to address current and future changes and needs.
2. Have a diverse Board of Directors that represents the community Sloughhouse RCD serves to work together and build partnerships.
3. Collaborate with local, regional, and statewide agencies and develop partnerships on sustainability projects across all focus areas.
4. Educate the public about sustainable agricultural and natural resources management.
5. Develop projects and programs to serve the diverse members of the Sloughhouse RCD community.



## Priority Focus Areas for SRCD:

The SRCD Board of Directors have identified seven Priority Focus Areas that will be the foundations of the District's efforts to reach our goals during the coming five years. This Plan will be adaptively managed, if unforeseen opportunities arise that allow us to advance our goals, modifications to the Plan will be made.

### **1. Water Sustainability (WS)**

Over the past seven years we have worked with local partners to develop a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Cosumnes Subbasin and South American Subbasin. This effort has consumed the overwhelming majority of the effort of SRCD. Given our responsibilities as a GSA, we will continue to devote significant effort implementing the GSPs. This work will include participating in and supporting the work of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority's Board and sub-committees; continued engaged with the South American Subbasin Working Group, identifying and applying for grants to fund demand management and aquifer recharge planning and implementation, as appropriate; conducting outreach and soliciting input from our constituents on water sustainability issues and plans; working with NGOs such as the Cosumnes Coalition and The Nature Conservancy on monitoring, assessment, and planning projects of mutual interest; and other activities that advance our water sustainability goals and responsibilities.

### **2. Watershed Health (WH)**

A watershed is all the land that drains into a common point at or near the mouth of a river or stream. The SRCD's district includes a significant portion of the Cosumnes Watershed and many of its tributaries including Dry Creek, Laguna Creek, and Badger Creek. These waterways supply water for agriculture, offer opportunities for recreation, provide habitat to numerous plants and animals, and are connected to the groundwater aquifer in certain locations. The activities conducted on the land within a watershed affect the quality and quantity of water in the waterways. We recognize this relationship and strive to take advantage of opportunities to manage the land in a way that protects the Cosumnes River and its tributaries.

### **3. Soil Health and Conservation (SHC)**

In keeping with the origins of National Resources Conservation Service and Resource Conservation Districts, maintaining the health of the soil is vital to the long-term viability of agriculture in the Cosumnes Basin. Not only does healthy soil underpin productive agriculture, but it also sequesters carbon and can act as a sponge, soaking up water to reduce runoff and facilitating aquifer recharge. The SRCD seeks to develop programs to improve soil health and conservation.

### **4. Hazard Planning and Support (HPS)**

Flooding and fires have always been a concern in the Cosumnes Basin. The approach to managing hazards has evolved in recent years. In the past, fires were regularly suppressed and floods minimized by building and fortifying levees. While these approaches remain useful,

newer methods of management, including prescribed burns, carving around defensible space around structures, and widening flood corridors to reduce flood risk and optimize aquifer recharge. involves adapting to these natural processes. We will seek opportunities to reduce the risk of hazards in our district.

#### **5. Protection of Rural Lifestyle (PRL)**

Many of our constituents have moved to the Wilton/Herald area in recent years to benefit from the rural lifestyle. Others have farmed or ranched in our district for generations. All value the opportunities farm or raise livestock on a small or large scale, the natural beauty of the oak woodlands, and the habitat provided for aquatic life. Many smaller farms growing fresh produce or raising grass-fed beef or hogs are found in our area. Further, the Wilton/Herald area is known throughout northern California as a hub of equestrian sports, including trail riding, jumping, and cutting, to name a few. The SRCD strives to support and foster rural living. When opportunities arise, we will work with others to advance the long-term viability of rural living within our district.

#### **6. Community Engagement (CE)**

Decades ago, the SRCD area was composed of almost exclusively of agricultural constituents. Given this and the roots of RCDs in general, SRCD's work focused on the needs of farmers and ranchers. While this focus remains a central impetus for our work, we recognize the district's constituents now include more rural residential landowners, a continually growing number of horse training facilities, and many small farms which grow specialty crops. Our community outreach efforts will continue to include production agriculture and ranching, but also the interest and needs of the newer sectors within the district. We will work develop stronger conversations with all constituents within the district.

#### **7. District Operations (DO)**

Sloughhouse RCD has taken on significant new responsibilities as a GSA. Balancing our traditional work focused on natural resources with the new responsibilities as a groundwater agency has presented challenges, including assuming a greater level of transparency and accountability, establishing new policies and procedures, and budgeting for new expenses, to name a few. The SRCD has had to broaden its understanding of a number of natural resource, policy, and legal issues now facing the District. To assume this new level of leadership, to continue to develop its internal capacity, SRCD will need to expand staff and Board member education, utilize new management tools, and consider increasing human resources, as appropriate.

# Priority Focus Area – Water Sustainability

## **Background and SRCD’s Role**

Both surface water and groundwater sustainability are important to Sloughhouse RCD. Groundwater sustainability targets maintaining stable groundwater conditions that support all beneficial uses of groundwater within the Cosumnes and South American Subbasin, in line with our efforts as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Surface water sustainability refers to maintaining flows in the Cosumnes River and other waterways that supports both farming and environmental needs. Surface and groundwater sustainability are interconnected. Surface water can recharge the aquifer and groundwater can contribute to baseflow in waterways. Sloughhouse RCD’s attention to water sustainability will be central to all other areas of focus.

As a GSA, we are responsible for working with the other GSAs to implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plans in the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins. As an RCD, we are well positioned to support and implement projects that foster long term sustainability of water.

## **Planned Activities**

- W.S. 1: Implement a long-term assessment to support work on the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- W.S. 2: Work with the other South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to implement the South American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- W.S. 3: Identify funding to implement a water efficiency technical assistance program.
- W.S. 4: Support and implement projects to monitor and enhance flows in the Cosumnes River.
- W.S. 5: Work with the County of Sacramento, the Natural Resources Conservation Services, UC Cooperative Extension, and others to create incentives and programs to transfer knowledge and technologies to assist farmers with new irrigation methods and drought-tolerant species.

## **Potential Resources to Support Activities**

- California Department of Water Resources
- State Water Resources Control Board
- CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture’s Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation
- California Department of Conservation

# Priority Focus Area – Watershed Health

## **Background and SRCD’s Role**

The Cosumnes watershed supports a rich community of native flora and fauna. SRCD has the unique responsibility of being one of the main stewards of the Cosumnes River and its watershed. We are well positioned to support and implement projects that improve watershed conditions and to foster regional collaboration among partners working within the watershed.

## **Planned Activities**

- W.H. 1: Identify multi-benefit projects (soil-health, groundwater recharge, ecosystem rehabilitation, etc.) to enhance watershed conditions while at the same time continue to support the productive use of the land for the varied services it provides. One example of this multi-benefit approach is a proposed project along Laguna Creek, involving an assessment to determine where creek channel stabilization is needed and the potential for in-channel recharge with the goal of enhancing conveyance of water to farms for managed aquifer recharge and habitat improvement.
- W.H. 2: Identify opportunities to improve nutrient management when practical to reduce nutrient runoff and/or leaching of nutrients into the aquifer.
- W.H. 3: Identify locations and landowners interested in floodplain rehabilitation in order to enhance aquifer recharge and improve habitat for anadromous fish and other aquatic life.

## **Potential Sources to Support Activities**

- California Department of Conservation
  - Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program
  - Sustainable Agricultural Conservation Program
  - Watershed Coordinator Program
- California Department of Water Resources
- California State Water Resource Control Board
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- National Marine Fisheries Services/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Program

# Priority Focus Area – Soil Health and Conservation

## **Background and SRCD’s Role**

The Resource Conservation Districts evolved from the Soil Conservation Service, which was a response to the Dust Bowl of the 1930s and the need to develop and implement conservation practices to reduce soil loss and promote healthy soil resources. More recently, another important function of soil that has been an area of interest to RCDs is carbon sequestration. SRCD plans to work with partners, most notably the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS), to advance all aspects of soil health. We strive to share practices and new information on soil health with local farmers and learn from farmers who are pioneering implementation of these practices.

## **Planned Activities**

S.H.C. 1: Develop a program to promote carbon sequestration education and resources. The County of Sacramento Climate Action Plan identifies a goal of sequestering 146,934 MT CO<sub>2</sub> county-wide per year by 2030. Potential practices to sequester carbon include, but are not limited to:

- i. Applying compost instead of synthetic fertilizer;
- ii. Managing grazing to improve irrigated pasture conditions; and,
- iii. Altering tillage practices to reduce, eliminate, or change strip tillage.

S.H.C. 2: Promote USDA NRCS and CDFA funding opportunities (ex: EQIP, Healthy Soils Program) for on-farm soil conservation practices.

S.H.C. 3: Explore partnerships with NRCS to assist in outreach, engagement, and technical support.

## **Potential Sources to Support Activities**

- California Department of Food and Agriculture
  - Healthy Soils Program
- Carbon Cycle Institute
- United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service

# Priority Focus Area – Hazard Planning and Support

## **Background and SRCD’s Role**

From fires to floods, areas within Sloughhouse RCD have been greatly impacted by a number of natural disasters and continue to be at risk. In addition to worst case scenarios where human life is threatened, productive land can become unproductive, watershed health can decline, and countless other negative impacts are potential results from these incidents. Sloughhouse RCD is keenly positioned to work with partners (like Rancho Murieta Fire Safe Council, RD 800, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and others) to minimize risk and support recovery from multiple types of disasters.

We seek to work with Fire Safe Councils throughout the County to coordinate regional fire prevention efforts. We also plan to support flood prevention efforts that also provides groundwater recharge benefits.

## **Planned Activities**

- H.P.S. 1: Provide regular updates and outreach to local organizations responsible for hazard planning, prevention, and recovery including Reclamation District 800, Rancho Murieta Fire Safe Council, and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency.
- H.P.S. 2: Partner with the County of Sacramento and other agencies/organizations to implement programs and projects to reduce wildfire hazards.
- H.P.S. 3: Assist the County of Sacramento and other agencies/organizations in mapping and identify locations that are newly at risk, or at higher risk for fire hazards.
- H.P.S. 4: Assist the County of Sacramento and other agencies/organizations in understanding the tolerance of current crop mixes to withstand increased temperatures.

## **Potential Sources to Support Activities**

- California Fire Safe Council
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

# Priority Focus Area – Protection of Rural Lifestyle

## **Background and SRCD’s Role**

Sloughhouse RCD covers rural Southeast Sacramento County. Open space and agricultural activity are characteristics of our region that many residents value. Programs that support rural living (groundwater well support, small farms support, etc.) and promote resource conservation should be prioritized. Many of our constituents have moved to the Wilton/Herald area in recent years to benefit from the rural lifestyle. Others have farmed or ranched in our district for generations. All value the opportunities farm or raise livestock on a small or large scale, the natural beauty of the oak woodlands, and the habitat provided for aquatic life. The SRCD strives to support and foster rural living. When opportunities arise, we will work with others to advance the long term viability of rural living within our district.

## **Planned Activities**

- P.R.L. 1: Develop a guide to rural living that provides information on how local residents can contribute to groundwater sustainability, support local conservation efforts, and engage with local agencies.
- P.R.L. 2: Support urban-rural agricultural connections by promoting local providers of Community-Supported Agriculture/food delivery services and local Farm-to-Fork events.
- P.R.L. 3: Support Sacramento County Parks Department in the development and implementation of a Dillard Ranch Master Plan.

## **Potential Sources to Support Activities**

- Sacramento Area Council of Government’s Rural-Urban Connection Program
- Department of Conservation
- Private foundations



# Priority Focus Area – Community Engagement

## **Background and SRCD’s Role**

Making progress towards reaching our goals will require strong relationships with our community. Sloughhouse RCD strives to be as transparent as possible. We will work with partners (ex: other special districts, community organizations, etc.) and existing outreach plans (ex: Cosumnes Subbasin Outreach and Engagement Plan) to elevate our efforts. As a RCD we are in service to our constituents and should work to promote our priorities, successes, and challenges.

## **Planned Activities**

- C.E. 1: Publish an RCD Annual Report yearly.
- C.E. 2: Publish quarterly e-newsletters highlighting conservation funding and support available to local landowners.
- C.E. 3: Update website to help broaden outreach and dialogue with the community

## **Potential Sources to Support Activities**

- California Department of Conservation
  - Resource Conservation District Financial Assistance Program



## Priority Focus Area – District Operations

### **Background and SRCD's Role**

Sloughhouse RCD is a Resource Conservation District, a California Special District, and a Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Each designation has a variety of minimum requirements that we must meet as defined in State Code. Additionally, Sloughhouse RCD strives to be a trusted public agency in which our constituents find great value.

### **Planned Activities**

- D.O. 1: Meet all legal requirements stipulated by the Department of Conservation for RCDs (Tier 1 of The RCD Vision & Standards) on an annual basis.
- D.O. 2: Maintain membership in the California Association of RCDs and the California Special District Association.
- D.O. 3: Meet requirements of the Special District Leadership Foundation's District Transparency Certificate of Excellence on an annual basis.
- D.O. 4: Send staff to CARCD Conference annually.

### **Potential Sources to Support Activities**

- California Department of Conservation
  - Resource Conservation District Financial Assistance Program
- Special District Leadership Foundation

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: January 15, 2025

Agenda Item #: #3

Agenda Item Subject: Delta Tunnel Letter from SRCD

To: SRCD Board of Directors

From: Brittany Friedman, District Manager

---

**Background**

It was suggested at the December 2024 SRCD Board meeting that staff look into creating a Letter from Sloughhouse RCD, voicing our opposition to the Delta Conveyance Project and Tunnel. As an example, staff has included a letter created from the California members of Congress to the Governor.

The Delta Tunnel project is the latest version of a massive water infrastructure project that would divert water from the Sacramento River at Hood and Courtland, and put it in a 40+ mile tunnel 40 feet access to be exported to State Water Project contractors. Could also be used for wheeling Central Valley Project water.

**Link:** <https://savethedelta.saccounty.gov/Pages/DeltaTunnel.aspx>

**Attachment:** [Example Delta Tunnel Letter](#)

**Staff Recommendations**

- Advise staff to create/draft a letter and/or work with the Board to create one

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Governor Newsom:

As Representatives of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), we are writing to express our continued concern and opposition to the Delta Conveyance Project (Delta Tunnel). Throughout the process of this proposed project, we have consistently voiced our opposition based on the economic and environmental damage the Delta Tunnel would have in our districts. From exacerbating water quality issues for our local agriculture and wildlife to creating water scarcity, this project's unintended consequences will be a calamity in our communities. With the new estimated cost of the Delta Tunnel project at over \$20 billion, \$4 billion higher than the previous estimate, we remain steadfast in our belief this project is the wrong way forward to address California's water challenges.

All of us are all too familiar with the impacts of climate change, including record setting drought and historic atmospheric rivers. As the climate changes, so must our approach to water management. Rather than amending a decades old proposal such as the Delta Tunnel, we must be forward thinking. This includes increasing our water storage capacity, modernizing our existing conveyance infrastructure to limit evaporation, increasing our water use efficiency, and more, which have all seen significant federal interest and investment. Projects such as Sites Reservoir and expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir, as well as continued efforts to replenish our groundwater aqueducts, will yield significant water storage without putting a strain on the environment. These alternatives to the Delta Tunnel both costs less and can be completed faster.

Please know that we stand ready to work with you and your administration to address these concerns as well as continue to ensure federal resources are provided to improve our water infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Josh Harder  
Member of Congress

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: January 15, 2024

Agenda Item #: #4

Agenda Item Subject: **Sacramento Valley Conservancy/SRCD Partnership**

To: SRCD Board of Directors

From: Brittany Friedman, District Manager

---

**Background**

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) approached SRCD with a partnership/collaboration opportunity to implement Beaver Dam Analogs in the Deer Creek Hills Nature Preserve as part of their Crevis Creek Restoration Project. SVC is requesting \$7,000 in funding from Sloughhouse RCD to support the Crevis Creek restoration and habitat creation project. The funding will be used either as a match to NRCS funding or as the primary funding source to cover project design, permitting, materials, on-site installation, and for post-install monitoring and public education and marketing of beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures. Project duration is highly dependent on the acquisition of funding and completion of the permitting process.

Additionally, SVC is seeking a partnership with the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District on this initial restoration project with the hope that success in this endeavor may lead to continued collaboration on watershed health initiatives and restoration projects including a potential SLEWS project for the 2025-2026 School year.

**Link:** [Full SVC/Sloughhouse RCD BDA Partnership Proposal](#)  
[Full Site Photos and Design Examples](#)

**Staff Recommendations**

- Approve and sign off on the SVC/SRCD Partnership and payment



November 8, 2024

Brittany Friedman, District Manager  
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District  
8698 Elk Grove Blvd. Ste. 1-207  
[brittany@sloughousercd.org](mailto:brittany@sloughousercd.org)

RE: Sacramento Valley Conservancy-Sloughhouse RCD Restoration Partnership

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elise Fandrich  
*Co-President*  
Jenn Phillips  
*Co-President*  
Lisa Limcaco  
*Treasurer*  
Kate Hart  
*Secretary*  
Amanda Bohl  
Rob Donlan  
Curtis Fossum  
Cassie Gilson  
Karen Kayfetz  
Leo Winternitz  
Jay Ziegler

TRUSTEES EMERITUS

Russell Austin  
Cydney Bender-Reents  
Lynn Sadler  
Robert Slobe  
Dick Troy  
Chris Unkel

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Robert Burness  
Ann Chandler  
Beverly Sandeen  
Dr. Michelle Stevens  
Ron Suter  
Carol Witham

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kelly Hopkins

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) is a non-profit, accredited land trust which aims to preserve the beauty, character, and biodiversity of the Sacramento Valley landscape by protecting and stewarding natural and working lands, and scenic open spaces for the benefit of current and future generations.

SVC is planning on implementing an initial restoration project on its Deer Creek Hills Preserve property (DCH) within the Sloughhouse RCD action area. Deer Creek Hills is located along Latrobe Road within proximity to the unincorporated community of Rancho Murrieta. The property's primary land use is as functional rangeland, however, since the property also serves as a nature preserve, there is an established public access component of use and management. Deer Creek Hills Preserve is characterized by annual grasslands and large stands of mature blue oak woodland; other intermixed oak species include valley and interior live oak. There are portions throughout the Preserve which contain mature riparian woodland corridors, these corridors are associated with currently ephemeral drainages as well as ephemeral and perennial ponds within the Preserve boundaries. The two most prominent ephemeral watercourses are Deer Creek and Crevis Creek. Deer Creek Hills Preserve is seasonally grazed and managed by SVC stewardship staff for rangeland and oak woodland health, focusing on preserving and promoting biodiversity within this working landscape.

The planned restoration will involve the use of "low-tech process based restoration" techniques (PBR) in the form of beaver dam analogs (BDA) and post assisted log structures (PALS). Process based restoration is partnering with nature to recover degraded river and stream catchments by removing impediments to physical and biological processes and harnessing the system's fluvial and biological energy to do most of the restoration "work". Practitioners use low-risk approaches that minimize the use of fossil-fuels to achieve restoration goals. Heavy machinery is primarily reserved to address source problems such as levees, roads, and legacy mine tailings that confine the fluvial landscape. Additional treatments are designed to replace missing or altered functional ecosystem components that maintain floodplain connectivity and complexity. Treatments may include adding woody features such as post-assisted log structures and beaver dam analogs, and large woody augmentation. Partnered restoration actions may include recruiting ecosystem engineers such as beaver, managing livestock grazing operations, applying controlled burns, forests thinning, and supplemental riparian and



meadow vegetation planting. Interventions are guided by a stewardship mentality whereby they are adaptive over time in response to environmental feedback with a goal of encouraging a self-sustaining, dynamic ecosystem (CALPBR 2024).

Implementation of BDA and PALS structures within ephemeral watercourses has become a growing practice on both public and private lands to increase the capacity of degraded river and stream ecosystems to retain water, support biodiversity, create fire resiliency, promote landscape level adaptation to climate change, reduce the effects of erosion, improve groundwater recharge, promote small scale/localized flooding within proximity to the installation site, remedy incised banks, and generally improve watershed health. In short, implementation of these restoration measures slows flow within historically fast flowing watercourses and keeps water on the landscape for longer periods of time.

SVC is requesting \$7,000 in funding from Sloughhouse RCD to support the Crevis Creek restoration and habitat creation project. The funding will be used either as a match to NRCS funding or as the primary funding source to cover project design, permitting, materials, on-site installation, and for post-install monitoring and public education and marketing of beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures. Project duration is highly dependent on the acquisition of funding and completion of the permitting process. SVC is optimistically looking at project implementation between January and February of 2025, however, project implementation mid-December 2024 would be preferred. In the case this timeline is not feasible due to winter storm events or other unforeseen environmental factors, SVC would push back project implementation to the spring of 2025.

For this initial restoration project, SVC plans to implement three structures within a single reach of Crevis Creek where it runs through annual grassland towards mature blue oak dominant woodland. SVC plans to associate these restoration efforts with riparian restoration plantings; SVC has been actively propagating locally sourced willows in-house to utilize for this restoration project. SVC plans to utilize stewardship staff, an existing volunteer network, and docents to complete this work in an efficient and timely manner; as such, this initial BDA/PALS project is expected to take approximately 1-2 full days of physical work onsite and post implementation monitoring will be conducted regularly in tandem with weekly and bi-weekly management visits by SVC staff. Following initial implementation, the installed structures would continue to function for multiple years with little to no needed maintenance. Longterm maintenance of the BDA/PAL structures would be conducted by SVC stewardship staff as part of routine preserve management. For this initial project, SVC will consult with the American River Conservancy, the California Process Based Restoration Network, and the Wet Meadows Institute to design and plan this BDA project. Following implementation, SVC will consult and seek technical assistance and funding from NRCS and USFWS Partners Program to continue implementation of similar structures within the Preserve. Below, we have provided a series of representative photos and website links which better describe the process and benefits of BDA and PALS restoration measures.

Additionally, SVC is seeking a partnership with the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District on this initial restoration project with the hope that success in this endeavor may lead to continued collaboration on watershed health initiatives and restoration projects. SVC sees this BDA/PALS implementation as a fantastic opportunity for both organizations to engage the public, both in person and through social media. We believe this project presents an especially crucial opportunity for the Sloughhouse RCD to

broaden their reach and further engage with the public through the avenue of watershed restoration and wildlife habitat creation. SVC plans to generate content in the form of professional-quality photography taken on the restoration service day (social media blast content) and would also include pre and post implementation aerial photography and video taken in 4k resolution to show the impacts of BDA/PALS implementation (use for social media, website, and newsletter content). Through this partnership, all content produced by SVC will be accessible to Sloughhouse RCD for use on its website and social media. SVC will highlight this collaboration in announcements and social media promotions, which will further enhance the public visibility of Sloughhouse RCD.

#### Links/Resources/References

<https://www.calpbr.org/pbr> (CalPBR 2024)

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

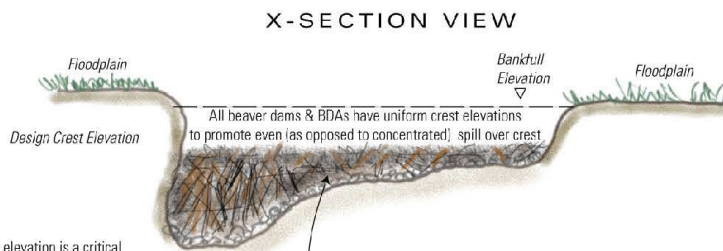
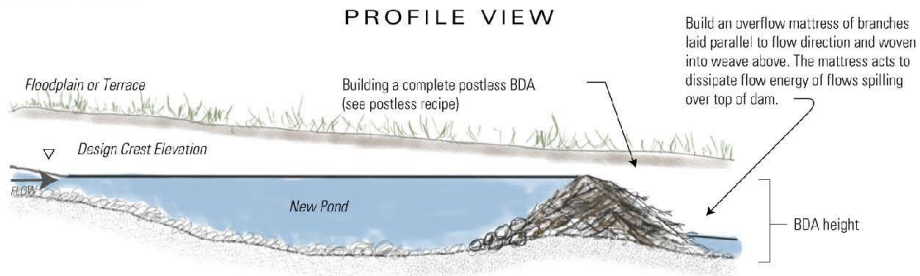
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAM94B73bzE&t=1s> (Beaver Dams and Fire Resiliency)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Tg58wKmZRA&pp=ygUSYmVhdmVylGRhbSBhbmFsb2dz> (Nature Conservancy – Beaver Dam Analogs)

<https://www.instagram.com/arconservancy/reel/DA1WIOkBnSt/> (American River Conservancy – Leek Meadows Restoration Project)

<https://www.wetmeadows.org/> (Wet Meadows Institute)

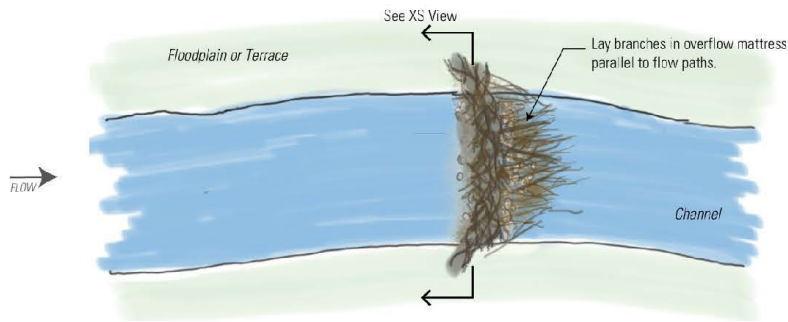
Postless BDA Details



**NOTE**  
The crest elevation is a critical consideration. In general, primary dams are taller than secondary dams, and usually wider (either extending onto bars, inset benches or floodplains, as to lower unit stream power). Secondary dams tend to just be tall enough to back-water up to the base of the next upstream dam. Secondary dams can be built higher to lower the head (elevation) drop of an upstream dam.

Build BDA up in 6" to 12" lifts from a broad (streamwise) base being careful to make sure each layer is holding back water and effectively ponding before proceeding to next layer. Use a mix of locally-sourced materials (see steps)

PLANFORM VIEW



NOT-TO-SCALE

Figure 30 – Typical schematic sketches of a postless BDA.





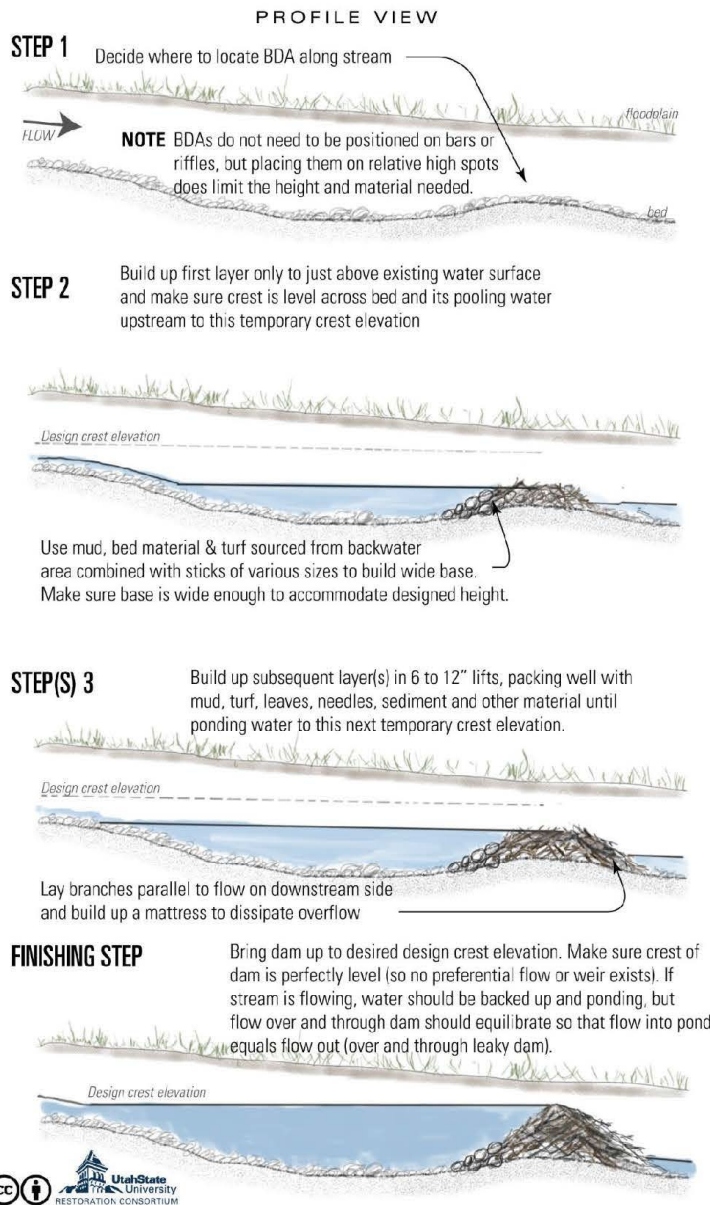


Figure 31 – Sequence for building postless BDAs, build up in 6" to 12" lifts, slowly, like beaver do. Make sure that your lifts are level, and water is backed up sufficiently that is flowing over the crest evenly (as opposed to through or under the dam), and the base is broad, before building up to your next layer.



### Post-Line Wicker Weave as a BDA

As described in [Appendix C](#), a simple post-line wicker weave was the first version of BDAs. Post-line wicker weaves have been used since at least the 1930s (Kraebel and Pillsbury, 1934) and in the 1800's in France (Chapter 1: Shahverdian et al., 2019a). Post-line wicker weaves as BDAs have the important characteristic that the crest elevation is built to be perfectly uniform in height. Post-line wicker weave BDAs can and have worked in many situations. Draw backs to this method are the emphasis often goes into building the weave and gaining elevation, and a postless BDA design emphasizes what a beaver dam is meant to: holding back water. We have also seen these wicker-weaves open in floods like a barn gate, which often produces good habitat, but those are situations a bank-attached PALS would have made more sense (e.g. Figure 24) and have been more economical to build.

### General Post-Line Wicker Weave as BDA Recipe

#### Ingredients

- Untreated wooden fence posts (as many as needed to space 30 – 50 cm apart and staggered)
- Willow weave material (long (i.e., > 1 m), limbed branches of 1/4" to 2" diameter willow branches)
- Cobble, gravel, sand and mud

#### Tools needed

- Personal Protective Equipment (see Chapter 6)
- Cutting tools: loppers and chainsaw minimally; optionally hand saw(s), pruning shears
- Digging tools: Shovels & optionally pick-axe or digging bars
- 5 Gallon Buckets - for filling and moving finer fill material from source areas to BDA
- Optionally -cam straps are sometimes helpful to bundle together branches for easier hauling from source or staging areas to BDA.

#### Instructions

1. Decide location of BDA dam crest, configuration (e.g., straight or convex downstream), and crest elevation (use landscape flags if necessary). Position yourself with your eye-level at proposed crest elevation of dam (make sure it is < 1.5 meters in height) and look upstream to find where the pond will backwater to. Adjust crest elevation as necessary to achieve desired size of pond, inundation extent, and overflow patterns. If concerned about head drop over BDA, build a secondary BDA downstream with a crest elevation set to backwater into the base of this BDA (and lessen head drop or elevation difference between water surface in pond and water surface downstream of BDA).
2. Install posts with hydraulic post pounder into stream bed and banks in configuration as shown.
3. Trim (with chainsaw) posts to level, desired crest elevation (this can be done at end instead).
4. Weave willow branches in between posts across the channel. Pack stream substrate from area to be ponded against upstream face of dam to 'plug' up.
5. Work a willow mattress (laying branches parallel to flow) into dam on downstream side to provide energy dissipation for overtopping flows.
6. If desired, and time permits, attempt to plug up BDA with mud and organic material (small sticks and turf) in order to flood pond to crest elevation. Optionally, you can leave this for maintenance by beaver or for infilling with leaves, woody debris and sediment.

#### Notes

- Resist the temptation to overbuild the BDA.
- A BDA that 'breaches' or 'blows out', just like natural beaver dams do, is not a 'failure' if designed to accommodate such a response. Often, BDAs that blow out or breach provide improved and more complex habitat.
- Design life: < 1 year (note actual life may last many years or even decades).



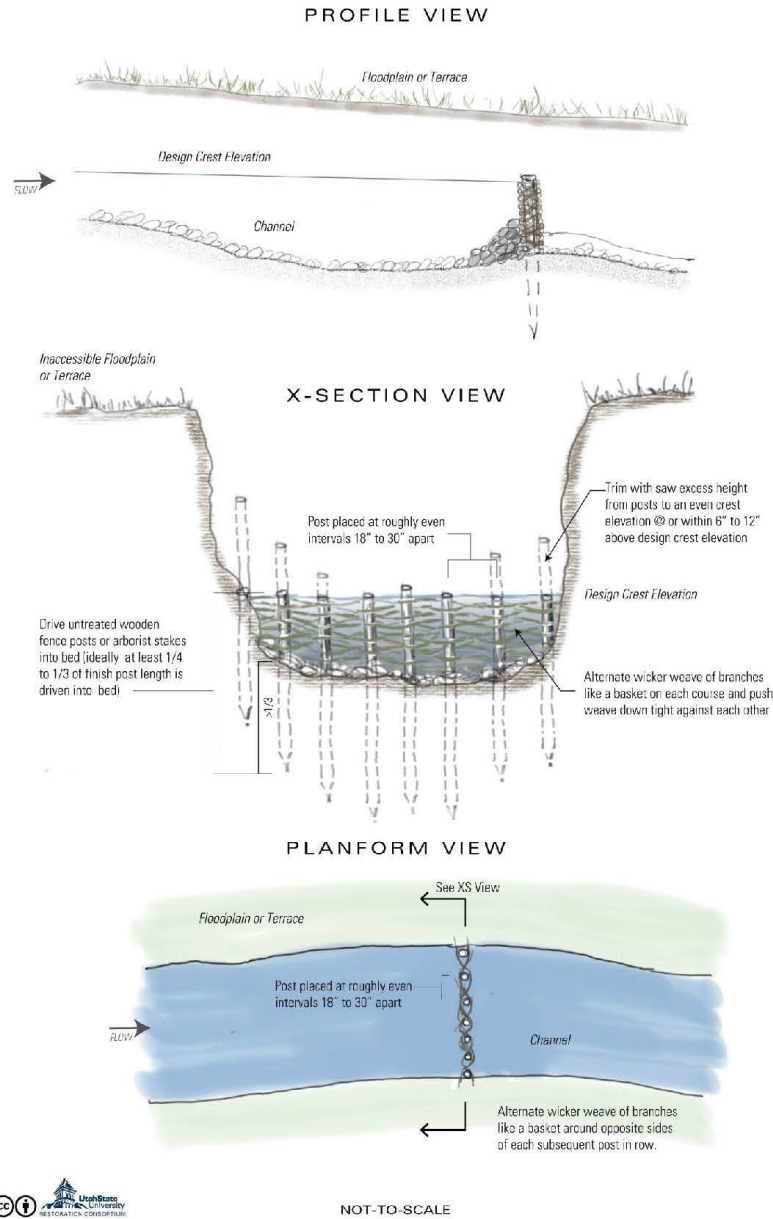


Figure 36 – Typical schematics of the first generation of wicker-weave post-assisted BDAs (similar to Figure 20) using a single row of posts and essentially building a vertical wall. We do not recommend this method, as the wall results in an overflow scour pool that can undermine the base, but in situations where the bed can aggrade quickly in the pond, the deposit can act to stabilize the dam.





Sacramento Valley Conservancy Deer Creek Hills Preserve – Sloughhouse Resource Conservation Restoration Partnership Beaver Dam Analog and Post Assisted Log Structure Designs and Restoration Site Photos:

Shown below are some generalized structure designs pertinent to the planned Crevice Creek Restoration Project; these images depict channel spanning post assisted log structure designs, wicker-weave beaver dam analog structure designs, representative before and after implementation photos which serve as an example of the potential outcomes of this restoration initiative, and pre-project implementation site photos taken aerially.

SVC plans to utilize the same or similar designs as those depicted in this document and plans to follow a restoration implementation methodology in line with NRCS and the Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration of Riverscapes Design Manual published by the Utah State University Restoration Consortium and USDA Working Lands for Wildlife. Access to this manual is linked below:

<https://lowtechpbr.restoration.usu.edu/manual/>

Pre-Implementation Site Photos:



## Representative Structure Designs:



Figure 6 - Representative photos of the diversity of possible BDA shapes, sizes, locations, and building material. (A) post-assisted and willow weave (B) postless, sage and juniper (C) postless willow, using existing willow for stability (D) postless, juniper (E) post-assisted and juniper (F) postless willow and juniper (G) postless juniper (H) postless sage.



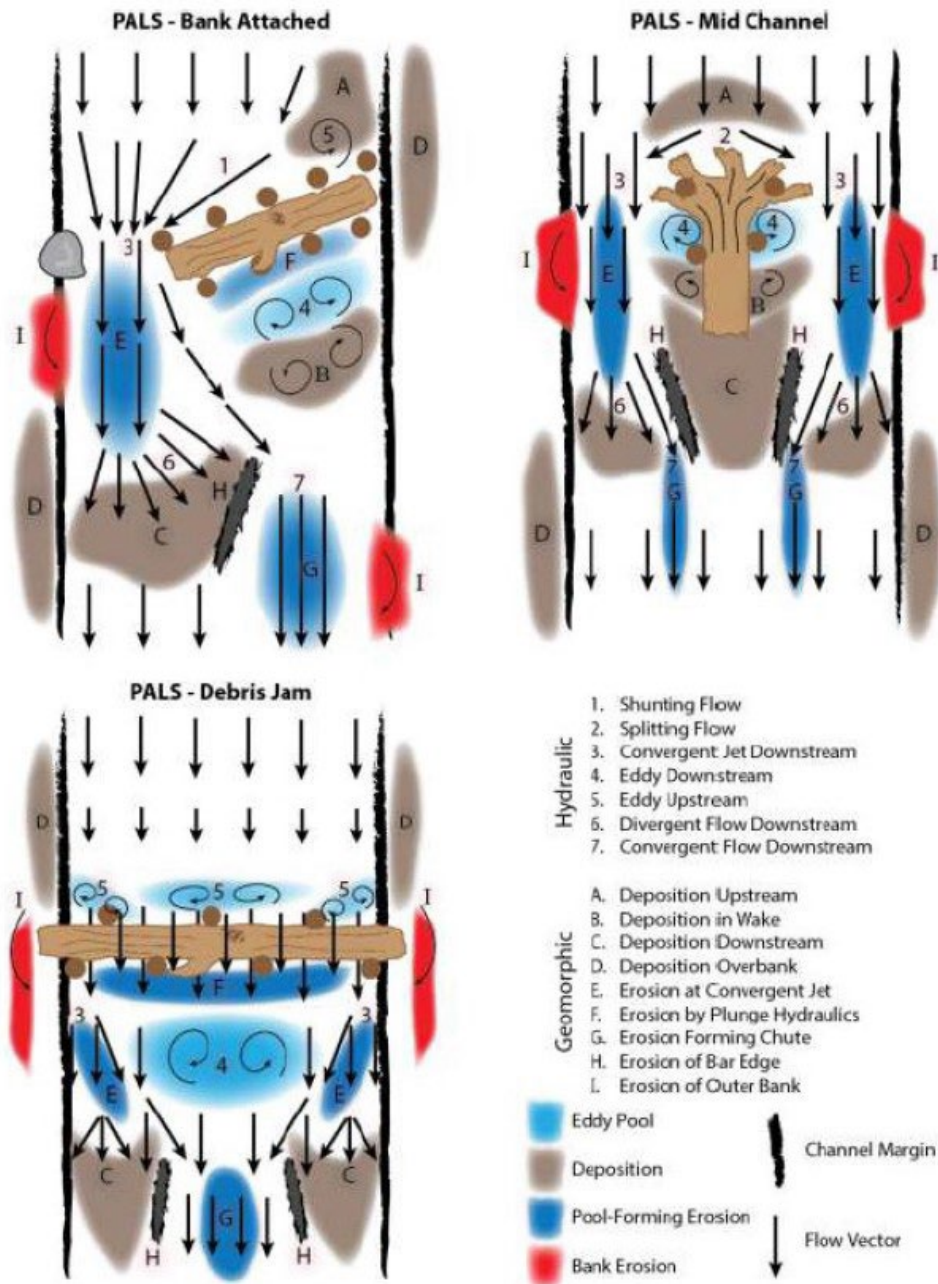


Figure 10 - Hypothesized hydraulic and geomorphic responses associated with bank-attached, mid-channel, and debris jam post-assisted log structures (PALS) from Figure 3.5 from Camp (2015a). Note: what is labeled as 'debris-jam' is referred to in this chapter as 'channel-spanning'.

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: January 15, 2025

Agenda Item #: #5

Agenda Item Subject: **Grant Updates**

To: SRCD Board of Directors

From: SRCD Staff

---

**Background – CAPGP**

Sloughhouse RCD was awarded \$199,800 from the [California Department of Food and Agriculture’s \(CDFA\) Conservation Agriculture Planning Grant Program \(CAPGP\)](#) and the SRCD Board has already begun to work on the 2-year grant contract agreement.

- SRCD has entered into agreements with these certified conservation planners to write the plans.
  - Matthew Wacker – 2 Grazing Management Plans in Sacramento County and 1 in Tuolumne County
  - Harol Gallardo – 8 Soil Health Plans (1 in Tuolumne, 7 in Sac County), 7 Carbon Farming Plans (4 in Sacramento County and 1 in Tuolumne) and 1 CEMA Carbon Sequestration Plan in Sacramento County
  - Molly Taylor – 3 Carbon Farming Plans in Alpine County
  - Ian Vielli – 2 Irrigation Water Management Plans in Sacramento County
- Identifying landowners whose property will receive the conservation plans.
  - Interest form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRCDconservationplanning>
  - The remaining round of applications will be open until the slots are filled up (only 5 conservation plans remain open at this time).
- SRCD Staff Time for the Grant totals around \$19,250 to reimbursed to us
- The current overall reimbursement to be submitted is in the amount of **\$42,400**

**Background – CDFA Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant**

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, the CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) announced that Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District has been selected to receive a Water Efficiency Technical Assistance (WETA) award in the amount of \$ 432,153.00. CDFA staff has finalized the grant agreement documents including the Scope of Work and Budget. The end date for this grant is slated to be March 31, 2026.

The grant application requested funds to cover personnel costs (roughly 4% FTE of the District Manager position, 8% FTE of the Admin Coordinator position, and a Water Efficiency Program

Coordinator at 75% FTE), supplies, travel, employee training, outreach supplies, and pump efficiency test. Under this agreement, an outside contractor/consultant can also be hired and utilized to complete project objectives.

### WETA Update

- WETA Grant Finances:

Budget Category	Amount	22/23 FY	2023-2024 Fiscal Year		2024-2025 Fiscal Year		REMAINING	Amount Used	% used
		12/31/2023	Invoice 1 03/31/2024	Invoice 2 06/30/2024	Invoice 3 09/30/2024	Invoice 4 12/31/2024			
<b>Personnel (75%)</b>	\$292,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,931.80	\$19,949.80	<b>\$16,181.25</b>	236,237.15	\$56,062.85	<b>19%</b>
<b>Travel</b>	\$14,423.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$693.73	\$1,005.80	<b>\$224.85</b>	12,498.62	\$1,924.38	<b>13%</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,482.30	\$380.28	<b>\$0.00</b>	2,637.42	\$1,862.58	<b>41%</b>
<b>Contractual</b>	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,873.86	\$3,793.42	<b>\$2,491.12</b>	16,841.60	\$13,158.40	<b>44%</b>
<b>Other Indirect Expenses</b>	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$140.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	4,360.00	\$140.00	<b>3%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>432,153.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>36,227.11</b>	<b>31,586.63</b>	<b>23,621.53</b>	<b>340,717.73</b>	<b>91,435.27</b>	<b>21%</b>

- In 2024, eleven irrigation evaluations and six well pump efficiency tests were performed during the summer and fall.
  - In 2025, the goal is to perform more than 80 irrigation evaluations from April – October. This equates to between 11-12 irrigation evaluations a month.
  - In 2025, the goal is to perform 50 well pump efficiency tests throughout the year.
    - The goals are set intended to meet the Water Efficiency Technical Assistance grant requirements by March 31, 2026.*
- The 2025 Mobile Irrigation Lab advertising campaign will begin in January and will go through Feb/March.
- Chris T will be presenting the Mobile Irrigation Lab program at the Sacramento County Farm Bureau’s Farm Safety Seminar, Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 in Walnut Grove.
- There will also be a Mobile Irrigation Lab presentation during the annual Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Farmer BBQ event on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Background – DWR CalSIP

DWR is currently seeking to fund public entities to improve stream gage infrastructure and bridge data gaps as part of the Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP). Through CalSIP, public agencies can receive technical assistance to upgrade, reactivate, or install new surface water monitoring stations, at no additional cost to them, that will share important stream flow data that can help inform water management decisions.

Staff submitted an application on October 31, 2024 to reactive 3 stream gages (2 in the Cosumnes Subbasin and 1 in the South American Subbasin). The application requested a total of \$190,000 per stream gage to cover engineering, telemetry and staff time costs. If awarded, SRCD will need to fund maintenance expenses for the gages out-of-pocket beginning in 2027.



CalSIP serves to execute funding agreements as soon as reasonably possible with a deadline to award by March 1, 2025, and to fully execute agreements by June 30, 2025. Gages should be fully operational by October 1, 2026. CalSIP is currently in the review process and has reached out to Sloughhouse RCD to ask clarifying questions. We are still awaiting a decision on grant approval.

- 2019-01 Deer C NR Sloughhouse CA
- 2009-01 Dry Creek NR Lone CA
- 2011-01 Dry Creek NR Gat CA

#### **NEW GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: CATALYST RFP**



**The Catalyst RFP is expected to advance quality jobs in one or more of the following sectors (Biotechnology, Precision Manufacturing, Working Lands, Business Services).**

**PURPOSE OF FUNDING:** The goals of funding Catalyst Pre-Development Phase projects are to:

- Invest in industries that will advance environmentally sustainable, future focused, high quality job opportunities.
- Fund projects that ensure workers and disinvested communities are the primary beneficiaries.
- Advance projects toward implementation readiness, positioning them to compete effectively for future federal, state, or private funding

**The Catalyst fund can cover:**

**Planning and Feasibility:** Planning activities to explore a project's viability. Examples of potential activities include, but are not limited to:

- Feasibility studies
- Market analysis
- Environmental impact assessments, surveys, and remediation
- Site plans, project designs, and necessary permits

**Financial and Legal Frameworks:** Expenses related to setting up financial or legal frameworks for the project. Examples of potential activities include, but are not limited to:

- Legal costs for setting up partnerships or public-private arrangements
- Planning costs to establish financial tools, such as a regional tax financing district
- Creating agreements that benefit the community (Community Benefits Agreements)

**Capacity Building:** Investments to strengthen the project team's ability to plan and execute the project effectively. Examples of potential activities include, but are not limited to:

- Staffing and training costs for project leadership
- Development of sustainable infrastructure plans for essentials like water or waste systems
- Professional development for key team members or partners.
- Financial planning associated with a capital project (e.g., preliminary budget and construction financing)

**Pilot Projects: Pilot projects are eligible for Catalyst funding if they serve as a scalable test for broader implementation.**

- Development of new pilot or demonstration projects and programs that create innovative workforce pathways in priority industry sectors leading to high-quality jobs for disinvested communities. Pilots must also demonstrate the potential for expansion across the region or into multiple regions.

**FUNDS AWARDED** will support activities from the date of award through September 30, 2026. While there is no specified minimum or maximum award, awards are recommended to be up to \$1,000,000. A total of \$9 million in funding is available, with the expectation that not all funds will be allocated to this first round of funding. **A second funding opportunity is planned for the Spring or Summer of 2025.**

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: January 15, 2025

Agenda Item #: #6

Agenda Item Subject: **Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Update**

To: SRCD Board of Directors

From: Brittany Friedman, District Manager

---

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Overview**

Links: [Board Meeting Materials](#) | [Committee Meeting Materials](#)

Upcoming CGA Board Meetings

Next Regular Meeting

- Wednesday, February 5, 2024, 8:30-11:30am
- Location: Galt Police Department, 455 Industrial Dr., Galt, CA 95632
- Topics: Member Contributions, PMA's and GSP 5-year Updates

**GSP Updates**

At CGA's recent meeting, the Board decided to explore updating the GSP in terms of funding, Projects and Management items and a general scope overview. This was decided over an amendment process which would be more timely and costly to take on. Staff will be meeting with EKI to discuss a plan moving forward. Each GSA will need to be forthcoming with projects they are working on, potential projects and funding associated. The 5-year GSP Update will need to be submitted in January 2027.

**PMA's**

As part of SRCD's identified recommended corrective actions and project management actions, staff is still working to identify alternative monitoring wells for our network. Staff was able to include a new well identified by Gary Silva as well as the wells monitored by Wildeye.

In addition to this, reactivating stream gauges was also identified by EKI as a PMA and we are awaiting word from DWR on the CalSIP grant funding.

Staff is interested in exploring further options to expand our PMA's and support the basin such as recharge projects or land repurposing.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- Board Discussion on CGA activities – general

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: January 15, 2025

Agenda Item #: #7

Agenda Item Subject: **SRCD Staff Report**

To: SRCD Board of Directors

From: SRCD Staff

---

**Staff Updates**

- Staff has been working with Blomberg and Griffin Accounting to complete the FY 22-23 and FY 23-24 Audits. This will likely take several months before a written report will be presented to the Board. Consultant Rick Wood has offered to advise/assist staff if needed.
- Staff will attend the Delta Conveyance Project Public Hearing on Thursday, January 16 and will report back to the Board on any updates.
- Staff, along with Treasurer Gary Silva, is looking into hiring a part-time bookkeeper to assist with overall financial structures as we continue to take on more grants and bring in more funds.