

Public Review Draft

Resource Conservation District Of Santa Cruz County Service and Sphere Review



July 2015



Local Agency Formation Commission
of Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street, Room 318D
Santa Cruz CA 95060

RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

2015 SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE REVIEW

Agency Overview

The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County (RCDSCC) is a special district that operates pursuant to the Resource Conservation District Act (California Public Resources Code §9151 et seq.). It is a public resource agency and has no regulatory or enforcement functions.

The mission of the RCDSCC is to help people protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through information, education, and technical assistance programs. The RCD has ongoing projects that promote natural resource conservation in relation to farming and ranching operations and watershed-based habitat restoration. RCD projects focus on reducing soil erosion, off-farm sediment transport, non-point source pollution, salmonid and wildlife recovery, and improving ecosystem health.

The RCDSCC was formed in 1978 by the merger of two existing conservation districts: the Pajaro Soil Conservation District formed in 1941, to serve the South County, and the Redwood Soil Conservation District, formed in 1949, to serve the central portion of the County. In 1977, the Directors of the two Districts petitioned the Board of Supervisors and LAFCO to consolidate the two Districts and extend the boundaries countywide. Of the incorporated cities within the County, only the City of Capitola has annexed to the RCDSCC, which was done at the City's request in 1983.

Programs and Services

The RCDSCC leverages available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the needs of local land owners and managers. The District has two core areas of service with several programmatic focuses under each.

The first core area of service is watershed restoration and protection. This service area is broadly defined because the RCDSCC completes projects of many types that result in the protection and restoration of Santa Cruz County watersheds. In conjunction with the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the RCDSCC offers permit coordination services through the Santa Cruz Countywide Permit Coordination Program. The program is intended to be a model of coordinated, multi-agency regulatory review that ensures the integrity of agency mandates, but makes permitting more accessible to rural landowners, farmers and ranchers than the traditional permitting process. The RCDSCC is also the hub for the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP), which provides for a coordinated program to address the highest priority restoration and recovery projects in a more efficient and effective manner. The programmatic focus areas and typical projects under watershed restoration and protection include:

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1. Fire readiness: example project types include fire plans, shaded fuel breaks, chipping programs, fire readiness assessments, education and removal of invasive species
2. Water management: example project types include water quality improvement, water supply augmentation and conservation, erosion control, sediment management and drainage.
3. Habitat restoration: example project types include stream, riparian, and wetland restoration, invasive species management and eradication.
4. Species recovery: example projects include restoration and habitat protection for species listed on the endangered species list.
5. Multi-objective planning: example project types include landscape-scale planning for multiple outcomes including water supply and quality, habitat and species, public uses, and flood management.
6. Regional advanced mitigation: example project types include transportation improvement mitigation actions tied to documented needs and opportunities, including habitat protection and restoration.
7. Regulatory assistance: example project types include private and public landowner services for permitting and regulatory requirements.

The second of the RCDSCC's two core businesses is conservation and stewardship in agriculture, and continues to serve the agricultural community as it has since the District's formation. Through a cooperative agreement with the NRCS, the RCDSCC offers the services of NRCS Conservationists to assist agricultural landowners with land management issues, including irrigation, soil development, erosion control, crop cover, etc. The RCDSCC places a high priority on issues and work related to the protection of prime and important farmland within Santa Cruz County. Assistance to livestock owners is also provided for both commercial facilities and backyard operations. The RCDSCC has three program areas under the core business function of conservation and stewardship in agriculture –

1. Water management: example project types include water quality improvement, water conservation, erosion control, sediment management and drainage improvements on agricultural lands.
2. Land and soil stewardship: example project types include conservation and farm planning, technical assistance, ecological resource enhancement, carbon sequestration, soil health, food health, and sustainable agriculture land uses.
3. Multi-objective planning: example project types include landscape scale planning for multiple outcomes including water supply and quality, habitat and species, public uses and flood management.

The RCDSCC offers a significant amount of technical information and resource links through the District's website including permit information, NRCS program information, educational materials, and watershed plans.

Boundary and Sphere of Influence

A map of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County follows. The current boundaries of the RCDSCC include the City of Capitola and all unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. The boundary currently excludes the cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville. LAFCO adopted the first sphere of influence for the RCDSCC in by Resolution No. 663 in 1983. That sphere consists of all of Santa Cruz County, including the four cities. LAFCO maintained that sphere when it last reviewed the district's sphere in 2008.



Population and Growth

The RCDSCC serves the unincorporated area of the County and the City of Capitola. Population is expected to grow at an annual rate of 0.42% in the unincorporated area and 0.07% in Capitola¹. Although moderate in comparison to the rest of the region, this rate would result in an increase of 11% in the unincorporated county by 2035, which will add greater pressure on land uses such as open space, agriculture, forestland, fish and wildlife, urban and recreation. Along with these pressures, the demand for conservation services is expected to increase. In addition to growth, specific watershed management initiatives and recovery efforts, water supply challenge and the ongoing desire of the community to preserve the quality of the environment within Santa Cruz County and Monterey Bay will create more demand for services. Climate change is also expected to have a dramatic impact on the County's natural resources. Modeling has suggested that the rain season will be condensed, with larger, more intense storms followed by longer dry periods. This could have dramatic impacts on the County's water supply and the resources, businesses, and people that depend on it.

Disadvantaged Communities

The RCDSCC has implemented several projects and programs that benefit the City of Watsonville (a disadvantaged community). Many of these projects were implemented in partnership with the City and several non-governmental organizations, including the Watsonville Wetlands Watch and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. Projects have included technical studies, wetlands and stream restoration. Many of these projects have multiple benefits that not only address resource concerns, but also provide recreational opportunities and open space for the City's residents. The RCDSCC has also worked extensively with the agricultural community surrounding the City of Watsonville to address serious water supply concerns that could affect sustainability of the agricultural industry that supports many of the jobs in the community. Much of this work has targeted Spanish speaking growers.

Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The RCDSCC does not own or maintain any infrastructure.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The RCDSCC is primarily funded by State grants, with supplementary revenue from the District's share of the 1% property tax. Revenue and expenditures as reported in the District's audited financial statement and County Auditor-Controller reports are shown below:

¹ 2014 Regional Growth Forecast, AMBAG.

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Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County Budget

Revenue	FY 2012-13 (Actual)	FY 2013-2014 (Actual)	FY 2014-15 (Budget)
Property Tax	\$21,668	\$22,682	\$22,000
Interest Income	\$1,809	\$1,638	\$1,500
Other Revenue (grants, etc.)	\$3,141,286	\$2,787,600	\$3,590,340
Total Revenue	\$3,164,764	\$2,811,920	\$3,613,840
Expenditures			
Salaries, Wages, Benefits	\$1,015,105	\$854,474	\$976,184
Services and Supplies	\$2,314,465	\$1,988,885	\$2,953,894
Fixed Assets – Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$26,228
Contingencies	\$0	\$0	\$251,105
Total Expenditures	\$3,329,570	\$2,843,359	\$3,956,306
Net Revenue	(164,806)	(\$31,439)	(342,466)
Fund Balance, at year end	\$517,709	\$360,132	N/A

The financial records of the RCDSCC are maintained by the office of the County Auditor-Controller. The RCDSCC is audited annually by an independent auditor; the results of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2013 were not qualified in any way. The results of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2014 are still pending.

Property tax trends are relatively stable, and generally do not influence the overall budget for the RCDSCC given their amount in comparison to the District's overall budget. In contrast, the ebb and flow of grants has a disproportionate impact on the District's finances. State bond funding and the associated grants programs that generate from these bonds have influenced the RCDSCC's budget significantly since 2001, effectively doubling the RCDSCC's budget in just three years through 2004. The RCDSCC peaked in total expenditures during 2008, 2009 and 2010 with over \$4 million in expenditures in each of those years. In 2012 and 2013 total expenditures began to decrease to \$3.3 million and \$2.8 million, respectively. This follows the track of state bonds measures that allocated over \$19 billion for natural resource programs and projects between 2000 and 2006. The availability of state bonds should continue for the near future with grants programs emanating from the recently-passed water bond.

The RCDSCC has actively sought to expand its funding sources and has been successful in obtaining public and private grant funding through the competitive process. Grants provide funding for specifically identified programs with stated objectives and tasks. Therefore, the District is able to tailor its programs and services in accordance with the grant funding requirements. The RCDSCC has adequate funding to deliver services for which grant funding has been awarded. The District is financially stable and has leveraged its property tax revenue to significantly enhance the level of conservation services provided within Santa Cruz County.

Cost Avoidance Opportunities

The State Legislature created Resource Conservation Districts to help landowners manage and steward their lands. However, without State funding to support this mission, RCDs rely upon a mix of local tax share and grants to carry out this mission and do so in an efficient manner. A recent analysis conducted for the RCDSCC found that the district leveraged an annual tax base of between \$40,000 to \$50,000 into over \$17 million from grants and other sources of funding. Staffing at the RCDSCC is dynamic and fluctuates year to year based on available funding. On average, staffing includes 3 to 5 full time staff with an additional 5 to 7 part time staff with frequent volunteers rounding out the mix. As the local partner to the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the RCDSCC leverages federal farm bill funding by employing the services of NRCS staff to assist with RCDSCC-led projects. A NRCS field office has been co-located with the RCDSCC for a number of years. The County Board of Supervisors appoints RCDSCC board members in order to avoid election costs.

The most significant concerns to the RCDSCC are the reliance upon grants, and the delay of those grants paying in arrears. The primary concern is that after the expenses are incurred, it can frequently take three to six months, but occasionally up to a year, for reimbursement to be made to the RCDSCC. In addition to the delay in reimbursement, most grants have a 10% retention, which over the life of a grant can be significant, and can lead to complications when seeking to reimburse contractors.

Management Efficiencies

The RCDSCC is managed by a full-time Executive Director under the direction of the District's Board of Directors. Financial matters are handled by a part-time Financial Director. A challenge to efficient management at the district is the fact that the vast majority of revenue to the district comes from grants. The uncertain nature and the administrative expense of grants make it difficult to plan out staffing and workloads, and the District oscillates between expansion and contraction along with the success or failure of grant applications. Over the years the RCDSCC has conducted several strategic planning exercises to address this challenge.

Per the requirements of state law², RCDs may develop a strategic plan that identifies resource issues within the district for local, state, and federal resource conservation planning. The plan should cover a minimum five-year period and include a framework for setting annual priorities (annual plans) as outlined in the long-range plan. In 2009, the RCDSDD developed a strategic plan that identifies the priority resource issues and geographic areas of focus. Goals are identified for each of the priority resource issues along with funding strategies, key decision makers to work with, and 12-month action items. More recently, the RCDSCC completed a Strategic Fund Diversification Plan and a Business Plan that each direct implementation of RCDSCC activities and address the challenges associated with a grant-dependent revenue stream. The purpose of the Strategic Fund Diversification Plan was to identify steps and actions needed to be taken to create a more diverse and therefore more stable and secure sources of funding. The plan confirmed the core business areas for the RCDSCC and identified several fund development strategies to pursue to stabilize and enhance the RCDSCC's financial viability and programmatic impact in Santa Cruz County.

² Public Resource Code, Division 9, beginning at section 9151

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The Business Plan builds off of the Strategic Fund Diversification Plan by further exploring the RCDSCC's business strengths and documenting the present and near-term (5-year) opportunities as an organization. The Business Plan revisits core RCDSCC programs and projects, assess staff structure, and reviews financial reporting and management. The Business Plan also reviewed existing local, regional and state natural resource policy along with funding sources to provide context to the district.

Shared Facilities

The RCDSCC shares facilities and programs to further its efforts in Santa Cruz County. The District has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and utilizes the services of NRCS District Conservationists. The District hosts the local office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service at the RCDSCC's Capitola office. The District also has an agreement with California State Parks to do restoration and enhancement projects. District staff members have served as Watershed Coordinators for the Arana Gulch and Pajaro River Watersheds. For several years, the RCDSCC has been a placement site for two AmeriCorps volunteers through the Watershed Stewards Project (WSP), which is a project of the California Conservation Corps, administered by California Volunteers and sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. WSP was established in 1994 as a comprehensive, community-based watershed restoration and education program and volunteers serve in coastal watersheds throughout California.

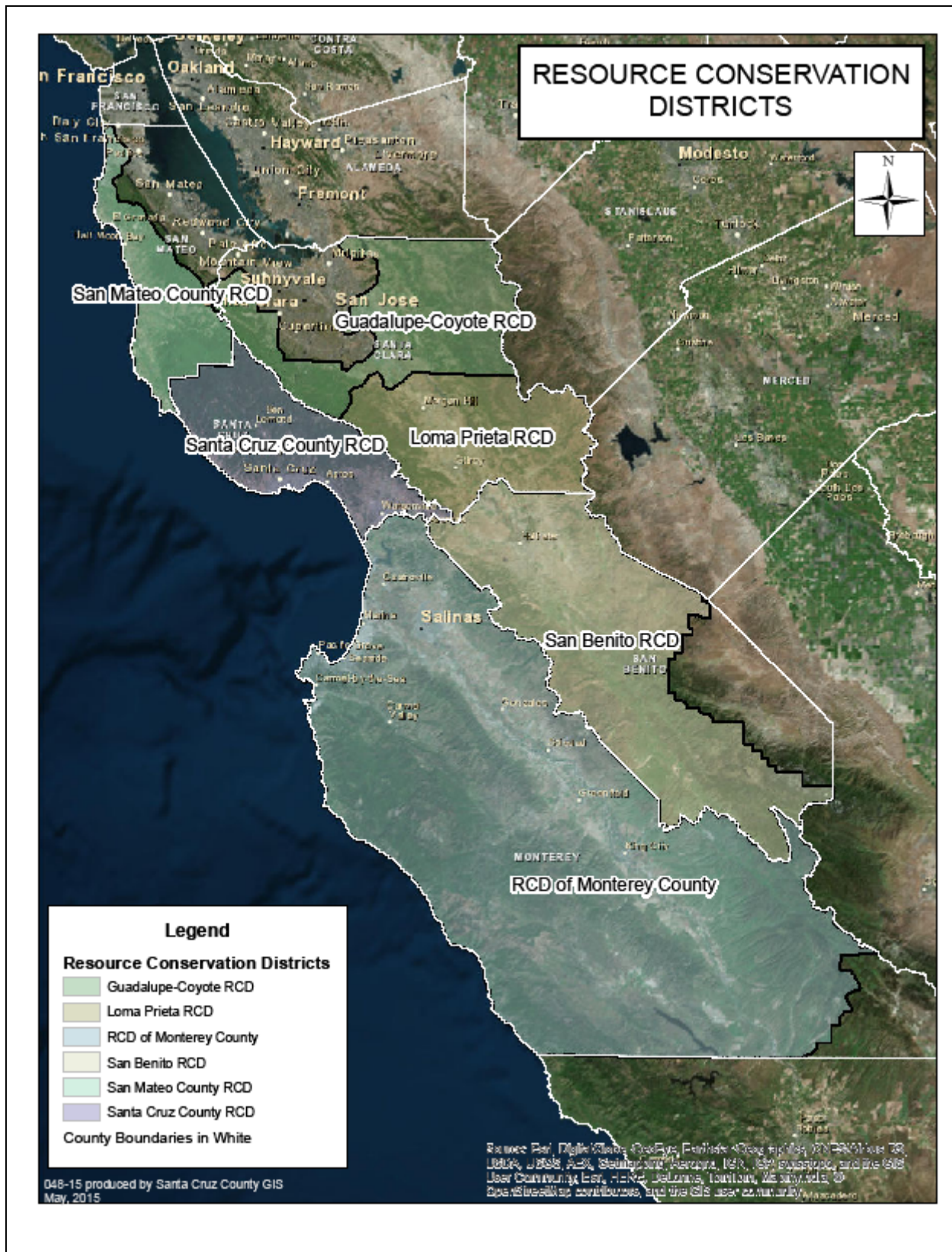
Opportunities for Sharing Staff and Activities with RCDs in Adjacent Counties

RCDs operate in adjacent counties and perform similar functions as the RCDSCC. RCDs in San Mateo and Monterey Counties have recently been collaborating with the RCDSCC on implementation of watershed restoration programs through the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP). IWRP, which is funded in large part by the Coastal Conservancy, coordinates and streamlines the process for project prioritization and implementation. The RCDSCC serves as the financial hub for the three RCDs, and the Financial Director for the district collects and process invoices and reports to be submitted on behalf of the three districts. Staff from each district is active in project identification, scoping, and implementation for each of the respective Counties. The Resource Conservation District of Monterey County has recently provided agricultural engineering services to RCDSCC for a project to improve agricultural water quality.

Resource Conservation Districts are challenged to operate with very limited on-going revenue sources. Many activities are conducted using one-time grants.

Revenues and Fund Balances of Six Resource Conservation Districts

District	County	Tax and Assessment Revenue 2013	Total Revenue 2013	Fund Balance 2013
RCD of Santa Cruz County	Santa Cruz	\$24,811	\$3,164,800	\$416,000
San Mateo County RCD	San Mateo	\$58,581	\$1,200,000	\$232,000
Guadalupe-Coyote RCD	Santa Clara	\$184,000	\$186,000	\$261,948
Loma Prieta RCD	Santa Clara	\$76,217	\$117,000	\$121,000
San Benito RCD	San Benito	\$0	\$2,560	\$27,533
RCD of Monterey County	Monterey	\$0	\$533,000	\$0



The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts has adopted a vision statement to guide the evolution of RCDs in California. One goal of that vision statement is for RCDs to build working relationships with RCDs in their region, sharing resources and staff, mentoring where appropriate, and understanding each other's role in the larger picture of statewide conservation.

Information Regarding Six Resource Conservation Districts

District	County	Phone Number	Website	Full Time Equivalent Employees
RCD of Santa Cruz Co.	Santa Cruz	(831) 464-2950	www.rcdsantacruz.org/	8.6
San Mateo County RCD	San Mateo	(605) 712-7765	www.sanmateorcd.org/	8.5
Guadalupe-Coyote RCD	Santa Clara	(408) 288-5888	www.gcrd.org/	1.0
Loma Prieta RCD	Santa Clara	(408) 847-4171	lomaprietarc.org/	1.5
San Benito RCD	San Benito	(831) 637- 4360 x101	www.rcdsanbenito.org/	Less than 1
RCD of Monterey Co.	Monterey	(831) 424-1036	www.rcdmonterey.org/	3.5

Rate Restructuring

The RCDSCC does not charge fees or service charges for its services, other than nominal charges to cover direct costs for the technical education materials, classes and workshops.

Government Structure Options

The RCDSCC is authorized to provide a broad range of conservation-related services that provide benefit throughout the District's service area. The District's boundaries currently exclude the incorporated cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville. In 1983 the City of Capitola applied for annexation of the entire city to the RCDSCC. The City sought to use the District's staff to review site development plans and advise the Planning Staff on permit conditions for erosion control and water conservation. In addition, the annexation allowed the RCDSCC to provide services to the entire Soquel Creek Watershed in an effort to reduce siltation and improve the water quality in the creek.

While the RCDSCC's original purpose was to manage soil and water resources for conservation, these powers were expanded in the early 1970s to include related resources, including fish and wildlife habitat. This expansion of powers was reflected in the change of name from Soil Conservation Districts to Resource Conservation Districts in 1971. Similarly, as the understanding of resource challenges has expanded over the years the scope of services has also shifted to addressing impacts of urbanized areas,

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for example related to storm water, species recovery and fire preparedness. The RCSCC continues to work on the more traditional concerns in the rural and agricultural areas related to erosion and sediment control, fire preparedness, species recovery, invasive species management and water quality, among others.

With these considerations in mind, several government structure options have been identified for the RCDSCC:

- ***Maintain status quo:*** The RCDSCC's boundaries would remain the same and the District would continue to operate as it currently is.
 - *Advantage:* Provides continuity of service. The District has been successful in leveraging its resources to provide a broad range of conservation services.
 - *Disadvantage:* Provides no services within the three incorporated cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville. The cities were not included within the District in 1978; however since that time approaches to environmental protection and natural resource conservation, in particular with regard to storm water, fire preparedness and species recovery, have expanded to more urbanized areas. This also reflects the change of emphasis in natural resource management to working within political to watershed boundaries. Residents within the three cities are not able to directly benefit from the services provided by the RCDSCC or its ability to successfully compete for grant funding, and similarly, resource protection efforts can be uncoordinated.
- ***Annex incorporated area(s) to the RCDSCC:*** The incorporated Cities of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville would annex to the RCDSCC. An alternative is to cover specific areas through out-of-agency agreements approved by LAFCO.
 - *Advantage:* Increases levels of service and programs within incorporated areas. As previously discussed, environmental protection and natural resource conservation, in particular with regard to storm water, fire preparedness and species recovery, have expanded to more urbanized areas, and the annexation would reflect that. The District provides a broad range of conservation services and could provide services that improve environmental quality and address resource concerns in the incorporated cities. Additionally, grant awards to the RCDSCC for this work could result in lower costs for water quality, species recovery or flood management that are ultimately borne by taxpayers. It may also provide a greater opportunity for implementing watershed plans and programs on a watershed-based approach that is not constrained by political boundaries.
 - *Disadvantage:* Limited funding available from the incorporated areas. The District does not receive a portion of the 1% property tax on the incorporated areas. Subject to Proposition 218 adopted in 1996, a majority of the property owners or voters would need to approve a tax or special assessment to provide funding specifically for the services provided by the RCDSCC. Given the RCDSCC's success in obtaining grant funding, the annexation could be done on a no-cost basis but would still allow the functions described above to be carried out.

- ***Merge RCDSCC with adjacent districts:*** The RCDSCC could merge with one or more adjacent resource conservation districts.
 - *Advantage:* The RCDSCC has been successful in developing and implementing a number of conservation and restoration programs. In keeping with the concept of watershed-based conservation, those programs could be expanded to include upstream watershed areas in other counties that currently are within the boundaries of other resource conservation districts. Merging districts could also potentially have the added benefit of an economy of scale related to overhead and administrative costs.
 - *Disadvantage:* Merging districts could negatively affect the relationships that have developed between those districts and local landowners and agencies. Also, given funding limitations at the RCDSCC, it may be problematic to take on additional geographic areas in which to work. Finally, where there is an effective adjacent district it would not make sense to merge and dilute the collective efforts of the existing districts and the existing relationships between the districts and the landowners.

Local Accountability and Governance

The RCDSCC is governed by a seven member Board of Directors; all Directors are landowners within the District and have an understanding of soil and water conservation issues. Directors are appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to serve staggered four-year terms. The current board is as follows:

Board Member	Title	Term of Office	Compensation
James McKenna	Board President	Expires 11/30/18	None
Michael Manfre	Vice President	Expires 11/25/16	None
Robert Ketley	Director	Expires 11/30/18	None
Roberta Smith	Director	Expires 11/30/18	None
Gordon Classen	Director	Expires 11/25/16	None
John Ricker	Director	Expires 11/25/16	None
Howard Liebenberg	Director	Expires 11/25/16	None

The Board holds regularly-scheduled meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the RCDSCC's offices. Public notice is provided through posting, press releases, direct mailing, and website. The District's Long Range Conservation Program states that all meetings are to be conducted in accordance with "Roberts Rules of Order" and all meetings shall follow the guidelines set forth in the Brown Act. The RCDSCC maintains a website that includes information on the District, its programs and services www.rcdsantacruz.org. Meeting agendas are emailed out to a listserv, posted on the window of the District's office and posted on the District's website at least three days (72 hours) in advance of any meeting. Regularly-scheduled meetings are held at the RCDSCC office located at 820 Bay Street, Suite 136 at 6:30 PM the second Wednesday of each month.

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In 2004, the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury reviewed the RCDSCC, focusing on four areas: operations, funding, purpose and how the District publicizes itself. The study resulted in five recommendations that were all in support of the RCDSCC's efforts. Areas noted for improvement were that the District should work to expand public awareness of its services and the District should allow as much public input as possible in order to build good community relations and further publicize the District's work.

Local Policies

Santa Cruz LAFCO has local policies to identify meeting rules and mission statements that are adopted by local agencies. RCDSCC Board Meetings are conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. The district has adopted the following mission statement: "The mission of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County is to help people protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through information, education, and technical assistance programs."

Contact Information

Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District			
Contact:	James G. McKenna, Board President Chris Coburn, Executive Director		
Mailing Address:	820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128, Capitola, CA 95010		
Site Address:	Same		
Phone Number:	(831) 464-2950		
Fax Number:	(831) 475-3215		
Email/Website	info@rcdsantacruz.org / www.rcdsantacruz.org		
Types of Services:	Agricultural drainage, erosion/sedimentation control, conservation, watershed management		
Population Served:	139,657 (2010 Census)		
Size of Service Area (sq miles):	406 sq miles		
Staff			
Staff: FTE	8.6		
Financial Information			
	Revenues	Expenses	Fund Balance (end of yr)
Budget (FY 2013-2014)	\$2,811,920	\$2,843,359	\$342,466

– SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS –
Government Code Section 56430

1) Population and Growth

Determination: The population projections are for the district population to increase 11% in the next twenty years. This will intensify the impacts on the watersheds.

2) Disadvantaged Communities

Determination: The activities of the Resource Conservation District help to improve the agricultural productivity, while limiting the pollution impacts, of farms in the Pajaro Valley. Also, the Watsonville wetlands restoration activities of the district enhance the educational and recreational opportunities in the disadvantaged areas of the Pajaro Valley.

3) Capacity of Facilities, Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

Determination: The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County does not own or maintain any infrastructure.

4) Financing Constraints and Opportunities

Determination: The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County is primarily funded through grants, with a minor amount of funding coming from the district's share of the 1% property tax. The district is highly reliant on grants to perform major programs.

5) Shared Facilities

Determination: The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County hosts the local office of the USDA National Resource Conservation Service in the District's Capitola offices. There are few other opportunities for the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County to share facilities.

6) Accountability, and Government Structure Options

Determination: Resource Conservation District funding is highly reliant on irregular grants. The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County should continue sharing expertise and explore sharing staffing with the Resource Conservation Districts in the adjacent counties.

7) Local LAFCO Policies

Determination: The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County has adopted Roberts Rules of Order by which to run its board meetings. The district's mission statement is:

"The mission of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County is to help people protect, conserve, and restore natural resources through information, education, and technical assistance programs."

--SPHERE OF INFLUENCE DETERMINATIONS--

Government Code Section 56425

- 1) ***The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.***
Determination: The planned land uses within the five applicable general plans are a mix of urban, rural and mountain residential, agricultural, timber, public recreation, and open-space lands.
- 2) ***The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.***
Determination: The area within the adopted sphere of influence needs, and will continue to need, the soil management, wildland fuel load reduction, riparian restoration, and watershed management services provided by the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County.
- 3) ***The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.***
Determination: The services of the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County substantially rely on grant funding, which varies significantly from year to year. The district's services expand and contract based upon the program types and levels of grant funds that they receive.
- 4) ***The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.***
Determination: The adopted sphere of influence is watershed-based. It includes the entire watersheds of the North Coast streams, the San Lorenzo River, Soquel Creek, Aptos Creek, and the portion of the Pajaro River watershed located in Santa Cruz County.
- 5) ***For an update of a sphere of influence of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, that occurs . . . on or after July 1, 2012, the present and probable need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged communities within the existing sphere of influence.***
Determination: This subject is not applicable to the sphere update for the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District because the district does not provide any of the applicable services.

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Original Sphere of Influence Adoption for Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

SANTA CRUZ LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 668

On the motion of Commissioner Patton
duly seconded by Commissioner Nielsen
the following resolution is adopted:

ADOPTING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR
THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission does hereby RESOLVE,
DETERMINE, AND ORDER as follows:

1. The Commission has reviewed the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District Sphere of Influence Study pursuant to Section 54774 of the Government Code.
2. The Executive Officer has given notice of public hearing by this Commission upon the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District Sphere of Influence in the form and manner prescribed by law.
3. The public hearing was held by this Commission on December 19, 1983, and at the hearing this Commission heard all interested persons.
4. The Commission has considered the Negative Declaration dated November 30, 1983 together with the comments received during the public review process, and approves the Negative Declaration. The Commission finds that adopting this sphere of influence will not have a significant effect on the environment.
5. The Commission adopts the Sphere of Influence Findings listed in Exhibit "A".
6. The Commission hereby adopts the Sphere of Influence for the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District to be the entire County of Santa Cruz, including the incorporated areas; and to be subject to the following condition: a) Detachments of properties from the district will be permitted when unincorporated areas are annexed to cities not participating in the resource conservation district.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Santa Cruz this 19th day of December 1983 by the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS RETZLAFF, NIELSEN, PATTON, WORMHOUDT, LEVY

NOES: COMMISSIONERS NONE

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS NONE