

WHIRLWIND TOUR OF WATERSHED WORK



Environmental Education Coalition of Napa County

Stephanie Turnipseed



EECNC Field Trip Bus Grant Program



Why?

To provide funding for field trips in Napa County that create a connection between students and the local environment.

Who?

The Environmental Education Coalition of Napa County.

How?

Funded by proceeds from the annual Napa Earth Day festival.



- \$5-10K in grants awarded each school year
- Average of 22 trips per year
- Average of 880 students served each year
- Connolly Ranch, Skyline Park, Bothe State Park, Carolyn Parr Nature Center, Napa Farmers Market, Napa Library, Alston Park, Napa Recycling and Waste Services, Yountville EcoReserve, Lake Hennessey

UC Davis

Keitasha Royal





Climate Change: Intense Storms

**Unsheltered
People**

**Droughts &
Floods**

**Instream
Habitat**



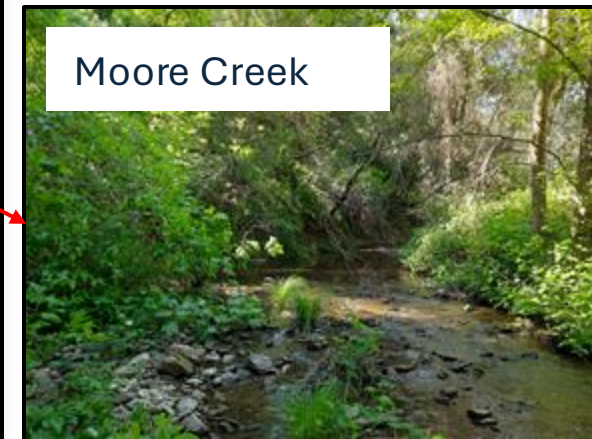
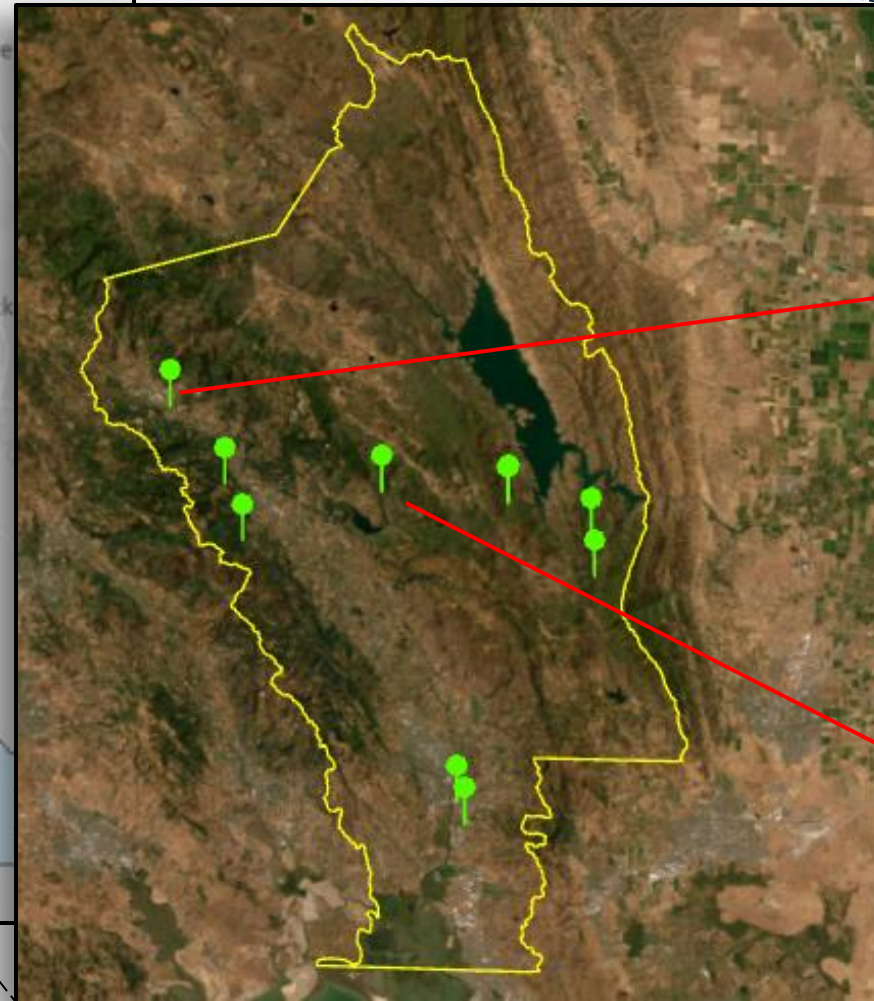
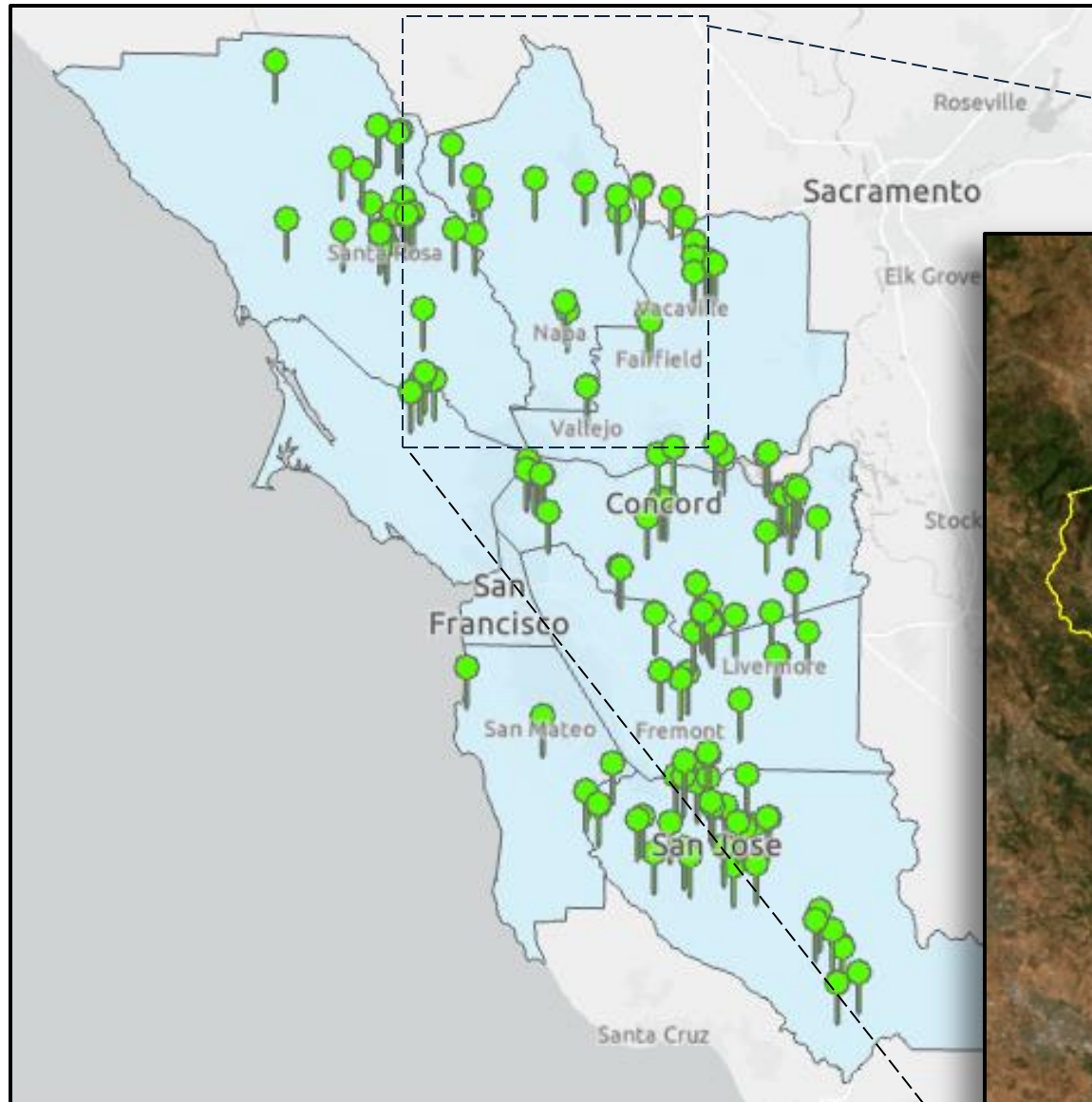
Climate Change: Hotter, Drier, Summers

Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors

What will happen?

What can we do about it?

Since April 2024, we have conducted over 150 geophysical surveys the 9-county Bay Area since April. So far, in Napa, we have surveyed 11 sites; all natural streams



Sustainable St. Helena

Paul Asmuth





THE NAPA VALLEY COMMUNITY FOREST



St. Helena, California

- Effluent from City WWTP used to irrigate
- Created forest ecosystem from fallow land
- Ecosystem service benefits
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Nutrient recycling
 - Environmental cooling



What's been accomplished:

- **Over 2,000 coast redwood, dawn redwood, valley oak, coast live oak, & big-leaf maple trees planted**
- **Student education in St. Helena and Calistoga**
- **Wildlife habitat created**
- **1,000s of pounds of green house gases removed from atmosphere**
- **Community planting days with Napa RCD**

Napa County

Jesse Gutierrez



Napa County Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan



Napa County RCAAP

The **RCAAP** provides the six Napa County jurisdictions with a policy and implementation framework for reducing GHG emissions, adapting to the effects of climate change, and strengthening community resilience.

The **RCAAP** will provide measurable and time specific strategies, measures, and actions.

Included in the plan...

- A Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory of Napa County
- A Climate Vulnerability Analysis
- GHG emissions forecasts
- GHG reduction strategies, measures, and actions
- Adaptation strategies, measures, and actions

Join the fun...

- Attend the Climate Action Committee meetings
- Comment on the draft Climate Action & Adaptation plan
- Support implementation efforts
- Spread the word!



Napa Valley Zero Waste Collective

Brooke Shenk



Napa Valley Zero Waste Collective

Mission

To harness the power of the wine community in Napa Valley to create more closed-loop, circular, zero-waste solutions that all wineries and local companies can benefit from.

Connecting the Community

Power of the collective

Implementing Projects

Plastic Stretch Wrap Recycling

PET Label Liner Recycling

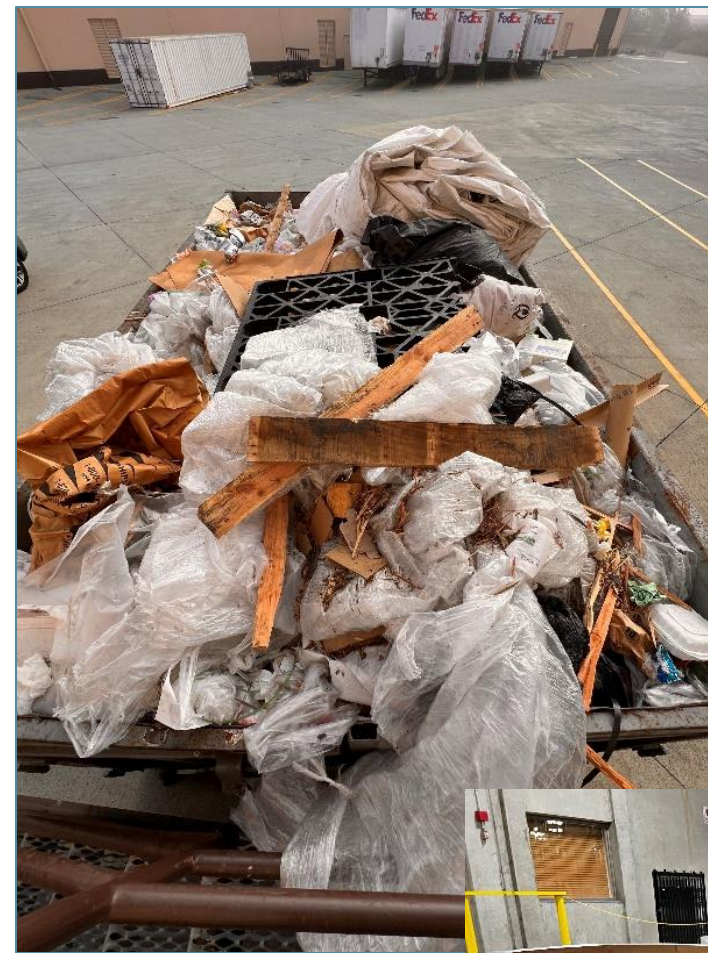
Starting Conversations

Hard to recycle items

Wash-off labels

Circular resources- cardboard/glass

Domestic Recycling Options





1. PET Label Release Liner UPM Raflatac

****UPM Rafcycle**- Pickups & reprocessing
(outdoor/ automotive carpeting)*

2. Plastic Stretch Film Trex & Wine Service Co-op

***Wine Service Co-op**- Receiving, baling,
& storing*

***Community**- Communication,
collection, & delivery to WSC*

***Trex**- Pickups, reprocessing, &
repayment (~\$0.14/lb)*



Suscol Intertribal Council

Charlie Toledo



Suscol Intertribal Council

Suscol House land project Chiles-Pope Valley Road





Napa County Stormwater Program

Jeff Skinner



Napa Trash Capture

- EPA SF Bay Water Quality Improvement Funded pilot project to install up to 10 storm drain full capture devices in industrial area near airport
- This task will allow the County of Napa to manage a project including the planning and development of preliminary design, acquisition and installation of suitable small trash capture devices
- Includes twice annual maintenance for two years on these devices.





Project Goals

- Reduce trash contribution to local waterways
- Develop maintenance procedures from actual use conditions
- Track trash generation data for trend analysis
- Determine if these devices can be safely and efficiently used in tidally influenced drainages

Napa County Prescribed Burn

Association

Danielle Ashton



Napa County Prescribed Burn Association Development





Our Mission:

The mission of the Napa County PBA is to build a volunteer-based mutual aid group that empowers the community to use responsible controlled burning techniques to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire and restore forest health by providing the education, training, and resources to conduct prescribed burns.

Building resilience with prescribed fire

- Restore forest health by reducing overgrown vegetation and supporting native species that are adapted to fire.
- Mitigate risk of catastrophic wildfires.
- Engage and empower community in environmental action and education.



Institute for Conservation Advocacy Research and Education

Chris Malan



The Institute for Conservation Advocacy Research
And Education
Since 2004

The Dying Napa River

The Napa River A Dying River
Bringing Awareness and Action for Change



Water diversions




Groundwater pumping



Drying and Dying Napa
River



Toxic Algae Blooms



Fast drying stream habitats kills aquatic animals such as salmon, fresh water shrimp, California Yellow-legged frogs and so much more! Education, awareness and regulations are needed to stop And reverse the dying Napa River!

Napa County Planning, Building &

Environmental Services

Brendan McGovern



Planning, Building & Environmental Services

Whirlwind Tour Stream Watch Program

2024 Napa County Watershed Symposium



Stream Watch

- 46 Active Observation Sites
- 3 Camera Sites (planning 3 more sites)
 - Installed where volunteers can not access the river or tributaries
- Covers 26 tributaries and 9 sites on the Napa River
- Volunteers enter status of site:
 - Water status
 - Flowing
 - Isolated Pools
 - Dry

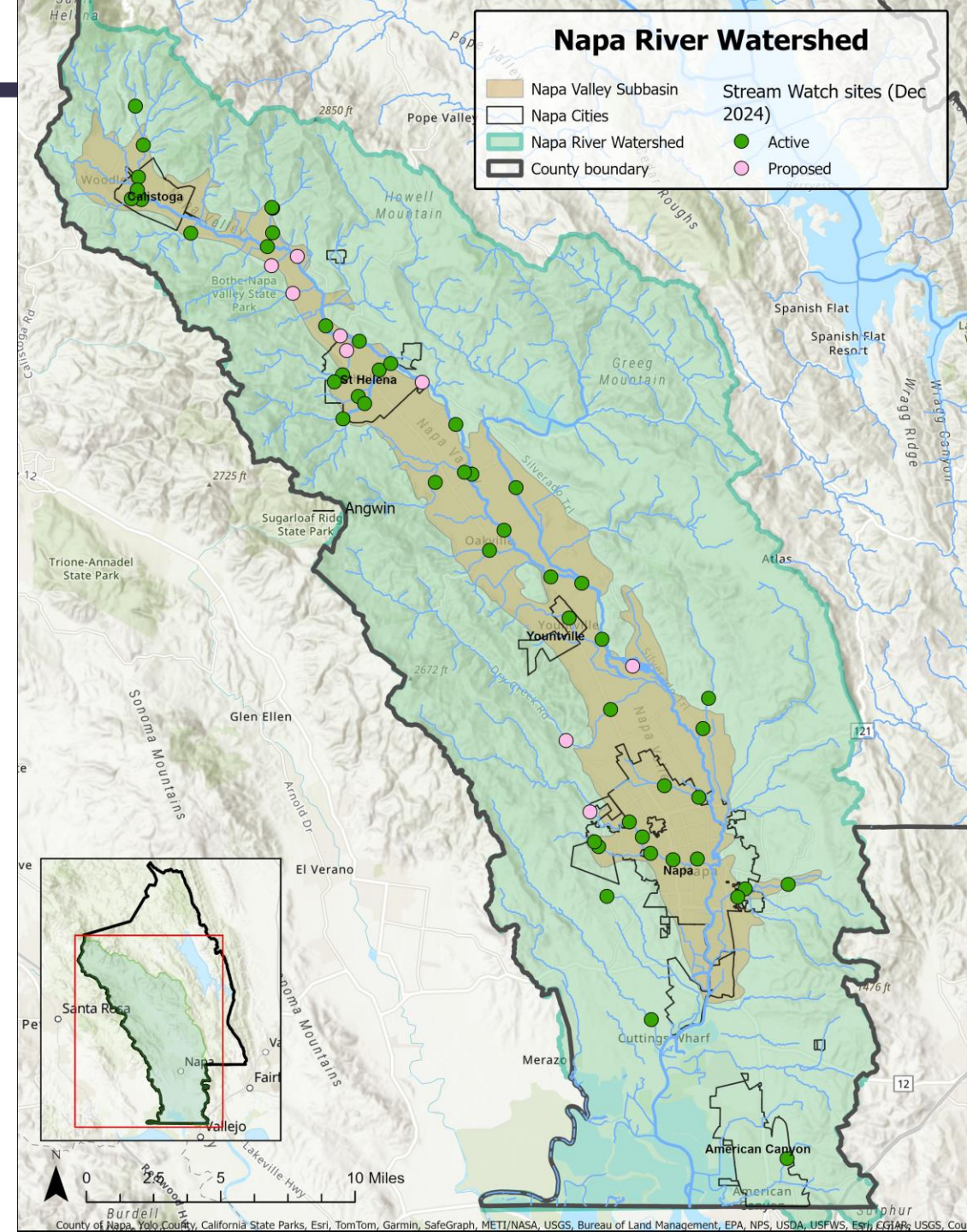
Dry



Isolated Pools

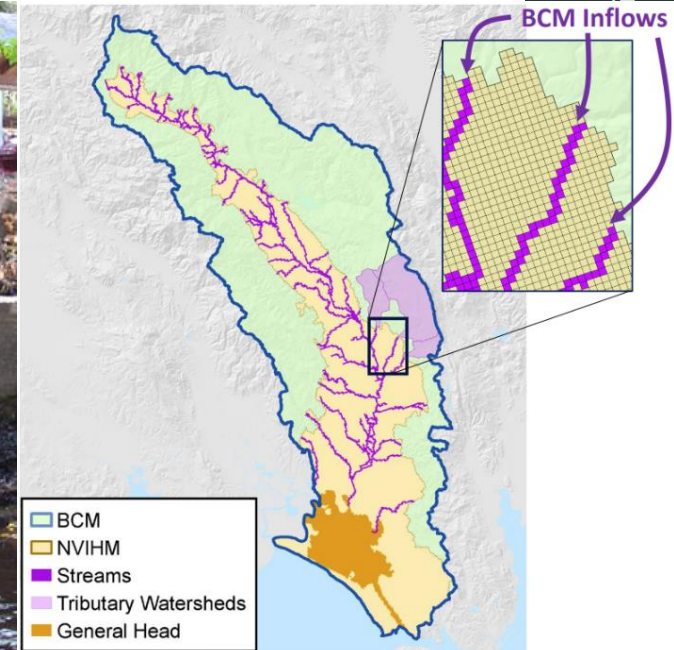


Flowing



Project Benefits

- Identify when and where the river and tributaries dry out
- Fills critical gap where streamgages do not exist
- Identify habitat and flow restoration sites
- Prioritize fish passage barrier removal sites
- Data helps improve the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies hydrologic model



<https://naparcd.org/streamwatch/>

NapaSan

Andrew Damron



Resource Recovery at NapaSan



65% of energy to power operations is self-generated



Average of 1,200 dry tons of biosolids produced annually



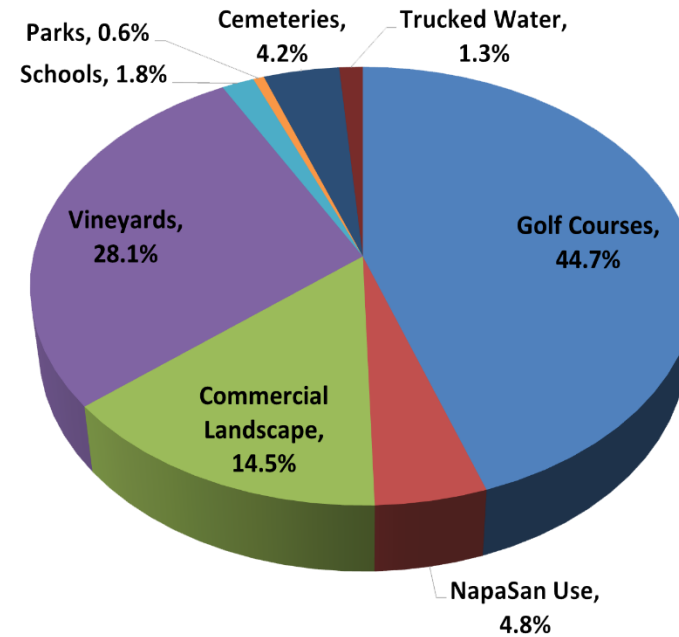
Average of 940 million gallons of recycled water produced annually



Recycled Water Program



- Drought-resistant water source
- Reduces demand on groundwater and surface water
- Average of 940 million gallons (2,900 AF) produced annually
- Largest users are vineyards, golf courses, commercial landscape
- 240 customers connected to system



City of Napa Parks and Recreation

Services

Erin Corona



FRENCH BROOM MITIGATION

At Westwood Hills Park

Partnership between the City of Napa + Napa RCD + USDA
Volunteer Workdays planned for 2025
(January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26)



Reasons for Invasive Species Removal:

- Restore the Balance of the Local Ecosystem
- Protect Native Biodiversity
- Reduce Fire Risk
- Improve Water Quality



Before



After



City of Napa Water Division

Joy Eldredge



City of Napa recognizes

Watershed Management Takes a Village



- ❖ Understand water quality and develop long-term trends through sampling and monitoring program
- ❖ Support conservation easements and parks with open space

Partners in Collaboration

Napa Communities Firewise Foundation

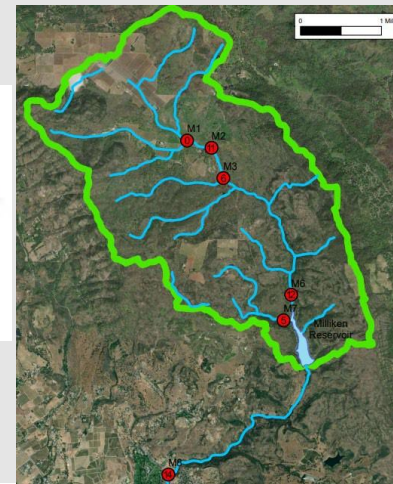
Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Napa County Fire Administration

Napa County Planning/Flood Control

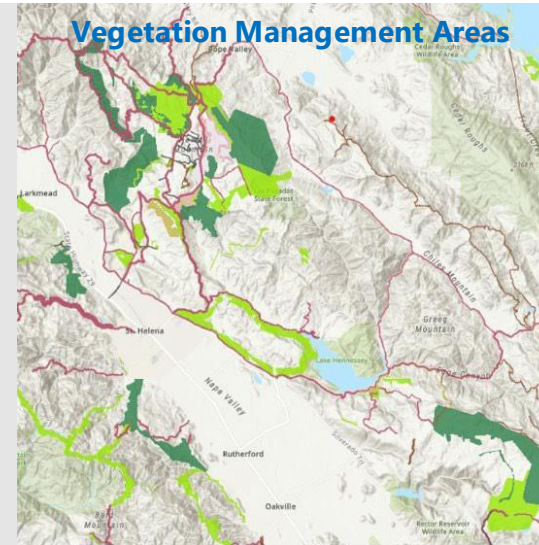
Fire Safe Councils

- Lake Hennessey
- Hennessey Rector



City of Napa recognizes

Watershed Management Takes a Village



- ❖ Collaborate with adjacent landowners on vegetation management to prevent and assist in containment of wildland fires
- ❖ Prevent the introduction of invasive species, especially the Golden Mussel

**Mission: Ensure long term protection of
Lake Hennessey and Milliken Reservoir
drinking water supplies**



CONCUR Inc.

Scott McCreary



Breaking the Impasse: Building Stable Watershed Agreements

Three Key Strategies

- Do a deep dive on stakeholder interests
- Organize robust independent review to generate good ideas
- Create incentives to “reach across the aisle”

Napa County's Track Record:

Some Great Agreements, Some Divisiveness,

What are Ways to Do Even Better?

Strategy 1: Deep dive on stakeholder interests and willingness to reach agreement before appointments are made

- California Natural Resources Agency case--conduct focused up-front interviews with candidates.
- Test for seriousness of commitment and credibility; advise appointing officials

Strategy 2: Organize robust independent review to help generate good ideas

- Humbolt Headwaters Forest case--Pacific Lumber and natural resource agencies and conservationists at impasse
- Board requested we convened a 7-member interdisciplinary advisory panel
- Panel recommended and Board adopted system of watershed-wide waste discharges requirements.

Strategy 3: Create incentives to “reach across the aisle”

- Incentives include training and coaching, funding social programs, sustained research to improve future decision making.
- Guadalupe River case in San Jose: original plan was a narrow channel, threats to sue
- Scientific advisors and policy-wise negotiators recommended a bypass channel.
- Overcome skepticism with early implementation of key project features.

Napa Green

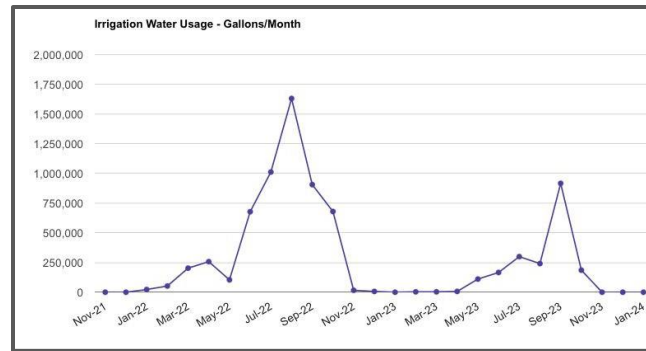
Ben Mackie



Empowerment & Action: Napa Green's Water Impact CERTIFICATION & CONSULTATION



METERING

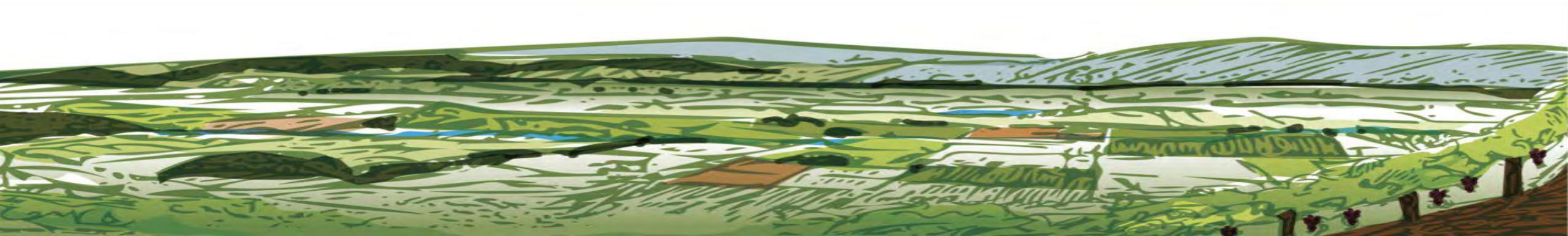


TRACKING

ASSESSMENT



IMPLEMENTATION



Empowerment & Action: Napa Green's Water Impact
EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT



WORKSHOPS



RISE SYMPOSIUM

COMMUNITY ACTION



California Native Plant Society

Evelyn Zlomke



Pollinator Habitat

This area has been planted with pollinator-friendly flowers and is protected from pesticides to provide valuable habitat for bees and other pollinators.

To learn how you can help to bring back the pollinators, please visit www.xerces.org.

BRING BACK THE POLLINATORS

XERCES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



NATIVE PLANTS

live here!



Conservation Science

Learn more at cnps.org

Friends of the Napa River

Barry Christian



Napa County Seed Library

Lauren Muscatine





FOOD INSECURITY

30% of the world is food insecure



POOR HEALTH

42% can't afford a healthy diet



BIODIVERSITY LOSS

80% loss of plant biodiversity since the early 1900s

CLIMATE
CHANGE
DISRUPTS
LOCAL
FOOD
SYSTEMS





Seed is the foundation of food.

GLOBALLY, MORE THAN 1,700 SEED BANKS
ENSURE AGAINST CLIMATE CATASTROPHES.

ORGANIC HERITAGE SEED FARMING



To protect local food systems we
need a robust, locally adapted
seed system.



LOCAL SEED LIBRARY ANNEXES

Land Trust of Napa County

Tosha Comendant



California Red-Legged Frog Conservation and Rec



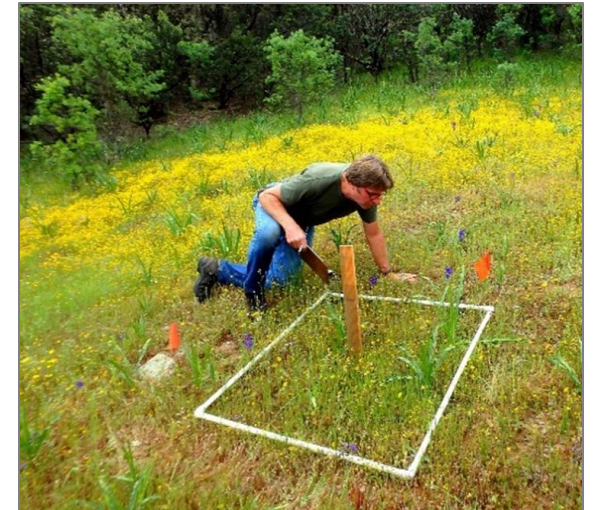
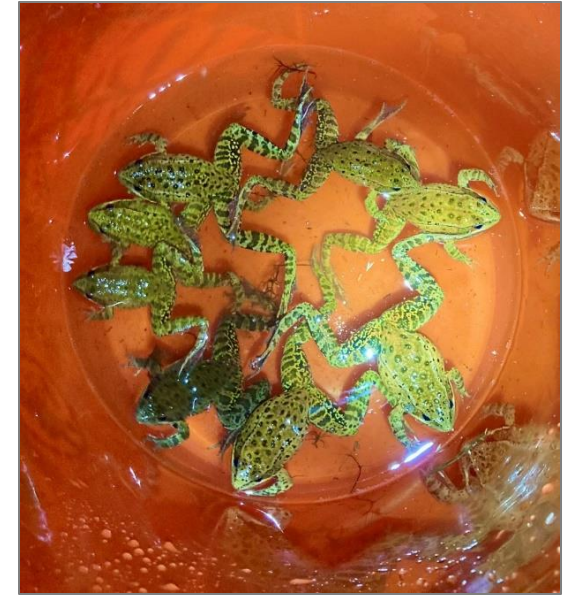
Tosha Comendant, Stewardship Program Manager,
LTNC

Mike Palladini, Stewardship Director, LTNC



Red-Legged Frog Conservation and Recovery

**Frogs are now naturally
breeding !!!**



Napa Resource Conservation District

Martin Perales

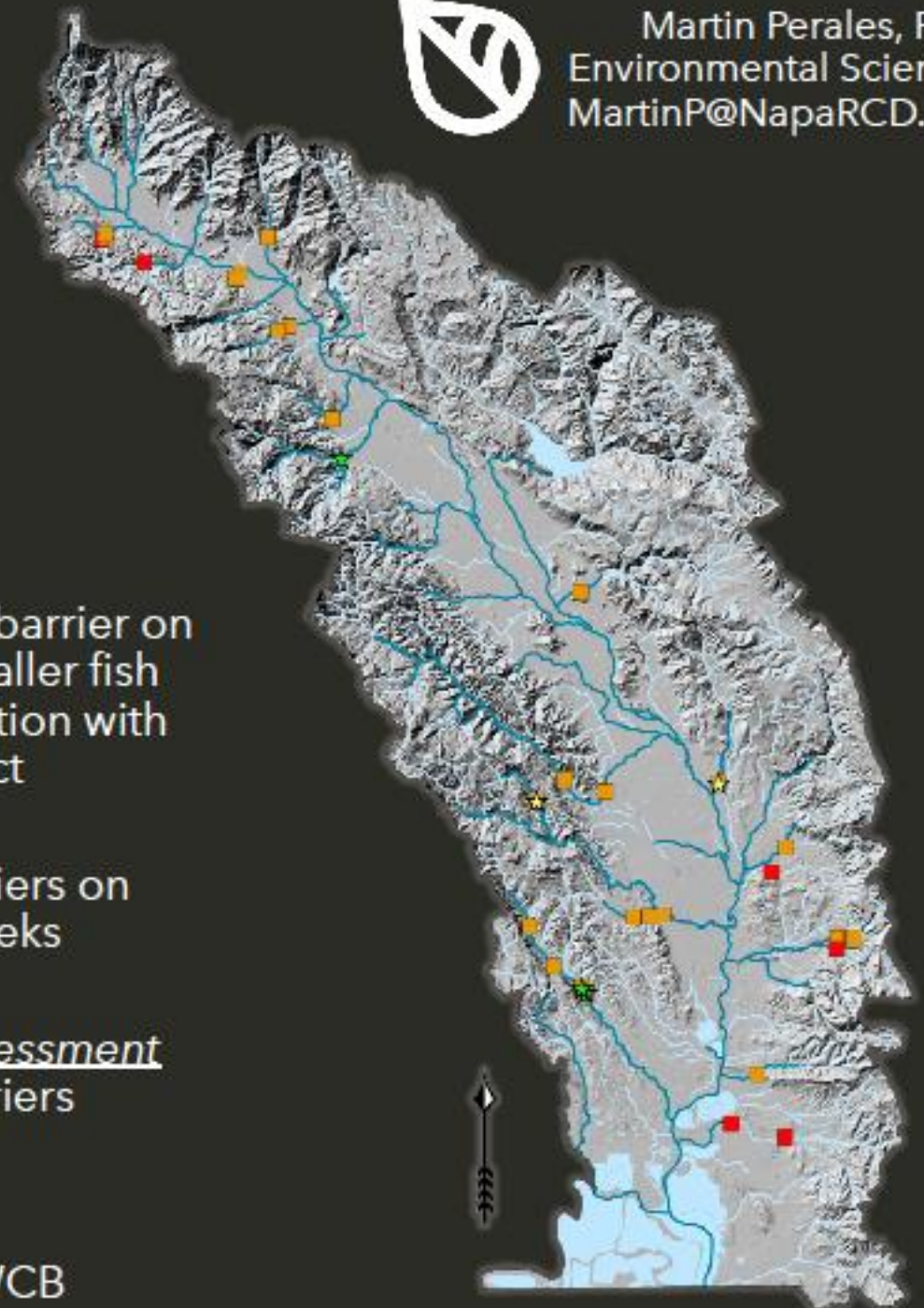


Napa River Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Program

Objective: enhance habitat connectivity for steelhead & other native fishes



Martin Perales, PhD
Environmental Scientist
MartinP@NapaRCD.org



Key Components

Remove a large fish barrier on Sulphur Creek & smaller fish barriers in collaboration with Flood Control District

Designs for fish barriers on Soda and Pickle Creeks

Watershed wide assessment of pertinent fish barriers

Funders: NOAA & WCB

