

## Members

Diane Dillon  
Mark Luce  
Del Britton  
Gary Kraus  
James Krider  
Leon Garcia  
Marjorie Mohler  
Mike Basayne  
Jeff Reichel  
Phill Blake  
Don Gasser  
Jeffrey Redding  
Robert Steinhauer  
Charles Slutzkin  
Marc Pandone  
Chris Sauer  
Alexander Pader

## Alternate

Keith Caldwell

## AGENDA

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 23, 2009  
4:00 p.m.

2nd Floor Conference Room, Hall of Justice Building,  
1125 Third Street, Napa CA

## Staff Representatives

Patrick Lowe,  
**Secretary**  
Deputy Director,  
Conservation Div., CDPD

Jeff Sharp,  
**Watershed Coordinator**  
Principal Planner,  
Conservation Div., CDPD

Laura Anderson,  
**Counsel**  
Attorney IV,  
County Counsel's Office

Melissa Gray,  
**Admin. Assistant**  
Admin. Secretary II,  
CDPD

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL** (Chairman)
  
2. **APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES**  
Meeting of March 26, 2009 (Chairman)
  
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**  
In this time period, anyone may comment to the Board regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction, or request consideration to place an item on a future Agenda. No comments will be allowed involving any subject matter that is scheduled for discussion as part of this Agenda. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the Board as a result of any item presented at this time. (Chair)
  
4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
  - a. Announcement of **Napa Downtown Creek Clean-up**, Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. (Staff)
  - b. Announcement of **Board of Supervisor's proclamation of May 2009 as Watershed Awareness Month**, Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. (Staff)
  - c. Announcement of **Napa Valley 5k/10k Salmon Run/Walk**, Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. (Staff)
  - d. Others (Board/Staff/Public)
  
5. **UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION:**  
  
Update, discussion and possible direction on San Francisco Bay **Regional Water Quality Control Board's Revised Napa River Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** and other regional and state water quality control plans and policies affecting Napa County's watersheds (Mike Napolitano, SF Bay RWQCB)

6. **REPORTS, UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:**

- a. Update on **WICC participation in Earth Day Celebration**, and request for event volunteers, April 25<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Napa Valley College (Board/Staff)
- b. Update and report on upcoming **2009 Napa County Watershed Symposium**, and invitation to WICC Board members, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Elks Lodge (Staff/Napa County RCD)
- c. Update on development of a locally based **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)** for Napa County to assist in future funding opportunities and briefing on larger **Bay Area and Sacramento River IRWMP** efforts (Staff)
- d. Update on **expansion of creek and watershed identification signs** (Staff/Napa County RCD)
- e. Update and report on **drought impacts on Napa County reservoir levels and domestic water supplies** (Felix Riesenber, Napa County Principal Water Resources Engineer)
- f. Others (Board/Staff)

7. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:**

**Napa County Resource Conservation District Annual Report** – a presentation of the Napa County Resource Conservation District’s Annual Report, highlighting accomplishments and measures of progress toward meeting the District’s goals (Leigh Sharp, RCD District Manager)

8. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION:**

- a. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding **cancellation of the Board’s regular meeting scheduled for May 28, 2009** due to member attendance at 2009 Napa County Watershed Symposium on May 21, 2009 (Staff/Board)
- b. Discussion and possible direction to staff regarding **transmittal of Board member agendas materials via email** rather than mail to save staff time, as well as printing and postage costs (Staff/Board)

9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Board/Staff)

10. **NEXT MEETING** (Chairman)

Regular Board Meeting: **June 25, 2009 – 4:00 PM** (*pending action on 8a above*)  
Hall of Justice Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room, 1125 Third Street, Napa

11. **ADJOURNMENT** (Chairman)

**Note: If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability. Please contact Jeff Sharp at 707-259-5936, 1195 Third St., Suite 210, Napa CA 94559 to request alternative formats.**



# Downtown Napa River Cleanup

Sunday April 26, 2009

9-11am



## Cleanup Site Locations:

- **South Wetland Area** -- End of S. Jefferson Street
- **Napa Creek**-- Behind Firefighter's Museum, 1201 Main Street
- **Riverside Drive**-- Riverside Drive, end of Elm Street
- **Kennedy Park**-- Boat launch parking lot off Strelow Drive

Garbage bags, gloves, and light refreshments will be provided at each site. Wear sunscreen and clothes you are willing to get dirty.

**Please note:** Children under 18 are required to have a liability waiver form signed by a parent or legal guardian before they can participate.

Please contact **Stephanie Young at 252-4188x111** for more information or to volunteer for this event.

Sponsors: Coordinated by the Napa County Resource Conservation District with funding provided by the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Special thanks to Napa Recycling & Waste Services, In Harm's Way, Friends of the Napa River, Napa Valley Fly Fishers and Trader Joe's.





A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 5/5/2009

Agenda Placement:

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Hillary Gitelman - Director  
Conservation, Development & Planning

**REPORT BY:** Jeff Sharp, Principal Planner - 259-5936

**SUBJECT:** Presentation of Proclamation Declaring May 2009 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Napa County.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Presentation of a proclamation declaring May, 2009 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Napa County. (Chair Luce)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This proclamation recognizes that functioning watersheds are vital to a healthy environment, a safe and reliable source of drinking water, and a healthy economy. It further acknowledges landowners, local governments, conservation organizations, and individual citizens throughout the County of Napa who are working together to find ways to maintain, enhance, and improve the health of Napa County's watersheds; and upholds the resident's wish to celebrate local watershed efforts and raise awareness about the importance of local watersheds by proclaiming May 2009 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Napa County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** General Rule. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the proposed action may have a significant effect on the environment and therefore CEQA is not applicable. [See

Guidelines For the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, 14 CCR 15061(b)(3)].

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

May 2005 was celebrated as California's first Watershed Awareness Month to encourage Californians to learn more about their local watersheds and participate in activities to enhance their natural surroundings and communities.

On May 3, 2005 the Board of Supervisors joined that effort by proclaiming May 2005 as Watershed Awareness Month in Napa County. Since 2005 the Board has annually proclaimed May as Watershed Awareness Month in Napa County. Many watershed related events and programs are now held annually during the month of May to raise community awareness about the importance of local watersheds.

Building upon prior success and wishing to celebrate the community's achievements in improving the health of Napa County's watersheds, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors proclaim May 2009 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Napa County.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Proclamation - May 2009 Watershed Awareness Month

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi

# ***PROCLAMATION***

**WHEREAS**, Napa County has three major watersheds: the Napa River, Putah Creek, and Suisun Creek watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, the watersheds of Napa County support forested mountain slopes, agriculture, urban areas, open pasture, grassland, industrial zones, and marshes; and

**WHEREAS**, Napa County's watersheds support a large diversity of wildlife and plant species; and

**WHEREAS**, the beauty of Napa County's watershed land enriches the quality of life shared and enjoyed by each and every resident and visitor of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, functioning watersheds are vital for a healthy environment, a safe and reliable source of drinking water, and a healthy economy; and

**WHEREAS**, landowners, local governments, conservation organizations, and individual citizens throughout the County of Napa are working together to find ways to maintain, enhance, and improve the health of Napa County's watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the County of Napa wish to celebrate local watershed efforts and raise awareness about the importance of local watersheds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that I, Mark Luce, on behalf of the Napa County Board of Supervisors do hereby proclaim the month of May 2009, as "*Watershed Awareness Month*" in Napa County and encourage all to celebrate and explore Napa County's watershed lands.

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Mark Luce, Chair  
Napa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Gladys A. Coil  
Clerk of the Board







# NAPA VALLEY 5K/10K SALMON RUN



A run/walk to benefit the programs of the  
Napa County Resource Conservation District

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**WHEN:** Sunday, June 28th, 2009

**START:** 8 am

**LOCATION:** Picnic grounds at the Yountville Veteran's Home

**REGISTRATION:** Register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com).

**FEE:** \$35 for 5k and 10K. Registration after June 1st will be \$40. These fees include the registration and a race t-shirt.

**RAFFLE:** \$1 per ticket for great prizes that have been generously donated by local hotels, restaurants and wineries.

**INFO:** For more info, call Stephanie at (707)252-4188 x111 or send an e-mail to [steph@naparcd.org](mailto:steph@naparcd.org).

Please join us for a morning full of fun, exercise, and beautiful Napa Valley scenery that will benefit the programs of the Napa County Resource Conservation District, including fisheries monitoring, habitat surveys and community education!

Generously Sponsored by:



*Dominus  
Napa Valley*



City of Napa Water Division



## **Item 5**

### **Napa River Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Plan**

*(Excerpts from recommended Basin Plan Amendment – Sept. 2008)*

The goals of the Napa River Sediment Reduction and Habitat Enhancement Plan (Plan) are to:

- Conserve the steelhead trout population
- Establish a self-sustaining Chinook salmon population
- Enhance the overall health of the native fish community
- Enhance the aesthetic and recreational values of the river and its tributaries

To achieve these goals, specific actions are needed to:

- Attain and maintain suitable gravel quality and diverse streambed topography in freshwater reaches of Napa River and its tributaries
- Protect and/or enhance base flows in tributaries and the mainstem of the Napa River
- Reduce the number and significance of human-made structures in channels that block or impede fish passage
- Maintain and/or decrease summer water temperatures in tributaries to the Napa River

#### **Problem Statement**

Steelhead and salmon populations in the Napa River and its tributaries have declined substantially since the late 1940s. Results of recent analyses of fisheries and sediment sources indicate that:

- 1. Spawning and juvenile rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead are adversely affected by high concentrations of fine sediment (primarily sand) deposited in the bed of the Napa River and its tributaries.**
- 2. Channel incision has greatly reduced the quantity and quality of spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon in Napa River watershed. Habitat losses as a result of incision exert a significant negative influence on freshwater growth and survival of juvenile**

**salmon, and therefore, on the number of Chinook salmon that ultimately return to spawn.**

- 3. Low flows and stressful water temperatures during the spring and dry season, and fish migration barriers exert a significant negative influence on the number (and fitness) of juvenile steelhead that migrate to the ocean from the watershed, and as such, on the number of adults that successfully return to spawn.**

Due to excess erosion and sedimentation in the Napa River Watershed, the narrative water quality objectives for sediment and settleable material are not being met and cold freshwater habitat, wildlife habitat, fish spawning, recreation, and preservation of rare and endangered species beneficial uses are impaired. In addition, channel incision has reduced the quantity of gravel bars, riffles, side channels, and sloughs, which threatens Chinook salmon and other fish and aquatic wildlife species. Channel incision is a controllable water quality factor that is contributing to a violation of the narrative water quality objective for population and community ecology.



# 2009 NAPA COUNTY WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM

**May 21, Napa Elks Lodge, Napa, CA**

*Stewarding Napa County's Watersheds in a Changing World*

**Agenda:**

**8:30 Registration begins. Exhibit Session.**

**9:00 Welcoming Remarks**

Kate Dargan, Master of Ceremonies, State Fire Marshall  
Honorable Jill Techel, Mayor, City of Napa  
Honorable Mark Luce, Supervisor, Napa County

**9:20 Keynote address: *Managing California's resources in a changing world***  
Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Program

**9:45 Session 1: *Napa County's Watersheds: Anticipated sources of change and their effects***

John Pierre Stephens, Department of Water Resources  
David Passovoy, CalFire  
TBD

**11:15 Break & exhibit viewing**

**11:30 Session 2: *Perspectives on Watersheds: Past, Present, and Future***

Robin Grossinger, San Francisco Estuary Institute  
Brock Dolman, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

**12:30 Lunch & exhibit viewing**

**1:45 Session 3: *How Are Watershed Organizations Preparing for Change? A Whirlwind Tour of Efforts to Steward our Watersheds in a Changing World***  
Napa County's watershed groups

**2:30 Session 4: *Panel discussion: What can Napa County learn about stewardship from other communities?***

John Woodling, Regional Water Authority, Sacramento Groundwater Authority  
Chris Keithley, CalFire  
Liz Lewis, Marin County Stormwater Program  
TBD

**3:45 Conclusions**

***Fieldtrip to Napa River Ecological Reserve***

Register now!  
\$25 fee, lunch included

Registration form and more  
information at  
[www.napawatersheds.org](http://www.napawatersheds.org)

Contact Frances  
Ph (707) 252-4188 x120  
or [frances@naparcd.org](mailto:frances@naparcd.org)

SPONSORS: Watershed Information Center & Conservancy, Napa County Resource Conservation District, Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, City of Napa Water Division, Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission, Horizon Water and Environment, Philip Williams & Associates, Riechers Spence & Associates, West Coast Watershed, Center for Collaborative Policy, North Bay Watershed Association, Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District

DIRECTIONS: Napa Elks Lodge is located at 2840 Soscol Ave. From Hwy 29, take Trancas St. exit. Go east on Trancas St. for 1 mile. Turn right on Soscol Ave., continue south for 0.4 miles.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**2009 Napa County Watershed Symposium**

Register by **May 13, 2009** to guarantee a seat and a lunch.  
*Same-day registration is contingent upon space.*

**Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark if you do NOT want your contact information included in Symposium materials packet

**Lunch**

Selection: \_\_\_\_\_ vegetarian  
                  \_\_\_\_\_ meat

**Fieldtrip**

Following the Symposium, the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District will host a guided hike through the Napa River Ecological Preserve

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark if you would like to receive more information via e-mail

**Payment**

We accept cash or checks; please make checks payable to Napa Co Resource Conservation District

\$25 registration fee is \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed  
  \_\_\_\_\_ will be paid at Watershed Symposium

**Send Registration Form:**

**Mail:** NC Watershed Symposium, 1303 Jefferson Street, Suite 500B, Napa, CA 94559

**FAX:** 707 252-4219

**Email:** [frances@naparcd.org](mailto:frances@naparcd.org)

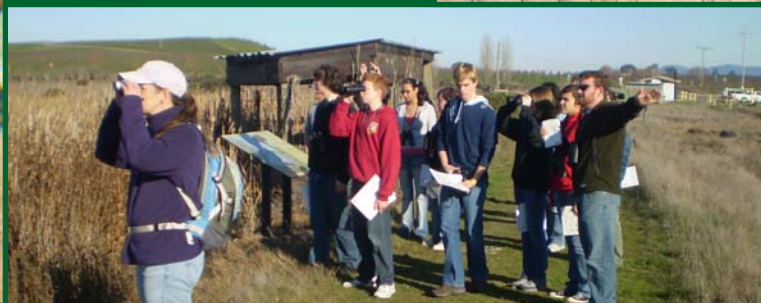


NAPA COUNTY

RCD



Resource  
Conservation  
District



# 2008

Annual Report



# Board of Directors and Staff

## **DIRECTORS**

Clint Pridmore, President  
Mitchell Klug, Vice President  
Al Buckland  
Don Gasser  
Rainer Hoenicke  
Beth Painter  
Charles Slutkin

## **ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**

Myrna Abramowitz  
Zach Berkowitz  
Dennis Bowker  
Michael Silvas  
Bennie Troxel

## **STAFF**

Leigh Sharp, District Manager  
Kathleen Edson, District Administrator  
Paul Blank, Hydrologist  
Astrid Bock-Foster, Soil Conservationist/NSWG Program Director  
Chad Edwards, Biologist  
Lara Hadhazy, Restoration Project Manager  
Frances Knapczyk, Education Coordinator  
Jonathan Koehler, Sr. Biologist  
Anna Mattinson, Bookkeeper  
Dave Steiner, Sr. Soil Conservationist  
Steph Young, Education Coordinator  
Bob Zlomke, Sr. Hydrologist

*(as of June 30, 2008)*



(L-R: Paul, Leigh, Anna, Astrid, Steph, Dave, Jonathan, Frances, Bob; not pictured: Kathleen, Chad, Lara)



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# Message from the District



The *Annual Report* is an opportunity to look back over the past fiscal year to acknowledge accomplishments and to measure progress toward meeting the District's goals. It helps us to assess our strengths and to improve the delivery of our conservation assistance to the people and resources that we serve. It further provides a history and accounting of our many partners and gives tribute to the conservation work that a community can accomplish through collaboration and trusting relationships that have been built and sustained over decades.

The District strives to provide a balanced approach to resource conservation by integrating voluntary, cooperative and scientifically sound methods to ensure that the watersheds within the District are sustained, conserved, restored and protected within a landscape of productive agriculture, growing cities, and wild lands. Striving for this balance consistently provides many opportunities and many challenges. 2007-2008 was no different in this regard, and as a result many rewarding, innovative, and constructive projects were undertaken and accomplished by the District and its partners this year.

Thinking back over the past year, several projects and accomplishments demonstrate the District's conservation goals of education, assessment, planning and implementation. The District and its partners have reason to be proud of the work accomplished, and this annual report highlights just some of the accomplishments achieved.

Among the accomplishments identified in this report are the removal of a migratory fish migration barrier on Dry Creek, which brought together several cooperators and returned over 16 miles of stream habitat to threatened steelhead trout, and the first Napa County Watershed Symposium, which brought dozens of organizations and over 150 interested community members together at COPIA to learn about and discuss the past, present and future of Napa County's watersheds. Also identified is completion of seven years of field work related to assessing fish habitat throughout the Napa River watershed, compilation of the most comprehensive and accurate description of fish migration passage sites ever compiled for the Napa River watershed, initiation of Earth Day Creek Clean-up events, and progress made toward completing restoration plans for several priority projects.

Behind these projects and others highlighted in this report are many talented and dedicated staff, volunteers, project partners, and grantors. The District thanks all project contributors for the skills and energy they have dedicated to conservation in Napa County and looks forward to sustaining and expanding conservation partnerships in the years to come.

Clint Pridmore  
*Board President*

Leigh Sharp  
*District Manager*





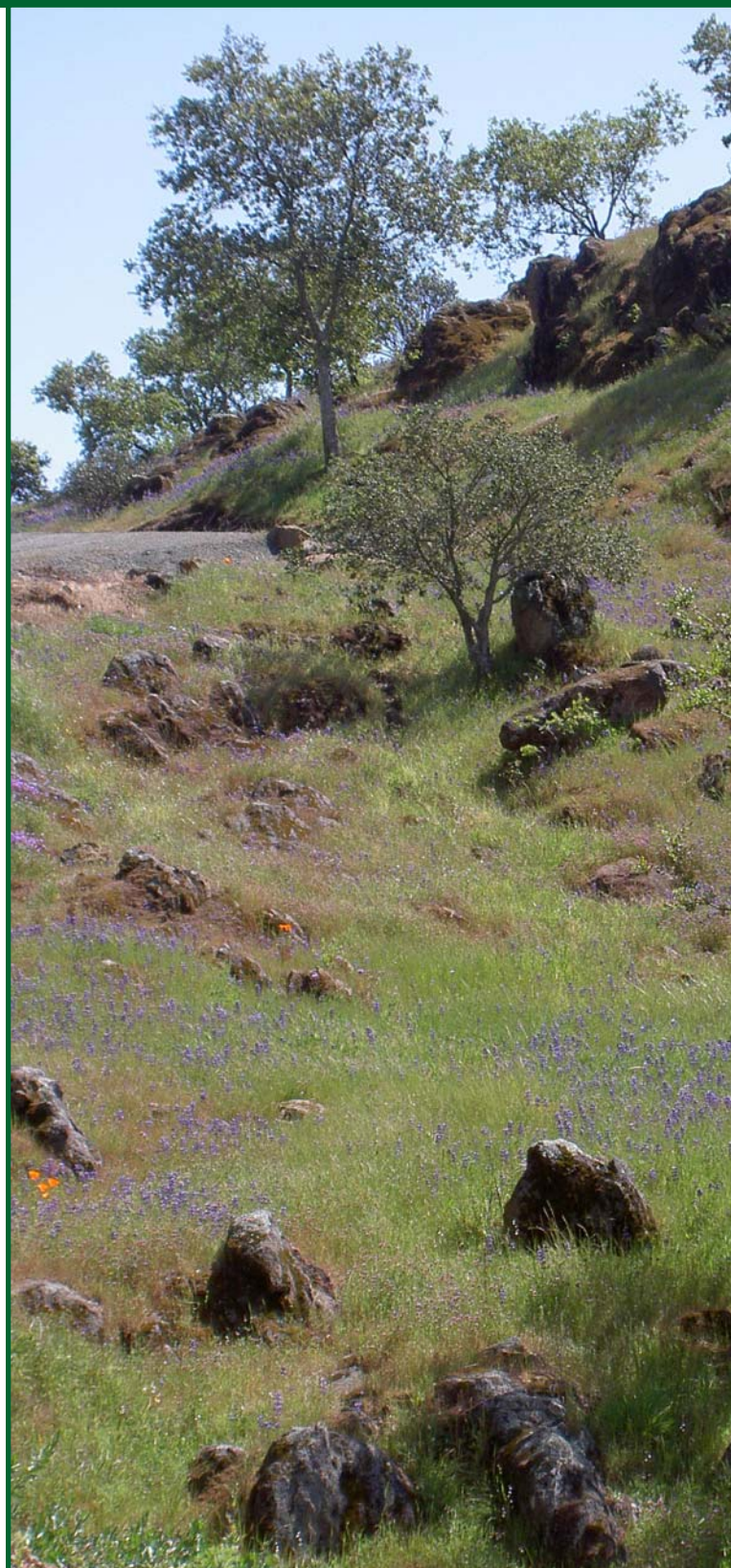
# Our Mission

The Napa County Resource Conservation District (District) is a local non-regulatory organization whose mission is to promote responsible watershed management through voluntary community stewardship and technical assistance. Since 1945, the District has facilitated natural resource conservation through community involvement, education, technical expertise and scientific research. The District is committed to utilizing voluntary, cooperative and scientifically sound methods to ensure that the watersheds within the District are sustained, conserved, restored and protected within a landscape of productive agriculture, growing cities, and wild lands.

As a “Special District,” we are organized to support natural resource management solutions through partnerships with individuals, organizations and agencies. Our function is to “make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local community for conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.”

We work to achieve our mission through:

- Promoting watershed-based land stewardship of natural resources
- Evaluating watershed conditions and functions
- Providing resource conservation planning services
- Implementing resource conservation practices and projects





# Accomplishments



## Engaging Youth in Watershed Stewardship

### Helping next generation conservationists

For several decades the RCD has provided opportunities for students to gain conservation management experience through internships involving water quality monitoring, vineyard management assistance, data collection, field work, and resource education. Where opportunities exist, the RCD looks to match local students with opportunities in the watershed. In 2008, the RCD Board expanded support for local youth by initiating a scholarship fund for graduating high school and Jr. College students continuing in their pursuit of natural resource education. The initial award in 2008 was granted to a senior from **New Technology High School** who contributed over 50 hours of volunteer time to help with water quality monitoring, stream surveys, and salmon counts. The RCD scholarship will help this recipient attend Humboldt State University to study Environmental Engineering.

### Protecting water quality

Over 1,500 youth and many adults learned about protecting water quality by reducing impacts from stormwater runoff. With funding from the **Napa County Stormwater Management Program**, RCD staff visited 30 classrooms to demonstrate the importance of reducing pollutants to our local waterways. We also worked with several dozen youth to stencil water quality protection messages on 150 stormdrains in the City of Napa. Hundreds more volunteers, youth and adults alike, took to cleaning local creeks on Earth Day and Coastal Clean-Up Day. These two events alone kept approximately 9

tons of garbage from being delivered to our local waterways.

### Providing opportunities for restoration experience

Native plants, creek restoration, and kids provide a good mix in accomplishing the RCD goals of education and restoration. For the past several years RCD has partnered with various environmental education groups to provide elementary students with an opportunity to experience restoration first hand. This year several classes of students experienced first hand the time and energy it takes to monitor and maintain a restoration site after the initial restoration planting work is complete. Students calculated plant survival, removed weeds around young native plants, replaced plants that had not survived, and collected seeds to propagate for next years planting.







## Helping the Community Generate Watershed Opportunities

### Bringing people together to explore watersheds

The RCD has a long history of bringing people together to talk about and explore watersheds and our common interests in functioning watersheds. This year, in addition to working with tributary watershed groups, the RCD collaborated with the **Watershed Information Center & Conservancy (WICC) of Napa County** to host a watershed symposium. Over 150 people filled COPIA's auditorium to learn about the history of Napa County's three watersheds, share information about the work being done today to conserve and restore our watersheds, and hear from a panel of local professionals regarding the challenges that we face in the future. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive and people seem eager to hold this event again and to take advantage of opportunities to collaborate.

### Providing bilingual training to vineyard workers

It's a well known fact that vineyard workers get things done in the field. They tend the vineyard and they tend the earth. **Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group (NSWG)**, facilitated by the RCD, continued to reach out to spanish speaking vineyard workers at it's 7th Annual Spanish Speaking Seminar. Vineyard workers learned about biodynamic farming practices that combine organic and sustainable vineyard management methods. Topics also included canopy management for pest control, cover crop management for erosion control, and modern methods for controlling mildew. NSWG also held several workshops for english speaking growers this year. It offered growers necessary continuing education credits through a series of lectures regarding weed management

resistance and alternative controls, beneficial insects, water quality and spraying, chemical storage, respiratory protection, and sustainable practices for verterate control. With sustainable practices in mind, vineyard managers have options to improve the quality of their grapes, the health of their workers, and the condition of the resources.

### Getting residential households involved in resource protection

Over 60 urban and rural residents learned how to perform a "self-assessment" of their environmental practices in and around their homes and received a free copy of **Laurel Marcus & Associates'** Home and Garden Audit book. RCD partnered with Laurel Marcus to coordinate these workshops for residents in the Napa River and Suisun Creek watersheds. Participants learned how they can contribute to resource protection by utilizing alternative gardening and housekeeping practices that minimize health, safety, and environmental risks associated with standard chemicals and cleaners.





# Accomplishments



## Conducting Local Assessments to Address Local and State Interests

### Completing multi-year comprehensive assessment of stream channel conditions in the Napa River watershed

Since 2001, the RCD has been walking the mainstem Napa River and its tributaries conducting comprehensive assessments of stream channel and bank conditions, with an emphasis on the needs of Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other native fish species. In 2007, the RCD Biologists completed their field work and estimate that they waded approximately 30 miles of creek per season, per year. The resulting reports from this work provide the most comprehensive evaluation of the condition of local creeks, identifying areas of quality habitat and areas that would most benefit from restoration. Over the next several years, RCD staff will make the results of the assessments more broadly available and will work with interested land managers to implement projects that will improve the health of the river and its tributaries.

### Helping the community address instream flows for farms, rural residents, and fish

In 2006, in anticipation of State policies related to stream flow and water rights, the RCD initiated a project to provide greater scientific understanding about the local relationships between stream flow, water use and fish habitat. 2007 was an active year for this project including stream gage installation, maintenance and monitoring, hydraulic and fisheries modeling, and community participation. Initial results from the project helped inform local comments regarding draft State policy and provided access to stream flow data so that local water management practitioners could make informed decisions regarding the timing of water withdrawals. Future work of this project will incorporate water demands from rural residents and the RCD will remain engaged in local efforts to improve the management of water resources while meeting local needs.

### Producing the most comprehensive and accurate inventory of fish migration barriers in the Napa River watershed

Using RCD's extensive stream survey data, current and historic records, and field verification, the RCD has generated the most comprehensive and accurate description of fish passage barrier sites ever compiled for the Napa River basin. In total, 99 current fish passage obstructions were identified on streams known to support salmonids. Of these, nearly 1/3 were natural features and are generally not considered for modification or removal. The remaining 69 artificial passage sites were assessed using Department of Fish and Game





protocol and prioritized for severity. RCD has submitted a grant request to the Coastal Conservancy to fully assess and develop specific plans to address the highest priority sites. If funded, planning work would begin in early 2009.

### **Monitoring threatened salmonid populations**

The listing of the Napa River as “impaired” for sediment under the Federal Clean Water Act is largely based on long term declines in salmonid populations. However there is no quantitative data available for steelhead or salmon that would allow one to determine whether population levels are improving or continuing to decline over time. This, coupled with the fact that the Napa River has been identified as the most important watershed within the San Francisco Estuary for the protection and recovery of regional salmonid populations, led the RCD to initiate a salmon monitoring program in 2003 to assess Chinook abundance, distribution and spawning success in the Napa River. For the past six years the RCD has been conducting samon monitoring through spawner and snorkel surveys. The result of these monitoring efforts is that more quantitative information is available now regarding local salmonid populations than at any time in the past several decades, and the RCD continues to look for better and more accurate ways to monitor salmonid species. In the coming year, with support from the **Wildlife Conservation Commission**, the **Gasser Foundation**, and **Napa River Steelhead Unlimited**, the RCD will improve its monitoring efforts and be able to more accurately estimate the population of steelhead and salmon in the basin. This monitoring is essential to demonstrate that the community in Napa County is making progress toward meeting the requirements of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

### **Collaborating to Help Putah Creek Farmers protect water quality**

Over the past serveral years, RCD has been collaborating with **Napa County Farm Bureau**, **Natural Resources Conservation Service**, the **Agricultural Commissioner**, **local officials**, and **farmers in the Putah Creek watershed** to protect and monitor water quality. The partners also work together to meet local and state interests in a manner that is cost effective. RCD provides technical assistance and conducts annual monitoring. The group has been quite effective at meeting its goals: a large percentage of farmers are involved in the program, monitoring data suggests that water quality standards are being met, and farmers are jointly covering the costs of the program, thereby making it cost effective and less burdensome on any individual farmer.





# Accomplishments

## Developing Voluntary Restoration Plans Using a Watershed Approach

### Planning rural road improvements on private property to protect water quality

The RCD has been working with residents, land managers and other interested individuals in the Carneros Creek and Sulphur Creek watersheds for the past several years to develop and implement watershed management plans. Initial assessment and planning was completed in 2002 and several priority actions were identified, including improvement of rural roads to protect water quality. With a grant from the **State Water Board** and **Department of Fish and Game**, RCD has been working with **Pacific Watershed Associates** and **private landowners** to complete detailed restoration plans for several reaches of rural road that are likely contributors of fine sediment to local waterways. The prescribed road improvement practices, to be implemented next summer, will ultimately reduce fine sediment delivery to creeks, assist in meeting requirements of Clean Water Act regulations, and provide several examples of how erosion from roads can be addressed.

### Exploring feasible remedies to address fish migration at Zinfandel Lane Bridge

The Zinfandel Lane Bridge across the Napa River has

been identified as a barrier to fish migration in the Napa River. Since the New Year's eve storm in 2005, threatened steelhead and Chinook salmon have found it nearly impossible to make their way over the concrete apron that partially supports Zinfandel Lane bridge, south of St. Helena. Migration barriers, such as Zinfandel Lane Bridge, exert significant pressure on steelhead and salmon populations by delaying or preventing access to high-quality upstream spawning habitat. The highest quality habitat for Chinook salmon is located in the mainstem Napa River upstream of Zinfandel Lane, and several significant steelhead tributaries including York Creek, Sulphur Creek, Selby Creek, and Ritchie Creek are also upstream of Zinfandel Lane. Fish frequently make repeated leap attempts to pass the barrier and this causes exhaustion, injury, and even mortality to migrating fish. RCD and **Jones & Stokes** developed a conceptual design to address the barrier in 2006 and RCD facilitated completion of a feasibility study in 2007. In the coming year, RCD will work with **Napa County Department of Public Works** to produce construction drawings, complete environmental review and obtain appropriate permits and funding to improve fish passage at Zinfandel Lane while retaining the structural support and cultural integrity of the bridge.





### **Facilitating restoration plans for the Napa River**

Two large scale restoration planning projects are being undertaken on the Napa River between Zinfandel Lane and Oak Knoll Avenue. The first project was initiated by landowners in 2002 in the vicinity of Rutherford between Zinfandel Lane and Oakville Cross Road when landowners formed the **Rutherford Dust Restoration Team (RDRT)** to address bank erosion, habitat degradation, and river incision. Over the past several years the RCD has contributed to this large planning effort through fiscal sponsorship, technical input, fisheries habitat assessment, surveying, and landowner coordination. The plan has come a long way in the past year, and plan designs, environmental documentation, and permitting are scheduled to be completed in late 2008. The implementation phase of the project will be managed by **Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District** and ground will likely break in 2009. It is anticipated that the RCD will continue to be involved in landowner coordination, technical assistance and monitoring.

The second project was initiated in 2006 by the **California Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI)**. The project reach, downstream of the RDRT effort, is between Oakville Cross Road and Oak Knoll Avenue.

RCD provides technical support to CLSI in their efforts, including fisheries habitat assessment and initial surveying of the stream reach.

### **Leveraging NRCS technical and engineering assistance for restoration plans on agricultural land**

The RCD has been working with the local field office of the **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** for over half a century. The cooperative partnership between NRCS and RCD provides agricultural producers with expanded opportunities for restoration planning and funding. An example from 2008 is the NRCS and RCD partnership to provide support to agricultural producers on Dry Creek to remove a seasonal water impoundment and restore vertical creekbanks to a more sustainable and natural configuration. The NRCS provided engineered drawings, financial assistance, and project oversight and the RCD secured additional financial assistance and managed the project from planning to implementation. NRCS and RCD partner on many projects. Over the next few years NRCS and RCD will be collaborating with the **Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District** and the Department of Fish and Game to design a habitat enhancement plan for the Napa River Ecological Reserve in Yountville.





# Accomplishments



## Implementing Projects to Improve Watershed Conditions

### Opening 16 miles of stream habitat to threatened steelhead trout

Napa County's migratory fish populations have reason to celebrate in 2008 as an estimated 16.9 miles of stream in the Dry Creek watershed was made available to them for migration, spawning and rearing. Access to the high quality habitat was made possible through the actions of **Hall Wines** when they decided to partner with the RCD, NRCS, and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to remove a seasonal instream water storage structure that was utilized during the spring for frost protection. The storage structure, located approximately 1/2 mile upstream from the confluence of Dry Creek and the Napa River was limiting fish migration into and out of the Dry Creek watershed. Hall Wines and other neighboring vineyard owners took action to install wind machines as an alternative frost protection method and simultaneously sought assistance to develop an engineered plan to completely remove the structure and restore the creek banks.

After a lot of cooperative planning, design, and evaluation a solution was developed that took into account the long-term stability of the creek and its banks and also met the salmonid passage criteria established by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and DFG, which takes into account maximum jump height for juvenile salmon, stream velocities, and the depth of the pools in the stream.

During late summer in 2007 the barrier was completely removed by a team of **local contractors**. The railcar bridge came down, the concrete was jack hammered apart, and the non-functioning fish ladders were removed. Once all of the debris was hauled away as scrap, **California Conservation Corps** crews worked with the contractor to restore the creek banks with native willow plants. After several years of planning to meet various requirements, the project was completed in less than two months. Steelhead and Chinook salmon were seen moving upstream just a few months later and juvenile steelhead were spotted upstream of the site in the spring.

Hall Wines intends to move forward with other conservation projects on the ranch. They will be working with the RCD and NRCS in the fall of 2008 to establish a riparian corridor of native plants along Dry Creek to provide wildlife habitat, stream shading, and bank stabilization.





# Partnerships & Funding

Implementation of resource conservation and stewardship requires strong and trusting partnerships among conservation and research organizations, community and interest groups, individual landowners and managers, private industry, and government agencies. The RCD values all of its partners who help create meaningful opportunities for natural resource conservation and voluntary stewardship of natural resources.



## 2007/08 Funding Agencies & Organizations

Bay-Delta Authority  
 California Coastal Conservancy  
 CA Department of Conservation  
 CA Department of Fish and Game  
 CA Department of Water Resources  
 California Land Stewardship Institute  
 CA State Water Board  
 Carneros Land Stewardship Foundation  
 City of Napa  
 Friends of the Napa River  
 The Gasser Foundation  
 Laurel Marcus & Associates  
 Napa County Conservation, Development & Planning Dept.  
 Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District  
 Napa County Regional Park & Open Space District

Napa County Stormwater Management Program  
 Napa Sanitation District  
 Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group Members  
 North Bay Watershed Association  
 Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
 Putah Creek Watershed Group  
 San Francisco Estuary Institute  
 Sonoma Ecology Center  
 US Army Corps of Engineers  
 US Environmental Protection Agency  
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Financial Report

## Statement of Net Assets

### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$561,561
Due from other governments.....	234,245
Other receivables.....	1,454
Land.....	350,100
Other capital assets.....	11,993
<b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$1,159,353</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts payable.....	\$44,990
Payroll wages payable.....	35,089
Deferred revenue.....	31,778
Non-current liabilities.....	83,836
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</b>	<b>\$195,693</b>

### NET ASSETS

Investment in capital assets.....	\$289,420
Unrestricted.....	674,240
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS.....</b>	<b>\$963,660</b>

## Statement of Activities

### REVENUES

State and Local Agencies.....	\$956,885
Federal Agencies.....	215,133
Huichica Creek Vineyard.....	101,230
Taxes.....	242,807
Use of money.....	23,986
Donations.....	8,618
Fundraising.....	23,050
Miscellaneous.....	17,465
<b>TOTAL REVENUES.....</b>	<b>\$1,589,179</b>

### EXPENSES

Salaries and benefits.....	\$845,233
Office expenses (rent, insurance, materials equipment, maintenance, etc.).....	67,689
Staff development (training, memberships, staff education, etc.).....	12,874
Professional services (project related services, legal counsel, auditing service, human resources, etc.).....	684,463
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>\$1,610,259</b>

Change in net assets..... (21,080)

**NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR..... 963,660**

Based on audited figures for FY 2007-08. Copies of all financial documents are available at the RCD office.

