

# Marin Permit Coordination Program



Marin Resource Conservation District  
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# Outline

- Background:
  - What are Conservation Districts?
  - What do we do?
  - What limits restoration?
  - Why do we need a programmatic CEQA document?
  - How does it work?
  - What are the benefits?
- 2017 Renewal of the Marin Permit Coordination Program
  - Program Boundaries
  - Program Conservation Practices
  - Program Assists



# Conservation Districts





# What we do

Division 9\* of the California Public Resources Code authorizes RCDs to be formed for the purpose of addressing local resource conservation needs.

- Outreach
- Education
- Planning
- Permitting
- Engineering
- Construction
- Monitoring

\*Division 9, Chapter 3, Article 9 General Powers of the District [9401-9420]

# Our Mission

The mission of the Marin RCD is to **conserve and enhance Marin County's natural resources**, including its soil, water, vegetation and wildlife. It is our belief that the health of the county's natural landscape is dependent upon a **robust agricultural economy** and the active preservation of our agricultural heritage. Conversely, it is our firm conviction that the agricultural productivity of the county is **dependent upon by the diligent application of practices which conserve and enhance our natural resources**.

Our district has been formed to serve its landowners at their request... We believe that this **grassroots approach** is in line with the best of American tradition, and we think that gradually but surely excellent conservation accomplishments will be made... **The benefits of our program will extend from individual landowners, to their immediate community, to the public at large.**





# Incentivize Restoration

Marin RCD has been encouraging restoration on private agricultural lands for over 50 years!



# What limits restoration?

Marin RCD has identified one main obstacle for restoration...

the permitting process

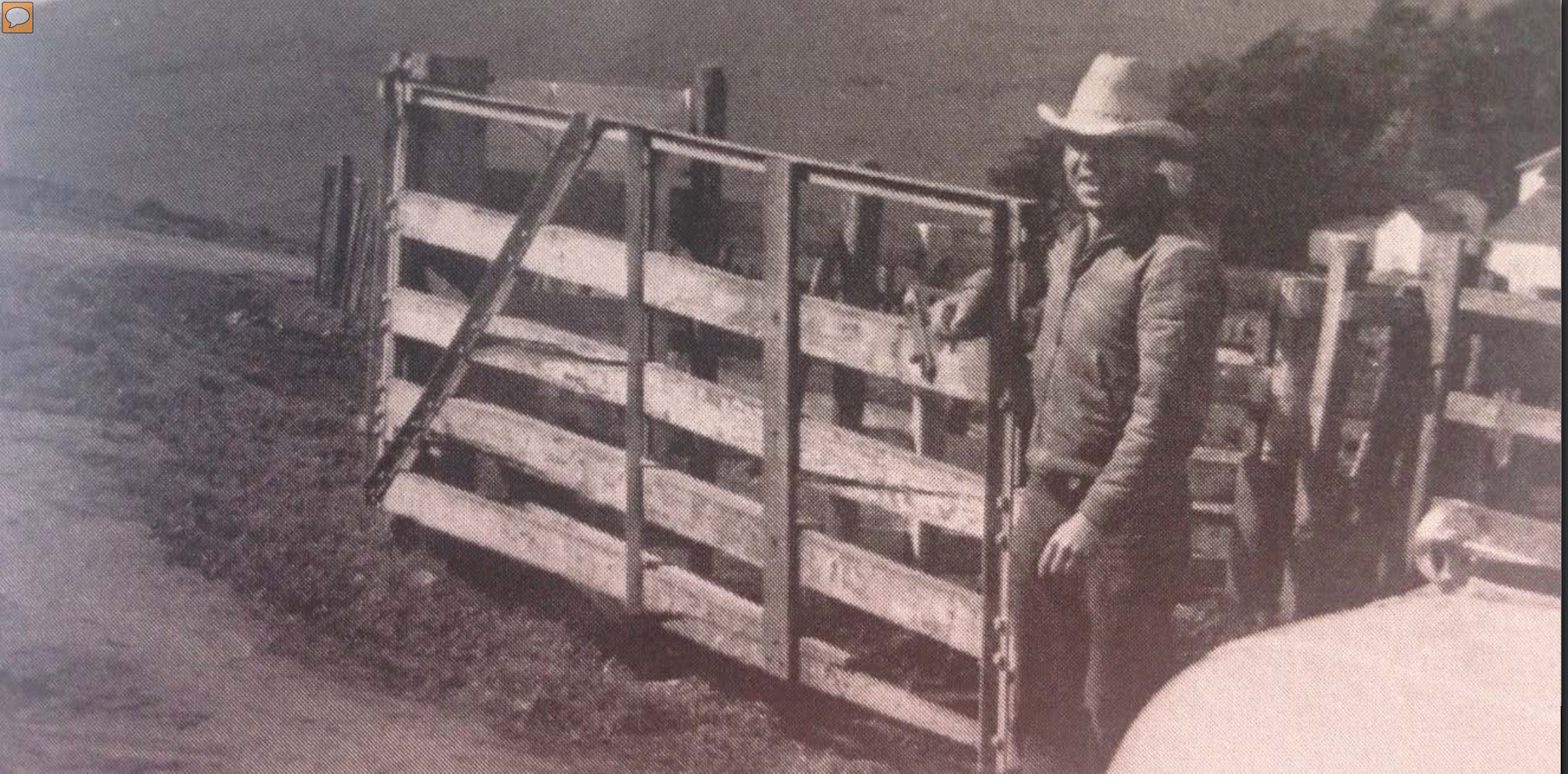
Restoration projects often require permits, and complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

CEQA can be:

- costly,
- time consuming and
- confusing!







So how to do we help a landowner out?













# Conserving Our Watersheds

To assist ranchers comply with the Tomales Bay Pathogen TMDL



401308

MARIN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



INITIAL STUDY

AND

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

MARIN COASTAL WATERSHEDS PERMIT COORDINATION PROGRAM

November 2010

Prepared for:

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This Report Has Been Prepared Pursuant To The  
California Environmental Quality Act of 1970  
State of California

FILED

NOV 23 2010

MICHAEL J. SMITH  
MARIN COUNTY CLERK  
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POSTED 1/6/10 TO 12/29/10

2010 Proposed  
Permit Coordination Program  
Boundary



Limitations on Project Size

The conservation projects are limited in size. The estimates of average figures are based on typical projects installed in the watersheds in the last 20 years. These maximums are based on definitions of small projects from regulatory agencies.

Table 2: Maximum Grading Dimensions & Volumes Associated with Implementation of Practices

Conservation Practice	Length (Feet)	Dimensions (Acres)	Volume (Cubic Yards)
Access Roads	1 mile*		4,000
Animal and Livestock Cross	10-15 wide	0.125	250
Critical Area Planting	2,000	1	500
Filter Strip	500	1	1,500
Fish Passage	300	0.25	1,000
Grade Stabilization Structure	Crosswise structure – 60 across x 20 stream length Lengthwise structure – 20 across x 60 stream length	N/A	100 cubic yards per structure of fill
Grassed Water Way	2,000	2.5	2,000
Lined Waterway	300	0.05	1,000
Pipeline	50 (along the channel)	0.25	50
Sediment Basin	N/A	1	1,500
Spring Development	N/A	0.05	50
Stream Channel Stabilization	500	1	7,500
Streambank Protection	500	0.5	7,500
Stream Habitat Improvement	2,000	3	1,000
Structure for Water Control	100	0.25	500
Underground Outlet**	N/A	0.10	20
Water and Sed. Control Basin	N/A	1	1,500

\* Access road improvements typically involve multiple installations spread out over a long reach of road. The 1-mile maximum on roadwork covers the cumulative area of disturbance; however, the reach of road improved may be much longer than 1 mile.

\*\* Dimensions are only for the outlet for the energy dissipater.

# Marin Permit Coordination Program

Programmatic Environmental Review





# How the program works



- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Sept</i>                | Landowner applies for funding and opts for coverage.                  |
| <i>Nov</i>                 | Project is evaluated and ranked by RCD Advisory Group.                |
| <i>Feb</i>                 | Project is approved by RCD Board for design & cost estimates.         |
| <i>May</i>                 | Project is approved by RCD Board into permit program.                 |
| <i>Jun-Jul</i>             | 60 day agency comment period. Agencies visit sites. Permits received! |
| <i>Oct 15<sup>th</sup></i> | Project is complete!  |

# PCP Conservation Practices

## Old Practices

1. Access Road (560);
2. Animal Trails and Walkways (575),
3. Aquatic Organism Passage (396);
4. Critical Area Planting (342);
5. Filter Strip (393);
6. Grade Stabilization Structure (410);
7. Grassed Waterway (412);
8. Lined Waterway/Outlet (468);
9. Livestock Pipeline (516);
10. Sediment Basin (350);
11. Spring Development (574);
12. Stream Channel Stabilization (584);
13. Streambank Protection (580);
14. Stream Habitat Improvement (395);
15. Structure for Water Control (587);
16. Underground Outlet (620);
17. Water & Sediment Control Basin (638)



Grade Control Structures



Animal Trail and Walkway



Water & Sediment Control Basin



Streambank Protection





Over the past 10 years,  
the Marin PCP has streamlined the CEQA process  
for over 258 conservation practices.



Marin RCD & partners have:

Fenced 76,098 linear feet of stream  
Stabilized 54,426 linear feet of streambanks  
Reduced sediment erosion by 16,109 cubic yards  
Planted 6,446 native trees/shrubs.

# Benefits

- Designs are vetted & refined in concept stage with a technical team.
- Landowners want to implement environmentally sensitive projects.
  - 70+ person waiting list!
- Implementation schedule is reduced from 3 years to 1.



# 2017 PCP Renewal

Expanding the program:

- Program life of 10 years (instead of five),
- Add three new watersheds in Marin County,
- Add 16 additional conservation practices (of which 13 are carbon-beneficial), and
- Serves new programs: Carbon Farming and Urban Steams



# PCP Program Boundary

Expansion into three watersheds:

- Novato Creek,
- Miller Creek,
- San Antonio  
(only the Marin County side)



# PCP Conservation Practices

## Additional Practices

1. Vegetated Barrier (601),
2. Forage and Biomass Planting (512);
3. Hedgerow Planting (422);
4. Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390);
5. Riparian Forest Buffer (391);
6. Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment (380);
7. Silvopasture (381);
8. Tree/Shrub Establishment (612);
9. Conservation Cover (327);
10. Prescribed Grazing (528);
11. Range Planting (550);
12. Nutrient Management (590)
13. Residue and Tillage Management/ No-Till (329)
14. Road Closure and Treatment (654),
15. Stream Crossing (578)
16. Pond Restoration (378[R]);

# PCP serves new programs:

## 1. Carbon Farming





# PCP serves new programs:

## 2. Urban Streams





# Marin RCD's Goals





# Thanks to our Partners

- Landowners
- Marin Carbon Project
- Marin Agricultural Land Trust
- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Marin County
- CA Coastal Commission
- CA Dept. of Fish and Game
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
- RCD Advisory Groups
- Sustainable Conservation
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service