

# **SUTTER COUNTY Resource Conservation District 2009-2010 Annual Plan**

**Background:** In 2007, the Sutter County RCD developed a 5-year Long Range Strategic Plan consisting of nine natural resource goals to be achieved by 2012. The following narrative describes the most realistic approach to begin implementing the 5-year plan. This is the third of five action-oriented annual plans and will serve as the fiscal year 2009/2010 Annual Plan.

**Vision Statement:** Be recognized as the “go to” organization for conservation efforts in Sutter County by working cooperatively with landowners, partners, and other clients.

**Mission Statement:** Provide non-regulatory leadership for the management, use, protection, and/or development of soil, water, and other natural resources within Sutter County.

## **1. Operation**

- 1.1 Adopt the 5-year long range strategic plan;
- 1.2 Adopt the 2007/2008 annual plan, annual budget and annual calendar;
- 1.3 Have the 2007/2008 fiscal year audit performed;
- 1.4 Establish and maintain an organized filing system;
- 1.5 Develop a marketing strategy to promote District activities and services to include a new District website;
- 1.6 Research the concept of a fee-for-services program with Sutter County;
- 1.7 Research the concept of forming a technical advisory relationship with Yuba County RCD;
- 1.8 Research the benefits of converting the District financial apparatus from the County to a private bank; and
- 1.9 Research the possibility of building a USDA Service Center building and write a feasibility paper.

## **2. Education**

- 2.1 Make initial contacts with Ag in the Classroom, California Women for Agriculture, FFA, UCCE 4-H, and SLEWS to provide local youth with information about conservation as well as possible activities designed to implement conservation practices;
- 2.2 Schedule at least one of each of the following events: a technical BMPs workshop, a land owner BBQ, and a Day-in-the-District tour for land owners; and
- 2.3 Research and write a concept paper for an Education Coordinator staff position.

### **3. Water Resource Quality, Quantity, and Availability**

- 3.1 Continue the implementation of the TMDL grant by installing at least ten filter strips on local orchard operations;
- 3.2 Conduct more BMP surveys to include growers who did not respond to the 2006 mailback survey and to target growers along Gilsizer Slough;
- 3.3 Offer on-site fall and winter sprayer calibration services to local growers;
- 3.4 Work with NRCS to encourage growers to use tensiometers, gypsum blocks, and catchment basins;
- 3.5 Support NODOS and begin outreach activities to encourage the construction of Sites Reservoir; and
- 3.6 Network with NCWA and the state water contractors; and
- 3.7 Participate in the California Water Plan process.

### **4. Agriculture Land Protection**

- 4.1 Collect data on areas with prime farmland soils;
- 4.2 Determine which local farming operations face development pressures;
- 4.3 Conduct educational outreach on the issues to local growers; and
- 4.4 Work with the American Basin Working Group.

### **5. Flood Protection, Levee Repair, Setbacks, and Flood Control**

- 5.1 Conduct outreach to land owners regarding possible levee projects; and
- 5.2 Prepare a feasibility paper on private levee projects and determine if SCRCD should submit proposals to the DWR FloodSafe Program and the Bureau of Reclamation, Water Conservation Program.

### **6. Conservation Planning**

- 6.1 Meet with key decision makers, stakeholders, and land owners to determine what they want for the region;
- 6.2 Work with NRCS to promote RMS Conservation Planning;
- 6.3 Work with the ABWG;
- 6.4 Work with other RCDs; and
- 6.5 Meet with local land owners in the Sutter Buttes region and the State Parks and Recreation Department and offer facilitation services.

### **7. Air Quality**

- 7.1 Contact the Feather River Air Quality Management District to review air quality trends, sources, and recommendations;
- 7.2 Pursue a partnership with the Feather River Air Quality Management District;
- 7.3 Contact key agricultural representatives with the information and begin a process to address the issues; and
- 7.4 Write a feasibility paper on the development of an area air quality conservation plan.

**8. Wildlife Habitat**

- 8.1 Develop an informational packet to disseminate to identified audiences;
- 8.2 Pursue an Oak Woodland Management Plan and have Sutter County adopt the plan;
- 8.3 Work with CA Joint Venture to assist in developing a refuge in the American Basin; and
- 8.4 Pursue the Nelson Slough project to the extent possible for this fiscal year.

**9. Noxious and Invasive Weed Control**

- 9.1 Develop a list of local priority areas with noxious and invasive weeds.
- 9.2 Educate local landowners about noxious and invasive weeds.
- 9.3 Help the local Weed Management Area be operational again.
- 9.4 Help the WMA apply for a CDFA noxious weed eradication grant.