

WHAT IS A RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (RCD)?



Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are non-regulatory agencies governed by locally appointed boards of directors. Although they work closely with federal agencies and county governments, they are not a part of federal or county government. Most RCDs do not receive funds from taxpayers, but instead rely on grants and donations.

Each RCD in California is unique because the services and expertise offered are based on local conservation needs. These needs include the conservation of soil, water, and habitat by increasing irrigation efficiency, improving erosion control, managing nutrients in the soil, removing invasive plants, and protecting riparian areas and wildlife habitat.

WHAT SERVICES DO RCDs OFFER?



RCD programs range from general conservation to very specific issues or practices. These vary by RCD based on services funded by grants and staffing. In many cases, technical assistance and services are offered for free or a reasonable fee when grant funding is not available to cover costs.

Services commonly offered by RCDs include mobile irrigation labs, conservation plans, and permit streamlining, assistance, or coordination.

A Mobile Irrigation Lab is a service that measures the efficiency of an irrigation system (A.K.A. Distribution Uniformity or "DU"). Recommendations for repairs and improvements are made based on those results.

A Conservation Plan is a record of decisions and actions taken to preserve or improve one or more natural resource concerns on a property. The scope, content, and nature of the plan are dependent on the goals and priorities of the landowner. The plan identifies issues, suggests practices for addressing the issues, documents the implementation of those practices, and documents the outcomes.

Many RCDs have partnered with government agencies to help landowners obtain permits for conservation activities. This type of **permit streamlining, assistance, or coordination** makes it less frustrating and time-consuming for landowners to make resource conservation improvements on their land.

Irrigation scheduling is timing and regulating irrigations to satisfy the water requirement of the crop without wasting water, soil, and plant nutrients.

Nutrient Management is delivering fertilizers at the right amount (rate) from the right source with the right placement (method of application) and right timing to meet the needs of the plant while protecting local air, soil, and water quality.

An RCD can help with **soil moisture sensor installation** and teach you how to read sensors and keep good records. Soil sensors run about \$30 each, no other costs involved.



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



HOW DO I FIND MY LOCAL RCD?

The boundaries of many RCDs are the same as the boundaries of the county in which they are located. However, some RCDs have boundaries which do not follow county lines because the resource conservation needs of those areas are different.

A map (http://www.carcd.org/rcd_directory0.aspx) and directory is maintained by the California Association of RCDs (<http://www.carcd.org/home0.aspx>) to help landowners find their local RCD.



WHAT SERVICES DOES YOUR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFER?



VINEYARD TEAM
Promoting Sustainable Winegrowing

RCD Name	Website	Phone	Mobile Irrigation Lab	Conservation Plans	Weather-Based Irrigation Scheduling	Nitrogen Use Efficiency	Soil Moisture Tensiometers	Farm Plan Preparation	Erosion Control Plan
Guadalupe-Coyote RCD	www.gccrd.org	408.288.5888	FREE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RCD of Santa Cruz County	www.rcdsantacruz.org	831.464.2950	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Loma Prieta RCD	www.lomaprietarcld.org	408.847.4171	FREE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RCD of Monterey County	www.rcdmonterey.org	831.424.1036	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
San Benito RCD	www.rcdsanbenito.org	831.637.4360	\$	NA	FREE	\$	\$	NA	NA
Upper Salinas - Las Tablas RCD	www.us-ltrcd.org	805.434.0396	\$	\$	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Coastal San Luis RCD	www.coastalrcd.org	805.772.4391	\$	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ventura County RCD	www.vccrd.org	805.764.5137	FREE	\$	NA	\$	NA	\$	\$

KEY: FREE = No Cost | \$ = Cost | NA = Not Applicable

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