

Amador Resource Conservation District Strategic Plan 2015-2025



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Prepared By:

The Amador Resource Conservation District Board of Directors

Amador RCD History

The Amador Resource Conservation District (ARCD) was organized by the Amador County Board of Supervisors on October 16, 1950, under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code.

The district covers 445,500 acres, including all of Amador County, the western portion of Alpine County, and land in Calaveras County owned by the East Bay Municipal Utilities District.

District policies and programs are developed by an elected Board of Directors, consisting of five local landowners. Their primary responsibility is to plan and direct a resource conservation program, obtain assistance, coordinate the help of government agencies and other interested organizations, assign priorities to resource development tasks, and serve as a community clearing-house for information and services.

Mission

The Amador Resource Conservation District's Mission is to...

Enhance and promote the wise use of natural resources in the Amador Resources Conservation District.

Amador RCD Priorities

The RCD has identified several priorities that it must address in order to complete its mission now and into the future . . .

1. **Agricultural Resources**
2. **Watershed Health**
3. **Education and Outreach**
4. **Administration and Capacity Building**

Timeframe: The timeframe to achieve the goals outlined in this plan and meet these needs is 10 years.

Agricultural Resources

The ARCD has a priority to promote and support agriculture efforts to protect and increase agricultural resources.

Goal: Enhance and protect rangeland

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Continue to promote NRCS programs for rangeland conservation practices
2. Keep apprised of Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) advancements and provide support to landowners to meet GRAP regulations.
3. Provide education opportunities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, demonstrations, etc. to promote rangeland health (i.e. nutrient management, erosion etc.).

Goal: Enhance and protect forested land

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Continue to promote NRCS programs for forest land conservation practices.
2. Develop and pursue fuel load reduction projects with willing landowners.
3. Work with local partners to develop and maintain a chipping program.
4. Continue involvement with SCRMC by attending meeting, participating in regional projects, and providing leadership.
5. Provide education opportunities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, demonstrations, etc. to promote forested land health (i.e. fuel load reduction, erosion, etc.).

Goal: Enhance and protect farmland

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Continue to promote NRCS programs for farmland conservation practices
2. Provide education opportunities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, demonstrations, etc. to promote farmland health (i.e. irrigation efficiency, erosion, etc.).

Goal: Promote the local agricultural economy

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Explore ecosystem services as a funding mechanism (i.e. cap and trade).
2. Provide education opportunities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, demonstrations, etc. to promote the local agricultural economy (i.e. such as, marketing, meat packing, etc.).
3. Develop and/or participate in a program to promote local agricultural products and geo-tourism.

Goal: Assist landowners with regulation compliance

Strategies to help achieve the above result:

1. Continue provide regulatory relief for irrigation lands operators through the Sacramento Amador Water Quality Alliance.
2. Keep apprised of Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP) advancements and provide support to landowners to meet GRAP regulations.
3. Keep apprised of Groundwater Sustainability Act (GSA) advancements and provide support to landowners to meet GSA regulations.
4. Effectively engage with local constituents and regulatory agencies in conversations regarding the impacts and benefits of proposed regulations on the environment, landowners, and agriculture.

Watershed Health

The ARCD has a priority of maintaining and protecting all aspects of watershed health and ecosystem function.

Goal: Improve and maintain water quality and quantity

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Provide education opportunities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, demonstrations, etc. to landowners, the community, and contractors on water

conservation practices. (i.e. rain water harvesting, greywater re-use, rain garden installations, etc.)

2. Provide education opportunities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, demonstrations, etc. to landowners, the community, and contractors on water quality practices. (i.e. erosion control, nutrient management, pesticide application etc.)
3. Develop and/or participate in projects that improve and/or protect water quality.
4. Develop and/or participate in projects that reduce erosion and monitor sediment in water ways.

Goal: Protect and enhance wildlife habitat

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Provide education opportunities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, demonstrations, etc. to landowners, the community, and contractors on habitat improvement practices. (i.e. hedgerows, native plantings, intreated pest management, etc.).
2. Develop and/or participate in projects that enhance and/or protect wildlife habitat.

Goal: Reduce and control noxious weeds

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Conduct an assessment of noxious weed infestations in the District.
2. Coordinate with local organizations to provide a regional approach to weed abatement.
3. Develop and/or partner on weed abatement projects on public and private lands.

Goal: Reduce and control fire fuel hazards

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Develop and pursue fuel load reduction projects on public and private lands.
2. Work with local partners to develop and maintain a chipping program.
3. Continue involvement with Sierra Coordinated Resource Management Council (SCRMC) by attending meeting, participating in regional projects, and providing leadership.
4. Provide education opportunities in the form of technical assistance, workshops, demonstrations, etc. to promote forested land health. Such as, fuel load reduction, erosion, etc.

Education and Outreach

The ARCD is dedicated to increasing the awareness of the benefits and values of natural resource conservation.

Goal: Inform the general public of ARCD's mission and goals while increasing awareness of natural resource issues.

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Maintain website with resources that support ARCD goals in addition to up to date ARCD information.
2. Increase ARCD visibility with social media outlets and newsletters.
3. Seek opportunities to have the RCD information, logo and/or photographs in community publications and visible at community events.
4. Support, organize, and/or sponsor natural resource related films, panel discussions, symposiums, workshops, and forums related to topics of interest to the community.
5. Develop and maintain e-mail list.
6. Develop and maintain volunteer list.
7. Update and maintain ARCD power point presentation.
8. Offer training courses to practitioners/installers of “on-the-ground” restoration, improvement, protection, and enhancement practices (i.e. installation of erosion control practices, road grading and maintenance practices, rain water harvesting, greywater re-use, rain garden installations, etc.)

Goal: Increase awareness of natural resource issues in youth education programs.

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Continue to develop the Community Garden and Community Farm program.
2. Continue to provide support for youth education opportunities (i.e. Forestry Challenge)
3. Support, organize, and/or sponsor natural resource field days to educate youth groups about natural resource issues.
4. Outreach to schools to provide in-class natural resource education via presentations.

Goal: Inform rule makers and partner agencies of the RCDs mission and goals while increasing awareness of natural resource issues.

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Regularly attend Amador County Board of Supervisors meetings to present ARCD updates.
2. Support, organize, and/or sponsor field days for rule makers and agencies to educate about natural resource issues in the District and ARCD projects.
3. Participate in relevant resource management stakeholder groups.

Administration and Capacity Building

To ensure the overall health and function of the ARCD, the Board is dedicated to building the District’s capacity to continue RCD programs and projects into the future.

Goal: Meet state requirements of a functioning RCD.

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Develop an annual plan annually.
2. Complete an annual report at the end of each fiscal year.
3. Review ARCD Strategic Plan annually.

4. Adopt, and revise as needed, necessary board policies to compile with Division 9 requirements

Goal: Obtain funding for current and future programs and projects.

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Develop annual plan to guide staff in ARCD program and project priorities.
2. Develop and maintain relationship with funding organizations (i.e. Amador Community Foundation)
3. Develop an archive of funding opportunities.
4. Diversify revenue and investigate fee for service opportunities.
5. Work on a regional basis with neighboring RCDs and conservation organizations to create programs that meet local interests and are competitive for grant funding.
6. Participate in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning as a stakeholder representing agricultural and environmental interests; develop and submit projects to the IRWM for funding.

Goal: Develop and maintain a document management system

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Work with NRCS to obtain additional office space for ARCD documents so that all ARCD documents can be stored in one location.
2. Develop organization system for ARCD records.
3. Develop and adopt an ARCD retention policy.

Goal: Maintain partnership with NRCS

Strategies to help achieve the above goal:

1. Promote NRCS programs through ARCD programs and education opportunities.
2. Host annual working group meeting.