

2025 - 2030 Strategic Plan



Supporting
agriculture and
conservation
since 1955.



YOLO COUNTY
RCDD

Yolo County Resource Conservation District



Our Mission

The Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) promotes land stewardship and conserves the natural resources of Yolo County by implementing on-the-ground, community-based projects that address evolving resource concerns. Yolo County RCD provides responsive, non-regulatory service to the community.

Our Vision

At the Yolo County Resource Conservation District, we envision a future in Yolo County where the needs of our communities and natural systems are met through shared stewardship of our working and natural lands.

While our county and our state face enormous challenges from climate change, wildfire, demands on water supply and loss of important habitat, we can meet these challenges by working with our community, including farmers, ranchers, Tribal citizens, government agencies and municipalities, non-profit and private sector organizations and residents in our cities and towns.

To reach this vision, we strive to be a cohesive, high-performing organization whose knowledgeable staff and committed Board of Directors earn the trust of our partners through technical expertise, non-regulatory approaches, and our collaborative approach, diligence, and persistence.



Guiding Principles

The Yolo County Resource Conservation District's Board of Directors and staff operate by the following guiding principles:



Integrity and Accountability

We behave honestly and ethically and strive to provide the highest quality of service and professionalism. We are transparent stewards of public funds. Our team members represent the organization through effective communication and personal accountability.



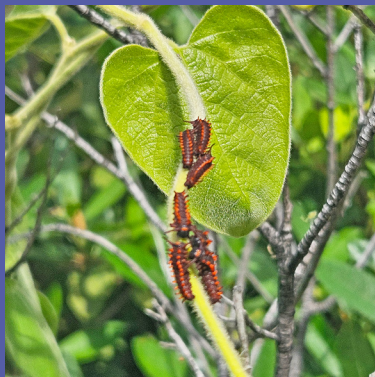
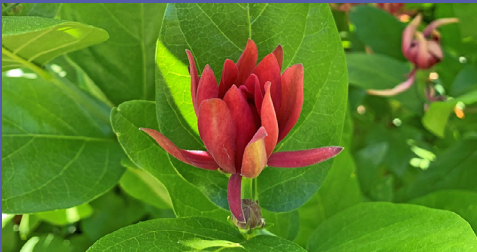
Collaboration and Connection

The RCD's success depends on working hand in hand with our community, including agricultural growers, landowners, partner organizations, and community members from all backgrounds. To reach our goals, our staff and the board of directors work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect.



Leadership

We ensure the RCD's stability and effectiveness by continually empowering everyone on our team to act as leaders within the organization and the wider community.



Our Programs



Habitat Restoration

The RCD's highly qualified restoration ecologists carry out hundreds of acres of weed management and habitat restoration in important natural and enhanced ecosystems on private and open space lands.



Fire Resilience

With input from local fire protection districts, CAL FIRE, and the community, the RCD plans and coordinates hazardous fuels treatment to protect natural and cultural resources and communities from catastrophic wildfire.



Farm and Ranch

The RCD works with local partners to offer non-regulatory technical assistance to private farmers and ranchers to navigate conservation opportunities on their land.



Conservation Planning & Monitoring

The RCD contributes to local and regional natural resource management efforts, monitors easements, and connects conservation researchers with land managers.

GOAL #1: WILDLIFE HABITAT RESILIENCE

The RCD will continue installing beneficial hedgerows, removing invasive plants and restoring riparian habitat in local waterways, and stewarding land.

We will continue installing beneficial hedgerows, removing invasive plants and restoring riparian habitat in local waterways, and stewarding land. Over the next five years we will focus more on key local wildlife species and habitat stewardship on agricultural land. We will continue to integrate current science and innovative restoration practices that respond to climate change and other emerging issues and we will seek out regional partnerships to reach shared goals.



1.1. Provide leadership and on-the-ground expertise for wildlife-focused restoration and habitat connectivity on natural and working lands.



1.2. Develop and maintain partnerships to increase the scale of habitat restoration and link our work to current research.

GOAL #2: CONSERVATION ON FARMS AND RANCHES

RCDs were formed to work with farmers and ranchers on practices supporting both agricultural productivity and long-term stewardship of natural resources. Today, the farms and ranches that make up more than two-thirds of the land in Yolo County are important to meeting climate resilience challenges. Working with farmers and ranchers can contribute to reducing local climate impacts.

Over the next five years, we will continue our efforts to increase visibility and trust with farmers and ranchers and offer them relevant conservation services.

2.1 Develop the funding and staff capacity needed to offer farmers and ranchers more technical and financial assistance.



2.2 Increase visibility and trust with the agricultural community through partnerships and outreach.



2.3 Expand training and technical assistance for climate beneficial and economically feasible conservation practices.



GOAL #3: WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

The RCD will continue its leadership role in wildfire and climate resilience for our communities by coordinating our local Fire Safe Council and Prescribed Burn Association and managing fuels reduction projects. We will increase our outreach to landowners in fire-prone areas to encourage and support them in reducing wildfire risk.



3.1 Educate the community and partners on fuels reduction and management.



3.2 Engage key landowners to implement fuels reduction projects.



3.3 Increase the use of prescribed fire to reduce dangerous fuel loads.



3.4 Integrate restoration practices into fuels reduction and post-fire practices.





GOAL #4: RCD VISIBILITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Many people who could benefit from our programs are not aware of the RCD. Over the next five years we will clearly communicate our programs and services to targeted audiences and the public.



4.1 Identify the community members most in need of and impacted by RCD programs, and research to understand their needs and knowledge gaps.



4.2 Use website, social media, publications, and presentations to communicate key messages to target audiences.



4.3 Train and equip all RCD board and staff to effectively explain our mission and programs.



4.4 Build awareness and support for the RCD's programs and goals among elected officials, partners, and community leaders.

GOAL #5: STRONG ORGANIZATION

The RCD's Board of Directors and staff members enjoy working together to help our community. Our technical expertise, passion, and team cohesion are some of our greatest strengths. We have successfully brought millions of dollars of grant funding to our community because we consistently deliver on our commitments and put increasingly complex projects on the ground.

To maintain these strengths, we will continue to invest in developing the skills of our team. We will actively recruit skilled board members and continue refining the internal systems and structures that support smooth functioning and effective program execution.



5.1 Optimize grant identification and grant writing processes.



5.2 Increase intra-organizational collaboration.



5.3 Build administrative and management structures for better support and communication.



5.4 Recruit talented associate directors as technical advisors and ambassadors for the RCD.



5.5 Continue investing in staff training and development.



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yolorcd.org

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The Yolo County Resource Conservation District is a non-regulatory special district under Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code.



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