Annual Report 2023-2024

Yolo County Resource Conservation District

YOLO COUNTY RCD
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The Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) promotes land stewardship and is committed to conserving the natural resources of Yolo County by implementing on-the-ground, community-based projects that address evolving reource concerns. Yolo County RCD provides responsive, non-regulatory services to the community through the following programs:

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREVENTION

The RCD leads the implementation of the countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP was developed through RCD coordination of the Yolo County Fire Safe Council which includes managing the Reflective Address Sign Program, Neighborhood Chipper Program, and Defensible Space Assessments. The RCD also offers wildfire prevention planning and project implementation through the Yolo Prescribed Burn Association, and the Yolo-Solano Fire Resilience Program.

FARM AND RANCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The RCD offers free non-regulatory technical assistance to private farmers and ranchers in Yolo County to navigate conservation opportunities on their land. The RCD offers bi-lingual on-farm irrigation evaluations and pump testing to improve water use efficiency, application assistance for CDFA Healthy Soils and SWEEP and USDA NRCS cost-share programs, conservation coaching for Kitchen Table Advisors underserved small farmers, carbon farm planning, on-farm pollinator and wildlife habitat implementation.

OPEN SPACE LANDS MANAGEMENT

The RCD provides stewardship expertise to many of the public open spaces and private wildlands in Yolo County. Our highly qualified restoration ecologists carry out hundreds of acres of weed management and habitat restoration in important natural and enhanced ecosystems including riparian, oak woodlands, grasslands, sloughs, wetlands, and vernal pools. Locations where the RCD is active include the Putah and Cache Creeks, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, City of Woodland Stormwater Ponds, Woodland Regional Park, City of Davis Open Space sites, and areas in the Delta.

PLANNING, MONITORING, & STUDIES

The RCD contributes to local and regional natural resource efforts including providing administrative support to the Westside Sacramento Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Coordinating Committee, leading the Natural and Working Lands Technical Advisory Committee for the Yolo County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, coordinating the Yolo County Weed Management Area, and the Sac Valley Soil Hub. The RCD monitors easements for the Yolo Habitat Conservancy, and connects researchers of conservation practices with interested land managers.

Every year, our staff lead a number of habitat restoration events with community volunteers. Location: Pacific Flyway Pond in Woodland, CA.

OUR ON-THE-GROUND WORK:

- One mile of shaded fuel break
- 29,217 cubic yards of defensible space debris chipped
- 62 on-farm water pump efficiency tests
- 58 on-farm irrigation evaluations
- 8 growers received $1.14 million in SWEEP and HSP funding
- 17 on-farm wildlife habitat planting days with high school students
- 153 acres of invasive weeds treated
- 3,372 native trees and shrubs planted
- 2,309 native grassland plants planted
- 2,569 native pollinator plants planted
- IRWM sponsoring the Dunnigan Groundwater Recharge Project, led by the Dunnigan Water District

OUR IMPACT:

- Improved wildfire protection for over 100 homes in our community
- Increased efficiency of power & water use for more than 50 farms
- 2.24 miles of on-farm hedgerows created for pollinators and wildlife
- Implemented plantings that will remove 87 metric tonnes of CO2/year (equivalent to 221,551 miles driven by gasoline powered vehicle)
- Enhanced 161 total acres of habitat for biodiversity
- Expanded on-farm groundwater recharge and seasonal wetland habitat

Yolo County Resource Conservation District acts as a central hub for conservation, connecting our community and individuals with the technical, financial and educational resources they need.

An irrigation evaluation in the Capay Valley for the Mobile Irrigation Lab.

YOLO COUNTY RCD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tanya Meyer

NRCS

Many of our projects are cooperative efforts with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NRCS STAFF

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CONTACT US

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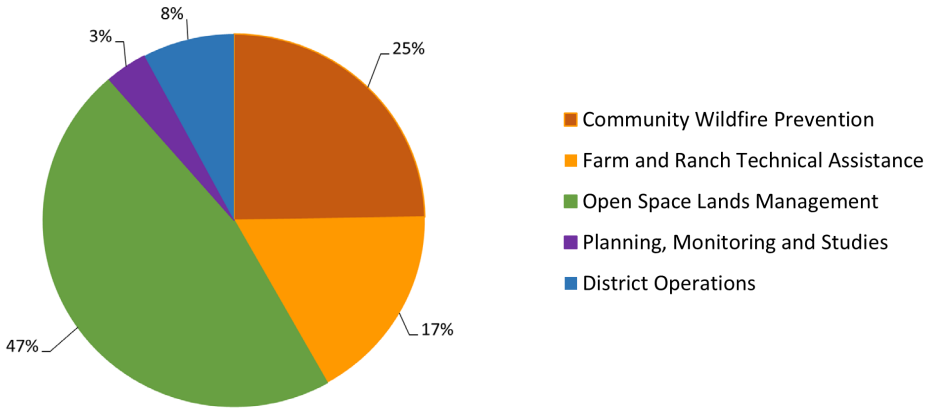
2023-2024 AT A GLANCE

The YCRCD Strategic Plan guides district activities to address conservation issues in Yolo County. Activities this year focused primarily on biodiversity, climate-smart agriculture, riparian ecosystems, and wildfire resiliency.

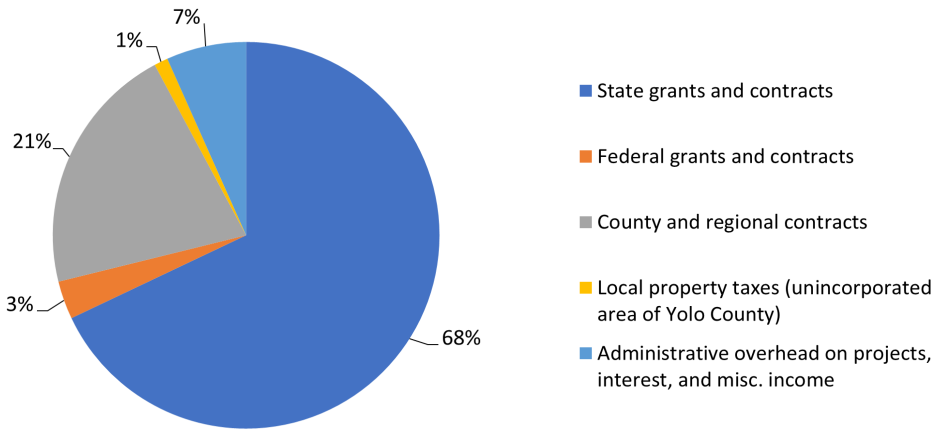
PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS BY TYPE



As a Special District, the YCRCD is subject to state transparency and accountability laws. The Brown Act and Division 9 of the California Public Resource Code require public meetings, open records, annual audits and financial reporting to the State Controller's Office. Our income and expenses for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024:

EXPENSES

Projects (staff, contractors, supplies, equipment, admin. and project dvlpmt.)	$2,221,927
Office (rent, utilities, phone, IT, etc.)	$89,239
Insurance, audit, and legal	$47,420
Equipment repair, training fees, and travel	$24,621
Total	**$2,383,208**

INCOME SOURCES

State grants and contracts	$1,680,838
Federal grants and contracts	$78,965
County and regional grants and contracts	$520,027
Local property taxes	$28,509
Administrative overhead from projects, interest and misc. income	$165,313
Total	**$2,473,653**