RCDs
Your Partner in Local Conservation and Agriculture

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Agenda

- RCD overview
- Agland preservation challenges
- 3 ways RCDs help with ag land preservation
  - Funding
  - Local advocacy
  - Technical assistance
    - Making operations more efficient
    - Fulfilling the land ethic

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RCD Overview

- 99 RCDs in the State
- Volunteer boards of local land owners
- Locally led conservation
  - Projects vary widely based on local priorities
  - Partner with our communities
- Conservation on private lands/ Ag- but not always

Challenges to Agland Preservation

- Tax structure
- Competing needs for agland
- Low profit margins
- Competition in the international market
- Lack of understanding of Ag by decision makers
- Aging population
- Regulatory requirements

Solutions

RCDs find local solutions to pressing problems

Our programs are crafted on the farm and in the board room

Solution #1 Funding

Examples include:

- Farm Bill programs EQIP/ CSP
- Funding for land/ practice improvements through Federal, State and other sources
- Alternate sources of income
  - Conservation easements
  - Ag tourism
  - Ecosystem services/ Nutrient trading programs

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Examples of Projects

Sotoyome RCD and Goldridge RCD- Nutrient Trading Program (ecosystem services)

Examples of Projects

Inland Empire RCD Conservation Easements

Solution #2 Local Advocacy

Trusted voice in the community because we are the community

- Local zoning issues, development issues
- Working with agencies
  - Ag water quality alliances
- Helping to remove the burden on farmers

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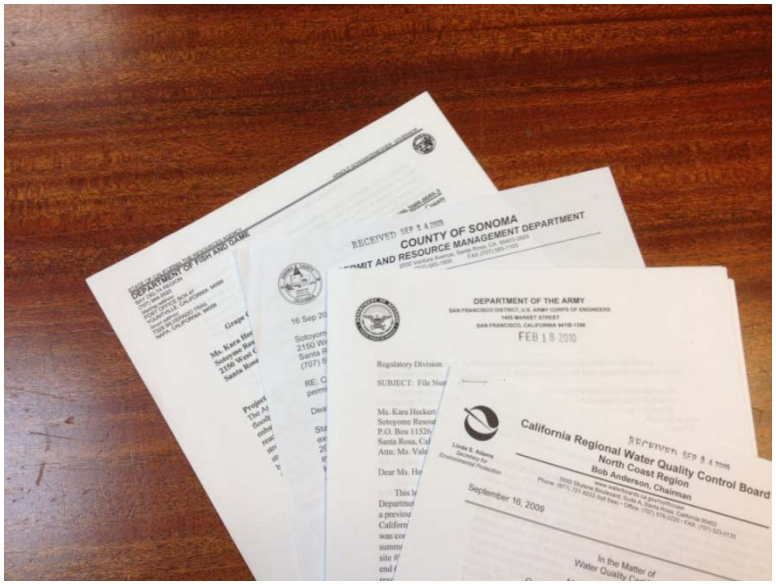
Examples of Projects

Programmatic Permits



Solution #3- Technical Assistance

- Producing more efficiently
- Meeting regulatory mandates
- Making improvements
- In some cases creating facilities (mobile slaughter facilities)

- Fulfilling the land ethic

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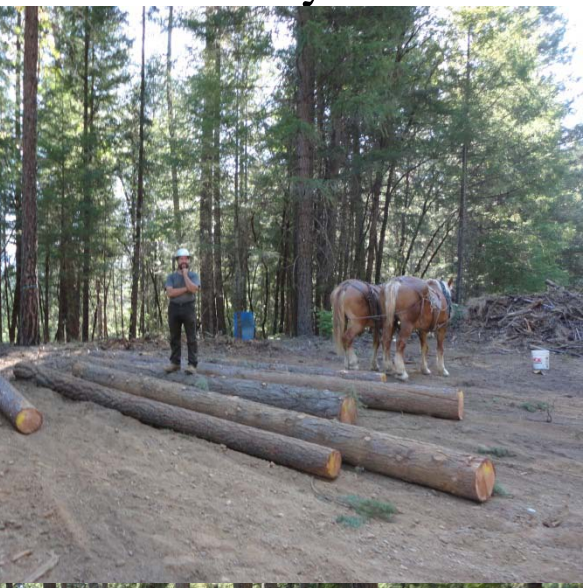
Examples of Projects

Central Coast Outreach to Spanish Speaking Farmers

Examples of Projects

Trinity Community Forest



Examples of Projects

Ventura County Mobile Irrigation Lab/ Fire plans for Ranchers

Examples of Projects

Goldridge RCD Pollinator Hedgerows

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Please let me know if I can be of assistance

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