



# Humboldt County Resource Conservation District

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## Long-Range Plan

### 2021-2025

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#### **ABOUT HUMBOLDT COUNTY RCD**

The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District is a non-regulatory organization that works in voluntary cooperation with landowners, residents, and community groups. The District was originally formed by popular vote in March of 1987 as the Eel River Resource Conservation District. In June of 1993 the District was expanded to be a county-wide Special District. Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) are legal subdivisions of state government. Division 9 of the California Public Resources Code authorizes the formation of Resource Conservation Districts, defines the State of California's framework for conducting the business of resource conservation within the State, and details the general powers and operations of RCDs. RCDs have a long-standing and cooperative partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), most recently updated and memorialized by a Memorandum of Agreement in 2020.

The District is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. Directors are community members who serve as volunteers and understand local resource conservation issues. The Board of Directors establishes priorities and sets policy for the District; guided by input from landowners, partners, and community stakeholders.

#### **VISION**

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District is a trusted and financially stable partner, connecting our community to funding and resources to enhance the resiliency of our natural resources and the productivity of our working lands.

#### **MISSION**

The mission of the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District is to assist private and public landowners in the planning, design, and implementation of soil, water, and forest resource conservation practices to improve and enhance natural and working lands in Humboldt County.

#### **PURPOSE**

A trusted partner for the community and successful at assisting with funding, education, implementation and maintenance of resource conservation projects to serve the District's constituents.

## GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Focus Areas	Goals	Strategies
<p>LOWER EEL RIVER WATERSHED / SALT RIVER</p>	<p>Advance resource conservation in the Lower Eel River by planning, implementing, and maintaining restoration and resource enhancement projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop sustainable processes and funding for implementing the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project Adaptive Management Plan</li> <li>● Conduct maintenance activities, including maintenance of the Frances Creek Sediment Management Area and modifications to Riverside Ranch setback berm</li> <li>● Continue having the hard discussions needed to advance implementation of last construction phase of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project and planning of the Williams Creek Restoration Project.</li> <li>● Support NRCS initiatives in watershed, including the National Water Quality Initiatives and the Wetland Reserve Easement Program</li> <li>● Maintain and enhance partnerships in the watershed and advance collaborative opportunities to conserve resources</li> </ul>
<p>FOREST HEALTH &amp; FIRE RESILIENCE</p>	<p>Improve forest management to enhance forest health and resilience across ownerships and create capacity for collaborative landscape-level planning and implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assist in identification, development, and implementation of landscape-level, multi-benefit projects with significant community/partner involvement</li> <li>● Build organizational capacity to provide technical assistance to landowners and advance projects that maximize funding opportunities and are aligned with our strategic direction</li> <li>● Strengthen relationships with forest landowners, CAL FIRE, USFS, State Parks, Fire Safe Councils, Tribes, Humboldt County, North Coast Resource Partnership, NRCS, and others and collaborate effectively with partners</li> <li>● Identify internal and external opportunities to help build/support a local workforce</li> </ul>
<p>VIABLE AGRICULTURE &amp; CLIMATE RESILIENCY</p>	<p>Support landowners and agriculture to ensure viable agricultural operations and protect natural resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide technical assistance and conservation planning support for producers interested in implementing practices that promote soil health, sequester carbon, and improve production on agricultural lands</li> <li>● Support for agricultural producers, Humboldt County, and Eel River Groundwater Working Group as the Lower Eel River Groundwater Sustainability Plan is developed and implemented</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assist landowners and agricultural operations in coastal Humboldt County achieve resiliency</li> <li>● Explore opportunities to mitigate the negative impacts caused by legacy cannabis cultivation and to assist legal cannabis producers with resource conservation projects</li> </ul>
<p>A VIABLE &amp; RESILIENT ORGANIZATION</p>	<p>The District has 6-months of general funding to achieve our strategic goals and our financial position is transparent to the community.</p> <p>We have strengthened staff security and offer competitive compensation packages aligned with the local market.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research and develop diversified streams of funding including securing base funding from County of Humboldt, expanding fee-for-service opportunities, and by becoming a Technical Service Provider to minimize reliance on the District's line of credit</li> <li>● Provide regular updates on projects to Humboldt County Board of Supervisors</li> <li>● Expand board participation in the district's Financial Committee to actively monitor the fiscal health of the district</li> <li>● Pursue cross-boundary projects and share staff/resources with neighboring RCDs and other entities</li> <li>● Enhance employee benefits to retain skilled staff</li> </ul>