

CENTRAL SACRAMENTO VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

CALIFORNIA



2010 – 2014 AREA PLAN

**Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 606
Orland, California 95963
(530) 865-5058**

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VISION

The Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area Council is a recognized and respected partner who contributes meaningful leadership and support in creating resource and economic value to all in need.

MISSION

The Mission of the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area Council is to: Promote conservation, development and utilization of resources while creating economic growth and opportunities.

RC&D COUNCIL ORGANIZATION

Council Members and Officers:

A. Sponsoring Members (By County):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
	<u>Butte County</u>
Bill Connelly	Butte County Board of Supervisors
DC Jones *	Butte County Resource Conservation District
Ren Reynolds	Enterprise Rancheria
	<u>Colusa County</u>
Gary Evans *	Colusa County Board of Supervisors
Gilbert Ramos	Colusa County Resource Conservation District
Peter Jukusky *	Colusa County Economic Development Corporation
Tom Reische	City of Colusa
	<u>Glenn County</u>
Leigh McDaniels	Glenn County Board of Supervisors
Lori Pride	Glenn County Resource Conservation District
Bruce Roundy	City of Orland, Councilman
Gary Freeman *	Clear Path Consulting (Business Member), Past President
Eugene Massa	Colusa Basin Drain
	<u>Tehama County</u>
Ron Warner *	Tehama County Board of Supervisors
Ernie White	Tehama County Resource Conservation District

* Executive Committee Members

B. Council Officers:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>
Gary Evans	President
Peter Jukusky	Vice President
Vacant	Secretary
Vacant	Treasurer

Council Primary Contact:

Gary Evans, President
P.O. Box 606
Orland, California 95963
(530) 865-5058 (Office)
(530) 865-8528 (Fax)

Email: council@csvrcd.com

RC&D (NRCS) Coordinator:

Larry Akin, Coordinator
(530) 865-5058

Email: larry.akin@ca.usda.gov

RC&D Staff:

(Vacant), Administrative Assistant
P.O. Box 606
Orland, California 95963
(530) 865-5058 (Office)
(530) 865-8528 (Fax)

Email: council@csvrkd.com

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION

Senators: Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

Representatives: Wally Herger (R-CA-02)
Tom McClintock (R-CA-04)

INTRODUCTION

This document is the long-range plan for the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. It has been developed by soliciting public input through surveys of partners and interested organizations in the four county area served by RC&D. These counties include Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama. Additionally, efforts have been made to align complementing strategies to maximize coordinated efforts to achieve common goals. Input was sought at public meetings and through solicitations using various media outlets. The local Council members were provided guidance on the development of this plan.

The purpose of this plan is to provide the strategic direction for the RC&D. The RC&D is extending its efforts to ensure a strong sustainable organization that serves the communities in our area.

Congress passed the Food and Agricultural Act of 1962, which authorized Resource Conservation and Development areas. The purpose of the act was to expand opportunities for conservation districts, local units of governments, and individuals to improve their communities in multi-county areas. This included assistance in enhancing the economic, environmental and social well being of the RC&D Areas. Currently, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Federal RC&D Program. This document serves as an agreement between NRCS and the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. a non-profit public benefit organization.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND AREA OVERVIEW

The Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development program is:

- Sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA),
- Administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and
- Locally directed and managed by Council members.

The Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. (CSV RC&D) is an independent, nonprofit, non-partisan, community-based group whose primary concern is the prudent use of natural and human resources in the California counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama. It was:

- Authorized by Congress on January, 2001,
- Incorporated on July 13, 2001
- Received its nonprofit status [501(c) (3)] on December 2, 2002

CSV RC&D is an all-volunteer organization that accomplishes its goals and objectives by bringing together needed resources to improve the conditions of the community and local resources. The strength of the RC&D program is in helping provide local people the opportunity to solve their own problems. CSV RC&D effectively develops partnerships with public and private organizations. These alliances provide CSV RC&D with the tools to accomplish its goals and objectives. CSV RC&D programs and activities are directed by its volunteer Council and implemented by its members and other partners and volunteers.

CSV RC&D is a focal point that helps bridge the divide of the diverse interests and socio-political communities within the area. The three-legged stool of conservation, community development and business communities are supported by the CSV RC&D. The CSV RC&D provides opportunities to mobilize human resources to accomplish projects that otherwise may not have been identified or implemented simply because competing interests could not unite in a positive, project-oriented and neutral forum.

One of USDA's primary requirements is for each RC&D to develop an Area Plan (also called a Long Range Plan) that is the basis of the local RC&D program. This plan addresses community-identified concerns and needs, and presents the Council's 5-year goals, objectives and strategies to address these issues and needs, as well as the following four NRCS program elements:

- Land Conservation: *erosion & sediment control*
- Water Management: *water use, quality, supply, conservation, flood control*
- Community Development: *resource-based business promotion, rural water/waste disposal system development, recreation facility improvement, economic development, education promotion*
- Land Management: *energy conservation, bio fuels, farm land preservation, fish & wildlife habitat protection*

Once these needs and issues are defined and developed into goals and objectives, broad-based support can be explored and recruited. Since RC&D is a hybrid private and public entity, it can

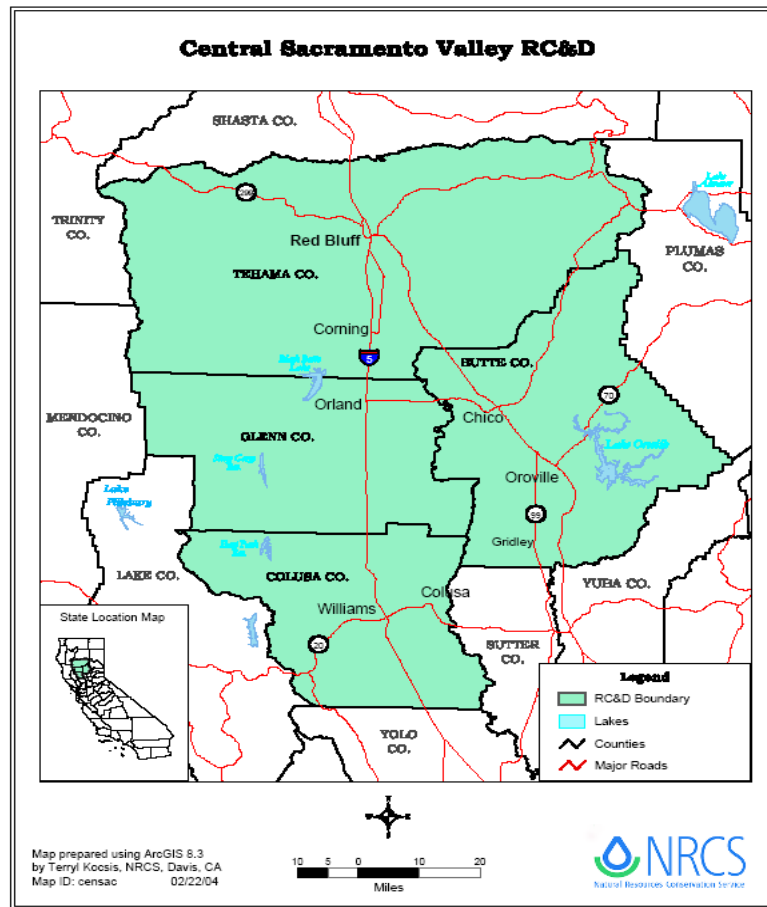
receive both private and public financial support for Council projects. *Public participation in the development of this plan is described on page 21.*

Overview of the Area

Brief Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Facts:

Date of RC&D Area designation: Total Land Area: 4,515,806 acres

- Butte County: 1,049,273 acres
- Colusa County: 736,435 acres
- Glenn County: 841,465 acres
- Tehama County: 1,888,633 acres



The Central Sacramento Valley Resource, Conservation and Development Area is located in the Sacramento Valley north of Sacramento, California. It consists of the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama. The Area includes portions of the Lassen, Mendocino, Plumas and Shasta-

Trinity National Forests. Contained within the four counties are many wildlife refuges which provides for conservation of resources and economic benefits.

The Area consists of 4,515,806 acres. Approximately one-third of the land is publicly held, most of it in the higher elevations. The Area is located within the central portion of the Sacramento Valley Air Basin. The Sacramento Valley Air Basin is characterized by mountain ranges to the north, east and west.

Major resources occurring in the Area are timber, rangeland and irrigated agricultural cropland, as well as the Sacramento River and its tributaries. Mining activity exists and is primarily limited to sand, gravel, and natural gas extraction.

Strategic Priorities Identified by the Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Council:

- Promote the development of resource-based industries
- Promote the utilization of agriculture and forest fuel biomass waste
- Facilitate the development of agricultural/nature/heritage tourism opportunities
- Promote urban and wild land fire hazard reduction
- Promote watershed restoration and enhance the working landscape
- Create a financially sustainable Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Council

Production Lands within the RC&D Area

Timber Production

Timber harvesting on National Forests has suffered years of decline, and the amount of board feet produced each year from the National Forests has been steadily declining. There are substantial private timber holdings where harvest activities have maintained production.

Timber harvest by county (1): Total volume: 157,534 mbf (2); Value: \$25,999,258
Butte County: 92,484 mbf; value: \$15,998,229
Glenn County: 1,173 mbf; value: \$147,215
Tehama County: 63,877 mbf; value: \$9,853,814

(1) Source: California Board of Equalization, 2008 data

(2) mbf: thousand board feet

Biomass Utilization

The removal of cellulose based fuels from the forests and agricultural lands is possibly the greatest challenge for effective resource management. The utilization of biomass is both an economic and resource management imperative, particularly in the forested areas where existing fuel loads jeopardize forest health. The economic potential associated with biomass utilization is significant and sustainable.

Range and Agriculture

Leading commodities in the Area are rice, dairy products, and tomatoes for processing, almonds, cattle, olives, prunes, walnuts and wheat. The major industries within the RC&D Area are

directly and indirectly related to agriculture. Agricultural related business activities occupy the vast majority of production land and constitute the economic engine of the Area.

Producing Farms and Ranches

County	Number of Farms	Total Farm Acreage	Harvested Cropland (Acres)	Irrigated Land (Acres)	Market Value of Ag Products(\$1000)	Number of Livestock and Poultry Ranches and Farms	Total Ranch Acreage
Butte	2048	373,786	200,943	202,234	342,766	347	407,678
Colusa	814	474,092	276,588	277,332	386,300	93	190,000
Glenn	1242	489,186	250,279	236,134	405,439	327	229,191
Tehama	1752	532,206	60,556	76,081	142,958	670	1,550,095

Other Land Uses and Resources within the RC&D Area

Major Rivers/Streams/Water Bodies

The major river that unites the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area is the Sacramento River. The Sacramento River flows south from Shasta Dam through Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama Counties. The Feather River and its tributaries is a major water complex that flows into Lake Oroville. It is a principle tributary of the Sacramento River and provides water to central and southern California, being the main source of water for the California State Water Project.

The major streams on the eastern side of the Sacramento River are Mill Creek, Deer Creek, Battle Creek, Antelope Creek, Paynes Creek, Chico Creek and Butte Creek. The streams are perennial and significant for salmon spawning. The major streams on the western side of the Sacramento River are Cottonwood Creek, Elder Creek, Thomes Creek and Stony Creek.

The major drainage from Colusa County to the Sacramento River is generally known as the Colusa Basin Drainage. This drainage starts in Glenn County, flows south through Colusa County and enters the Sacramento River near Knights Landing. This drainage is also known as the Colusa Trough, Reclamation District 2047 Drain, and the Colusa Basin Drainage Canal.

Major Challenges: Soil loss, gravel deposits and flooding

Recreation

Four National Forests (Lassen, Mendocino, Plumas and Shasta-Trinity) located in the four-county region support a wide range of recreation opportunities. Additionally, a large portion of Lassen National Park is within the Area.

The Sacramento and Feather Rivers, Lake Oroville, Black Butte Lake and Stony Gorge Reservoir afford opportunities for fishing, boating, white water rafting, tubing and other water-based recreation activities.

Agricultural, nature and heritage tourism, as a function of recreation, is a growing industry that is tapping into one of the rural area's greatest set of assets.

Fish and Wildlife

The elevation range within the area, from near sea level to over 8,200 feet, habitats and species are very diverse.

Hunting and tourism are a highly important part of the economic engine of the Area. Hunting for game birds, deer; fishing a rich assortment of rivers and tributaries, including the Sacramento and Feather River’s androgynous salmon and steelhead, sturgeon and strip bass draw sportsmen from distant locales. Bird watching is a growing tourism preference, particularly in the migratory periods.

Wildlife Refuges and Areas, Preserves, Other Nature/Wildlife Sites

Name	Acres	Butte County	Colusa County	Glenn County	Tehama County
Colusa National Wildlife Refuge	4,507		X		
Delevan National Wildlife Refuge	5,797		X		
Dye Creek Preserve	37,540				X
Feather River Fish Hatchery	N/A	X			
Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area	8,400	X			
Ishe Wilderness	41,339				X
Oroville Wildlife Area		X			
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge	10,783		X	X	
Tehama State Wildlife Area	6,862				X
Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area					
• Howard Slough Wildlife Unit	4,010	X			
• Little Dry Creek Wildlife Unit	3,762	X			
• Llano Seco Wildlife Unit	1,521	X		X	
Upper Ridge Nature Preserve	120	X			
Vina Plains (Nature Conservancy Land)	4,600	X			X

Wildlife areas and refuges are a significant wildlife habitat component in the four counties. These protected areas offer wildlife viewing and photography as well as hunting, walking trails, and auto touring routes.

More than 300 species of birds and mammals, both resident and migratory, use the refuges at various times of the year. In winter, two million ducks and a half million geese may be present in the Sacramento Valley. Other water birds and shorebirds such as pelicans, egrets, avocets, white-faced ibis, herons, and grebes are common and notable in the spring.

These protected areas cover thousands of acres of grasslands, marshes, permanent ponds, and seasonal wetlands. Riparian and wetland habitats are located intermittently along the Sacramento River alluvial plains from Red Bluff (Tehama County) south to Colusa (Colusa County). The wetlands, uplands, and riparian habitats of the refuges are managed to provide food, water and cover for a diverse array of species.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Threatened and endangered (T&E) species may be found in one or more of the four counties. These include the Red Legged Frog, Yellow Legged Frog, Long Horned Valley Elderberry Beetle and Northern Spotted Owl. Management of resources within the four counties is done consistent with federal and state laws providing for T&E species protection.

Geographical and Vegetative Features

Topography

The Area's landforms within the of the Central Valley consist of nearly level terraces, smooth alluvial fans, narrow flood plains, and water-filled basins. The areas bordered by the Sacramento River are essentially flat with a gently increasing elevation gradient toward the northwest. Elevations range from approximately 100 feet above sea level at the Sacramento River to over 8,200 feet in the Mendocino National Forest. West of the Valley is the Coast Range foothills, which consist of smooth, rolling-to-steep hills and narrow valleys. The mountain ranges further to the west are bisected by a series of deep and spectacular canyons. The mountainous area of Eastern Tehama County is characterized by steep to moderately steep higher elevation topography.

Soils

Historic sedimentary processes are directly related to the formation of the soils of the region. Most of the soils of the valley floor are alluvial silt loams, clays, and sands formed from the sedimentary igneous and metamorphic rocks deposited by the Sacramento River and its various side channels. The sedimentary deposits on the valley floor form some of the Area's prime agricultural soils.

Agricultural soils in the Area include recent alluvial fan and flood plain soils, older alluvial fan soils, basin soils, and terrace soils. Most of the soils are alluvial and originated either from runoff from the surrounding mountain ranges, or from overflow from the Sacramento River.

The geology and parent material in the eastside mountain area of Tehama County is of volcanic origin.

Vegetation

Riparian vegetation, uplands and wetlands, chaparral, grasslands, and forests make up most of the vegetation in the Area. Riparian habitats, wetlands and marshes can be found along the Sacramento River and in the National Wildlife Refuges. Chaparral communities appear in the Area where local soil conditions are not favorable for tree growth and at lower elevations. Chaparral is characterized by shrubs. Grassland communities occur on the foothill valley areas. Forest lands are abundant in the Area and include the Lassen, Mendocino and Shasta-Trinity National Forests.

The Blue Oak plant community lies between the grassland and chaparral plant communities and consists of blue oak and associated shrub species. This community has significant wildlife value and has been utilized as a source of firewood.

Social and Economic Characteristics

Social Characteristics

The Area's population is diverse. Although primarily white, there are American Indian Tribes, and increasing population of Hispanics and Asians, both of whom are creating an increasing presence in the areas agricultural production. The Area has a larger population of seniors than elsewhere in California. Approximately 33 percent of the Area population is 45 or older while only 28 percent of California's population is in this age group. This compares to 31 percent who are 45 or older for the United States.

County Population by Race/Ethnicity/Retirement: Central Sacramento Valley RC&D

County	2008 Popula- tion	White	%	Hispanic	%	Asian	%	Black	%	American Indian	%	Other	%
Butte	223,572	174,736	78	29,074	13	6,994	3	2,993	1	4,107	2	5,668	3
Colusa	22,830	10,127	44	11,519	51	315	1	104	.5	368	1.5	397	2
Glenn	29,943	17,921	60	9,779	33	1,022	3	144	.5	505	1.5	572	2
Tehama	63,702	47,547	75	12,714	20	473	.7	325	.5	1,118	1.7	1,615	2.5

Source: Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico, 2008 Economic & Demographic County Profile figures

Unemployment and poverty rates in the Area are higher than most of California. Historically these rates are consistently greater than the state's averages. These high rates are typical for a depressed rural area that lacks employment diversity and business opportunities.

Income, Employment and Poverty Data

County	Area's Per Capita Income Average (\$)	Median Household Income (\$)	Area's Unemployment Rate (%)
Butte	27,136	36,303	12.4
Colusa	25,559	39,186	17.8
Glenn	22,561	35,707	14.6
Tehama	22,420	33,903	13.8

Source: California Employment Development Department, July 2009 Data
 California Median Household Income Average: \$53,627
 California Average Poverty Rate: 13.3 %
 California Average Unemployment Rate: 11.5 %

Agriculture is the staple of the Area's economy, directly accounting for nearly one-third of all jobs, and providing the foundation for many support services and industries in other sectors of the economy. Many of the Area's manufacturing, retail, and wholesale trade jobs exist to serve agriculture. The Area experiences seasonal unemployment where unemployment is higher in the

winter months and lower in the summer months. Agriculture provides seasonal employment to about 4,000 persons during the late summer and early fall.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources in the Area consist of historical and pre-historic resources. The Area has many noteworthy structures dating back to the 1800s. Many of the attractions are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Area also has resident Native American tribes consisting of the Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintu-Wailaki Indians and the Paskenta Band of Nomelaki Indians in Glenn County; the Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians and the Cachil Dehe Bank of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community in Colusa County; and the Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Mechoopda Indian Tribe, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians and the Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians in Butte County.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges:

1. Exceptionally high rates of poverty and chronic unemployment are endemic to the Area. There is currently an over-dependence on declining sectors of the economy. There is also an existing inability to use tremendous natural resources to generate revenue and prosperity for local residents of the Area.
2. Lack of infrastructure is a major reason why larger businesses are reluctant to locate into the area. There is great need for improvements in sewer, electricity and water systems.
3. Flooding and drainage issues are a geographic concern. Natural resource degradation is a constant that continues without the complete and adequate flood control planning. This will require building flood control infrastructure, mitigation monitoring and stream and river bank stabilization efforts.
4. Potential overdraft of groundwater is currently a primary concern for Tehama County, but is a potential problem throughout the Area. There exists a need for better groundwater management, irrigation monitoring and improved water use efficiencies.
5. Degradation of wildlife habitats has coincided with the development and utilization of the Area's natural resources. Opportunities exist where improved management practices and technologies can provide significant value in the management of the entire watershed.
6. Wildland fuels are in a state of decadence, having been allowed to build-up to unhealthy and unsafe volumes. Fire frequency within the area has been increasing and 2008 was a year of catastrophic losses within Butte County.

Opportunities:

Many opportunities exist within the Area which has the potential to address the current problems noted above. Some of these include:

1. Agriculture/Nature/Heritage Tourism is the most attainable manner for the rural communities to realize economic improvements. The number of ranching and farming operations that might undertake an alternative enterprise is significant. This can be achieved through the RC&Ds active involvement in helping develop opportunities to stimulate this action.

2. Biomass reduction is an imperative for the wildland landscape due to the life, property and natural resource loss potential. The opportunities associated with various fuels treatment or utilization methods can provide habitat improvements, public safety and economic stimulus. The options include treating fuels to remain on site in a less volatile state, such as chips or mulching, or by removal to be used as fuels for energy production.

3. Recreation opportunities within the RC&D Area generally are well developed. The relationships established by the individual county tourism entities provide support for attracting visitors. The opportunities to enhance this effort are promising. Although the individual counties often are focused on their individual economic needs and are looking for direct benefits from the recreating public they understand that visitors view the counties as an “area” with little regard for county boundaries. The opportunity to create and enhance the tourism/recreation potential of the area is substantial.

4. Watershed health is a concern for a large number of groups and individuals, including government, NGOs, public trusts, concerned residents and many others. Significant efforts are continually being made to improve the landscape for the benefit of wildlife, fisheries and vegetative health. The ability to make long-term improvements to the broader landscape remains a costly and labor intensive and will require more coordinated efforts.

The Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Council’s Area Plan addresses the following elements:

- I. Land Conservation and Management
- II. Water Management
- III. Community Development
- IV. Council Development

Goals, objectives and strategies have been identified for each of the associated elements. As the Area Plan is a dynamic document, reviewed annually by the Council, there is an expectation that identified needs and opportunities will change over time. Therefore, associated goals, objectives and strategies will be revised and reflected in updated versions of the Area Plan.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Complete 11 area wide-focused economic development projects encompassing: a) an agriculture, nature and heritage based tourism alternative enterprise development and b) local economy dependent business creation and expansion by 2014.
- Directly support partnering organizations and entrepreneurs to develop nine resource management plans and 21 projects that provide for protection, utilization and/or enhancement of the Area’s natural resources, and improves, maintains or restores cultural, economic or ecosystem health within the RC&D Area by 2013.
- Assist in the development of a “Landscape Management Advisory Group” (LMAG) to create expanded cooperation of watershed groups, regulatory agencies, interested partners and the public for coordinated landscape management of water resources by 2014.
- Create the mechanisms by which the Central Sacramento Valley RC&D will be 100% self-funded and sustainable through its projects and partnerships by 2013.

Goal 1: (Economic Development): Complete 11 area wide-focused economic development projects encompassing: a) an agriculture, nature and heritage based tourism alternative enterprise development, and b) local economy dependent business creation and expansion by 2014.

This goal is supportive of the NRCS Mission Goal of Working and Farm Lands sustainability and its Venture Goal of Activity Expansion on Working Farm and Ranch Lands, primarily through the broadening of enterprise opportunities associated with ranch and farm land operations. The use of an alternative enterprise approach will provide farm and ranch operators a business method by which to utilize an expanded marketing approach for their products. The Overarching Strategy of NRCS to “Facilitate the growth of market-based opportunities that encourage business and industry to invest in conservation on private lands” will be supported through the business expansion model. Additionally efforts will be made to assist farm and ranch operators in their efforts to minimize production costs through energy saving approaches to production. This supports the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Mission Goal of providing for an Adequate Energy Supply.

Goal 1, Objective A: By 2013 increase the number of Alternative Farming and Ranching Enterprises in the RC&D area by the creation or retention of 40 enterprises.

Strategies

- By end of CY 2012 present six alternative enterprise workshops to educate and support 100 farm and ranch operators
- By end of CY 2011 participate in four (4) local or one region-wide “Buy Local-Buy Fresh” effort
- By end of CY 2011 involve a minimum of 12 producers in the Council’s ag tourism advisory group
- By end of CY 2012 actively engage a minimum of 15 local businesses in ag tourism
- By end of CY 2013 have four (4) local school districts participating in enterprise development
- By end of CY 2013 have ten (10) engagements with regional and state level alternative enterprise-focused organizations

Goal 1, Objective B: By 2013 develop the active involvement of 50 resident under-served, under-represented and limited resource producers by an active outreach effort that provides information and education.

Strategies

- By end of CY 2013 create, market and facilitate an outreach program for under-served, under-represented and limited resource producers; 50 target producers engaged as a result of outreach efforts
- By end of CY 2011 partner with UC Cooperative Extension, the Small Business Development Centers and Farm Credit to provide supportive information and training with a minimum of 12 partners engaged in the outreach efforts
- By end of CY 2010 recruit members to the RC&D Council; One (1) per targeted population representing these producers

Goal 1, Objective C: By 2012 expand the existing marketing and distribution of locally produced products by linking producers to two farmer’s markets per county (total of eight), 10 retailers seeking locally grown shelf products, and creation of one dedicated store front for the marketing and sales of locally grown or produced products.

Strategies

- By end of CY 2011 establish new involvement of 20 local producers using direct marketing and sales
- By end of CY 2012 establish a multi-county farm producer’s network for direct farmer-to-consumer enterprise establishment
- By end of CY 2012 establish one (1) store front operation near a heavily traveled, major highway within the RC&D boundaries
- By end of CY 2011 assist three (3) local Farmers Markets to strengthen infrastructures and promotional opportunities

Goal 1, Objective D: By 2010 provide a minimum of one opportunity to local agricultural producers that result in minimizing their production energy uses.

Strategy

- By end of CY 2010 local farm and ranch producers will be provided opportunities to have their operations evaluated for energy use and savings potentials by:
- The RC&D partnering with the National and California RC&D Associations to provide one (1) certification workshop and certification of a minimum of 2 Farm Energy Auditors from the CSV RC&D Area
 - Establishment of a scheduling and management process for assignment of audits, coordinated with available auditors

Goal 2: (Land Conservation and Management): Directly support partnering organizations and entrepreneurs to develop nine resource management plans and 21 projects that provide for protection, utilization and/or enhancement of the Area’s natural resources, and improves, maintains or restores cultural, economic or ecosystem health within the RC&D Area by 2013.

This goal is supportive of the NRCS Mission Goals addressing High Quality, Productive Soils, Clean and Abundant Water, and Healthy Plant and Animal Communities. It also provides through the planning process, the Overarching Strategy of “Seek and promote cooperative conservation efforts to achieve conservation goals” by engaging both public and private interests in addressing broad resource management concerns. The planning results will address all of the stated NRCS Mission Goal Outcomes. Special emphasis will be to address An Adequate Energy Supply by taking a lead in the identification and application of alternative energy conversion technologies. The Overarching Strategy of “Facilitate the growth of market-based opportunities that encourage business and industry to invest in conservation on private lands” will be a center piece of this goal.

Goal 2, Objective A: By 2012 work with resource partners to develop five resource plans that establish resource activities resulting in a minimum total acreage of 20,000 acres being treated for watershed improvement and protection.

Strategies

By end of CY 2012 partner with NRCS, Resource Conservation Districts, Land Trusts and other organizations engaged in resource management projects to:

- Actively participate in six (6) to eight (8) advisory teams that are developing resource plans
- Help develop five (5) approved plans

Goal 2, Objective B: By 2013 establish the presence of a viable biomass utilization program using pyrolysis technology within the RC&D Area and surrounding counties that is capable of reducing forest and agricultural waste by a minimum of 50,000 tons per year.

Strategies

By end of CY 2013 partner with private enterprises engaged in technology development and direct application on the landscape, partner with Federal, State and Private Land Management Organizations to develop woody fuels extraction acreage and link the Fire Safe Council's residential and fuel break fuels treatment projects to:

- Create or retain 50 jobs
- Involve a minimum of 50 producers in the biomass utilization effort
- Directly engage a minimum of 25 partners, sponsors and general interest public to disseminate information

Goal 2, Objective C: By 2014 help establish one community forest within the RC&D area by working with the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and interested communities and organizations.

Strategies

By end of 2014 support local "Community Forest" efforts through the establishment of a contract agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and/or Bureau of Land Management resulting in:

- A set-aside forest area of 200 or more acres
- 10 communities engaged in a community forest effort

Goal 2, Objective D: By 2011 partner with other organizations to encourage communities to embrace good forest management principles by supporting the development and adoption of four county Fire Protection Plans.

Strategies

By end of CY 2011 work with local watershed councils/groups or similar organizations to identify and resolve conditions impacting water quality and quantity issues and assist local organizations and agencies with workshops and the dissemination of technical information to prevent or reduce surface and ground water pollution affects. This will result in:

- Four plans successfully adopted, minimum of one plan for each county within the RC&D Area

Goal 2, Objective E: Promote watershed assessments and management plans by assisting watershed organizations and their partners in developing and implementing ten projects by 2013.

Strategies

By end of CY 2013 work as a direct contributor in the drafting and public involvement of plan development and link the RC&D with specific, identified projects that will benefit from RC&D contributions to include:

- Four plans developed or revised
- Ten projects with direct RC&D involvement

Goal 2, Objective F: By 2014 promote noxious weed management and eradication efforts by reduction in noxious weed acreage by 5% in the RC&D Area.

Strategies

By end of CY 2014 identify Area-wide efforts to eradicate invasive species and link RC&D resources to these efforts by:

- Having an RC&D member from each county directly engaged and supporting organizations or agencies within their county boundaries whose collective efforts result in a treatment acreage total of at least 5% of the current untreated acreage

Goal 2, Objective G: By 2010 organize for the demonstration of one or more woody biomass conversion technologies capable of use in multiple locations within the RC&D Area.

Strategies

By end of CY 2010 explore and identify the most promising technologies for woody biomass utilization waste conversion in California by:

- Organizing a minimum of two demonstrations of pyrolysis equipment capable of converting organic waste into bio oil, bio char and other low/non-sulfur products
- Partner in the development of a Biomass Technologies Reference Resources Guide that will address biomass utilization studies and equipment applications

Goal 2, Objective H: By 2011, the Council will provide coordination or support to complete five riparian or upland habitat projects that benefit fish and wildlife species.

Strategies

By end of CY 2011 work with communities, watershed groups, resource conservation districts, local agencies and interested organizations to improve riparian stream corridors and upland habitat areas will be accomplished by:

- By establishing a minimum of 10 miles of stream or river course rehabilitation or stabilization
- By establishing a minimum of 100 acres of wildlife habitat improvement

Goal 3: (Water Management): Assist in the development of a “Landscape Management Advisory Group” (LMAG) to create expanded cooperation of watershed groups, regulatory agencies, interested partners and the public for coordinated landscape management of water resources by 2014.

This goal specifically addresses the NRCS Mission Goals of Clean and Abundant Water, the Overarching Strategy of “Provide information and assistance to encourage and enable locally led, watershed-scale conservation”. The desired Mission Goal Outcomes of Water Quality and Management will guide the implementation of this plan’s Goal 3 objectives.

Goal 3, Objective A: By 2011 initiate a process from which all watershed stakeholders within the RC&D Area will be invited to participate in the development of multi-watershed issues statements and proposals for action.

Strategies

By end of CY 2011

- Establish an initial meeting to bring all interested parties to one table by December 2010 to determine common and unique concerns and issues
- Create a multi-tiered plan to address individual group or agency needs and concerns by use of common strategic plan components and proposed actions by December 2011

Goal 3, Objective B: By 2012 provide a strong supportive role in the dissemination of public-interest information concerning watershed health by sponsor-partnering public forums.

Strategies

By end of CY 2012 assist local organizations and agencies with workshops and/or seminars and dissemination of technical information to prevent or reduce surface and ground water pollution affects by:

- Developing and providing two workshops or seminars/year starting by September 30, 2012
- Using the RC&D’s website and list serve for information dissemination, updating information on a quarterly basis starting by June 30, 2012

Goal 4: (Council Development): Create the mechanisms by which the Central Sacramento Valley RC&D will be 100% self-funded and sustainable through its projects and partnerships by 2013.

This goal is directly associated to the Management Initiative articulated in the NRCS Strategic Plan. The objectives aforementioned in this plan will require “Improving internal management (processes) by strategically managing human capital, making effective use of internet-based technologies, strengthening financial management controls (enhance accountability requirements), and continuing to integrate budget and performance(strengthen non-profit management practices).”

Goal 4, Objective A: By 2010 maintain a minimum of six active projects with the capacity to provide funding for meeting 75% of operational expenses.

Strategies

By end of CY 2010 develop a systematic method to track and respond to grant opportunities, develop partnerships willing to contribute to the RC&D efforts and establish a fee for service initiative by:

- Developing a minimum of 3 draft proposals available for rapid submission upon call for proposal notification
- Creating a solicitation approach whereby at least five percent of responses from individuals and organizations are providing fiscal and non-fiscal support
- Offering a minimum of six (6) workshops addressing topics of public interest
- Attracting a minimum of five (5) organizations seeking RC&D services for a fee

Goal 4, Objective B: By 2010 develop three effective communication tools by which to publicize and recruit support for the RC&D mission.

Strategies

By end of CY 2010 create methods and use available technologies to increase the RC&D's public presence by:

- Creating and maintaining a website that is current and of value to visitors, resulting in a 10% increase in traffic per year from the current baseline of zero
- Starting with a zero baseline, 10 requests per month for information resulting from RC&D communiqués
- Publish and distribute an annual report that showcases partnering and project successes
- Create a quarterly communication vehicle that will provide key information concerning the RC&D

Goal 4, Objective C: By 2010 provide a minimum of one public event every six months that provides important information relevant to community residents.

Strategies

By end of CY 2010 a schedule of public service events will established to provide information of interest to the residents living within the RC&D Area by:

- Scheduling a minimum of 2 events per year
- Partnering with other organizations who share interest in the subject matter
- Minimum average of 15 attendees to RC&D offered events
- 100% partnering organizations represented at events when their subject matter expertise is require

Goal 4, Objective D: By 2010 recruit additional or replacement members to serve on the council who represent the Area’s population diversity

Strategies

- By end of CY 2010 actively recruit Tribal, Hispanic, Women, Youth and other underrepresented community members to participate on the RC&D Council
- By end of CY 2010 have the RC&D Council compliant with the “Circle of Diamonds”

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In the process of developing this plan the Central Sacramento Valley RC&D employed two primary methods of data collection: 1) an on-line survey and 2) direct visits with partnering organizations who share similar interests of the RC&D. The survey employed by the CSV RC&D is found in the appendix of this plan.

The development of the on-line customer/partner survey was done using Survey Monkey™. The survey was modeled after other surveys being employed by RC&Ds across the nation. The survey was full-scoping and encouraged participants to add comments. A wide variety of public and private organization and individuals were invited to participate. The results were collected and tabulated by use of the instrument.

The second method was by direct contact with organizations typically by attending their meetings and collecting information, or working with individual members who expressed an interest in participating.

Concurrent with the data collection methods aforementioned the RC&D requested copies of existing strategic plans, business plans and other documents from contributing organizations to help guide the alignment of this plan with their efforts within the RC&D area. Additionally the RC&D attempted to identify projects that partnering organizations were proposing, or had received funding. The RC&D’s approach has, and will continue to be one that finds opportunities to support partner efforts.

The critical issues and the associated goals, objectives and strategies to address them were identified through meetings with multiple organizations, including resource conservation districts, regional planning agencies, land trusts, watershed planning councils, fire safe councils, non-profit organizations, county supervisors, agricultural and forestry associations, various local, state, and federal agencies and individuals with an interest in natural resources and community development.

CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Current Partnerships

The Central Sacramento Valley RC&D (CSV RC&D) has spent great energy and time developing a professional working relationship with a variety of organizations that share the RC&D's purpose and values. Below is a partial listing of organizations that either designates members to sit on the council or provide active support to the council's projects:

Name of Partner Organization	Type of Organization	RC&D Member	Active Partner
Butte County Board of Sups.	County Government	√	
Butte County Res. Cons. District	Special District	√	
Butte County Cultural Tourism	Private		√
Butte County Fire Safe Council	Non-Profit		√
Colusa County Board of Sups.	County Government	√	
Colusa County Res. Cons. District	Special District	√	
Colusa County Econ. Development Corp.	Private	√	
Glenn County Board of Sups.	County Government	√	
Glenn County Res. Cons. District	Special District	√	
Glenn County Econ. Development Corp.	Private		√
City of Orland	City Government	√	
Tehama County Board of Sups.	County Government	√	
Tehama County Res. Cons. Dist.	Special District	√	
Tehama County Econ. Development Corp.	Private	√	
Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council	Non-Profit	√	
UC Berkeley Coop. Extension	University		√
County Farm Bureaus: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama Counties	Private		√
Tri-County Econ. Development Corp.	Private		√
Northern CA Regional Land Trust	Private		√
USDA Forest Service , State & Private Forestry, Mendocino & Plumas NFs	Federal Govt.		√
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal Govt.		√
CA State University, Chico	University		√
Small Business Development Center, Chico	College		√
Great Valley Center	Non-Profit		√
Small Farm Center, UC Davis	University		√
Sunflower CRMP	Private		√
CA Assoc. of RC&D Councils	Non-Profit		√

Potential Partnerships

The CSV RC&D will continue to forge new and binding partnerships with any entity that wishes to share in the council's efforts to enhance our natural resources and improve the lives of our citizens. A number of organizations are currently identified as requiring greater effort by the CSV RC&D to forge the relationships envisioned. These organizations include:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Farm Services Agency
- Risk Management Agency
- Lassen National Park
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Private Forest Owners
- Smaller Fire Safe Councils in the Area
- Northern California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Sierra-Nevada Conservancy
- Nature Conservancy

One attempt currently underway is a fast pyrolysis project in Northern California. The CSV RC&D continues to organize an effort to conduct pyrolysis demonstrations beginning in 2010. To date an outreach effort has been developed where many of the aforementioned have been invited to participate.

Another effort, to be revitalized, is the Agriculture/Nature/Heritage Tourism Project that proved highly successful in engaging a wide variety of interests. The tourism-focused activities showed themselves to blend well with local values and economic development opportunities.

Both of these efforts will require the involvement of our current partnerships, but also will benefit from the potential partnerships of many of those listed above. This holds true due to the fact that the CSV RC&D customer base is shared with many other organizations.

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTATIVE MEASUREMENT

An Annual Work Plan will identify the objectives and strategies to be employed for the year for which it is developed. The council's existing committees, and Ad Hoc Committees as needed, will manage the adoption and implementation of identified objectives and their supporting strategies. The goals and objectives to be addressed will be determined by: 1) conditions supporting success, such as available funding and/or partner activity, 2) interests and support of the council members, 3) government mandates and 4) council staffing or other support functions.

The CSV RC&D will use a reliable tool for the tracking and reporting of progress. One tool under consideration is the Balanced Scorecard, similar to the one developed for the previous Area Plan.

Concurrence and Signatures

“The Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council agrees that the RC&D Program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A & B), which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial (or technical) assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.”

The Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for non-procurement, suspension, and debarment, and State review.

The Central Sacramento Valley RC&D Council hereby adopts this RC&D Area Plan and agrees to use effectively the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the goals and objectives outlined herein.

Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., California

By: _____ Date:
Gary Evans
President of the Central Sacramento Valley RC&D

Attest: _____ Date:
Peter Jukusky
Secretary (Acting)

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council on August 3, 2009.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of Central Sacramento Valley Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Acknowledged by: _____ Date:
Gayle Norman
Acting State Conservationist