

## Long Range Plan July 2022 – June 2027

Adopted March 09, 2022

### Mission Statement:

To provide leadership, and make available technical, financial and educational resources to local land users for drainage, water quality, groundwater, and habitat management through competent, cost effective services and partnerships.

### Vision:

- To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.
- Be a cost efficient, competent organization that meet the land user’s needs.

### Priority Natural Resource Issues:

- **Drainage / Flood Management**
- **Water Quality (Surface & Groundwater)**
- Water Supply (Surface & Groundwater)
- Wildlife Friendly Farming Habitat
- Soil Health / Sustainability
- Leadership / County-wide Education (as part of each above)
- District Operations (as part of each above)

### Priority Geographic Areas:

- Northeastern Solano County

### Goals with 5 Year Objectives:

Priority & Goal	5 Year Objectives
<p><b>Drainage / Flood Management</b> Enhance drainage and storm water management services in the Dixon RCD watersheds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the level and reliability of ditch maintenance activities on 100% of the drainage ditches</li> <li>• Partner with the County and the Dixon Regional Watershed JPA to design and implement flood control measures for new development to protect the Tremont 3 watershed from new flooding issues and reduce the existing flooding issues whenever and wherever possible</li> <li>• Update or develop new District Operations Policies</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a landowner guide that defines the nature and level of drainage services</li> <li>• Develop a technical review of and protocol for installing and managing native vegetation in District ditches</li> <li>• Explore joint maintenance possibilities with other local districts to improve the quality and quantity of maintenance activities in a cost effective manner</li> <li>• Define District’s role in regional storm water runoff management</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Quality</b> Protect and improve water quality in eastern Solano County through education and assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to manage the Dixon / Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition’s implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)</li> <li>• Maintain current participation levels in excess of 95%, while striving to achieve 100% participation through outreach to non-participants</li> <li>• Through education and outreach, convey the current status of water quality issues, monitoring results, and demonstrate appropriate management practices to improve water quality to 100% of the irrigated land owners</li> <li>• Eliminate existing surface water quality management plans through education and outreach to encourage the implementation of appropriate management practices</li> <li>• If possible, provide appropriately and cost effectively integration of the groundwater quality trend monitoring with the Sustainable Groundwater Agency’s future monitoring</li> <li>• Assist landowners/growers to maintain compliance in the least cumbersome most cost effective way possible</li> <li>• Assist landowners/growers with new requirements (e.g. drinking water well sampling)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Supply (Surface &amp; Groundwater)</b> Support improved water conservation, efficiency and reuse with growers, landowners and partner agencies to identify and implement management practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide continued support for the Solano County Agricultural Water Conservation Committee efforts to increase water efficiency programs and practices</li> <li>• Partner with local, State and Federal agencies to demonstrate and convey the benefits of water conservation practices</li> <li>• Participate in the Solano Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to represent the current and future groundwater users interest</li> <li>• Include storm water capture and groundwater recharge in the regional flood control projects</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wildlife Friendly Farming Habitat</b> In partnership with local, State and Federal agencies identify, plan and implement habitat or conservation plans and projects with land managers and communities to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through ongoing outreach identify land managers who are interested in developing habitat projects</li> <li>• Assist land managers, in partnership with Solano RCD and NRCS, to plan and implement habitat projects</li> <li>• Provide assistance to local, State and Federal agencies to understand and foster the implementation of habitat</li> </ul>

<p>protect or restore habitat that benefits natural resources and agricultural operations</p>	<p>projects and agricultural practices that co-exist with an intensive agricultural region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine the design and cost analysis for existing and future grass waterway projects</li> </ul>
<p><b>Soil Health / Sustainability</b> In partnership with local, State and Federal agencies identify, plan and implement habitat or conservation plans and projects with land managers and communities to demonstrate the benefits of holistic resource management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to identify landowners willing to implement and demonstrate the benefits of sustainable practices (cover crops, hedgerows, etc.) while seeking to quantify the benefits and costs (including installation and maintenance) for the agronomic, drainage, flood control water quality, water quantity, groundwater recharge, soil fertility and wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Work to identify possible funding for pilot projects</li> </ul>
<p><b>Leadership / County-wide Education</b> Educate land managers, elected officials and the public regarding resource management methods and rationale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact all new landowners</li> <li>• Look for existing venues of communication and use them</li> <li>• Wider distribution to elected officials of current publications</li> <li>• Continue to partner with other agencies and organizations of political influence</li> </ul>
<p><b>District Operations</b> Achieve a diverse, competent staff and board that can efficiently manage the District and that is effectively linked with regional partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and/or develop RCD policies and procedures</li> <li>• Develop District Manager and Director handbooks</li> <li>• Continued financial stability</li> <li>• Consider staff and resource sharing agreements or joint management opportunities with other local agencies</li> <li>• Complete Durable Collaboration Agreement with Solano RCD that formalizes partnership</li> <li>• Expand Associate Board Member Program to broaden advisory perspectives and provide succession planning</li> </ul>

**Emerging Issues:**

Development impacts to District facilities, regional drainage and local agriculture  
 New Programs and Potential Fees for Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Nitrate Management Zones

New drinking water well sampling requirements

Differing opinions on standards of service

Flood Control (State/Federal): Need to track and participate in the State and Federal objectives in the Yolo Bypass, such as the Yolo Bypass expansion

Habitat Projects (local/State/Federal): Need to track and participate in the State and Federal objectives in the Yolo Bypass / Cache Slough, such as the Fish Passage and Habitat creation

Climate Change/Carbon Sequestration/Soil Health: Track and participate in State and Federal efforts and programs to encourage and fund landowners adoption of practices to implement practices that will contribute to meeting the State's Climate goals. The State is hoping to participate with local RCDs to assist them with:

- CDFA's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program
- CDFA's Healthy Soils Initiative

**Goals Grid:**

<p><b>Achieve</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Durable Collaboration Agreement with Solano RCD</li> <li>▪ Income sources for water quality issues and improvements necessary</li> <li>▪ Definition and example (demonstration) of what a vegetative ditch would be</li> <li>▪ Good working relationships with other agencies, organizations and District members (ditch and non-ditch)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Avoid</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overstaffing commitments</li> <li>▪ Overhead expansion – time taken away from the core services (drainage &amp; landowner assistance) Grant money should not be a cornerstone to how we operate</li> <li>▪ Grants that are non-purpose specific</li> <li>▪ Events or programs that divert from our main purpose</li> <li>▪ Increased liability from urban encroachment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Preserve</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cost effective drainage</li> <li>▪ Competent staff</li> <li>▪ In person service for members</li> <li>▪ Community outreach / education / assistance focused on drainage &amp; water quality</li> <li>▪ Good will between the RCD and the land users</li> <li>▪ Maintaining the ditches</li> <li>▪ Relationship with local, state, federal agencies</li> <li>▪ Financial stability</li> <li>▪ Input and influence on local, state and federal policies</li> </ul>	<p><b>Eliminate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-paying district members – delinquent</li> <li>▪ Land users with poor practices (educate)</li> <li>▪ Illegal dumping in District facilities</li> <li>▪ Misconceptions of what the District's function and responsibilities are concerning drainage</li> </ul>