

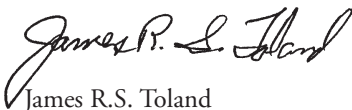
President's Letter

In the fiscal year 2007/08 which ended June 30, 2008, the RCD worked to achieve our mission by supporting agriculture and promoting natural resources education, planning, stewardship, restoration and scientific studies in collaboration with our conservation partners. Below are highlights of our activities this past year:

- In collaboration with NRCS, the RCD provided technical assistance and conservation information to farmers, ranchers, other landowners, educators, students, non-profit organizations and local, state and federal agencies. Some of the areas of assistance included watershed management, erosion control, irrigation water management, wildlife habitat, soils management, and Farm Bill conservation programs.
- In partnership with NRCS, the RCD assisted agricultural producers with implementing and monitoring Beneficial Management Practices to control soil erosion and improve the quality of irrigation runoff from their croplands.
- The RCD continues to partner with the Natural Heritage Institute and with other agencies to conduct outreach activities and educational programs in the lower Marsh Creek Watershed.
- The RCD initiated and is coordinating the Rodeo Creek Watershed Vision Planning program in West County.
- The RCD supported the Alhambra Creek Watershed groups and partners, which continue to implement and expand projects based on the watershed management plan that was published in April 2001.
- The RCDs California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) weather station continues to provide information about temperature, precipitation, and evapotranspiration for the Brentwood area to help local farmers use irrigation water efficiently.
- The RCD contributed to student education programs including the Contra Costa County Farm Bureaus "Ag in the Classroom," and sponsored two local students to attend the NRCS Range and Natural Resources Camp.
- The RCD hosted technical workshops including an Ag Water Quality Workshop, a Pollinator Workshop and an Identification and Management of Rangeland Weeds seminar.
- The RCD remained active members and sponsors of local resource management groups including the Alameda-Contra Costa Weed Management Area, the Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust of Contra Costa County, the Brentwood Ag Land Trust, the Diablo FireSafe Council, the Contra Costa Watershed Forum, the Contra Costa Special Districts Association and the Muir Heritage Land Trust.
- The RCD is actively involved in the Contra Costa County Ag Task Force, an advisory body that provides input and advice to the County on agricultural issues.
- The RCD participated in the Technical Advisory Group for the Reuse of the Concord Naval Weapons Station.
- The RCD participated in County initiatives such as the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan.

The sound use and management of our natural resources in Contra Costa County is the result of the commitment of private landowners, businesses, and public land managers in applying conservation practices on the ground. We look forward to continued progress in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



James R.S. Toland
President



RCD Board of Directors (l to r): Tom Bloomfield, Lisa Anich, Tom Brumleve, Dwight Meadows, Bill Morgan, Jim Toland, Igor Skaredoff, Bob Case.