



## Get involved in Your Community

**What is an RCD?** They are local units of government organized by local residents, appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. RCDs operate on the premise that local people know more about local problems than anyone else.

**What is the function of a RCD?** 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 user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources. Each RCD has their own priority tailored to their landowner's and community's needs. Many of the RCDs provide education and technical guidance in sustainable resource conservation and management to our communities, landowners, and managers; both current and future. Depending on the RCD, they may work on water issues, groundwater management, invasive weed eradication, urban sprawl, air quality, and/or topsoil depletion.

**How do these RCDs cover their costs?** Most RCDs in other parts of the state receive funds from their local tax base to operate; but when the RCDs of the San Joaquin Valley Region formed they decided to be all volunteer groups with no paid employees and would not draw from local taxes for funding; they apply for and receive grants and/or they have fundraisers during the year with 100% received funds going to operation costs or projects.

**Who is on the RCD Board?** The RCD is made up of community members or landowners who have knowledge and interest in Natural Resources, educating the community, and doing projects on the land. Membership is typically made up of local farmers, ranchers, educators, and business owners and they are always looking for new members to join them.

## Be a part of the bigger picture

The San Joaquin Valley Region of Resource Conservation Districts is made up of 20 Resource Conservation Districts in six counties from Merced to Bakersfield. These Special Districts in your county were formed due to a strong desire of local landowners to conserve soil and water resources.

### The Importance of Partnerships

RCDs and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) share common conservation goals and have a close working relationship. There is a NRCS field office with a local district conservationist assigned to RCDs to provide technical assistance, as well as act as a liaison between the district and federal programs. Local NRCS offices also frequently employ other specialists, such as soil conservationists and engineers, to provide technical assistance to RCDs. Additionally, as a federal entity, NRCS can assist in establishing RCDs (or TCDs) on Tribal Lands.

- ☼ California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
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### Resource Conservation Districts

RCDs make available technical, financial, & educational resources & coordinate them to meet the needs of local land users for the conservation of soil, water, & related natural resources.

# RCD



## We can get it done!

Originally RCDs were empowered to manage soil and water resources for conservation purposes; however, these powers were expanded in the early 1970s to include “related resources,” such as fish and wildlife habitat. Today, RCDs manage a variety of resource conservation projects, including soil and water conservation, wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration, control of exotic or non-native / invasive plant species, watershed restoration, conservation planning and many others. RCDs also provide educational outreach on these programs to landowners, schools, and community organizations.

Resource Conservation Districts in your county are looking for interested people to get involved in their community. Each RCD is governed by a five-member board and are always looking for new members and associate members with energy and ideas in Natural Resource Conservation.

**RCD**

## RCDs in Fresno County

There are seven RCDs in and partially in Fresno County. Sierra RCD is the solitary RCD in Eastern Fresno County. In Western Fresno County there are Westside RCD, Tranquillity RCD, and James RCD. In addition, Western Fresno County is also home to Firebaugh RCD, Poso RCD, and Panoche RCD who are also partially in Merced County. These seven RCDs are located in the San Joaquin Valley Region. Resource Conservation Districts are considered special districts within the State of California and are locally-governed agencies with their own locally-appointed and independent board of directors.

