

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**RESOLUTION NO. R3-2020-0027**

**Resolution of Appreciation of Work Performed by the  
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County**

**Whereas**, uncontrolled nonpoint source pollution is a significant threat to Central Coast Region's streams and groundwater, and

- Use of best management practices and restoration techniques to address nutrients, sediment, and pesticide loading is an effective nonpoint source pollutant control approach, and
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) staff manages grant projects, including those administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program, and
- Central Coast Water Board staff assists with the development of Grant Program priorities, which include reducing nonpoint source pollutant discharges to the San Lorenzo River, Watsonville Slough, and the Pajaro River in Santa Cruz County, and
- The Central Coast Water Board's Grant Program priorities are aligned with the Nonpoint Source and Total Maximum Daily Load programs, such as the pollutant load allocations and numeric targets for sediment in the San Lorenzo River and sediment, nutrients, and pesticides in the Pajaro River watershed, and
- Central Coast Water Board staff participates in a state-wide selection committee that selects grantees based on alignment with the Central Coast Water Boards highest priorities as well as a set of established criteria in funding guidelines, including but not limited to: a qualified project team, adaptation to climate

change, and priorities for disadvantaged communities and the human right to water, and

- The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County proposes high priority projects aligned with the Central Coast Region's highest priorities, leverages funding opportunities and collaborates with non-profits, landowners, agencies, and consultants to implement a comprehensive watershed approach, and
- The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County uses streamlined permits, designs and implements rural road erosion control, home drainage improvements, manure management, on-farm source control and edge of field irrigated land management practices, such as irrigation and nutrient management practices and denitrifying bioreactor and pesticide reducing toxicity treatment systems, to improve water quality, and
- The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County restores habitats for the protection of aquatic health such as in Zayante Creek and has implemented phosphorous-rich sediment control practices to address toxic algal blooms in Pinto Lake, and
- The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County has been awarded millions of dollars of federal and state funded projects spanning twenty years, with approximately half of the 319(h) funds in the Central Coast Region in the last ten years being awarded to the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County for Programs such as Rural Roads and Livestock and Land, and
- The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County's participation and leadership in forums such as the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program, Integrated Regional Water Management, and the Central Coast Bioreactor Workgroup demonstrates initiative, collaboration and a commitment to water quality and restoration, and
- The Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County evaluates grant funded project outcomes to demonstrate quantitative pollutant load reductions and innovative management practices, which enables the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, Central Coast Water Board, and other stakeholder's to communicate the suite of options available to land

managers, landowners and operators in addressing water quality issues on the Central Coast and beyond.

**Therefore, be it resolved,** the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board commends the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County for its collaboration and effective use of best management practices and restoration techniques to improve water quality and restore aquatic habitat in high priority watersheds of Santa Cruz County.

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**John M. Robertson**

**Executive Officer**