

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard C. Brody
President

Nancy Helsley
Treasurer

Beth Burnam
Director

Laurie Price
Director

Riki Clark
Director

District Manager
Tracy Lovric

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

EIGHT-HUNDRED SIXTY-FIRST MEETING

Monday June 23, 2025—6:00 P.M.

Location: RCD District Office, 4505 Las Virgenes Road, Suite 215, Calabasas

The meeting can also be accessed remotely via Zoom. Members of the public are able to watch/listen to the meeting and provide comment at appropriate times by selecting this link:

<https://rcdscmm-org.zoom.us/j/83062285194?pwd=UG5hVlF4Z3NBRjNHR2RyWjNBclY2UT09>.

You may also join the meeting by dialing the following phone number: (669) 900-6833 and entering the meeting ID and passcode: **Meeting ID: 830 6228 5194 Meeting Passcode: 370601**

AGENDA

Information about, and copies of, supporting materials for agenda items are available for public review at the RCDSMM office at (818) 597-8627. A fee may be charged for copies.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This is the time set aside for those wishing to address the Board on matters which fall under the Board's jurisdiction. If the matter you address is not on the agenda, Directors may not discuss or take action on comments made here except to put the matter on the agenda, at their discretion, for a future Board meeting. If the matter you address is already on the agenda, the Board will consider your comments when making their decision. Each commenter will have a time limit of three minutes.

4. USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:

Summary of NRCS programs and activities by District Conservationists.

5. MINUTES: Approval of minutes for meeting on May 19, 2025.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTING: Presentation of expense & other reports, through May 2025

A. Report on Reserve Fund replenishment. (*verbal*)

7. REGULAR CALENDAR.

A. Vote on Associate Director application from Esther Feldman.

B. Approval of 2025-26 Budget.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

A. Staff Reports for April 2025:

- i. Clark Stevens, Director of Resource Design
- ii. Dan Cooper, Principal Conservation Biologist
- iii. Rosi Dagit, Principal Conservation Biologist
- iv. Marilyn Brody French, Director of Education
- v. Shelly Backlar, Director of Community Resilience

9. DISTRICT MANAGER'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Presentation by Rosi Dagit on Biology team post fire work.
- B. Request to establish a board funding subcommittee.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

12. CLOSED SESSION

- A. District Manager upcoming review

Persons with disabilities may contact the Administrative Operations Manager at 818/597-8627 at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting to request receipt of an agenda in an alternative format or to request disability-related accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent feasible.

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Minutes

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** This meeting was called to order by President R.C. Brody at 6:01 PM. A quorum was established with Directors Richard Brody, Riki Clark and Laurie Price with Director Nancy Helsley arriving in person at 6:16 PM. Director Beth Burnam joined virtually. Also in attendance were Associate Director Dennis Washburn, District Manager Tracy Lovric, Administrative Operations Manager Lisa Rand and Controller Art Renzi. Principal Conservation Biologist Dan Cooper joined via Zoom.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Brooks Engelhardt (NRCS) and Principal Conservation Biologist Dan Cooper joined virtually.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None
4. **USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT:** Mr. Engelhardt presented a summary of current programs being offered in the district including conservations stewardships program and water quality conservation plans. Mr. Engelhardt noted most of his current time is being directed at environmental analysis
5. **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes from meeting on April 25, 2025. The Board reviewed the minutes and voted to approve them as presented. President R.C. Brody motioned to approve. Ms. Price/Ms. Clark approved 3-0 (Mrs. Helsley not present for vote)
6. **FINANCIAL REPORTING:** Controller A. Renzi gave a presentation of the previous month's financials and noted that \$75K would be replenished to reserves pending receipt of April tax payments. A finance committee meeting was held on Monday May 12 to review the preliminary budget and salary steps. President R.C Brody requested to have balance sheets added to the board packets after audits are caught up as well as list of the districts reserve accounts. Controller A. Renzi also noted that he is in the process of setting up an in-house check scanner to remove the need to go into a bank to make deposits.

7. REGULAR CALENDAR.

- A. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding to enter into an agreement with the Special District Risk Management Authority for the purpose of enrolling in the PRISM Employee Small Group Program. Ms. Clark/Ms. Helsey approved 4-0
- B. Discussion on the districts Associate Director applications and processes. President R.C. Brody made the board aware that there is interest from a community member who resides outside of the district's boundaries, Esther Feldman, to serve as an Associate Director on the Board. The district's Board of Directors Manual has been updated but has not yet been adopted with unclear guidance on the process of appointing Associate Directors. The discussion resulted in an agreement to accept an application for Mrs. Feldman and to have a vote at the next regular board meeting. Board Secretary Mrs. Rand requested that the board personnel committee review the updated Board of Director's Manual so it can be added to a future regular agenda for adoption.

8. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS: Staff Reports for April 2025 were presented in a board packet.

9. DISTRICT MANAGER'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: District Manager Tracy Lovric gave a verbal report on current grants in development and recent meetings attended. Principal Conservation Biologist Dan Cooper gave a presentation on various programs that he heads including the district's "Fee for Service" services and raptor survey that is done in partnership with Friends of Griffith Park.

10. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

11. ADJOURNMENT: This meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM Ms. Price/Ms. Helsey approved 4-0

12. CLOSED SESSION: District Manager upcoming review; Open 7:19 PM/Closed 8:01 PM

Submitted By: _____
Lisa Rand, Administrative Operations Manager

Date: _____

Approved By: _____
R.C. Brody, president, Board of Directors

Date: _____

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Associate Director Policy

Approved by the Board of Directors on April 24, 2017

I. PURPOSE

The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. In addition to the five Directors, the RCDSMM encourages participation of selected community members with an interest in resource conservation and environmental education, giving them the title Associate Directors. The purpose of these additional associate members is to expand the collective knowledge of the Board and by extension the District's operations, activities and programs. All parties interested in applying for an Associate Director position should have a demonstrated interest in resource conservation and/or environmental education.

II. APPOINTMENT

- A. **Application:** Prospective Associate Directors shall submit to the Executive Officer of the District an application consisting of a resume and a summary of areas of interest, or fill out the form attached to this policy.
- B. **Appointment:** Associate Directors shall be appointed by the President of the Board, on nomination of any member of the Board, and with the concurrence of the Board. An Associate Directorship may be revoked at any time by a vote of the Board.

III. PRIVILEGES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE

- A. **Meeting Attendance:** Associate Directors are encouraged to attend all regular meetings of the Board. Associate Directors who have not attended at least four regular meetings of the Board during a calendar year may be deemed, at the discretion of the Board, as having resigned their positions.
- B. **Privileges:** Associate Directors shall serve as ex-officio members of the Board without voting power; shall receive agendas, packets and minutes of all Board meetings; shall be entitled to participate in discussions of the Board at meetings; and may be paid mileage and expenses when authorized by the Board and on District business.
- C. **Duties:** Associate Directors are expected to support and represent the RCD above and beyond the monthly Board meetings. In addition, Associate Directors' activities should complement and reinforce the Long Range and Annual work plans. Associate

Directors may, when so designated by the Board, represent the District at meetings of other agencies and organizations, and shall report to the Board on their District-related activities.

- D. **Limitations:** The Associate Director position shall be completely voluntary with no compensation, and shall not have the right to vote, nor function as an alternate for any Director. Also, Associate Director's must receive Board permission before using their RCDSMM title at public forums of any kind or on any written material, physical or electronic, that advocates for any cause, position or candidate as interpreted by the Board, violation of which may, at the Board's discretion, be cause to revoke the title.
- E. **Conflict of Interest:** Associate Directors shall at all times comply with the Conflict of Interest laws and policies applicable to Directors, including the requirement to file Form 700- Statements of Economic Interests.

The undersigned acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the above policy, and hereby applies for appointment as an Associate Director of the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Signature Esther Feld Date: May 29, 2025

Print Name: Esther Feldman Phone: 310-890-0424

APPLICATION TO SERVE AS AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

DATE: May 30, 2025

NAME: Esther Feldman

ADDRESS: 2311 Penmar Ave.

TELEPHONE: 310-890-0424

E-MAIL: esther@feldman-consulting.com

1. What is your interest in serving as an Associate Director?

I am an enthusiastic supporter of the RCDSMM's work, and of RCDs throughout CA. I believe that my multi-faceted professional expertise in the conservation, policy, political and public finance sectors would be of great benefit to the natural habitats, watersheds, wildlife and people in the District, especially given the many environmental, climate, and political challenges at this time. I am deeply familiar with the Santa Monica Mountains and other areas of the District, and care deeply about these places. I would like to be of service to these lands and to both the human and natural communities that call these places home. I am on the Board of the CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD), and would provide an additional link between local, regional and statewide matters affecting the RCDSMM.

2. Please provide information regarding your background in natural resources, environmental issues, outdoor education, etc.

I have worked for four decades in the natural resources and conservation sectors throughout California, Los Angeles County, and nationwide. My work has included environmental policy; state, county and local legislation; land acquisition and habitat restoration; securing private and public funding; ballot measures and public finance; community engagement; design and planning; and public and government relations. My work has created over \$3 billion in new public funding for a wide range of habitat, mountain, coastal, river, urban park, trails and other purposes. On a personal level, I love best being outdoors, and am an avid explorer, hiker, backpacker, climber, creek-explorer, kayaker, skier, and naturalist.

My professional focus is on developing science-based and community-focused solutions to environmental challenges, particularly at the intersections of natural and human communities. I have experience in building and leading multi-disciplinary teams of scientists, engineers, designers, planners,

and community leaders to develop plans and solutions. Every project I have directed has included innovative nature-focused education communications, both of communities, funders, public agencies, and elected officials.

I launched and directed Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) for 23 years, a non-profit that led the acquisition of the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, after 200 community meetings and in coordination with multiple public agencies; led design of the Big Canyon Creek Restoration Project in Upper Newport Bay, now under development; and led the creation of the Upper LA River Greenway and Habitat Restoration in Studio City. CCS' ten-year Green Solutions Project focused on developing nature-based solutions to stormwater and urban runoff in watersheds throughout LA County by linking stormwater conveyance infrastructure with public lands, and resulted in the Stormwater _____ Act in 2016 (Senator Fran Pavley). The Green Solutions created an innovative approach to integrating multiple datasets on soils, infiltration, stormwater infrastructure, public lands, and community needs within the Santa Monica Bay and Upper Los Angeles River Watersheds. The resulting web-based tool identified 500 priority sites for stormwater capture, storage and re-use in the Upper LA River Watershed. This data could be very helpful to the RCDSMM in the District's future endeavors.

My background includes:

- B.S. in Soil and Water Science, UC Davis
- 16 years living in the Santa Monica Mountains (Solstice Canyon and Malibu Canyon/Monte Nido)
- Planning and Conservation League, Prop. 70, CA Parks and Wildlife Act
- 6 years working for the MRCA/SMMC: led first acquisitions along the LA River Greenway
- 4 years establishing the Trust for Public Land's LA office and National Conservation Public Finance Program. Led LA River acquisitions, including Superfund site. Re-launched Mountains Education Program.
TPL's National Public Finance Program has created over \$35 billion in new conservation funding throughout the U.S.
- Conceived of and led the two LA County Propositions A (1992 and 1996), totaling \$1.6 billion for parks, mountains, rivers, beaches, recreation throughout LA County, now a permanent \$100 million per year for parks, recreation, and open space.
The Props. A provided over \$100 million for the Santa Monica Mountains.
- 10 years developing the web-based 'Green Solutions' tool for data-based selection of project sites for nature-based stormwater capture, storage and re-use in the Upper LA River Watershed, with 500 publicly-owned sites evaluated and ranked.
- Three years on the LA County Planning Commission, including Chair for one year

3. What other knowledge/skills can you share with the District?

- Strategic "out-of-the-box" visioning and planning, short to long-term

- Familiarity with local, state and federal public agencies; processes; staff and Boards of Directors; elected officials
- Water supply and water quality regulatory bodies
- In-depth knowledge of LA County and cities' stormwater and urban runoff conveyance infrastructure
- Development of strong organizational infrastructure and procedures
- Skilled in identifying gaps, evaluating problems and implementing solution-focused actions
- Understanding of civic, political and environmental contexts
- Small to large-scale perspective
- Communications, publications, public relations, and great visual PowerPoint presentations
- Have visited every city in LA County at least twice
- Over 30 years of hiking, creeking, and exploring most of the Santa Monica, San Gabriel, and Santa Susana Mountains, as well as the foothills in Ventura County
- Coaching and team-building

4. Do you foresee any direct or in-direct conflicts of interest you may have in serving as an Associate Director (this is not a disqualification; it allows us to avoid ethics violations by being aware of their possibility)?

No.



2311 Penmar Avenue
Venice, California 90291
310-929-7770
esther@feldman-consulting.com

Esther Feldman, Principal

310-890-0424

esther@feldman-consulting.com

Esther Feldman has pioneered innovative conservation projects and public finance initiatives throughout California and the U.S. for over three decades, focused on the intersection of people, nature and water. She has a track record of successfully guiding visionary ideas from conception to reality, and of leveraging significant funding from multiple sources. Her work has permanently improved California's landscapes, protected and restored natural areas, provided metrics-based approaches to managing stormwater runoff, and continues to improve the lives of people from all walks of life.

As Principal of Feldman Consulting, she brings a strategic and pragmatic approach to assist clients with challenging projects in the public conservation sector, and to help advance climate resilience and ecological sustainability. She provides a broad range of technical, scientific, land use, policy, public finance, community engagement, and political expertise. She is adept at securing funding from government agencies, foundations and private funders; working with communities, elected officials and agencies; and building diverse coalitions to achieve community and conservation goals. She provides training and coaching to assist community-based organizations in building the skills necessary to plan, fund and lead projects to success.

She is responsible for generating **over \$3 billion in new public funds** for park, recreation and conservation purposes in California and throughout the U.S. She started in 1988 with the Planning and Conservation League, helping to direct the successful citizen's initiative for the \$776 million California Parks and Wildlife Act (Prop. 70). She led state legislation to create a new local public finance method, which in 1992 and 1996 allowed her to write and direct two Los Angeles County Park Acts (Props. A), creating over \$1.6 billion, leading to the permanent \$100 million annually for parks and conservation in L.A. County. This has resulted in purchasing, restoring and improving thousands of parks, beaches, natural areas, cultural institutions, rivers and trails – and has created jobs throughout the regional economy.

In 1995, she helped to launch revitalization of the L.A. River, leading multiple river-side land acquisitions on behalf of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC). The SMMC is now a nationally-recognized leader in urban river revitalization, and continues to create the 51-mile Los Angeles River Greenway.

At the Trust for Public Land (TPL), Ms. Feldman established TPL's **National Public Finance Conservation Program**, which has since created over \$35 billion in new conservation funding throughout the United States. She established and directed TPL's **Los Angeles Field Office**, pioneering TPL's national presence in creating urban parks in the 1990s, including purchasing land and negotiating for the clean-up of a Superfund site along the L.A. River in the City of Maywood.



As Founder and President of the non-profit Community Conservation Solutions (CCS), Ms. Feldman spearheaded the **Baldwin Hills Park** in the heart of urban Los Angeles, **leveraging over \$80 million** in public funds for one of the most park-poor and ethnically diverse areas of California to purchase the stunning **Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook**, now one of the most visited natural parks in L.A. County. This work led to the creation of the state-funded Baldwin Hills Conservancy.

To tackle the challenge of capturing and re-using stormwater runoff, Ms. Feldman led CCS' **Green Solutions Project**, a web-based decision-making tool integrating data on a watershed scale. This 'green infrastructure' tool identifies where we can re-connect public lands and stormwater conveyance pipes and channels to transform runoff into a source of sustainable water supplies. CCS' Green Solutions tool was the model for the CA Stormwater Resources Planning Act in 2014 (Pavley), leveraging \$200 million in new state funding.

Focusing on a **top priority 'Green Solution infrastructure' site** in one of the top 1% most polluted communities in California, CCS partnered with Legacy LA to create a community-based plan for the **'Pollution Solution' Natural Park at the Ramona Gardens Housing Development**. The Natural Park integrates stormwater capture, air quality and ecosystem science, native habitat restoration and recreation to transform a barren site between residences and 15-lanes of freeway. This project is advancing with a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department.

Ms. Feldman led construction of the first-of-its kind **Zev Yaroslavsky L.A. River Greenway Trail** in the San Fernando Valley, creating an **ecosystem-focused model for habitat restoration** along concrete-lined urban rivers in Southern California. This native habitat, walking trail and stormwater runoff project in Studio City planted over 3,000 native trees and plants and linked river segments to create the longest continuous river walking trail in the Valley.

Ms. Feldman has been a member of numerous Boards of Directors, been awarded a National Chevron Conservation Award, was a delegate to China for the American Young Political Leaders Foreign Exchange Program, and was a member of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission, with a jurisdiction of over 3,000 square miles.

She has received numerous commendations from elected officials, environmental, urban planning organizations and others, including The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the California State Senate and State Assembly, the LA County Board of Supervisors, and the LA City Council and Los Angeles Mayors.

Ms. Feldman has a Bachelor of Science in Soil and Water Science from the University of California, Davis. She was an organic farmer, and is an accomplished outdoorswoman with decades of experience in backpacking, rock climbing, skiing, wilderness travel, kayaking and outdoor adventures.

June 2025 Report
Clark Stevens, Architect
Director of Resource Design

District Boundary expansion:

- No activity this month

SMBRC Board and Executive Committee (Alternate):

- no activity this month

SoLA Connectivity Master Plan (Project Director and architect):

- by weekly meeting with project team/partners including City/County
- Team Subcontracting efforts with Project Manager and Planning consultant
- Meetings with Resource Design staff
- Meeting with TPL on Interface Conservation Fund determined that TPL will take the project on in support of RCD to develop the fund.

Newhall Wildlife Passage Project:

- Caltrans PID, consulting and internal team progress meetings, design staff coord
- Design development meetings regarding selection of primary design concept from the two locations/types prior to completion of PID phase.
- Took calls and assisted AVRCD and TEAM RCD staff in pre-development of wildlife passage projects at request of WCB

Topanga Lagoon Restoration (Principal Architect/Master Plan):

- Final Design and post-fire design revision coordination regarding DPR programming
- Communications and response to questions from PM

Manzanita School (project director and architect):

- Client and design team coordination for final design workshop

Seminole Springs-Sierra Creek/tributaries restoration plan (Project Director, Architect):

- Completed draft final engineering report and reviewed to establish feasibility of two design alternatives, a flow-through stream restoration concept and an enhanced reservoir replacement concept per client direction
- Completed TAC meeting #2 to evaluate engineering modeling results; TAC selected the stream restoration "flow-through" design alternative for final report
- Directed work of environmental designer
- Conducted Community Workshop to present engineering and design selection criteria and receive input for 15% conceptual design deliverable
- Developed 15% conceptual landscape restoration and community access design for the selected alternative

Wildfire Resilience grants (NFWF Architect):

- Request from Mark Gold of UCLA for authoring recommendations for Supervisor Horvath's Palisades Fire Blue Ribbon Committee on "Wildland Recovery" section. Meeting with staff to gather recommendations; draft text and review meetings, edits
- Continued garden typology task consultant, initiated type 1 design
- Received responses to RFP for demo site garden construction bids with cost proposals
- Received request for revisions to approved designs from Fire Chief; reviewed and coordinated with garden designer, and incorporated requests into revised west garden and adjusted for budget considerations based on cost proposals received
- Planning meetings with Community Resilience Director and project managers
- Southern Steelhead Coalition Post-Fire meeting

Other Resource Design Department updates

- Presented wildlife connectivity design work at Liberty Canyon, Newhall Pass, and South LA County at International Conference on Environment and Transportation in Denver
- Presented on Integrated Resource Design department work for staff "Brown Bag"
- Represented RCDSMM at LVMWD Water Supply Workshop- represented distributed water capture and reuse, wildfire resilience, and protection of instream flows and natural resource aquifer protection

April 2025 Board Report

Dan Cooper, Principal Conservation Biologist

June 5, 2025

Bio/Restoration/Resource Design

- Work continued on the Los Angeles Raptor Study (joint project with RCDSMM and Friends of Griffith Park).
- Initiated Hollywood Bowl bio-survey (repeat from work done by CEM, Inc. in 2010, 2015).
- Worked on various small projects for clients, including Trust for Public Land acquisition near Saddle Peak, and surveys for nesting birds.
- Developed new projects, including redesign of Malibu Playhouse (along PCH in Pt. Dume).
- Worked with local groups on letter on fuel breaks and their restoration, and developing new wording for website to respond to recent changes in vegetation management guidelines.
- Worked with Alyssa Morgan and got manuscript on Topanga SP oak woodland restoration accepted!

Misc.

- Attended “urban biodiversity roundtable” with several colleagues at UC Berkeley (5/20)
- Advised local artist/UCLA professor on LA River project (5/22)
- Continuing as a University Lecturer, at UCLA (IoES) and CSULB (Ornithology) – not part of RCDSMM billing.

May 2025
Rosi Dagit
Research and Restoration

Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning 3226

Prepared monthly report. Coordinated new work plan and budget tracking with Kara. Supervised water quality testing. Assisted Jamie and Danielle on visitor services elements. Setup and ran monthly SWAMP survey at Topanga Lagoon. Coordinated annual stream surveys but unable to do Upper Topanga reach due to unstable slopes and dangerous conditions.

CDFW Topanga Lagoon CEQA Grant 3238

Worked on note to file to adjust line item amounts and discussed modifying deliverables to match what is available. Continued public outreach efforts.

WCB Topanga Lagoon Grant 3247 Part 1

Prepared monthly report and invoice. Coordinated with MN and Caltrans regarding project report, design, and landowner agreement. Project Team coordination calls. Reviewed invoicing and reporting. Monitoring for the geotechnical borings provided and coordination of contractor passes and access. Worked with SCE regarding coordination of undergrounding with Topanga project. Danielle supervised extensive permitting for the geotechnical work.

CDPR Malibu Snorkel Survey 3244

Prepared invoice and monthly report, reviewed data. Snorkel survey done and HOBOS deployed. No steelhead observed. Still planning longitudinal mapping in June.

CDFW Genetic Conservation Plan 3243 CDFW

Prepared monthly report. Edison High School holding facility in progress. Coordinated permit revision and edits.

WCB Oak Restoration 3248

No action this month.

Topanga Elementary School Oak Violation Contract 3246

Submitted revisions to the County.

WCB Topanga Lagoon Grant 3251 Part 2

Prepared invoice and monthly rpt. Calls with Caltrans, MN and Project team to coordinate next steps. MN conceptual design continued. Focus meetings with Caltrans and MN team regarding bridge design.

Topanga Snorkel 3252 CDPR

Continued breach monitoring and lagoon remains mostly connected.

Fire Response 3117

Worked with USFWS to coordinate on-going care of tidewater gobies, experiment to treat the fungal infection concludes end of May, received genetic analysis results from UCLA. Conducted site visits to document Topanga Creek conditions and supervised water quality collection to contribute to SCCWRP project which is collating all WQ data. Meeting on data sharing coming in June. Waiting for results from sediment samples. Continued monitoring Topanga Creek and Topanga Canyon Blvd. conditions.

Horvath Social Program Grant 3257

Malibu survey will happen in June with data entry/management to follow in July.

NEW PROJECT DEVELOPMENT 1009

- Assisted Danielle with Topanga Lagoon grant proposals for FRGP
- Assisted Dan with development of bulldozer impacts
- Assisted Isaac with development of amphibian/herp post fire assessment proposal

GENERAL DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued conversations about transition of my supervisory work to Danielle and others.
- Provided guidance to LA COUNTY Living Shoreline Project Feasibility study.
- Provided info that Jamis shared at the Board meeting re Topanga Canyon Blvd. updates
- Worked with Art on budget and invoicing issues
- Met with Lisa and Tracy re staffing issues

To: Board of Directors, RCDSMM
From: Marilyn Brody French, Director of Education
Re: Education Department Report May 2025

Virtual Education Programs

of programs delivered: 0

- teacher feedback received from spring series with rio collected, very positive and interested in continuing next school year

Field Education Programs

of programs delivered: 6

- Malibu Lagoon, Tapia Park (self-paid groups)
- Sepulveda Basin funded by San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
- Partnership with National Parks Service allows for transportation coverage

Special Programs

- 1 on campus program for school who could not secure transportation

WiLD CiTY Workshops

of programs delivered: 1

- Blue Butterfly Lab with local conservation scientist Jana Johnson at the Moorpark Teaching Zoo

Staff Management

- preparations for end of year educator appreciation potluck

CCC Watershed Stewards Program (AmeriCorps partner)

- Decided to not continue with the WSP program for 2025-26

Funding Development

- Safe Clean Water Grant commenced
- Applied for Malibu City GF
- Conversations with Jane Goodall's Institute's Roots & Shoots youth program
- Planning fall fundraiser for ed programs targeting individuals/corporations, campaign to include short video of outdoor ed programs and "menu" of funding opportunities

June 23, 2025, Board Report, Community Resilience Department

Shelly Backlar, Community Resilience Director

Project Manager: Newhall Wildlife Crossing and South LA Habitat Connectivity Master Plan

May update

Newhall Wildlife Crossing- WCB grant

- We have had three Caltrans PID meetings and are making progress.
- We will meet with the County Department of Public Works to discuss the Gavin Canyon Undercrossing alternative, a viable option on DPW road jurisdiction.
- We will submit our PRS/PEAR document or Caltrans review before July 1 and expect to complete the PID process by the end of 2026.

Community Resilience- Various grants. CR Team:

- On Friday May 23rd and Saturday May 24th we held our Community Wildfire Training session, led by Pat Durland at the Calabasas Community Center, to rave reviews. You can view the recordings here until the end of June:
- <https://vimeo.com/1088191028/ad5f655f69?share=copy>
<https://vimeo.com/1088192983/0183c5e112?share=copy>
 - 3 ret. LA Co. Fire officials stayed the whole time (J Lopez, Richard Snyder and Michael Dyer).
 - 83 participated on Friday evening (46 in person and 37 on Zoom)
 - 54 participated on Saturday (35 in person and 19 on Zoom)
 - 41 people participated in the structure analysis and received a Certificate of Completion.
 - We are planning another for September or October
- On Friday morning, May 23, the CR staff met with Keegan Gibbs from the Community Brigade and Pat to talk about refining our HIZ Evaluation programs and potential partnerships going forward.
- Richard Ulyate from Topanga Fire Safe Council has been promoting our programs and we are seeing a large increase in HIZ Evaluation sign-ups.

Urban Wildlife Connectivity Plan for South Los Angeles County Master Plan

- We meet weekly with a CORE group of RCD, Stillwater Sciences, Occidental College, LA City and County representatives to work through the Science approach – focal species, ecotopes, boundaries, connectivity modeling and outreach strategy.
- The RCD is creating a detailed Outreach, Engagement and Media Plan for the project.
 - We intend to meet internally in July to create a schedule and plan for a webpage plus email and social media communications.
 - Both LA County and City have shared lists they have used recently in their outreach efforts.

MRCA HIZ Capacity Building Grant

- We received the signed Grant Agreement from the MRCA.
- We are currently refining our budget and SOW for the \$750,000, 2 year grant.