

**Central Modoc Resource Conservation District  
Technical & Financial Assistance for Conservation Projects  
Policies**

**CMRCD TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY**

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District (CMRCD) is committed to the service of all landowners in our district for the purposes of better conservation of our natural and agricultural resources. With your commitment to cooperate, our directors and staff will work with you to find solutions to your conservation problems.

CMRCD's mission is fourfold:

- To facilitate the sound management of our natural resources through local control.
- To foster partnerships that achieve integrated long-term cultural, economic and environmental health of our watershed.
- To implement conservation projects with willing landowners.
- To educate landowners and the general public about sustainable resource management

Technical assistance programs and projects of Central Modoc Resource Conservation District (CMRCD) may address any issue relating to natural or agricultural resources allowed by State law (Public Resource Code, Div. 9). Proposals that would entail actions not allowed by Div. 9 cannot be sponsored by CMRCD or any California RCD. Examples of projects allowed by Div. 9 include, but are not limited to:

Stream and wetland restoration and enhancement  
Fish and Wildlife habitat enhancement, and habitat conservation plans  
Projects to improve water quality or water use efficiency  
Range improvements and noxious weed treatments  
Fuels management and wildfire prevention  
Conservation planning for landowners  
Stream and water quality monitoring  
Conservation Easements

... and many more. All are invited to bring new ideas. CMRCD's services are available to all on an equal opportunity basis, without discrimination due to race, creed or ethnic origin. All applications will be considered on the technical merits of the proposal and the relevance of the proposal to the District's mission and goals.

All of CMRCD's programs are 100% grant funded. Our grants can be obtained only after we have firm cooperating agreements with landowners.

**So that we may provide fair service to all, CMRCD shall apply the following technical assistance policy to all proposals for cooperating agreements brought before the district:**

1. APPLICATION: All who wish to request assistance must submit an "Application for Technical Assistance" to the CMRCD Board of Directors. By submitting this application, you grant CMRCD directors, staff and contractors permission to enter your property for the purpose of assessing your conservation problems. Landowners will be notified of each proposed visit to the site. No representative of CMRCD will enter any private property without this permission.

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Who may Apply: Any landowner or landowner's designated representative may apply for CMRCD technical and financial assistance. Applicants that are not the owners or fully authorized legal trustees of affected lands must provide written authorization from the landowner to represent the landowner in the application. Cooperating agreements must be signed by the landowner.

2. STAFF REVIEW: All applications may be reviewed by CMRCD staff, and applicants will receive staff assistance in providing the necessary information, if such assistance is desired. Applicants may also present applications directly to the Board of Directors at any regularly scheduled board meeting.

3. PRESENTATION TO DIRECTORS: Applicants must attend a regular public meeting of the CMRCD Board of Directors to discuss their application. All successful applicants must then attend at least one regular public meeting of the CMRCD Board of Directors per year for the life of the approved project, in order to update the Directors on the project.

4. DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL ENCUMBRANCES: Applicants must disclose any outstanding legal actions or environmental mitigation requirements currently in force on their land. *note: Legal actions will not necessarily preclude RCD assistance. The RCD can assist with developing compliance plans that may have resulted from enforcement actions, but cannot use most grant fund sources to implement required compliance measures.*

5. CONSERVATION PLANNING: Applicants must present to the directors a current farm, ranch or land conservation plan for any property upon which a proposed conservation project is to be implemented. Plans need not be complete at the time of application, but must be approved by the CMRCD Directors before any project fund raising or implementation can begin.

Applicants must agree to maintain that plan for the agreed life of any project that was the subject of CMRCD technical Assistance. Copies of the plan will be kept on file with CMRCD. Acceptable conservation plans include, but are not limited to:

- NRCS approved conservation plans
- Contracts with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
- Contracts with the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game Wildlife Conservation Board
- Plans developed with UC Farm Advisors under the Calif. Rangeland Water Quality Management Plan
- Plans developed by landowners in cooperation with CMRCD staff

6. PROJECT MONITORING: Applicants agree to cooperate with CMRCD Directors and staff to initiate site assessment and monitoring (as developed under Policy 5) at the project area in order to allow project planning and to document changes at the site resulting from subsequent management actions.

7. PROJECT FUNDING

7a. PROJECT FUNDING SEARCH: CMRCD will assist landowners in seeking funds for project implementation. Various state, federal and private grant sources may be pursued. CMRCD staff will work with applicants to find funding sources for proposed projects, and will present all funding requirements to the applicants for each potential funding source. Each funding source has different requirements for eligibility, matching funds, project maintenance, etc., but all require a certain level of commitment from the landowner. These requirements may include, but are not limited to, stipulations regarding:

- Term of Maintenance.

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Level of Maintenance.

Repayment of costs in case of lack of maintenance or land sale.

Provision for transference of maintenance agreement to new landowners.

Access for out year project monitoring and assessment of long-term effects.

Project funding will be contingent upon terms and conditions that depend on any given funding source.

**Applicants may decline any potential funding source for any reason. Rejection of a funding source by a landowner does not preclude continued cooperation in the search for new funding opportunities.**

7b. PROJECT FUNDING APPLICATION: Upon determination that a potential funding source is acceptable for both the applicant and CMRCD, the applicant will agree in writing to accept the terms and conditions of that particular funding source before CMRCD will pursue those funds.

7c. DOCUMENTATION OF PROJECT COSTS: A budget of project costs, including all sources of cash and in-kind contributions, will be developed and reviewed by the landowner(s) and CMRCD before implementation. Copies of project reports and costs will be provided by CMRCD and the landowner.

8. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE: Central Modoc Resource Conservation District is required to observe all pertinent laws and regulations regarding project sponsorship, including environmental regulations. CMRCD, in agreeing to sponsor conservation projects with applicants, will accept the lead role in environmental compliance. This role will help protect the applicant from liability for regulatory problems that may arise in the course of project implementation. In turn, applicants must agree to observe environmental laws and regulations in the project area for the life of the project.

All CMRCD projects are subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires public disclosure of any project plans. In applying for CMRCD assistance, applicants agree to allow CMRCD to take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with CEQA, including, but not necessarily limited to public announcement of project plans and public meetings to present project plans.

9. PRIVACY POLICY: Plans and monitoring data will be the property of the landowner(s). Copies of all conservation plans, monitoring data, cooperating agreements, etc. will remain on file with CMRCD, and will not be released to any person or agency without the consent of the landowners. CMRCD will use the plans and data to compile local and regional land use information for the purpose of watershed planning and reports, but will not identify individual landowners in these reports.

10: PARTNERSHIPS: The success of CMRCD's projects depends on the teamwork of many cooperating partners from the public and private sector. CMRCD will recruit assistance from any available source to make a project viable, but all partnerships will be subject to landowner approval.

11. COOPERATING AGREEMENTS: Prior to finalization of any cooperating agreement CMRCD will explain to applicants all of the policies discussed above, including CEQA requirements.

Applicants will be required to accept, in writing, the CMRCD policies as explained and described in this document, as well as the requirements of any grant fund source.

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The cooperating agreement will specify management actions to be undertaken by the applicant and tasks to be undertaken by CMRCD or any other cooperating stakeholders. Applicants agree to participate in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of any resulting projects.