



AMADOR RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Time: 4:15pm - 6:00pm **Location:** 12200-B Airport Rd, Jackson CA 95642

Virtual attendance via video conference available via Microsoft Teams:

Meeting Link: <https://shorturl.at/HUAOb> Meeting ID: 253 928 575 091 9 Passcode: Kf6XX9aA

ARCD Directors: Steve Cannon, Dan Port, Dr. Kelsi Williams, Amber Gardner

Associate Director: Kent Reeves

Executive Director: Amanda Watson

Approval of agenda for this date, and any and all off-agenda items, must be approved by the Board of Directors Pursuant to Para 5495.2 of the government code. Oral communications by the public for items not appearing on the agenda consideration of "emergency or "subsequent need" items not appearing on the agenda cal. gov't code 54954.2(b)(2).

Item #	Topic
1	Public Comment: The Board of Directors is limited by State law to providing a brief response, asking questions for clarification, or referring a matter to staff when responding to items not listed on the agenda.
2	Consent Agenda*: The following items are expected to be routine/non-controversial. Items will be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Any Board member may request that any item be removed for later discussion. 1. Approval of Agenda 2. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: Aug Board Meeting 3. SAWQA Report 4. Financial Report
3	Warrant Summary*- <i>Dana Simpson</i>
4	NRCS Report – <i>Dagoberto Osorio</i>
5	Chipping Services Contract Award*- <i>Amanda Watson/Cailin McLaughlin*</i>
6	Executive Director Report – <i>Amanda Watson</i>
7	Education Committee – Speak-off Update Forestry Challenge Sponsorship *
8	Organization Development Committee Update – <i>Amanda Watson</i>
9	Board Recruitment
10	Adjourn
Next ARCD Board of Directors Meeting: November 10th, 2026, 4:15 - 6pm	

***ACTION ITEM**

Minutes for Regular Board Meeting of 11 August 2026

Present: Directors Cannon, Gardner, and Port
Participating Virtually: Director Williams (caregiving exception)
Staff: Dana Simpson (DS), Amanda Watson (AW)

Director Cannon called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda*

The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Past Meeting Minutes: July Board Meeting
- SAWQA Report
- Financial Report

**Motion: To approve the Consent Agenda by Director Port, seconded by Director Gardner.
All in favor. Motion Passed.**

Warrant Summary*

DS presented Warrant 26-095.

Motion: To approve the Warrant Summary and Warrant 26-095 by Director Gardner, seconded by Director Port.

All in favor. Motion Passed.

NRCS Report

Dagoberto Osorio provided a written report.

Program updates included:

- 8 EQIP applications
- 7 CSP applications
- 3 RCPP projects

Total of 18 projects representing \$2,215,960.52 in funding across approximately 13,215.1 acres.

Local Working Group Meeting

The Board discussed the upcoming Local Working Group (LWG) meeting requirement. NRCS and the RCD must hold an LWG meeting by September 1, 2026.

NRCS Reorganization Update

Dag reported that NRCS recently held an area meeting where Carlos provided updates regarding the statewide reorganization effort. Under the proposed structure, the Jackson office will become part of a community that includes Stockton and Elk Grove. One Supervisory District Conservationist will oversee all three offices.

Review and Approval of FYE 2023 and FYE 2024 Audits*

DS presented the Fiscal Year End 2023 and Fiscal Year End 2024 audits for Board review.

Motion: To approve the FYE 2023 and FYE 2024 audits by Director Port, seconded by Director Gardner. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Consideration of Continued Community Garden Support*

Director Williams requested that the Board revisit the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) related to support of the Community Garden, as multiple organizations now utilize the space.

AW provided background on the ARCD's historical support, primarily related to water service. AW also noted that ARCD is currently utilizing the propagation house for activities associated with the Wildlife Conservation Board Pollinator Grant. Otherwise, district involvement with the garden has been limited in recent years. The Board discussed whether the existing MOU should be revisited and whether conversations with the Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT) should occur as part of the strategic planning process. Given the potential for increased engagement through staff connections and future programming opportunities, the Board agreed to revisit the topic with MLLT and return for discussion at a future meeting.

Speak-Off Contest Discussion*

- The regional meeting was held the previous week, where participants voted to increase contest award amounts.
- Director Cannon will reach out to the Advanced Drama program at the local high school to determine student interest in participating.
- Todd and Cailin are available to meet with potential participants to help explain the role of Resource Conservation Districts and provide contest guidance.

Request to Reschedule or Cancel October Board Meeting*

DS informed the Board that she will be on vacation until October 12, 2026, and financial reports will not be available for the regularly scheduled October meeting.

Motion: To cancel the October Board Meeting and call a special meeting if necessary by Director Williams, seconded by Director Port. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Executive Director Report

AW provided the Executive Director's report, including the following highlights:

- The Defensible Space Project is underway, with Cailin assuming Project Manager responsibilities.
- The Chipping Program continues to move forward, and a contractor is expected to be selected by the September Board meeting. Cailin will also manage this project.
- The Central Sierra Resource Guide has launched, and Amador County partners continue populating services on the website.
- Full proposals for the Healthy Soils Program (HSP) and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEET) Block Grants are underway.
- AW met with Spencer and Jamie at Iron Hub to discuss engagement opportunities with local vintners.
- The Grazing Short Course was successfully completed.
- The Gold Country Habitat Fair is scheduled for September 12. Board member volunteers are encouraged to participate and help promote the photo contest.
- The Amador County Fair was successful, and special recognition was given to Cailin for her efforts.
- ARCD was awarded Strategic Assistance Funds, and November 23 is being considered as a potential Board retreat date.
- Associate Director Kent Reeves has resigned from the Board.



12200-B Airport Rd
Jackson, CA 95642
Email: ARCD@amadorrcd.org
Web: www.amadorrcd.org

Directors: Steve Cannon, Dan Port, Kelsi Williams, Amber Gardner **Associate Director:** Kent Reeves

Board Recruitment*

Director Williams revisited the draft Board Recruitment Strategy previously included in the Board packet. Board members discussed the importance of leveraging personal relationships to identify and engage potential candidates and begin conversations regarding Board service.
No action was taken.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Next meeting: November 10th 2026

ARCD	<u>Grant Period</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>	<u>Direct Cost</u>	<u>Indirect Cost</u>	<u>Remaining Advance</u>	<u>Expended to Date</u>	<u>Invoiced</u>	<u>Amount remaining</u>
Sierra Jobs First Catalyst (CCRCO)	05/01/2025 - 09/30/26	\$ 15,656.00				\$ 2,748.00	\$ 1,933.90	\$ 12,908.00
WCB Grant - Pollinator	2/14/2023 - 2/28/2027	\$ 251,000.00	\$ 251,000.00			\$ 145,292.91	\$ 44,137.40	\$ 105,707.09
WCB Grant - Wildlife Habitat	12/20/2023 - 2/28/2027	\$ 200,000.00				\$ 155,053.91	\$ 9,859.91	\$ 44,946.09
CCI Coordinator	9/1/2024 - 3/31/2027	\$ 240,000.00			\$ 90,000.00	\$ 96,671.25		\$ 143,328.75
DOC Grant	2/22/2024 - 3/31/2027	\$ 1,618,366.64	\$ 1,407,275.34	\$ 211,091.30		\$ 581,446.68	\$ 355,488.57	\$ 1,036,919.96
Stewardship Agreement (CCRCO)	Sept 2024 - 8/31/27	\$ 54,600.00				\$ 15,115.14	\$ 10,073.19	\$ 39,484.86
NRCS Cooperative Agreement	8/2/2024 - 9/30/2027	\$ 41,910.00	\$ 38,100.00	\$ 3,810.00		\$ 7,223.00	\$ 7,223.00	\$ 34,687.00
Placer HSP Block Grant	12/8/23 - 10/31/27	\$ 92,814.00	\$ 69,610.50	\$ 23,203.50		\$ 57,632.87	\$ 2,112.71	\$ 35,181.13
Healthy Soils - Round 3 23-0672-000-SG	11/1/2023 - 2/29/28	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 37,110.22	\$ 896.23	\$ 22,889.78
2023 RCPP Round 2	11/1/2023 - 7/15/2028	\$ 594,600.00				\$ 191,388.96	\$ 33,951.24	\$ 403,211.04
Chipping 3 (CalFire)	1/30/2026 - 02/15/2029	\$ 596,929.54	\$ 532,972.80	\$ 63,956.74		\$ 37,353.82	\$ 37,353.82	\$ 559,575.72
Workforce Development (CARCD)	6/14/2024 - 2/28/2029	\$ 23,935.31	\$ 20,235.31	\$ 3,700.00		\$ 9,153.87	\$ 447.12	\$ 14,781.44
Defensible Space 5GG22102	12/27/2023 - 03/15/2029	\$ 633,584.00	\$ 565,700.00	\$ 67,884.00		\$ 93,167.87	\$ 93,167.87	\$ 540,416.13
Misc Receivables							\$ 6,318.29	\$ -
AFSC Staff Time							\$ 38,186.91	
LCRCO Staff Time							\$ 9,488.18	
SAWQA Staff Time							\$ 7,445.80	
		\$ 4,423,395.49	\$ 2,938,893.95	\$ 379,645.54	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 1,429,358.50	\$ 658,084.14	\$ 2,994,036.99
						*Deferred Rev	*Accounts Rec	

SAWQA

	<u>Amount Billed</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Amount Due</u>
2025-2026 Member Fees		\$14,781.39	
2026-2027 Member Fees			

Amador Resource Conservation District

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2026

	Aug 31, 26
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
101768 · Sac/Ama Water Quality Alliance	463,227.73
101769 · Amador RCD	
101769C · Amador RCD Checking	120,539.13
101769R · Unrestricted Reserves	300,000.00
Total 101769 · Amador RCD	420,539.13
Total Checking/Savings	883,766.86
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	658,084.11
Total Accounts Receivable	658,084.11
Other Current Assets	
13000 · Prepaid Expenses	1,243.95
Total Other Current Assets	1,243.95
Total Current Assets	1,543,094.92
TOTAL ASSETS	1,543,094.92
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	76,837.53
Total Accounts Payable	76,837.53
Credit Cards	
002 · Bank of America	6,007.95
Total Credit Cards	6,007.95
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	1,030.21
24500 · Accrued Time Off	13,198.17
25800 · Unearned or Deferred Revenue	90,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	104,228.38
Total Current Liabilities	187,073.86
Total Liabilities	187,073.86
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	1,330,272.99
32000 · Retained Earnings	-1,059.58
Net Income	26,807.65
Total Equity	1,356,021.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,543,094.92

10:41 AM

09/04/26

Accrual Basis

Amador Resource Conservation District

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

July through August 2026

	Jul - Aug 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
45000 · Investments	4,266.21	20,000.00	(15,733.79)	21.3%
46400 · Other Types of Income				
46009 · Partnership Contracts	33,385.12	343,674.59	(310,289.47)	9.7%
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	33,385.12	343,674.59	(310,289.47)	9.7%
47890 · Program Income				
47891 · Grant Income	215,571.96	1,591,398.55	(1,375,826.59)	13.5%
47894 · Admin Fee (Indirect Cost)	24,036.92	219,987.41	(195,950.49)	10.9%
Total 47890 · Program Income	239,608.88	1,811,385.96	(1,571,777.08)	13.2%
Total Income	277,260.21	2,175,060.55	(1,897,800.34)	12.7%
Gross Profit	277,260.21	2,175,060.55	(1,897,800.34)	12.7%
Expense				
50100 · Payroll Expenses				
50100-1 · Payroll Expense	100,803.23	715,779.23	(614,976.00)	14.1%
50100-3 · Retirement	6,452.04	52,294.65	(45,842.61)	12.3%
50100-4 · Health Benefits	7,568.80	53,674.64	(46,105.84)	14.1%
50310 · Payroll Tax Expense	9,071.83	64,026.34	(54,954.51)	14.2%
Total 50100 · Payroll Expenses	124,047.62	885,774.86	(761,727.24)	14.0%
51000 · Insurance				
50600 · Worker's Compensation Insurance	9,726.54	13,062.00	(3,335.46)	74.5%
51500 · Insurance - Liability, D and O		4,000.00	(4,000.00)	
Total 51000 · Insurance	9,726.54	17,062.00	(7,335.46)	57.0%
52000 · Memberships and Dues	2,281.90	4,500.00	(2,218.10)	50.7%
52200 · Office Expenses				
52200-1 · Office Equipment	5,779.65	10,000.00	(4,220.35)	57.8%
52200-2 · Postage, Mailing Service		150.00	(150.00)	
52200-4 · Supplies	26,411.34	53,200.00	(26,788.66)	49.6%
52200-5 · Telephone, Telecommunications	822.32	4,669.00	(3,846.68)	17.6%
52200-6 · Advertising	350.00	150.00	200.00	233.3%
52200-7 · Software	467.99	8,200.00	(7,732.01)	5.7%
52200-8 · Website		2,500.00	(2,500.00)	
52200-9 · Tech Support		500.00	(500.00)	
Total 52200 · Office Expenses	33,831.30	79,369.00	(45,537.70)	42.6%
52300 · Professional Services				
52321 · Auditor's Services	3,737.50	7,500.00	(3,762.50)	49.8%
52383 · Bookkeeping	1,041.25	6,000.00	(4,958.75)	17.4%
52385 · HR Support	1,050.00	6,300.00	(5,250.00)	16.7%
52300 · Professional Services - Other		5,000.00	(5,000.00)	
Total 52300 · Professional Services	5,828.75	24,800.00	(18,971.25)	23.5%
52360 · Outreach				
52360-1 · Event Supplies and Rentals		8,200.00	(8,200.00)	
52360-2 · Swag		500.00	(500.00)	
52360-3 · Printing/Materials		2,000.00	(2,000.00)	
Total 52360 · Outreach		10,700.00	(10,700.00)	
52364 · Staff/Board Development				
52364-1 · Training		13,700.00	(13,700.00)	
52364-2 · Team Building	152.96	800.00	(647.04)	19.1%
52364-3 · Business Events/Celebrations	1,131.56	1,500.00	(368.44)	75.4%
52364-4 · Convention and Meetings	490.00	2,000.00	(1,510.00)	24.5%
Total 52364 · Staff/Board Development	1,774.52	18,000.00	(16,225.48)	9.9%
52800 · Special Departmental Expenses				
52800-1 · Community Garden		500.00	(500.00)	
52800-3 · Fair Booth		700.00	(700.00)	
52822 · Education/Scholarships	1,500.00	7,500.00	(6,000.00)	20.0%
Total 52800 · Special Departmental Expenses	1,500.00	8,700.00	(7,200.00)	17.2%
52905 · Travel and Transportation				
52905-1 · Mileage	484.25	12,800.00	(12,315.75)	3.8%
52905-2 · Hotel/Per Diem/Meals	232.10	2,200.00	(1,967.90)	10.6%
Total 52905 · Travel and Transportation	716.35	15,000.00	(14,283.65)	4.8%
54138 · Contractor Services				
54138-1 · Groundwork Contractor		702,000.00	(702,000.00)	
54138-2 · Professional Service Contractor	11,089.89	295,125.00	(284,035.11)	3.8%
Total 54138 · Contractor Services	22,758.69	997,125.00	(974,366.31)	2.3%
Total Expense	264,668.10	2,061,030.86	(1,796,362.76)	12.8%
Net Ordinary Income	12,592.11	114,029.69	(101,437.58)	11.0%
Net Income	12,592.11	114,029.69	(101,437.58)	11.0%

SAWQA
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July through August 2026

	Jul - Aug 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
45000 · Investments				
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	3,744.78	10,000.00	-6,255.22	37.4%
Total 45000 · Investments	3,744.78	10,000.00	-6,255.22	37.4%
47890 · Program Income				
47895 · SAWQA Member Fees	14,781.39	417,710.00	-402,928.61	3.5%
Total 47890 · Program Income	14,781.39	417,710.00	-402,928.61	3.5%
Total Income	18,526.17	427,710.00	-409,183.83	4.3%
Gross Profit	18,526.17	427,710.00	-409,183.83	4.3%
Expense				
51000 · Insurance				
51500 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
Total 51000 · Insurance	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
52200 · Office Expenses				
52200-2 · Postage, Mailing Service	137.08			
52200-7 · Software	436.05			
52200 · Office Expenses - Other	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
Total 52200 · Office Expenses	573.13	5,000.00	-4,426.87	11.5%
52300 · Professional Services				
52300-2 · Project Administration	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
52300-5 · Record Keeping	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
52300-6 · Monitoring and Reporting	0.00	178,724.00	-178,724.00	0.0%
52321 · Auditor's Services	3,737.50	3,500.00	237.50	106.8%
52383 · Bookkeeping	0.00	29,239.70	-29,239.70	0.0%
52384 · State Board Oversight	0.00	154,769.72	-154,769.72	0.0%
Total 52300 · Professional Services	3,737.50	406,233.42	-402,495.92	0.9%
52364 · Staff/Board Development				
52364-1 · Training	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
Total 52364 · Staff/Board Development	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
Total Expense	4,310.63	416,233.42	-411,922.79	1.0%
Net Ordinary Income	14,215.54	11,476.58	2,738.96	123.9%
Net Income	14,215.54	11,476.58	2,738.96	123.9%

September 2026 - ARCD Board Meeting

Starting Warrant 26-096

Warrant Number	Amount	Pay to	Project	Notes	Approved by	Status
26-096	\$ 350.00	KVGC	Def Sp	Inv 26050063 - Radio Ads	DS	del 8/11/26
26-097	\$ 52.54	Amazon Capital Services	Admin	Inv 19C7-7KJG-HC4R and 1XN3-CD97-4P96	DS	del 8/11/26
26-098	\$ 1,590.49	Spot-On Signs	WCB P	Inv 20333 Pollinator Boards	DS	del 8/11/26
26-099	\$ 266.75	Balancing the Books	Admin	Inv 14169 July 2026 Payroll	DS	del 8/11/26
26-100	\$ 1,273.95	Cal Choice	Admin	Inv 5193016 Sep Health Benefits	DS	del 8/11/26
26-101	\$ 3,188.34	Dana Simpson	Admin	Exp Reimb - mileage and computer	AW	del 8/14/26
26-102	\$ 1,500.00	UC Regents	Admin	2026 Farm Day Donation	Board	del 8/20/26
26-103	\$ 1,419.75	Pacific Coast Seed	WCB P	Inv 12-21620 Seed	DS	del 8/20/26
26-104	\$ 5,675.33	Tuolumne RCD	RCPP	Inv 4Q2025 and 1Q2026	DS	del 8/20/26
26-105	\$ 7,475.00	Blomberg & Griffin	Admin	Inv 11824 - 1/2 ARCD, 1/2 SAWQA	DS	del 8/20/26
26-106	\$ 2,122.08	Amador Barn Owl Box Co	WCB WS	Inv ARCD 2026-1 50%	DS	del 8/21/26
26-107	\$ 3,861.00	Alta Vista	Def Space	Inv 1654	DS	del 8/28/26
26-108	\$ 3,233.03	Tuolumne RCD	WCB WS	Inv 6 2Q2026	DS	del 8/28/26
26-109	\$ 23,392.92	Calaveras RCD	WCB WS/DOC	Inv 7 2Q2026 and Inv 5 1Q2026	DS	del 8/28/26
26-110	\$ 360.00	MaryAnna Saige Painter	WCB P	Face painter for habitat fair	DS	del 8/28/26
26-111	\$ 1,014.52	Colonial	Admin	July/Aug 2026 - ancillary benefits	DS	del 8/28/26
26-112	\$ 3,709.01	Amador Barn Owl Box Co	WCB WS	Inv ARCD 2026-2 50%	DS	del 9/4/26
26-113	\$ 425.65	Anna Mariscal	DOC	Exp Reimb - mileage and parking	DS	del 9/4/26
26-114	\$ 189.00	Ledger Dispatch	WCB P	Inv 50201 Habitat Fair Ad	DS	del 9/4/26
26-115	\$ 5,939.07	Amanda Watson	Various	July CC Statement and Beam (vision/dental)		Needs Board Approval

ARCD Income

Date	Amount	Check From	Project	Notes	Status
8/19/26	\$44,330.73	CARCD	RCPP and WD		deposited
8/19/26	\$5,893.49	Placer	Placer HSP		deposited
8/25/26	\$58,435.77	CARCD	WCB P and WCB WS		deposited



Recommendation Memo

2026 ARCD Community Chipping Program – Central Sierra Enterprise Contractor

September 2, 2026

To present at the ARCD Board of Directors Meeting September 9, 2026

Project Summary:

The CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant awarded to the Amador Resource Conservation District (ARCD), will be utilized for community-based, roadside chipping. The program is designed to reduce wildfire risk near access/evacuation routes, and homes. This grant will encourage and assist Amador County residents who initiate hazardous fuels treatment by disposal of slash. County residents will remove live and dead vegetated material, and stack the debris along their roadside or driveway. They then will request chipping services either as a group of neighbors through Community Chipping Days, or individually on a limited case-by-case basis through Door-to-Door Chipping. The Chipping Contractor hired through ARCD would visit the sites and chip the slash. The ARCD anticipates that most chipping activities will occur during peak work periods, including Fall 2026, Spring 2027, Summer 2027, Fall 2027, Spring 2028, and Fall 2028, or until available project funding is exhausted. And no later than December 2028.

Selection Process:

On August 18th a request for proposal was sent to our contractor list and employment listserv. On August 28th, six certified and licensed contractors sent in proposals. All references were contacted and proposals were reviewed by the Project Manager, Executive Director, Financial Manager and President of the ARCD Board on September 2nd. The bids were scored on a scale of 45, with an additional 5 points if the contractors were local (Amador County or adjacent to Amador County). The bids were scored on understanding of the project, experience or qualifications, references, budget/value and deliverables.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the ARCD Board of Directors select **Central Sierra Enterprise** to execute the contract for the 2026 Community Chipping Program. They are the contractor who presented the best understanding of the project, qualifications, pricing and desire to serve this community.

Thank you,

Cailin McLaughlin
Project Manager & Outreach Coordinator
Amador Resource Conservation District

Amador RCD
Executive Director Report
Prepared for: September 9th 2026 Board Meeting

Current Projects Updates:

Forestry Program:

Forest Health Assistance Program (FHAP): TZ is with awarded clients on paperwork for obligation.

On 7/8 ARCD was awarded funding from CARCD for NRCS assistance for a total of \$35,184

Multi-owner EQIP (mEQIP) Project: TZ is taking on coordination of this effort, under mentorship of AW.

Defensible Space Project: Project is underway. completed 29 defsp treatments completed, 37 defsp assessments completed, 37 hazard tree assessments completed, and 3 hazard tree treatment completed. Hazard tree assessments have been completed by our Registered Professional Forester and Alta Vista is working on scheduling treatments. AFPD is working on increasing capacity to speed up assessments.

Chipping Program: CM lead the Request For Bids process, 6 bids were received, see staff memo.

Amador County Wildfire Collaborators (ACWC) group: ARCD staff, through funding from the AFSC, are working as organizers and facilitators of the group. Two working groups have been formed: 1. County-wide Wildfire Mitigation Mapping and 2. Coordinated Wildfire Preparedness Outreach & Education.

Director Cannon and staff have participated and are representing ARCD.

Ag/Natural Working Land Program:

Resource Guide Launched! [County Land Resource Search – Sierra Land Resource Guide www.SierraLands.org](https://www.sierralands.org/county-land-resource-search)

Healthy Soils Incentive & SWEEP Program Block Grant: This heavy lift was completed, all three full proposals were submitted.

Central Sierra Grazing & Livestock HSP Block Grant Amador RCD Lead

Central Sierra Cropland HSP Block Grant Placer RCD Lead

State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant. Sloughhouse RCD Lead

Healthy Soil Program Technical Assistance - BS has been working on verifications and learning the program. BS is hosting a Cropland workshop on September 30th.

Needs Assessment:

Ag. & Working Lands Survey is live on the website, this survey will help develop our needs assessment and the ARCD Strategic Plan.

AW had been conducting one-on-one interviews with producers and community leaders to inform the strategic plan locally and regionally.

Regional Strategic Planning: staff have been working to host regional RCD staff gathering to discuss regional Agriculture and Forestry priorities and strengthen regional collaboration.

Ranching For Profit Event was a success with over 20 attendees.

Amador County Wine Grape Growers Association coordination: AW will attend October ACWGG meeting to meet membership and work with Spencer to host a 'listening session' to learn more about needs and concerns and make connections to existing programs/projects.

WCB Pollinator Project:

Hangs on the Homestead: BS has begun work on the setting up installation of infrastructure for this project including trenching, and irrigation installation has started, fencing is installed. Planting will take place in Fall 2026.

Multi-Benefit Fuel Breaks: Pollinator Restoration in Amador: BS has developed project plan with BLM. Implementation of the project will take place Fall 2026. Billy is working on plant orders.

Kennedy Mine Pollinator Habitat: Installation of irrigation and fencing is in progress. Planting will occur in fall 2026.

Gold Country Wildlife & Habitat Fest: September 12th The event will be held at Kennedy Mine. **Please help promote photo contest!**

Admin:

ODC Meeting met and discussed strategic Planning and Board requirements.

ARCD Strategic Planning Process; see attached work plan.

Timeline

- August-October: Interviews

Amy Storck will be reaching out to schedule an interview with each board member

- September 15th – Facilitated focus group with staff
- November 23rd 8:45-4:30 – MARK YOUR CALENDERS
The Board/Staff Strategic Retreat will be at PT Ranch
- January – Finalization of ARCD Strategic Plan



GOLD
country
WILDLIFE
& habitat
ANNUAL FAIR

Amador Fire Safe Council: See attached coordinator report

Regional Meeting Update: ARCD is working on planning a virtual Fall CARCD Central Sierra Regional Meeting to host speak-off, tentatively mid-October.

Upcoming Grant Applications

Healthy Soils Incentive & SWEEP Program Block Grant:

Submitted Grant Applications:

- State & Local Cybersecurity Grant – **not awarded**
- 2026 NACD TA Assistance Grant - waiting
- Jackson Creek Forest Health Phase 2 Concept Proposal to the Forest Health Grant - **full proposal submitted**
- Amador County Integrated Prescribed Fire & Grazing Initiative Pilot – **grant submitted**
- Defensible Space Assistance Project – Phase 2 – **grant submitted**
- Healthy Soils Incentive Program Block Grant: Central Sierra Grazing & Livestock HSP Block Concept Proposal Submitted – lead –**full proposal submitted**
- Healthy Soils Incentive Program Block Grant: Central Cropland HSP Block Concept Proposal Submitted – partner - **full proposal submitted**
- State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant: Concept Proposal Submitted – partner - **full proposal submitted**
- NFWF Conservation Partners Grant - partner – **concept proposal submitted**

Upcoming Outreach Events:

September 12th 2-7pm: Wildlife & Habitat Fest
September 13th: Farms of Amador Tour & Dinner
September 30th: Cropland Workshop

September 26th-27th: Chaw'se Big Time
October 17th - MLLT Harvest Festival
November 23rd – ARCD Board/Staff Strategic Retreat



GOLD country WILDLIFE & habitat ANNUAL FAIR



September 12th,
2026



Kennedy Mine
12594 Kennedy Mine Rd,
Jackson, CA 95642



2:00 - 7:00 PM



family-friendly activities



engaging presentations
& live demonstrations



delicious food



great music



Wildlife & Habitat Photo Contest

Featuring a photo contest, highlighting the natural landscapes, wildlife, residents and industries of the Central Sierra.

Winners will be selected from two categories:

Youth (18 and under)

Adult (18 and over)

During the contest period from **August 3rd to August 31st** submit your entry by completing the online entry form and uploading any required materials. The top 10 photos (5 from each category) will be displayed at the Gold Country Wildlife and Habitat Fair. **Apply here:** <https://www.amadorrcd.org/gold-country-wildlife-habitat-fair-photo-contest>

Funding made available through Climate Resilience through Habitat Restoration on California Lands Grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board and California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.



Cropland Soil Health Workshop Field Day



**Learn, connect, and see
conservation in action,
featured practices:**

Hedgerow Planting

Irrigation

Soil Amendment

Irrigation

Cover Crops

Windbreak Establishment



September 30th, 2026



9:00 - 11:45 AM



Story Ranch, 10851 Bell Rd.,
Plymouth, CA 95669

*Use the entrance at the corner of Courier and
Bell Roads, look for the sign*



Billy Synk | Billy@amadorrcd.org

**Register using the link
or scan the QR code:**

[Registration Link](#)



Provided by the AACT Natural & Working Lands Hub, a collaborative of the Alpine Watershed Group and Amador, Calaveras County, and Tuolumne County Resource Conservation Districts. Event funding provided by the California Department of Conservation, and California Department of Food and Agriculture.



Ongoing Projects

Project	Update
Amador County Fire Resiliency Project	BLM parcels have been identified within the Dry Creek and Mok. Rim Fuel Breaks. These areas will be treated with these funds. Arch surveys of these sites are the next step. A staff is pursuing additional funding to treat private ground within these fuel break footprints. Two grant applications have been submitted to CalFire for this purpose and staff is pursuing additional BLM funds to expand these fuel breaks onto private ground. Todd Bertwell is taking over as project manager.
AmCo Stewardship Forest Health	Received BLM DNA and Decision Record (NEPA) for three parcels to be treated near Buckhorn Ridge unit. Working with SNC for approval of new acres; SNC will conduct CEQA crosswalk. TB will work with BLM and RPF to identify locations for maintenance e treatment on the AmCo parcels and Tiger Creek fuel break.
Thompson Ridge Fuel Break	BLM DNA and Decision Record (NEPA) is complete and had been submitted SNC for that agency to preform the crosswalk for CEQA. Work is anticipated to start Fall 2026.
Volcano Hills Fuel Break	Both mastication contractors completed their work on 6/25/26, totaling 299 acres of treatment (29 acres above the planned minimum 270). A few acres of handwork, especially along Charleston Road, will be planned and completed before the end of the grant period. AFSC amendment was approved to shift implementation funds toward staff efforts for planning, surveys, and filing a Notice of Exemption for the next priority community fuel break at Sutter Highlands; the first Town Hall meeting took place 7/11/26. Staff are working on a follow-up amendment to allow shifting of funds from handwork to mastication.
PG&E Substation Fuels Reduction	Implementation is complete, CM is working on project signage.
Ingress/Egress Project	Storm response efforts are underway across multiple areas. Work continues in Amador Pines, CAL FIRE's Pine Grove crew began work on June 8, treating approximately 3 miles along Inspiration Drive West and nearby road segments. In Pine Grove, about 1 mile of treatment is planned along Lupe Road and Red Hill Mine Road as a secondary evacuation route through Berry Street. The AFSC Projects Committee selected the contractor to complete this work. Additionally, the Sunset Heights turnaround project (about two-thirds of a mile) has its ROE completed and is ready to be scheduled. In Sherwood Forest, ROEs were mailed to landowners 6/4/26 as part of storm response planning. ROEs were received for 35 of 60 possible parcels, coordination is ongoing with road association.
Mt Crossman Fuel Break	Funding awarded. Staff has developed the new Rights of Entry that meet SNC stipulations and are working with the community to get the new ROEs signed.
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	The project was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 28. All five cities are expected to approve it with City Council support, though there has been a delay in publishing the final document.
Internal and Countywide Mapping	Contract with Mettja Kuna was approved for 2026. TB is working to engage Mettja on ACWC meeting.
Maintenance and Monitoring Protocol	Staff will re-initiate this project after grant writing is complete.
AFSC Project Committee	N/A

Coordinator Grant	The next ACWC meeting on August 12th a was well attended. AFSC/ARCD will move forward as the lead grant applicant for a county-wide mapping system to focus on strategic planning and emergency response. Public outreach components will be a secondary priority. AW presented to the Board of Supervisors about AFSC Updates on June 23rd.
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Project	Project Lead
Amador County Coordinator	Amanda Watson
Amador County RFFCP	Amanda Watson
Internal Project Mapping system/Community facing map web apps	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide Collaboration	Amanda Watson
Countywide mapping system	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide monitoring protocol and maintenance intervals	Gordon Long/Amanda Watson
Volcano Hills Fuel Break	Todd Bertwell
Rancheria/Thompson Ridge Fuel Break	Todd Bertwell
AmCo Stewardship Project	Todd Bertwell
Amador County Fire Resiliency Project	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development	Todd Bertwell
Internal Project Mapping system/Community facing map web apps	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide Collaboration	Amanda Watson
Countywide mapping system	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide monitoring protocol and maintenance intervals	Todd Bertwell /Amanda Watson
Countywide Ingress/Egress – CalFire - NEW	TBD
Pine Grove Ingress/Egress – PG&E - NEW	Todd Bertwell
Substation Fuels Reduction – PG&E - Completed	N/A
Mt Crossman Fuel Break – SNC - NEW	Todd Bertwell
Projects in Planning/Development Phase	
La Mel Community Fuel Break – planning stages – <i>implementation funded</i>	Tamryn Zahradka
Sutter Highlands Community Fuel Break – <i>planning stage – planning funded</i>	Todd Bertwell
The Oaks – to ARCD as Defensible Space	Todd Bertwell
Mokelumne Rim Fuel Break – planning stage – <i>seeking funding</i>	Gordon Long
Upper Dry Creek Fuel Break – planning stage – <i>seeking funding</i>	Gordon Long
Pine Grove Central Fuel Break – planning stage – <i>seeking funding</i>	Amanda Watson

Current Grant Applications

Amador County Cross-Boundary Wildfire Resilience Nexus Project	See attached memo	~\$1.2 million application to BLM NOFO due August 28 th
Mokelumne Rim Community Fuel Break	The Mokelumne Rim Fuel Break is a strategic project designed to connect several existing fuel breaks, including the Tiger Creek, Doaks Ridge, and Pine Acres fuel breaks, creating a continuous shaded fuel break corridor from Tiger Creek to Highway 49. This grant proposal supports CEQA compliance, environmental surveys, and project development for the full Mokelumne Rim Fuel	\$774,785K; submitted to CalFire WP

	Break system, ensuring all segments are prepared for future implementation. Additionally, the proposal includes on-the-ground treatment for the Tiger Creek to Highway 26 segment (Tiger to Hwy 26 Unit), prioritizing this section for immediate fuels reduction work. This implementation funding will cover work on privately owned land, work on BLM ground will be conducted with federal funds that the AFSC has already acquired. The Tiger to Hwy 26 fuel break includes 112.83 acres of private land across four treatment areas. An additional 110.07 acres of BLM land within the fuel break contribute as match. Total combined project area (grant + BLM match): 222.9 acres. See attached map.	
Upper Dry Creek Community Fuel Break	The Upper Dry Creek Fuel Break Project is a proposed 260+ acre strategic fuel break in northern Amador County aimed at reducing wildfire risk in a high-hazard Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) with limited evacuation routes. The project will connect key transportation corridors, including Shake Ridge Road and Fiddletown Road, while linking to existing and planned fuels reduction efforts to improve landscape-scale resilience across the Dry Creek watershed. Supported by multiple willing landowners and past investments in fuels management, the project will primarily utilize mastication, with limited hand treatments in the riparian corridor. In addition, BLM lands within the project footprint will be incorporated as match, allowing for a larger, more contiguous treatment area and strengthening interagency collaboration. This combined approach will address heavy fuel loads, including dense dead and dying vegetation, and enhance long-term wildfire protection for surrounding communities and critical infrastructure.	\$933,488K; submitted to CalFire WP
Fuel Break Maintenance Strategy & Coordination	Establish a collaborative agreement with Cal Fire AEU to leverage Cal Fire crews during non-fire season to provide fuel break maintenance. AFSC will manage planning, environmental compliance, mapping, treatment layout, landowner access, and grant administration, while on-the-ground maintenance is carried out by Cal Fire crews as availability allows.	\$499,400; submitted to CalFire WP



Forestry Educators Incorporated

A Non-Profit 501(c)3 Corporation

September 1, 2026

Board of Directors
Amador RCD
12200-B Airport Road
Jackson, CA 95642

Dear Board of Directors,

Enclosed is Forestry Educators Incorporated's 2025 Annual Report. Last fall, 595 students and 118 teachers from 78 schools participated in five Forestry Challenge events, bringing the total number of student participants to 5,873 since 2003. A total of 240 volunteers contributed over 2,900 hours for an in-kind value of \$156,838. This record-breaking year is the result of being able to offer the program free of registration fees, supporting substitute teacher and transportation costs, and running two sessions at the San Bernardino location.

We continue to emphasize the need for more forestry, natural resource, and logging professionals and the many opportunities that are available. The skills students learn at the Forestry Challenge are applicable to many jobs and give them a glimpse into the professional world. For the second year, students had the opportunity to take a course through Feather River College, earning one unit of credit for their participation at a Forestry Challenge event.

To help us maintain this high-quality program, I am asking for your continued financial support in 2026. All sponsors are listed on the Forestry Challenge website and in program materials. For a donation of \$1,000 or more, your company's logo is guaranteed to be included on this year's T-shirt. For your reference, last year your company gave \$1500. Students, teachers, and volunteers wear the t-shirts with pride for years after the event. If you are able to donate this year, please make the check payable to *Forestry Educators Incorporated* and mail it to the address below.

Sincerely,

Diane Dealey Neill, Executive Director
Forestry Educators Incorporated
P.O. Box 271
Shingle Springs, California 95682
(530) 417-1960
www.forestrychallenge.org