



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Tri-County Monarch Habitat on Working Lands Technical Assistance

Prepared by Sutter County Resource Conservation District
for California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Monarch Technical Assistance on Working Lands

Submitted by Jennifer Wallace Sanders

Submitted on 03/29/2021 5:30 PM Pacific Standard Time

Opportunity Details

Opportunity Information

Title

Monarch Technical Assistance on Working Lands

Description

RCDs provide local expertise around habitat planning and restoration to support species conservation. RCDs have indicated, however, that without funding to support monarch programs, they are unable to utilize this expertise to develop new projects or adequately educate land managers and the public about the current crisis. To fill this need, CARCD is offering 10 to 15 RCDs funding of up to \$15,000 each in the form of mini grants to provide technical assistance and outreach to farmers and ranchers in California to plan habitat restoration projects for monarchs on working lands. (Due to NFWF requirements, the funds will technically name RCDs as sub-contractors rather than grant sub-recipients, but in essence they will manifest the same as mini grants.)

Awarding Agency Name

CARCD

Agency Contact Name

Nancy Wahl-Scheurich

Agency Contact Phone

(831)287-5363

Agency Contact Email

nancy-wahlscheurich@carcd.org

Opportunity Manager

Nancy Wahl-Scheurich

Public Link

<https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/7fbd904e-3167-4b6b-bd31-610fd4dce9b0>

Is Published

Yes

Award Information

Award Range

\$15,000.00 Ceiling

Indirect Costs Allowed

Yes

Indirect Cost Description

Indirect costs may be charged up to 10% which is the rate on our NFWF grant.

Indirect Cost Rate

10.00 %

Restrictions on Indirect Costs

No

Matching Requirement

No

Submission Information

Submission Window

02/21/2021 12:00 AM - 03/29/2021 8:30 PM

Question Submission Information

Question Submission Close Date

03/29/2021 6:00 PM

Question Submission Email Address

nancy-wahlscheurich@carcd.org

Eligibility Information

Eligible Applicants

Additional Eligibility Information

Applicants must be a Resource Conservation District and a CARCD member. Please contact Emily at Emily-sutherlands@carcd.org for information on membership.

Limit of one sub-contract per RCD. RCDs are welcome to partner with one another on grant applications.

Projects must target working lands; Proposals that include plans for projects in urban or natural areas will not be considered unless they will occur on a farm or actively grazed rangeland.

Priority will be given to RCDs that do not have existing monarch-related funding through CARCD's WCB grant.

Award Administration Information

Other Information

RCDs are to invoice monthly. Invoices due by the 20th of the month following the month being reported. Example: Expenses incurred in March are to be invoiced by April 20th.

Project Information

Application Information

Application Name

Tri-County Monarch Habitat on Working Lands Technical Assistance

Award Requested

\$14,988.00

Total Award Budget

\$14,988.00

Primary Contact Information

Name

Jennifer Wallace Sanders

Email Address

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Address

PO Box 282
Yuba City, CA 95992

Phone Number

(530) 300-3565

Project Description

Monarch Technical Assistance on Working Lands Proposal

Thanks for applying for the Monarch Technical Assistance mini grant/sub-contract!

Applications must be uploaded by no later than 8:30pm on Monday, March 29th. Please call, text, or email Nancy Wahl-Scheurich anytime up until 6:00PM on Monday, March 29th if you have any questions or issues during the application process.

Phone: (831)287-5363 Email: nancy-wahlscheurich@carcd.org

You can save your work as you go in the application, and you can make changes up until you finally hit Submit. Please note you won't be allowed to submit until all required information is entered, and that once your application has been submitted, no further changes are possible.

1) Describe the monarch-related technical assistance you will provide farmers and ranchers in your district using this funding.

With the Technical Assistance on Working Lands Grant, the Colusa County, Sutter County and Yuba County Resource Conservation Districts will partner to provide farmers and ranchers with resources to support existing and new monarch habitats within the tri-county area covering rangeland along the foothills of the Coastal and Sierra Ranges and the cropland in the Sacramento Valley. Our RCDs are uniquely positioned to overlay monarch habitat conservation and restoration technical assistance on our already growing outreach, education, and implementation programs. The majority of this project will focus on providing technical assistance, outreach and education to farmers and ranchers in the three districts. Outreach/Education: Providing information and resources to producers in the region through workshops, articles, and other forms of communication. The technical assistant will facilitate workshop training and/or field days for landowners interested in monarch habitat restoration. The training will include talks given by experts on topics ranging from the status of the monarch to best management practices for monarch habitat. The workshop training will introduce landowners to the CCRC and SCRC Technical Assistant and highlight current funding opportunities for monarch habitat restoration or habitat enhancement such as having an NRCS staff member speak to about their EQIP program.

Planning: The new TA will assist with habitat restoration/enhancement planning, site visits, site/species selection, mapping, project prioritization and looking for funding opportunities for implementation on behalf of the farmer and rancher.

Maintenance: TA will be available for assessment and maintenance check-ins with landowners who have already implemented habitat restoration. This will help with enhancing the general success of monarch habitat already established in the region.

Implementation: The TA will assist farmers and ranchers in establishing and/or enhancing their monarch habitat project. Develop Sustainable Monarch Program: The TA will also make a plan and regional partnerships to sustain Monarch habitat restoration and conservation in perpetuity. One project the TA will develop is to create a local source for milkweed and nectar plants. The TA will partner with landowners, nurseries, local schools and other local agencies (UC Master Gardeners) to figure a way to propagate local milkweed stock and nectar plants.

2) How many farmers and/or ranchers do you anticipate working with?

TA -Colusa County: 5; Sutter County: 3; Yuba County: 3; Outreach and education to 200

3) What types of conservation plans does your district develop and how will you incorporate monarch conservation into them (e.g., carbon farm plans, land smart plans, NRCS conservation plans, watershed management, fire recovery, etc.)?

In recent years the CCRC has finished two planning projects. The first was a carbon farm plan for a 5,000 acres diversified farming operation. The second was the county's first Community Wildfire Protection Plan which demonstrates competency of the planning process, project identification and prioritization. The Carbon Farm Plan was for a 5,000 acre multi-crop farm already engaged in biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration. If funding is received, the CCRC would be able to include monarch habitat conservation practices in the existing Carbon Farm Plan. Most notably, CCRC staff have assisted NRCS with planning and supporting tasks. Victor Briones has assisted planners in the NRCS Colusa Field Office and Yuba Sutter Field Office with natural resource assessments, new participant applications, contract maintenance, implementation requirements, and practice verification. Briones is also taking Conservation Apprentice Planner classes through AgLearn. In the past, CCRC has developed a watershed management plan and other plans that included a suite of conservation practices to address natural resource concerns. The CCRC plans to include monarch habitat best management practices in conservation plans and to use farmers and ranchers interest in boosting monarch habitat on their land to include other multi-beneficial conservation practices like water quality management and biodiversity. The SCRC has had a NRCS Cooperative Agreement where RCD

staff would assist Yuba-Sutter Field Office with EQIP plans and contract maintenance.

SCRCD has managed a CDFA's Healthy Soils Technical Assistance Program and has recently applied for the upcoming CDFA Climate Smart Agriculture TA grant with Colusa and Yuba RCDs. SCRCD currently has a CARCD Specialty Crop Technical Assistance Hub grant through CDFA's Specialty Crop Block Grant program. This is part of the larger California Farm Demonstration Network dedicated to outreach and education on climate smart practices in specialty crops. This provides a great opportunity for overlapping outreach and education for monarch habitat and how it can be incorporated into specialty crop agriculture. Finally, SCRCD has purchased a 6-week course from Monarch Joint Venture on monarch life-cycle, habitat management and research. This will be a resource key team members will use in technical assistance and outreach/education.

- 4) Describe your approach to developing a regional monarch work group. Address how the group would help local partners collaborate on monarch conservation to scale up and speed up restoration efforts.

To develop a regional monarch work group, the CCRCD would join together community agriculture groups such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Farm Bureau, Master Gardeners, and local growers and high school students within the tri-county area. An example of an ideal partner would be the Colusa County Master Gardeners as they have already begun propagating milkweed within habitat restoration areas such as the Colusa Refuge. Bringing together community members such as these will assist in outreach efforts to gain interest and education in the subject of monarch habitat. This would allow for opportunities for students to participate within the group and gain interest in conservation practices. One goal of the regional monarch work group will be to be durable beyond grant funding to ensure monarch projects continue to be planned, implemented and maintained into the future. In building a community around the work group, the group would be able to hold events and have interested landowners to host workdays. Finally, the collaboration between Colusa, Sutter and Yuba RCDs will provide a wonderful platform for other regional partners to join.

- 5) Describe the outreach and educational events and/or materials you will provide/disseminate.

Outreach and Education:

The goal is to engage 200 farmers and ranchers in the region through workshops/field days, partner events, articles, and informational videos. The workshops will include talks given by experts on topics ranging from the status of the monarch to best management practices for monarch habitat and highlight current funding opportunities. The Monarch TA will also attend partner events and other RCD events such as The Yuba-Sutter Specialty Crop TA hub, The Yuba Sutter Farm Bureau Drive-Thru Event and Colusa Farm Show. The TA specialist will author articles for various outreach sources, including Farm Bureau newsletters (Yuba-Sutter and Colusa), Appeal-Democrat, Territorial Dispatch and Colusa Sun-Herald (local newspapers), Pioneer Review and additional outlets as deemed appropriate by the TA specialist. Articles will also be posted to social media, as well as distributed to any applicable email distribution lists. The Sutter RCD has video recording equipment so visual demonstrations can be recorded and distributed on online platforms. In addition, the RCDs will pull from existing media content created by Monarch Joint Venture, Xerces Society, Western Monarch Group, and other dedicated monarch conservation groups to develop infographics and other content to disperse in our communities. The RCDs will also engage with high school students, elementary students and public libraries. The high school students will participate in a field day by providing hedgerow maintenance and also learn about monarch habitat and conservation practices. Elementary students will have a chance to compete in a poster contest for saving the monarch butterfly. The poster contest will be for one grade level and the students will compete against each other throughout participating schools in all three counties. The posters can be displayed at the county fairs in each district. Finally, informational posters will be distributed and displayed at local libraries. The poster will also be printed in black and white and distributed in multiples, so that libraries can offer a monarch-themed coloring page to their young audiences.

- 6) State the number of each type of outreach event/material described above that you anticipate offering.

Workshops :RCDs will conduct 3 workshops (one workshop as an online webinar and one workshop/field day in Colusa and Yuba or Sutter County) The Monarch TA will attend at least 4 partner events including: The Yuba-Sutter Specialty Crop TA hub, CAFF Specialty Crop TA Hub events in Colusa County, The Yuba Sutter Farm Bureau Drive-Thru and Colusa Farm Show. The TA specialist will author 3 articles including: one article announcing the TA program, 1 article documenting outreach/education events, 1 article on a monarch habitat in the region. Articles will also be posted to social media, as well as distributed to any applicable email distribution lists. The RCDs commit to 1 video related to monarch habitat restoration. The team will disseminate at least 200 brochures, fliers, infographics during the grant period. For public outreach at least 10 library posters will be made along with 25 coloring pages to each library.

- 7) Discuss your plans to seek implementation funding for the projects you plan with this TA grant.

CCRCD, SCRCD and YCRCD will work beside the NRCS to assist growers in applying for funding through EQIP programming and/or a CSA TA for CDFA programs such as Healthy Soils Programs for implementation funding. The RCDs have already applied for the 2021-2022 CDFA TA grant for climate smart agriculture which includes extensive funding for and a focus on implementation of various climate projects, and would provide a significant funding source for implementing the projects planned as part of this grant. Individuals at each RCD have submitted letters of commitment in support of the Xerces Society effort to encourage legislators to pass the Monarch Act of 2021, which would authorize

millions in additional funding that would become available for the RCDs to take advantage of for implementation.

The RCDs will remain committed to seeking additional funding to assist with project implementation in addition to this opportunity. This could include consolidating landowners practices and applying for block funding, so that many landowners can benefit from one practice. The CCRCD will continue to seek grants that allow for the CCRCD to assist in managing landowners.

8) Outline a proposed budget using the budget template provided. The majority of funding must be allocated to personnel. Up to \$200 may be allotted to travel. We are not able to offer funding for restoration materials, permits, etc. No match is required.

Download Monarch TA on Working Lands Budget Template linked below. When complete, change file name, replacing "XXX" with your RCD's name. Upload your budget by clicking "Choose File" and selecting your saved budget file.

Download budget template here:

XXXRCD TA for Monarchs on Working Lands Budget Template.xlsx

Upload budget here:

Sutter County RCD TA for Monarchs on Working Lands Budget Template

