



PRUNUSKE CHATHAM, INC.

## **ESTERO AMERICANO AND SALMON CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAMS 2004-PRESENT**

*Client: Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District    Contact: Lisa Hulette, 707-874-2907*

PCI has been assisting Gold Ridge RCD with project planning and implementation of erosion control and habitat restoration projects in the Estero Americano and Salmon Creek watersheds. PCI completed site assessments and prepared recommendations to the Gold Ridge RCD Board of Directors regarding CEQA compliance and permit requirements for eight private and one publicly owned ranches in the Estero Americano watershed and eleven ranches in the Salmon Creek watershed.

Work in the Estero Americano system included conducting biological and cultural resource assessments, as well as focused botanical and California red-legged frog surveys, preparation of technical memos, site visits with CDFG to assess potential CEQA exemptions, and preparation of categorical exemptions. PCI prepared and submitted permit applications for a programmatic Streambed Alteration Agreement with DFG, §401 Certification from the North Coast RWQCB, ACOE concurrence for use of §404 Nationwide Permits 27 and 43. Project work also included preparation and submittal of grading permits to Sonoma County, a dam permit to Marin County, and a stockpond registration from the Division of Water Rights.

Planning work in the Salmon Creek watershed included preparation of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration to provide CEQA compliance. PCI staff assisted the RCD in preparing background scoping and permit applications and in meeting on site with regulators to address their concerns. PCI also took part in negotiations with the Sonoma County Permit Resource Management Department that resulted in exemptions for RCD-sponsored construction from costly county grading permits.

PCI's design team has prepared plans for the erosion control and restoration projects in both watersheds. PCI's construction team has implemented multiple projects and continues to work actively in the watersheds.

PCI is also helping Gold Ridge RCD with the Salmon Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan, a strategic planning tool for resource managers, agencies, and landowners that will incorporate results of watershed assessment baseline studies, ecological and water quality targets, and stakeholder goals and needs. PCI has partnered with Gold Ridge RCD in the development of the plan proposal and is now performing a detailed geomorphic baseline survey and reference reach analysis, streamflow monitoring, public outreach, and plan construction. This project will be completed in 2010.