



PRUNUSKE CHATHAM, INC.

MARIN COASTAL WATERSHEDS PERMIT COORDINATION PROGRAM, 2002 TO PRESENT

Marin Resource Conservation District

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The Marin Coastal Watersheds Permit Coordination Program is a partnership between the Marin Resource Conservation District (MRCD) and the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for habitat restoration and water quality enhancement activities on public and private lands in western Marin County. The initial 5-year program, which was approved in 2004, provides coordinated permitting and NEPA/CEQA compliance for use of 16 restoration and enhancement practices. The program includes agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CDFG, NOAA Fisheries Service, USFWS, San Francisco Bay and North Coast RWQCBs, California Coastal Commission, and the Marin County Department of Public Works.

PCI staff worked closely with Sustainable Conservation, NRCS, MRCD, regulatory agency personnel, the public, and attorneys from the Coastal Conservancy in developing the program and conducting its environmental compliance. In 2004, PCI took part in interagency permit negotiations, prepared the program's Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, participated in public and agency meetings, and obtained site-specific permit approvals for construction. Since then, PCI has assisted with implementation of a 10-year programmatic Biological Opinion from NOAA Fisheries Service that was approved in 2006. The proposed Biological Opinion for work that may affect listed or other sensitive species under the jurisdiction of USFWS is currently under final review by NRCS.



PCI planning work also includes assessments of biological and cultural resources, as well as extensive agency consultation, public hearings, and consensus building. In 2006, Point Reyes National Seashore joined the permit coordination program. PCI also provides bird nesting surveys, preconstruction biological monitoring, construction crew training regarding avoidance of sensitive cultural and biological resources, construction inspections, and as-built and other required post-construction reports.

In 2005, PCI convened the "acronym meetings," a face-to-face collaboration of all the participants in implementation of the restoration projects. Members include NRCS, MRCD, PCI, STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed), and PRNS. The meetings have resulted in early identification of potential problems and smooth transitioning from planning to on-the-ground work and post-project monitoring.

The Permit Coordination Program will be reevaluated in late 2008 and early 2009. Based upon recommendations from project partners and other permit coordination program participants throughout the State, the program is scheduled for further environmental review in 2009. PCI is studying the feasibility of a similar coordination program for the Russian River watershed and will provide further recommendations to MRCD based on those findings.