

## Sacramento Valley Durable Collaboration

By Chester Anderson, District Manager, 5-13-18

The first face-to-face meeting of the durable collaboration effort for the Sacramento Valley Region of Resource Conservation Districts was held last week.

There are 10 RCDs in the Region. At the table were Yolo, Sutter, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Tehama, Lake, Plumas and Shasta Counties alongside with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

The purpose of the effort was to see if we can form an agreement between the RCDs to more efficiently address regional conservation issues. The agreement would allow private, state, and federal entities the ability to contract directly to the Sacramento Valley of RCDs to address regional conservation issues instead of having to develop and administer a number of regional contracts to address the same conservation issue across district boundaries.

The collaborative effort is funded by the [Bechtel Foundation](#) through the [California Association of Resource Conservation Districts](#). The Association hired [Solid Ground Consulting](#) to facilitate the effort and Solid Ground provided us with Jim Morris. Jim is helped by Sara Schremmer of the State Association.

Collaboration is difficult, especially when there are so many players. The 10 RCDs in the Sacramento Valley Region bring a number of resources to the table that includes over 50 staff, 50 directors and a bunch of equipment including chippers, water trailers, herbicide applicators and a tractor.

The staff have a wide range of expertise from permitting projects, fisheries and riparian habitat restoration, water conservation for farms, water quality sampling, addressing forestry issues, reducing fire fuels, soil health services, to developing carbon farm plans. The Directors bring connection to and local support from each county which is critical to getting conservation done on the ground.

At minimum the staff and directors that were at the table felt that the potential for more efficiently addressing regional conservation issues was worth the extra effort. From this point forward the collaborative will hold a number of conference calls and at least one more face-to-face meeting to finalize an agreement.