

Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California



Richard Lanman, M.D.
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Associate Director

Larry Johmann
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Stephanie Moreno
Executive Director
District Clerk

Richard Roos-Collins
District Counsel

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

888 N. 1st St., Suite 204
San Jose, CA 95112
408-288-5888
gcrcd@gcrcd.org
www.gcrcd.org

Sent via email to Cindy.Chavez@bos.sccgov.org

October 22, 2020

The Honorable Cindy Chavez
President, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear President Chavez:

As President of the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD or District), I write to request a phone or online call with you this week or next to discuss opportunities for collaboration and coordination between the County of Santa Clara and our District. The GCRCD has found our past discussions with County Supervisors and their staff regarding our shared mission to preserve agricultural lands and conserve natural resources to be mutually beneficial.

I propose the following topics for our meeting:

- *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:* Our Board adopted a Statement of Diversity and Inclusion in June 2020 and has made a commitment to help ensure our agency and the government, environmental and scientific communities to which we belong are diverse, equitable and inclusionary in their policies, practices and programming. We recently hosted a guest speaker from the BIPOC and LGBTQ communities to help initiate Board discussion about our next steps, and I would like to discuss our forward progress with you, including the importance of diversity on our Board of Directors.
- *Potential Collaborative Projects:* We recently updated our long range plan and as we begin implementation of its goals and strategies, I would like to discuss potential collaborations between the County and our District that could serve as visible examples of our mutual commitment to environmental justice and natural resource conservation. For example, in conjunction with the Loma Prieta RCD, we currently are hosting a series of focus groups with agricultural producers in support of the County's Integrating Agriculture into Climate Action Project, a joint effort by the Counties of Santa Clara and San Mateo. I would like to hear your thoughts about other possible collaborations where there appears to be a mutual interest and benefit, such as:
 - Including County Planning information regarding permit streamlining opportunities for agricultural employee housing in District outreach materials and presentations to agricultural producers.
 - Providing District technical assistance to private landowners and homeowner associations regarding County permitting and best management practices following catastrophic natural events, such as the SCU Lightning Complex fires.
 - Providing District financial and technical assistance with implementation of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) project types identified in Section 5.1 of the County's GSI plan

- *Educational Research:* Our District proactively participates in data-driven and evidence-based research to help expand the natural resource knowledge base in our region, and I would be interested in hearing your perspective on informational needs that should be prioritized. Past projects we have been involved in include:
 - Development of the *Coyote Creek Invasive Plant Removal and Revegetation Plan*, a Working Partnerships USA project funded by Valley Water and GCRCD, and developed in coordination with the Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition. The project was intended to provide the planning basis for a pilot project to restore the riparian vegetative corridor along a 2000' stretch of Coyote Creek in north San Jose using formerly homeless youth associated with conservation corps programs and to provide assistance to them in securing permanent jobs in the landscape industry.
 - Development of a hydroperiod water balance model for ponds on working lands and in open space areas to inform global warming adaptations in further protection of endangered species such as the California red legged frog. The model will be of use to local and regional agencies such as the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency (SCVHA) and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, and was funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and SCVHA, with additional in-kind services provided by County Parks and GCRCD.
 - Ancient DNA analysis of Mission San Jose archeological remains of anadromous fish dating back to the 18th-19th century in partnership with Santa Clara University. Anticipated publications will showcase both scientific and indigenous cultural perspectives.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to your reply and the opportunity to build upon our past collaborations to jointly address issues that are important to both of our constituencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Lanman" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Lanman, M.D.
GCRCD Board President
ricklanman@gmail.com
650-776-9111