



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

October 19, 2021

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CARCD Board of Directors
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Dear CARCD Board Members:

The Board of Directors for Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD) is interested in rejoining CARCD with full membership, but is requesting reduced dues for program capacity reasons.

Although we have had fairly stable property tax revenue, we have inconsistent levels of grant and cooperative agreement funding each year. Many of our programs have depended on the Executive Director – our only employee until earlier this year – having the time to develop programs and provide services, which has further limited our capacity to expand our operations. Additionally, when our RCD is awarded a grant or cooperative agreement, we typically derive little, if any, revenue towards our expenses as we often find it necessary to provide our services as match for the application to be considered competitive.

This fiscal year, to help build capacity, the Board dipped into excess operating reserves to provide funding for a part-time program manager and a six-month limited duration grant writer. Our hope is that the addition of these two positions will allow the District to offer more robust programming in the short-term and bring in additional revenue to help fund continued employment in the long-term.

Our membership dues calculate at the maximum amount of \$5,000. We have previously relayed our concern to several members of your Board that the current dues structure creates a disproportionately high membership cost for small RCDs who rely on property tax base for funding as opposed to other RCDs with far larger budgets and significantly more employees due to consistent funding from grants, cooperative agreements, and fees from services. Because of the high cost of membership, we decided our mission would be better served by putting the amount of our membership dues towards program priorities, and we let our membership lapse. However, given the increasing statewide pressure to limit the service reach for RCDs, we believe it is a good time to rejoin the CARCD family and be an active participant in CARCD's initiative to update Division 9 and re-establish RCDs as vital State partners.

We are therefore requesting that we be allowed to rejoin as full members at a reduced amount of \$3,000 for the FY 2021-22 year, with consideration given to gradually increasing to higher levels during subsequent budget years. We have included a check in the amount of \$3,000 to show our commitment towards membership.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and ask that you reach out to Executive Director Stephanie Moreno if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Lanman", is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Dr. Rick Lanman, M.D.
Board President