



Napa County Resource Conservation District

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NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT SEEKS

VINEYARD CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

The Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) is seeking a Vineyard Conservation Coordinator to join our team of professional staff dedicated to working with our community to voluntarily conserve Napa County's natural resources in a landscape that supports agriculture, urban areas, and wild lands. The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator is an exciting **new position** at the RCD that will join our seasoned RCD team and be a liaison between the RCD, growers, agricultural industry groups, and Napa County to foster sustainable vineyard systems.

The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator will work with the Senior Soil Conservationist and the Conservation Project Manager to review erosion control plans for new and replant vineyard developments and to perform field visits related to implementation of those plans. The individual will also assist with other RCD programs relevant to vineyard management including: Mobile Irrigation Evaluation, LandSmart™ Conservation Planning, and Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group, and will oversee management of the RCDs sustainable demonstration vineyard.

The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator position is an exciting opportunity for an individual with practical viticulture experience who is dedicated to helping people voluntarily conserve natural resources and desires to support a resilient agricultural industry in Napa County. The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator will join and work closely with a team of dedicated RCD staff including a Senior Soil Conservationist, a Conservation Project Manager, a Senior Hydrologist, a Senior Biologist, a Stewardship Facilitator, an Education Program Coordinator, a District Administrator, a Bookkeeper, and an Executive Director. There is plenty of opportunity for professional growth in this position and we seek someone who is self-motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and interested in improving conservation programs for growers in Napa County.

In addition to being an enjoyable place to work, the RCD offers a competitive compensation package including employer-paid medical and dental benefits for the employee, a defined benefit retirement package, sick / vacation / holiday leaves, a consistent 40-hour work-week, a voluntary deferred compensation plan, training opportunities, and an overall enjoyable work atmosphere.

We hope to have the position filled in late October or early November but we can be flexible given that the position is being announced during harvest. Additional details and how to apply are included in the attached position announcement.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Leigh Sharp, Executive Director

leigh@naparcd.org

707-252-4188 x110



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Revised: September 1, 2014

Position Title: Vineyard Conservation Coordinator
Status: Full Time/Hourly
Application Deadline: Open Until Filled
Salary Range: Dependent upon Experience

This position is located in the Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) field office in the City of Napa, California. The employer is the Board of Directors of the RCD, and day to day supervision is by the Executive Director. All employees serve at the will of the Board of Directors. All RCD employees are required to work collaboratively and to serve as a positive role model for other employees by supporting the mission, vision, and values of the RCD.

General Responsibilities

The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator performs a wide variety of technical and professional tasks. In consultation with other RCD staff, the Vineyard Conservation Coordinator is responsible for coordinating and assisting with erosion control plan review and winterization inspections for vineyards in Napa County pursuant to an Agreement with Napa County. This employee is also responsible for overseeing operation of the District's Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Vineyard and providing technical assistance to RCD programs including the LandSmart™ Program and Mobile Irrigation Lab. The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator must foster and maintain positive working relationships within our community and with the representatives of local, state and federal resource agencies, and will represent the RCD at public events, meetings and functions. The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator will work closely with the Senior Soil Conservationist, the Conservation Project Manager and other RCD staff. Opportunities for professional development and growth exist for the position of Vineyard Conservation Coordinator.

Primary Responsibilities

- Participate in all aspects of an Agreement between Napa County and the RCD as it pertains to Erosion Control Plan review, including:
 - Communicate frequently with the RCD senior staff, Napa County staff, prospective and current vineyard development applicants;
 - In consultation with RCD senior staff, apply appropriate equations and models to analyze field data and review technical reports predicting pre- and post-project soil loss and hydrologic changes under varying land use conditions (e.g., Universal Soil Loss Equation, and TR-55);
 - Perform technical review of erosion control plans for erosion and sediment control in consultation with other RCD staff, Directors and Associate Directors;
 - Conduct winterization site visits and reporting. (60%)
- Oversee operation, maintenance, monitoring, and ongoing improvement of the District's Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Vineyard (Huichica Creek Vineyard), including oversight of and communication with the vineyard management company, communication with the winery purchasing grapes from the vineyard, management of the budget, marketing of grapes, oversight of vineyard improvements, etc. (15%)

- Assist RCD staff in implementation of programs and projects such as Mobile Irrigation Lab, LandSmart™ Conservation Planning, road assessments, and Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group through technical input, public speaking, and other means. (15%)
- Assist in the preparation of grant applications and manage resulting projects, including associated budgets and deliverables as necessary. (5%)
- Assist with other RCD events, projects, and programs as necessary. (5%)

Desired Qualifications

- A Bachelor's Degree in viticulture / agricultural sciences, engineering (agricultural, environmental or civil), soil science, geology, landscape architecture, or a related field and 3 years of professional experience related to vineyard development and/or vineyard management.
- Practical knowledge and experience with sustainable vineyard development and/or vineyard management, particularly erosion control and stormwater management practices and familiarity with irrigation technologies, especially drip and sprinkler systems.
- Familiarity with the capabilities and limitations of vineyard farm implements, including wheel tractors, track-layer tractors, tillage implements (including in-row tillers), mowers, herbicide sprayers, seeders and amendment spreaders. This familiarity should extend to basic earth-moving/construction equipment such as bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, graders, scrapers, rippers, sheep-foot compactors, water trucks, etc.
- Basic math background (geometry, algebra) with aptitude to learn concepts of, and practical skills to apply, soil loss equations and hydrologic models.
- Map-reading skills including interpretation of topographic maps and aerial photographs (GIS skills are a plus, but not a necessity).
- Familiarity with Napa County, its community, and the Napa County Conservation Regulations, particularly as the regulations pertain to vineyard development and replants (experience with local and State regulations, permits, and policies related to vineyard development a plus).
- Ability to obtain Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) certification within two years of hire.
- Excellent written and verbal skills (ability to communicate in Spanish a plus).
- Excellent organizational skills, including ability to set priorities, manage time, work under pressure and manage multiple projects effectively.
- Competency with MicroSoft Office Suite.
- Desire to master the requirements of the position and to perform them more independently over time.
- Desire to embrace the mission of the District to empower the community to voluntarily conserve, protect, and restore natural resources in a landscape that supports agriculture, urban areas and wild spaces.
- A California driver's license, a clean driving record, and successful completion of a background check.

About the Napa County RCD

The RCD is a local non-regulatory organization whose mission is to promote responsible watershed management through voluntary community stewardship and technical assistance. Since 1945, the RCD has facilitated natural resource conservation through community involvement, education, technical expertise, and scientific research. The RCD covers over 500,000 acres in Napa and Solano Counties. The RCD is committed to utilizing voluntary, cooperative, and scientifically sound methods to ensure that the natural resources within the district are sustained, conserved, restored, and protected within a landscape of productive agriculture, growing cities, and wild lands.

Work Environment

As with all RCD positions, this position is contract-based. The primary contract that funds the Vineyard Conservation Coordinator has been renewed annually since 1991. Work and/or office hours are generally from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; however the incumbent may be required to attend occasional evening and/or weekend events and there is some flexibility with the work schedule. Local travel will be required, generally within Napa County and the Bay Area / Sacramento Valley.

Physical Requirements

The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator should be prepared to work in the field, exposed to both cold and warm conditions and may be required to lift and move objects up to 50 pounds. The Vineyard Conservation Coordinator

should also have the ability to hike up to 5 miles per day over uneven terrain to conduct field work. The work requires the ability to talk, listen, observe, stoop, reach, sit, stand, and use repetitive motions. The position requires the ability to operate a telephone, computer keyboard, copier, other typical equipment and motor vehicle, vision to read materials and a computer screen, and hearing and speech to communicate in person and over the telephone. When necessary, the position requires the ability to work unusual shifts, including weekends.

Compensation

Compensation will be commensurate with experience. RCD full-time employees receive holiday, sick, and vacation leave, CalPERS retirement benefits, an employer-paid health insurance plan, dental insurance, and access to a voluntary deferred compensation program.

To Apply

If interested, please send a cover letter stating your interest in the position, what you can contribute to the RCD, and your desired salary, along with a resume (including a minimum of three professional references) to the attention of Leigh Sharp, Executive Director, Napa County Resource Conservation District, 1303 Jefferson St., Ste. 500B, Napa CA 94559; email: leigh@naparcd.org. It is desirable for the individual to start prior to November 15, 2014. **The position is open until filled.**

The selection process may consist of but is not limited to an evaluation of the applicant's qualifications, one or more interviews, and a written exam. Any part of the selection process, including a decision to hire, may be modified or canceled to meet the needs of the RCD. The RCD is and Equal Opportunity Employer.