



**Flood Control**  
& Water Conservation District

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## MISSION STATEMENT

THE CONTRA COSTA  
COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT WORKS TO REDUCE  
FLOOD RISK, PROMOTE  
STORMWATER QUALITY,  
AND RESTORE AND ENHANCE  
NATURAL RESOURCES IN AN  
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE  
MANNER THROUGHOUT  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY.





# A NOTE FROM BRIAN BALBAS

Chief Engineer



During the past year we have made great strides on bringing our two large projects, Lower Walnut Creek Restoration and Three Creeks Parkway Restoration, closer to construction. These multi-benefit projects have garnered significant grant funding and local support, showing that expanding beyond single-purpose flood protection can be done. We've also been preparing for our first re-accreditation through the American Public Works Association in 2020. This program enables us to objectively evaluate, verify, and recognize compliance with recommended best management practices. We continue to engage our community on volunteer workdays, through our Creek and Channel Safety Program, and this year by putting on a successful Contra Costa Creek and Watershed Symposium, celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the first Symposium.

This Annual Report provides some of our highlights from 2019. For the complete Report and previous years' reports, please visit [www.cccounty.us/FCDAnnualReports](http://www.cccounty.us/FCDAnnualReports).





District staff visited with our County Representatives in April as part of **WATERSHED DAY AT THE CAPITOL**. They educated others on the outcome of SB 231 and the need for comprehensive funding for all stormwater management agencies in the State.



The District continued to use the Upper Sand Creek Basin in Antioch as a focal point for watershed education to staff and the community. The District held a hands on workshop on site to train staff on how to harvest native willows from the basin and plant in nearby areas. The District also partnered with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, Friends of Marsh Creek, and Earth Team on a **SECOND ANNUAL EARTH DAY** event which included a trash pickup competition, native plantings, and nurturing of existing plants since the basin's construction in 2014.







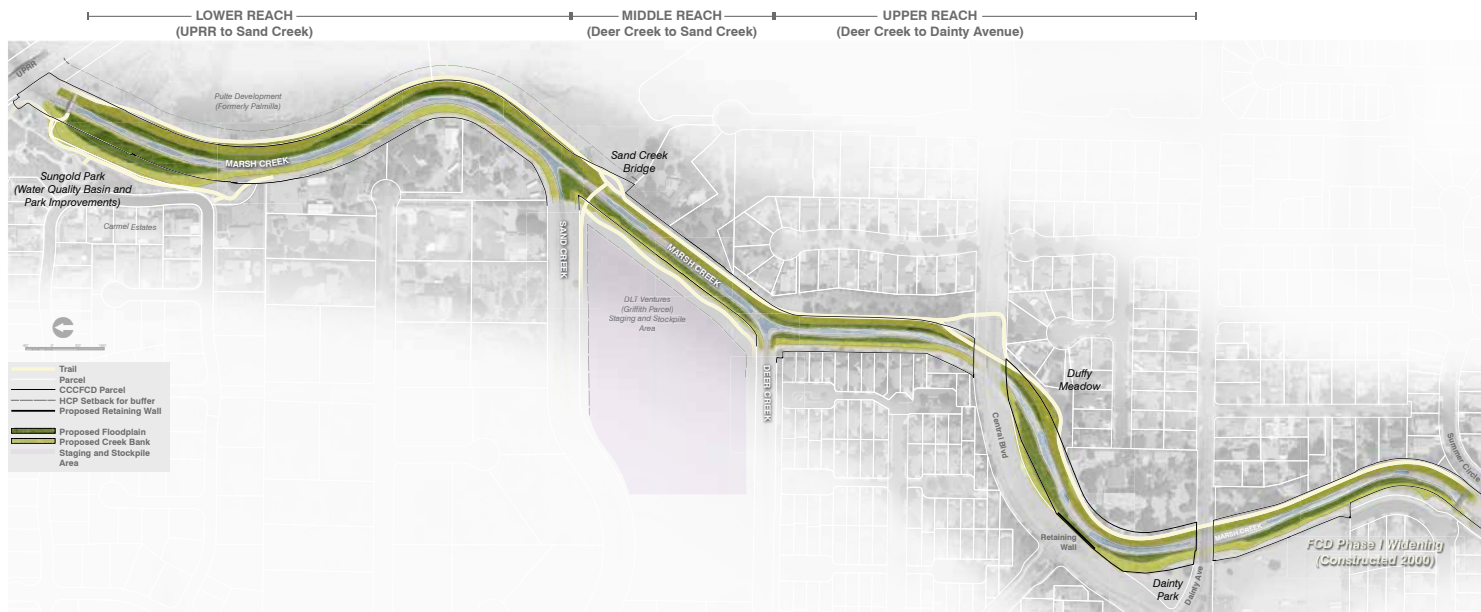
Significant progress was made on the design phase **THE LOWER WALNUT CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT**, with the CEQA document finalized in November and 95% design plans released in December. Grant fundraising continued with awards totaling nearly \$9 million in 2019. Tours and outreach continued throughout the year. The cover image is a photo simulation of The North Reach, Pacheco Marsh, of the restoration project.





The District has completed the condition assessment of 67 flood control facilities throughout the County; and 22 are remaining to be completed in the next 2-3 years. So far, the results indicate that our facilities are in **OVERALL GOOD CONDITION**.





The District in a public-private partnership with American Rivers has completed the design of the **THREE CREEKS PARKWAY RESTORATION PROJECT** which will transform over  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of Marsh Creek flood control channel into high quality salmon and riparian habitat with enhanced public access in Brentwood from Dainty Avenue to the Union Pacific Railroad. With the CEQA documents finalized and design plans completed, construction is planned to start in summer 2020.



The District continued to work on **REMOVING THE INVASIVE PLANT, ARUNDO DONAX**, in the Walnut Creek Watershed. Together with the Walnut Creek Watershed Council and the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, this year the District focused on removing arundo and another invasive plant, *Dittrichia*, at Kubicek (Pine Creek) Basin in Walnut Creek on several workdays.



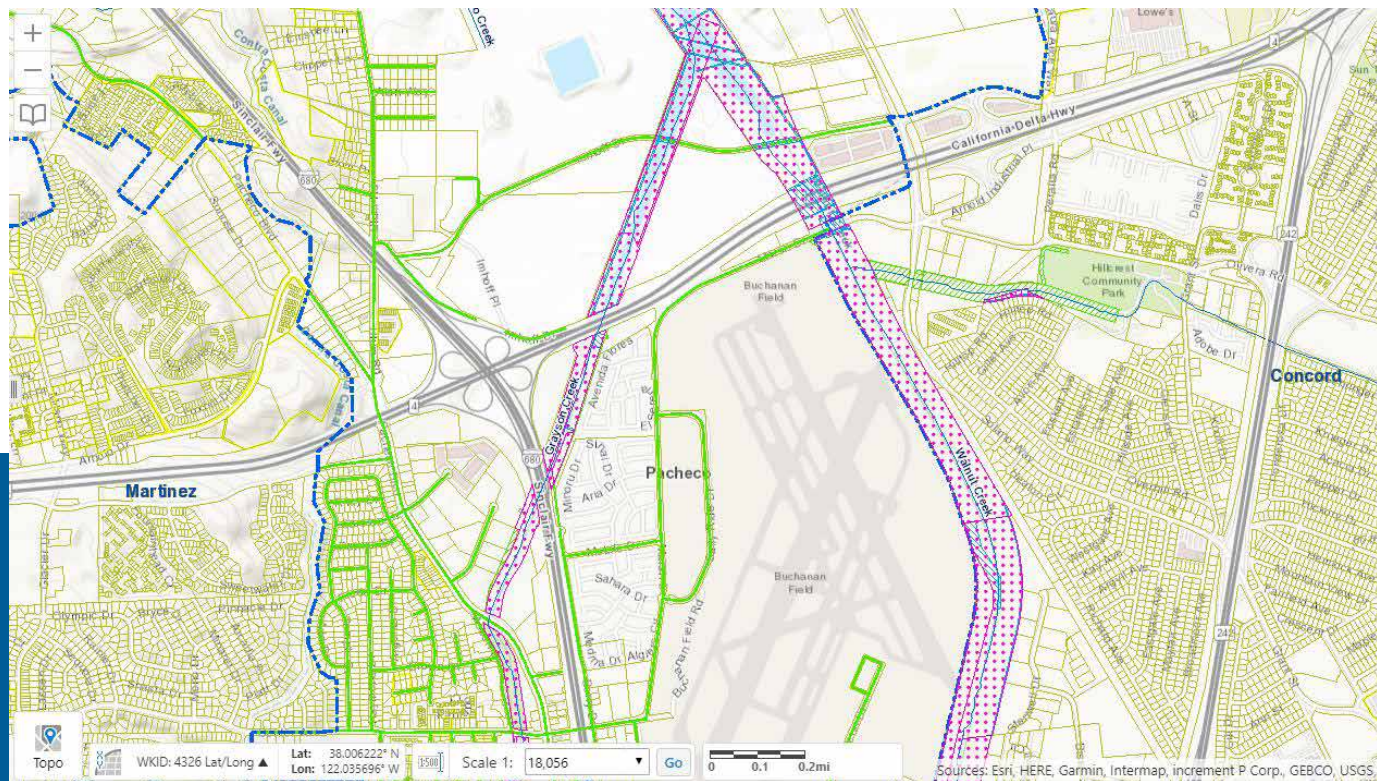




The District held a **7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GIVING NATIVES A CHANCE PLANTING EVENT** at Clayton Drain in Concord to continue removing invasive weed species and planting 5,000 native creeping wild rye grass plugs.







The District made substantial progress in reviewing and updating its **RIGHT OF WAY DATA IN GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) MAPPING**. This is a long term project that will help in managing District property and assets in an efficient manner.



The District continued to use  
**GOATS FOR VEGETATION  
MANAGEMENT AND FIRE  
SUPPRESSION** in District  
channels and basins.





The District continued the **CREEK AND CHANNEL SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM** with a 5<sup>th</sup> annual event at Walnut Creek Intermediate with a poster contest, joint presentation with the Contra Costa Fire District Swiftwater Rescue Team, and channel field trip with the leadership class.





The District with the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District sponsored the **6TH QUADRENNIAL CONTRA COSTA CREEK AND WATERSHED SYMPOSIUM** bringing together like minded creek enthusiasts working to preserve the County's varied creeks and watersheds while celebrating achievements and milestones of the last 20 years.









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Front: Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project – Pacheco Marsh, Photo Simulation  
Back: Kubicek (Pine Creek) Basin under Mt. Diablo