# PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAM LANDOWNER AGREEMENT

This Landowner Agreement (Agreement), dated October 14, 2022, is between Ambrose Recreation and Park District (Landowner) and the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). This project was selected because the Landowner(s) share(s) a common objective with the Service to restore habitat for the benefit of Federal trust species on private lands, and the project supports priority actions identified in the Regional Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Program Strategic Plan.

Ambrose Recreation and Park District, 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point, CA 94565, hereby agrees to participate with the Service in conducting certain wildlife management practices on lands owned or managed in Bay Point, California.

In signing this Agreement, the Landowner(s) join(s) as a participant(s) in a wildlife habitat improvement project and grant(s) to the Service and any other cooperators signing this Agreement authority to complete the habitat improvement project or the Landowner(s) may personally carry out management activities with financial or material support as described in the Work Plan. Any donation of supplies or equipment to the Landowner(s) for carrying out the habitat improvements is included in the Work Plan. The activities conducted pursuant to this Agreement are not to replace, supplement or otherwise contribute to any mitigation or compensation that may be required of the Landowner(s) or other parties as a result of any mandated requirements.

The term of this Agreement (also referred to as the habitat retention period) will be completed on December/31/2033. This Agreement may be modified at any time by mutual written consent of the parties. It may be terminated by either party upon 30 days advance written notice to the other party(ies). However, if the Landowner(s) terminate(s) the Agreement before its expiration, or if the Landowner(s) should materially default on these commitments, then the Landowner(s) agree(s) to reimburse the Service prior to final termination for the prorated costs of all habitat improvements placed on the land through this Agreement.

#### Landowner:

The Landowner(s) or his/her land manager, with legal authority over land management decisions, guarantee(s) ownership of the above-described land and warrants that there are no outstanding rights that interfere with this Landowner Agreement.

The Landowner(s) will notify the Service of planned or pending changes in ownership. A change of ownership shall not change the terms of this Agreement. The Agreement and terms shall be in effect on the described land for the term of the Agreement.

The Landowner(s) agree(s) to allow access (with advance notice) to the Service to implement the project described in Work Plan, and to monitor project success. The Landowner(s) retain(s) all rights to control trespass and retains all responsibility for taxes, assessments, and damage claims.

During the habitat retention period, the landowner must maintain the habitat restored under this award by providing the plants with supplemental water until the plants are established, not using pesticides on or near the plants, and keeping weeds under control. At the end of the habitat retention period, the habitat improvement project will become the sole property and complete responsibility of the Landowner(s). There shall be no obligation to the Service after the term of the Agreement has expired.

The Landowner(s) will be responsible for securing any necessary permits. Technical advice and support will be provided by participating agencies in the application for the permit(s). The Landowner(s) agree(s) to identify Service's contribution to the project during public presentations, reports, or other information published about the project, as appropriate. The Landowner(s) will not be responsible for replacing wildlife habitat developments that are damaged or destroyed by severe acts of nature.

#### Service:

The Service will work with the Landowner(s) and the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District throughout the entire Agreement term to support actions needed to ensure that the project is designed and constructed per the Agreement and functions as intended.

The Service, its agents, or assignees will provide advanced notice prior to accessing the Landowner(s) property to implement the project described in the work plan, and to monitor project success.

The Service assumes no liability for damage or injury other than that caused by its own negligence, on the above acreage. The Service does not assume jurisdiction over the premises by this Agreement.

**Spatial Information Sharing:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, permission must be obtained from the Landowner(s) before any personal information can be released. The only information that can be shared is payment information that is authorized by law. Therefore, Landowner(s) consent is requested to allow for sharing of spatial information about this project solely with conservation cooperators providing technical or financial assistance with the restoration, enhancement or management of fish and wildlife habitat.

	I/We, the Landowner(s), consent to having spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators
X	I/We, the Landowner(s), do NOT wish to have any spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators

Si	gn	atı	ure	s:

Doug Long, Ambrose Recreation and Park District	Date
Chris Lim, Contra Costa Resource Conservation District	Date
Carolyn Kolstad, Service Partners Program Biologist	Date
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Field Supervisor or Branch Chief	Date

## Attachments:

Partners Program Work Plan (Excerpt: "Description of Project and Objectives," with items pertaining to this site highlighted in yellow)

Cultural Resources Map - 7.5' Quad Ambrose Community Garden

**Cultural Resources Map - Ambrose Community Garden** 

### <u>PARTNERS PROGRAM WORK PLAN</u> – Contra Costa RCD Xerces Society Hedgerow Installation and Maintenance for Birds and Pollinators

The conservation project described below is agreed to by the Service, and the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District and private landowners.

<u>Description of Project and Objectives:</u>: Describe in detail the work to be conducted in terms of habitat restoration, enhancement, etc. Specifically identify benefits to Federal trust resources. For habitat restoration projects, include restoration hypothesis, questions/problems to solve, and goals/objectives of the project, including project size and habitat types,. Include a description of any monitoring that will occur as part of the project. Attach maps and drawings, as applicable.

The primary purpose of this project is to install and maintain pollinator habitat in Contra Costa County through the installation of Xerces Society monarch hedgerow kits led by Contra Costa RCD Staff. This effort supports several ongoing initiatives for western monarchs (and other pollinators, including birds), conservation planning with private individuals, conservation education projects, and other local and regional initiatives. The Contra Costa RCD has worked with agencies to apply for and receive nine Xerces Society hedgerow kits across three sites that will be made available in Fall 2022. These kits are guaranteed and will be provided with or without Partners Program funding. The Contra Costa RCD is seeking funding from the Partners Program to utilize the EcoStewards Conservation Program of the RCD to assist farmers with installation of these hedgerow kits free of charge (paid through this grant).

Funding will also enable CCRCD staff to continue facilitating the East Bay Monarch Work Group, a regional conservation effort that brings together scientists, natural resource professionals, and members of the public to advocate for science-backed monarch practices and to coordinate monarch conservation efforts throughout the East Bay.

Typically, portions of agricultural properties that are not in use for production—such as roadsides, field edges, and ditches—are managed with periodic herbicide applications and/or mowing to control noxious weeds. This approach presents a number of problems: wildlife habitat value is greatly diminished, weed control methods are detrimental to wildlife health, and the resulting bare or minimally vegetated soil is prone to erosion that can degrade surface water quality. There is an opportunity to use the Glo Magleby Community Garden to create diverse, native habitat. In the place of continual weed management, we will work with landowners to plant hedgerows—dense swaths of native perennial grasses, forbs, trees, and shrubs—on un-farmed portions of their properties. These hedgerows, funded through the Xerces Society, will provide habitat and migratory corridors for wildlife. They include native species chosen by the Xerces Society to promote monarch and other pollinator health. These species include pollinator host plants like milkweeds and ceanothus, along with many other beneficial species. The roots of the vegetation will stabilize soil and reduce erosion, contributing to on-farm and watershed-wide water quality improvements.

The Contra Costa RCD is well poised to provide monarch-related technical and implementation assistance to landowners. In Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, through the Contra Costa RCD's Agriculture and Monarch Conservation Programs, staff assisted four applications for Xerces monarch hedgerow kits and provided technical assistance to the site managers to plan and install the pollinator plants on their land. In Spring 2022, four applicants were awarded nine kits with a planned installation in Fall 2022. In previous years, the Contra Costa RCD relied on volunteer labor through school environmental clubs, Scout Troops, or other community organizations to plant the small number of habitat installations. With the program's success, coordinating and finding volunteers for larger-scale work days for multiple sites has become difficult, forcing us to rely on unbillable, and thus unsustainable, staff time and labor to accomplish the task, often for smaller farms that are over 1 acre, but typically operated on or managed by a small number of staff or volunteers.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife funding would enable the CCRCD to sustainably provide one work day per Xerces hedgerow planting site.



# Cultural Resources Maps - 7.5' Quad Ambrose Community Garden



PFW Xerces Kits 2022

World Imagery Low Resolution 15m Imagery High Resolution 60cm Imagery High Resolution 30cm Imagery

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## Cultural Resources Maps - Ambrose Community Garden

