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**GOLD RIDGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECEIVES URBAN AGRICULTURE  
CONSERVATION GRANT TO BENEFIT MONARCHS AND OTHER POLLINATORS**

Sebastopol, California – Today, the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (RCD) in Sonoma County, California announced it was awarded an urban agriculture conservation grant through a partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to boost technical capacity nationwide.

Gold Ridge RCD was one of 20 conservation districts across 14 states to receive funding. NACD and NRCS established the Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative in 2016 to help conservation districts and their partners provide much-needed technical assistance for community-oriented agricultural projects in both urban and rural contexts.

This grant will support the Gold Ridge RCD, and its neighboring partner Sonoma RCD, in providing outreach and technical assistance to underserved urban and community agricultural entities in Sonoma County interested in hosting or enhancing habitat for western monarch butterflies and other pollinators. This may include school and community gardens, tribal lands' cultural production systems, and localized food sovereignty efforts. “We are thrilled to have received this funding at such a critical time in western monarch conservation history,” said Isis Howard, Project Coordinator at Gold Ridge RCD. “The Gold Ridge and Sonoma RCDs look forward to adapting our rural monarch pollinator conservation efforts by building urban and community projects and partnerships.”

This is the fifth round of funding awarded by NACD and NRCS, with grants totaling \$5.6 million for 122 projects across 35 states.

“The Urban Agriculture Conservation grants provide opportunities for conservation districts to continue their great work in new and different ways,” **NACD President Michael Crowder said**. “The projects we’re announcing today will help conservation districts reach new audiences and build new programs to provide technical assistance in a variety of community-oriented settings.”

See the full list of 2021 grantees on NACD’s 2021 Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Recipients webpage, and read more about past grantees on [NACD’s Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative Story Map](#). To learn more about regional monarch and pollinator work or to learn what you can do in your own back yard, visit the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation website: <https://xerces.org/>.

*The National Association of Conservation Districts is the non-profit organization that represents the nation’s 3,000 conservation districts, their state associations and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. For more than 70 years, local conservation districts have worked with cooperating landowners and managers of private working lands to help them plan and apply effective conservation practices. For more information about NACD, visit: [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org).*