



Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
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Letter of Interest: Range Management Advisory Committee Member Nomination

October 22, 2021

Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist
California State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
P.O Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244

Dear Ms. Wolf:

I am honored to be nominated to join the Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC). As the Regional Agricultural Specialist at the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCDGSDC), my responsibilities are directly related to the issues addressed by RMAC, including providing technical support to farmers and ranchers to improve soil health. The RCDGSDC is a non-enterprise special district working on a range of environmental conservation programs across the majority of grazing lands in San Diego County. Our organization has participated in RMAC for the past several years and would like to remain involved following the retirement of our previous Executive Director, Sheryl Landrum.

Agricultural technical assistance has personal significance for me, as each of my grandfathers worked in livestock management and crop research. I have followed suit, studying conservation and management as an undergraduate and watershed management as a graduate student. My Master's Thesis in Geography from San Diego State University was earned through my study of how water shortages affected agricultural producers, using both remote sensing and sociological methods. My professional career in conservation has combined habitat restoration, agricultural research, environmental monitoring and community engagement in non-profit organizations, university settings and private consulting. I have greatly enjoyed applying my skillset at the RCDGSDC, where I started in February of this year.

Rangeland management first became a focus of RCDGSDC programs in 2017, when we created the first Carbon Farming Plan in Southern California for a ranch in Northern San Diego County. We are currently managing a prescribed grazing demonstration project at Rancho Jamul with Rancher John Austel, with support from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Food and Agriculture, including implementation, monitoring and outreach. We hold semiannual outreach events which emphasize prescribed herbivory to reduce fuel loads and techniques to improve drought resilience. In addition, we are building advocacy for San Diego County ranchers in a 2-year regional planning effort. We look forward to continuing our work to improve rangelands in California as members on the RMAC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Kramer".

Joel Kramer
Regional Agricultural Specialist
Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County

Conserving Our Natural Resources

FULL 7(d)(a)

