

HUICHICA CREEK VINEYARD SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT

STATE PROGRAM: California Water Resources Control Board

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Napa County Resource Conservation District

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$138,847

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD) of Napa, California received a loan from the State Revolving Fund for the Huichica Creek Vineyard Sustainable Agricultural Demonstration Project. The project will be an outdoor classroom designed to encourage the adoption of these best management practices in perennial crops in California. The SRF loan will be used to install surface drainage improvements; restore wetland areas between vineyard blocks, which includes construction of a weir, planting native vegetative species, and development of the necessary habitat structures for waterfowl and raptors; and stabilize creek bed and restore riparian vegetation. The overall project includes incorporating best management practices and low input viticulture techniques that include long-term monitoring of water quality, soil nutrition, insect pest populations, biodiversity changes, and the economics of the vineyard. The project will demonstrate: commercial viticultural methods that are environmentally sensitive and economically feasible; the maximum use of biodiversity to control grape pests and diseases and to enhance wildlife habitat in and around the vineyard; the reduction of risk of nonpoint source water pollution from sedimentation and chemical residues from pesticides and fertilizers; and practices that can produce high quality fruit made into a premium wine economically. In addition to the SRF loan, the Napa RCD received a CWA §319 (h) grant to assist in implementation aspects of the project.

To read more about this case study, please visit https://19january2021snapshot.epa.gov/sites/static/files/2015-10/documents/2002_05_23_cwfinance_cwsrf_wetcase.pdf.