



## *Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council*

Rosemary Allison, Mark Burley, Kevin Cannon, Amy Elliott, Michael Adams

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July 15, 2021

Chair Bonham and Board Members  
California Wildlife Conservation Board

Subject: Support for VCRCD's Habitat Assessments and Restoration for Monarchs Overstory and Nectar Enhancement and Expansion Project.

Dear Chair Bonham and Board:

With the Western Monarch Butterfly population nearing extinction, I am writing on behalf of the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) to enthusiastically support the Habitat Assessments and Restoration for Monarchs - Overstory and Nectar Enhancement and Expansion Project (HARMONEE) proposed by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCD). HARMONEE facilitates a robust community-wide public-private collaborative approach to preserving, protecting, and restoring the populations of the Western Monarch and other native pollinators on the verge of extinction.

HARMONEE will help Monarchs and pollinators become more resilient to a changing climate and habitat degradation. The Project will help pollinators who face various threats such as loss of breeding and overwintering habitat, increased pesticides, parasites, disease, and predation and work to remedy these challenges so future generations of Monarchs continue to thrive.

HARMONEE is a landscape-level Monarch Butterfly and pollinator recovery initiative that will employ a distinct group of experts to ensure essential habitat needs for Monarchs and native pollinators are met. The Project will utilize a diverse palette of milkweed and nectar resources that bloom throughout the year, providing the essential habitat Monarchs need. In addition, HARMONEE will spearhead the creation of a unique "Monarch Alert system" that provides intermediate community-driven soft protection until State or Federal Agencies enact more protective laws. Finally, restoring landscapes is a vital step, but so is ensuring that the community is engaged and understands the sensitive issues at hand. Therefore, the Santa Rosa Valley MAC supports the extensive community engagement campaign designed to not only educate the public but excite and encourage them to become a part of the solution.

This project involves enhancing areas within Ventura County to support the migratory monarch's life cycle by reducing flying distances between foraging and breeding sites, by increasing and diversifying the necessary floral resources at those breeding and migratory habitat sites, and by enhancing overwintering sites through strategic planting and canopy management. Project sites will be distributed across Ventura County throughout neighboring cities and unincorporated communities, ensuring that monarchs and pollinators have abundant sources of seasonally suitable habitat when traveling through the County. This project will bolster milkweed and nectar resources distributed across the landscape to support monarch migration, breeding, connectivity, and maximize reproduction capacity. This regional inter-agency collaboration on Monarch habitat and public education is one of the strengths and building-blocks of this important project. The Santa Rosa Valley MAC respectfully encourages your support of funding for HARMONEE.

Cordially,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosemary Allison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Rosemary Allison, Chair  
Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council