

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COUNCIL INSTALLS “RAIN CATCHERS” WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS AT TWO SONOMA COUNTY SCHOOLS

The non-profit North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council (Council) is installing two water conservation projects—one in Southwest Santa Rosa and the other in Guerneville. Targeting underserved areas, the Council is furthering water conservation efforts, and helping youth learn about water conservation through school projects and associated curriculum.

The goal of this program is to construct a “Rain Catchers” system at a school in southwest Santa Rosa and nearby underserved areas. Thanks to the generosity of the Strong Foundation for Environmental Values and to the Exchange Bank Foundation, the Council is able to build a system at the R. L. Stevens School in southwest Santa Rosa, and another at the Guerneville School in Guerneville. These conservation efforts demonstrate the importance of saving rainwater for use during drier months when water is critically important to people, fish, and wildlife in the region.

On February 6, the Council installed a tank at the Guerneville School with twenty community volunteers taking advantage of the sunny weather to install a tank while building the collection roof. The group prepared the gravel base, and constructed the ring foundation, then set the tank and built most of the conveyance system. Our Council Water Conservationist will return to connect the tank to the gutter system and conduct outreach regarding “Rain Catchers” with 26 Guerneville Junior High students who will help finish up the tank and overflow to be ready for the next series of rains events.

The installation for the R. L. Stevens “Rain Catchers” tanks, purchased through a donation by the Exchange Bank Foundation, is scheduled for February 20, 2016, when we hope the community will again turn out to help construct the tank and conserve water for the future. The public is invited to attend this educational and fun-filled day! If rains delay the construction on February 20th, then the rain-delay date for construction is March 12th.

These projects educate our youth with practical demonstration of roof-top rain water collection systems. The Council demonstrates that “every drop counts” and shows how small, individual efforts in water conservation create change to improve ecological sustainability in our local communities.

Oona Padgett, Water Conservationist for the Council, says “The students at the schools really get involved in these projects—they help us build them, and they learn about water conservation in practical terms.

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Then, they take that message of water conservation home, and spread the knowledge among their family and friends. These kids will be the leaders of tomorrow, and that's how change happens."

The two "Rain Catchers" installations and outreach are funded by the Strong Foundation for Environmental Values and the Exchange Bank Foundation. The Council is a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization working in Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Lake Counties. The Council's overall goal is to protect water, soil, and air resources while enhancing sustainable communities. The Council works to protect pollinator habitat, conserve water with "Rain Catchers in Your School," promote new and expanding small agricultural entrepreneurship, and encourage use of biochar for improving soil health.

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