



Estero Americano Watershed Sediment Reduction Project

Project Description: The project was designed to address 303(d) listed water quality impairments in the Estero Americano resulting from upland erosion sources in the watershed. The project will reduce sediment loadings to the estuary and its tributaries through restoration and/or mitigation of actively eroding drainage gullies located along the estuary or one of its major tributaries. Priority gully restoration/mitigation sites will be selected based on the likelihood of sediment delivery to the estuary. A careful assessment of soils, slope, vegetation, and hydrologic connectivity above and below selected sites will be used to determine potential sediment delivery. Priority sites will be limited to erosion problems that are management induced, and have the highest mitigation potential. A ranch road erosion assessment will also be conducted to estimate sediment loadings from these sources and to identify needed road improvements in the watershed.

All program participants are encouraged to apply for NRCS, EQIP funding in order to provide cost-share for projects funded under this program.

Project Goals: To reduce sediment loadings from upland sources in the watershed.

Project Eligibility Requirements: All dairy and livestock operators in the Estero Americano Watershed. A Technical Advisor Committee (TAC) will be convened for the project to identify priority gully restoration sites and treatment levels. All landowners in the watershed around the open water of the estuary are eligible to participate in the roads assessment. Funding for road restoration projects identified during the roads assessment will be pursued by the RCD in 2008.

Project Budget:

\$697,564 SWRCB, Proposition 50 Coastal NPS Pollution Control Program and 15% cost-share.

Project Timeline: January 1, 2007 through April 1, 2010

Project Manager:

Patricia Hickey

Resource Conservationist, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
(707) 874-2907 or goldrccd@sonic.net