

# Tree Davis

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

It is exciting for me to reflect back over the past year and share with you the accomplishments and results of Tree Davis in 2023. This was my first full year as the executive director, and there were a number of activities for me to jump into, but thanks to the board's leadership and the thoughtful transition process established by my predecessor, it has been a very successful year.

The year started off strong, with the establishment of a three-year strategic plan to guide our direction between 2023 and 2025. It was an exciting process and involved all board members and all staff. To try to sum the plan up simply, it is our goal to continue our upward trajectory as an organization - deepen our community-oriented programming, improve tree survivorship, grow our regional connections, and a wide array of other objectives. We now reflect back on the strategic plan frequently to ensure that we are heading in a strong direction.

Two big steps forward were accomplished this year. First, we transitioned our Community Canopy program from being grant funded by CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection), to being a fully funded contract with the City of Davis. This is big news for us, and we have more information about this in the program highlights section.

Second, we are elated to share that we are partnering together with a couple of other excellent organizations for the Cool Schools Yolo partnership. This revolutionary effort will transform ten school campuses in West Sacramento and Woodland - making the physical spaces more vibrant, cooler and conducive to positive mental and physical health, while also creating and delivering a curriculum that grows environmental literacy with the students. Tree Davis' participation with this program ensures our financial well-being (more on that later) as well as grows our capacity for supporting the transformative change that we hope to accomplish in the coming years. This program begins in 2024.

We welcomed one new board member this year, Dr. Melody Meyer, who brings a great depth of knowledge about plant science from her studies at UC Davis and her work at Driscoll's. Our awesome Urban Forestry Program Manager, Wyatt Garrett departed in the spring, but we were able to bring on Alex Bernucci as our Urban Forestry Specialist. Alex is truly our person on the streets - stewarding hundreds of trees in a season throughout Davis. We were also fortunate to have the support of fellows from the Sacramento Valley College Corps throughout the year.

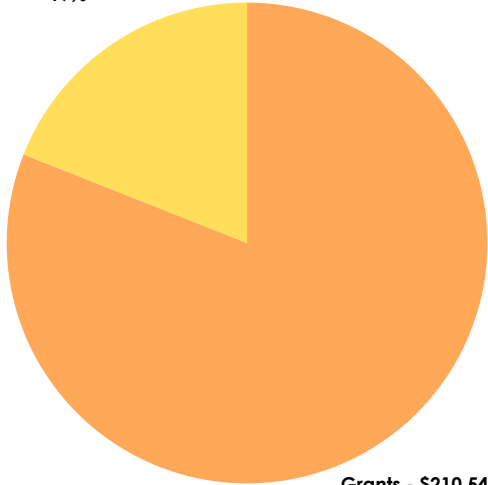
**TORIN DUNNAVANT**

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Yearly Revenue

**2021**

Contributions - \$49,371  
19%



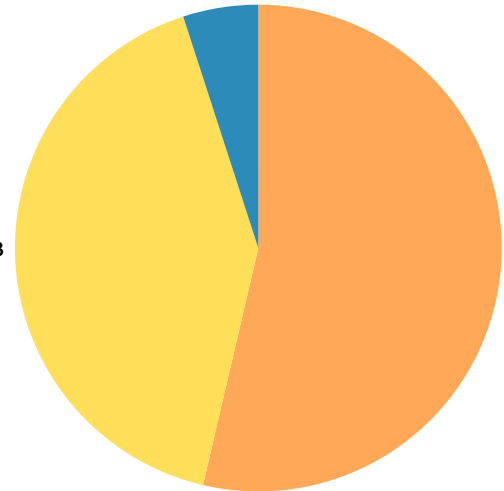
Grants - \$210,547  
81%

Total Revenue - \$259,918

**2022**

Contracts - \$12,787  
5%

Contributions - \$105,903  
41.4%

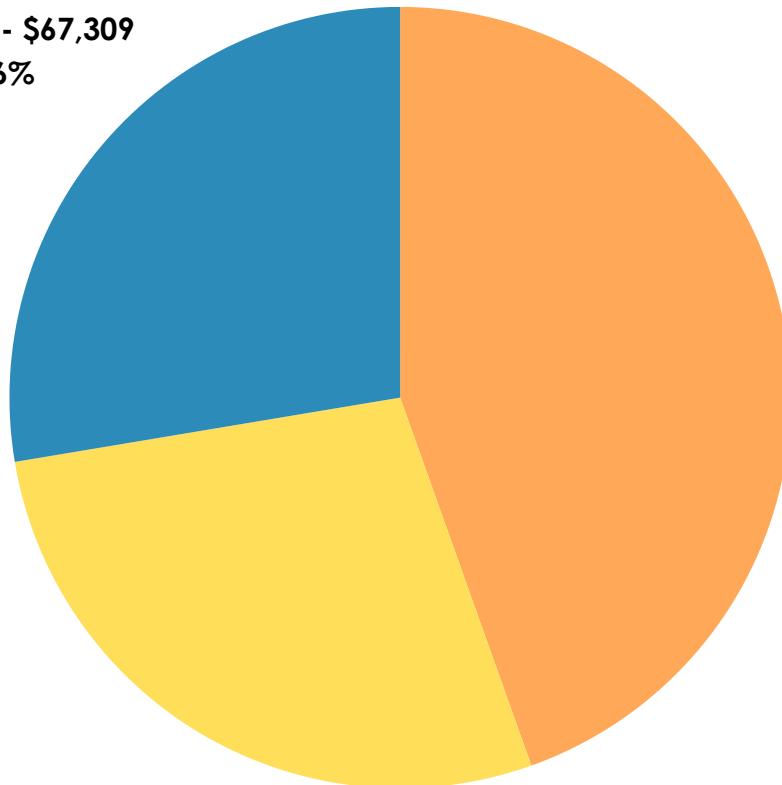


Grants - \$137,383  
53.6%

Total Revenue - \$256,073

**2023**

Contracts - \$67,309  
27.6%



Grants - \$108,511  
44.5%

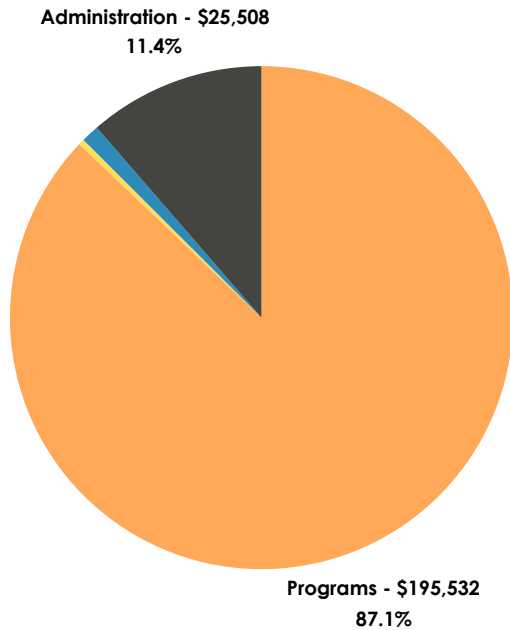
Contributions - \$67,763  
27.8%

Total Revenue - \$243,796

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

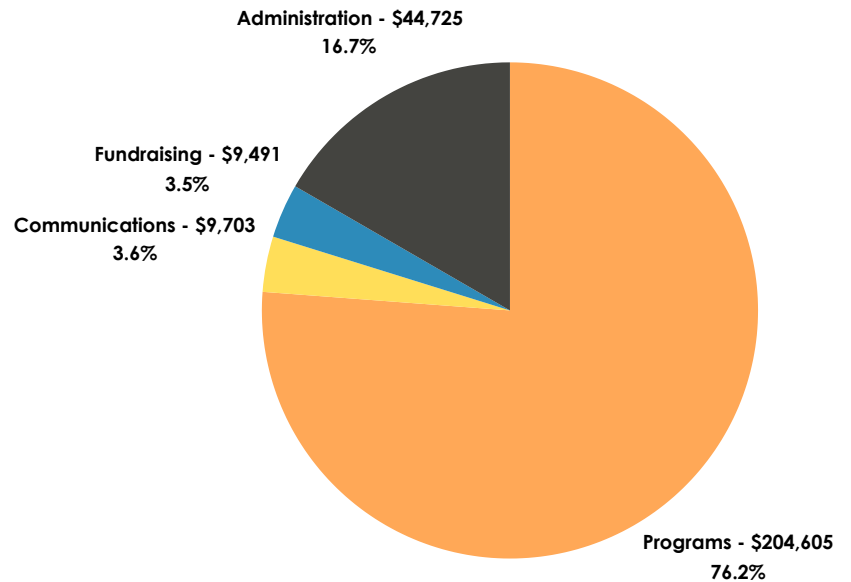
## Yearly Expenses

**2021**



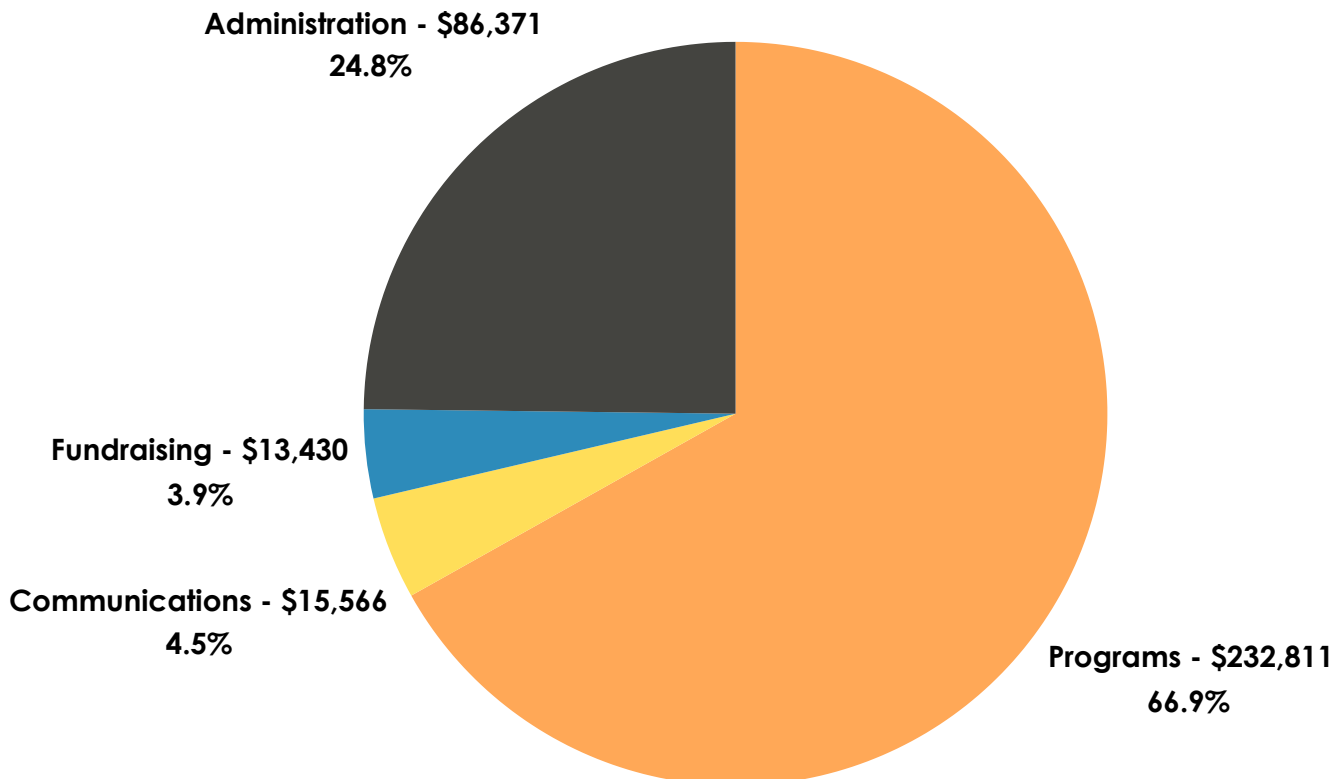
**Total Expenses - \$224,374**

**2022**



**Total Expenses - \$268,525**

**2023**



**Total Expenses - \$348,179**



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As we entered the year, Tree Davis' Board and staff recognized that this would be a year of transitions. A primary funding source - and one that was supporting organizational growth - the CAL FIRE City of Davis grant - came to an end in March of 2023. Given the positive momentum of the organization, and given that there were cash reserves, it was decided that the 2023 budget would contain a deficit so that the organization could maintain its positive trajectory and staffing levels.

The goal was to identify new funding sources that could allow the organization to continue its programming efforts. Two sources of funding were secured. The first was the transition of the funding for urban forestry efforts within the City of Davis, from a significant level of funding from the 2019 through 2023 grant, to the City itself being willing to invest deeply in Tree Davis' efforts. The City of Davis has always been a supportive partner to Tree Davis, but in 2023 it agreed to ramp up its support significantly. This relationship is not fully recognized in the 2023 revenue as the agreement was not established until the fourth quarter of the year, but will be a significant financial lift for Tree Davis in 2024 and into the future.

The second large funding source that staff worked throughout 2023 to secure is the Cool Schools Yolo project. The grant cycle that CAL FIRE offered for schoolyard greening was by far the largest funding pool that has ever been offered for urban forestry programs in California - \$150 million in total. The Cool Schools Yolo project overall receives over \$20 million, and for its efforts toward education and engagement within the project, Tree Davis will receive nearly 10% of those funds between January 2024 and March 2026. Given that the project start was delayed until the beginning of 2024 (it was initially intended to begin in July, 2023) we did not realize any financial gain from this project in 2023. However, projections for the next two years are positive thanks to this funding source as well as the new contract with the City of Davis.

So when looking at the revenue outcomes for 2023, the organization followed the trajectory that was expected by board and staff, with a deficit that ate into the cash reserves. However, Tree Davis was able to maintain its staffing levels, which meant that staff could continue a high level of service to ongoing efforts, and could ensure toward new contracts and grants that Tree Davis could deliver strong programming, which we will do so in the coming years.

# 2023 TREE DAVIS DONORS

Tree Davis is fortunate to receive financial support from hundreds of folks annually. Below is a list of everyone that donated \$100 or more in 2023.

Don & Elizabeth Abbott	Dan Gusfield	Edward McPherson
Kami Ames	W David Haggerty Jr.	Greg & Adair McPherson
Beulah & Ezra Amsterdam	Alisa Haller	Paul Meyerhoff & Debra Taylor
Cindy Anders	Ann Halsted	Roberta Millstein
John Ballon	Susan Handy	Erin Montgomery
Craig & Darren Blomberg	Ben & Lynette Hart	Marilyn Moyle
Katrina Boratynski	Heidi Brown	David Murphy
Stuart Bresnick	Carissa Hirsch	Carlene Ozonoff
John & Christine Bruhn	Amy Hoagberg & Max Stevenson	Jeffrey Pelz
Douglas Buzbee	Laura Hofmeister	Alma Poceros Coba
Susan & Kent Calfee	Lynne Isbell	Suzanne Reuben-Kranz
Colin & Michelle Cameron	Bryan Jenkins	Rose Turner
Elizabeth Capell	Ron & Cheryl Jensen	Karen Russell
Connie Choi	David Jolkovsky	J E Ryan
Steven Clossick	Mary Ann & Victor Jung	Rita Samartino
Rebecca & Bruce Conrad	Paul Kelly	Don & Julie Saylor
Sheila Cordrey	John & Nancy Keltner	Jay Schreider
James & Helen Cramer	Walter Kopp	Kathryn Shack
Diane Crumley	Lorenzo Kristov	Steve Shaffer
Eleanor Curry	Heidi & Brian Laurenson	Don Shor
Ann Daniel	Eric Lee	Mark Tebutt
Martin DeChant	Carol La Russa	Carolyn Teragawa
Tracy DeWit	Anne Lincoln	Jodey Thompson
Gerald Dickinson	Linda & Peter Lindert	Luke & Ashley Vitanza
Torin Dunnavant	Susan Eliis & Mark Linton	Philip & Lynn Vitanza
Jacques & Galia Franco	Suzanne Livers	Jacob Wade
Dave Fujino	Kerry Daane Loux	James Wellington
Judith Gabor	Jean Lucas	John & Judy Whitcombe
Cynthia Gerber	Diane Makley	Robin Whitmore
Thomas & Rebekah Gilpin	Petrea Ruth Marchand	Lois & Bruce Wolk
Nancy Gorder	Erin Donley Marineau	Brian & Lia Youngs
Emily Griswold	Richard McCann	Barbara Zadra
Larry Guenther	Cate McGuire	

# THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS



**WINTERS**  
JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



WASHINGTON  
UNIFIED  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT  
WEST SACRAMENTO



**Sutter Health**



*Building Community Through Canopy*



# PROGRAMS' REPORT

## Tree Davis Impact in 2023

Trees Planted	96
Events Held	21
Volunteers Engaged	163
Tree Stewardship Visits	2,915

## Tree Visits in 2023

Trees Watered	1,519
Trees Mulched	332
Trees Weeded	496
Trees Pruned	352
Stakes Adjusted/ Removed	393

## Community Canopy

March 2023 saw the end of the successful grant effort by the City of Davis and Tree Davis. With CAL FIRE funding support, the City of Davis was able to create an updated, state-of-the-art Urban Forest Management Plan, that will provide a 40 year roadmap for ensuring the city's trees are providing robust benefits for generations to come. The full plan can be found at this webpage: <https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/urban-forestry/city-of-davis-urban-forest-management-plan>. With the grant's support, Tree Davis planted 1,118 trees throughout the city over the four years of the grant.

Given the objectives established by the management plan, the City of Davis has lofty goals for growing and stewarding a robust urban forest canopy to create a climate-resilient community. As a part of that effort, the City has formalized a strong partnership with Tree Davis in a new services contract. The contract directs Tree Davis to plant 200 to 300 trees a year in public spaces, such as parks, medians and easements in front of homes. Many of these trees will be planted in partnership with neighborhood groups. Once the trees are planted, Tree Davis staff and volunteers will work diligently to give proper stewardship to the newly planted trees for their first five years - watering regularly, weeding away competing vegetation, adding layers of mulch, and periodic pruning. This is a strong partnership, and one that Tree Davis is proud to be trusted with these responsibilities.

In 2023 Tree Davis held several community volunteer events, planting in parks throughout the city, and holding tree stewardship events at a variety of locations. Thanks to the many volunteers that participated during the year, especially John Carson for his participation as a seasoned volunteer leader.



# PROGRAMS' REPORT

## Climate-Ready Education

Tree Davis' newest initiative officially got underway at the beginning of the year. The Climate-Ready Education program focuses on high school students, working with small cohorts at a handful of different schools throughout the region. The goal of this CAL FIRE funded program is to provide lessons for the students on an array of topics related to urban forestry - ecological and financial benefits of urban forests, Climate-Ready Trees, environmental justice, civic engagement and more. Each school cohort experience culminates with a tree planting on their school campus, or in a nearby public space.



In 2023, Tree Davis facilitated the program at five different schools - Davis Senior High and Leonardo da Vinci in Davis, River City High and Washington Middle College Prep in West Sacramento, and Wolfskill Career Readiness Academy in Winters. Overall Tree Davis staff worked with 37 students in 2023, and planted 42 trees on school campuses, in parks and along streets with the students.





# PROGRAMS' REPORT

## Climate-Ready Landscapes - N Street Park

The Tree Davis Memorial Grove was the first site for Tree Davis to implement its Climate-Ready Landscapes program - which converts turf and other underutilized spaces into drought tolerant and native plant landscapes. The Davis Manor Neighborhood had secured support from the City to update N Street Park with new features, and looped Tree Davis into the effort to transform the park's green space into one that would be Climate-Ready.

After working closely with the city and experts to dial in the design specifics, Tree Davis staff coordinated two full-day volunteer events in March to install the plants. These were wonderful, vibrant events, with great representation from the Davis Manor community. Overall 446 plants and trees were planted that weekend, as well as drip irrigation and felled logs from the winter storm to create a small adventure playground, thanks to the efforts of 85 volunteers.

Tree Davis is now regularly monitoring the space to ensure that the plants and trees establish properly. Great thanks to local residents Dave Beale and Craig Blomberg for their ongoing efforts to support N Street Park stewardship



## Memorial Grove and Tribute Trees

What was just a concept a few years ago, the Memorial Grove's Climate-Ready Landscapes project is nearing completion. Three "mini-groves" were established in 2023 - Elizabeth's Grove in the winter, and the Livers' and Cervinka Groves in the fall. Overall 515 plants were added to the space during the year, thanks to the efforts of many volunteers.

In addition to the plantings, staff and volunteers worked diligently from the spring through the fall to provide needed stewardship to the overall space - weeding, mulching and watering. Local volunteers Ann Daniel and Judy Hecomovich spent many hours dedicated to supporting the space, as well as the volunteers that joined for one of the many stewardship events that were held.

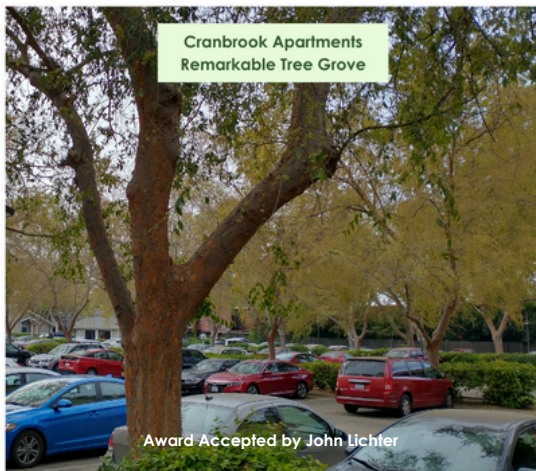
In early 2024 one more grove will be planted on the northwest corner of the park, meaning that the Memorial Grove project will be completed. Tree Davis staff and volunteers will continue to manage the space, ensuring that the plants and trees are receiving all of the support they need. However, with the enthusiasm that was shared for the concept, staff and board are investigating the concept of expanding the Memorial Grove model to another park space in Davis, Robert Arneson Park in the Wild Horse neighborhood.

The Tribute Tree program continues to be facilitated by Tree Davis staff. The program began over twenty years ago as an opportunity for people to honor and memorialize loved ones with the planting of trees in public spaces. Over the years, 18 trees have been planted through this program. In 2023, Tree Davis planted one Tribute Tree, working with the family to find a good planting location and determine species. In the future Tree Davis staff plant the trees and ensure their survival with regular stewardship visits. This program will continue into the future.

# PROGRAMS' REPORT

## Legacy Celebration

This November, Tree Davis supporters and urban forestry enthusiasts gathered to celebrate community champions for the third annual Legacy Celebration. Attendees were blessed with lovely weather, the event was held at the Tree Davis Memorial Grove in West Davis. Tree Davis' Events Committee facilitated a nomination process for its Stewardship Awards, receiving several great nominees that deserved recognition. The following individuals (and tree grove) were recognized for their contributions to the region's urban forests:





# 2023 TREE DAVIS TEAM



## Tree Davis Staff

**Torin Dunnivant**  
Executive Director

**Cecilia Walsh**  
Urban Forestry  
Program Manager

**Elizabeth Hursh**  
Environmental Education  
Program Manager

**Alex Burnucci**  
Urban Forestry Specialist  
(joined August)

**Wyatt Garrett**  
Urban Forestry Program  
Manager (through April)

## Tree Davis Interns and Fellows

**Allie Bennett**  
Intern, Summer/Fall Quarters

**Elise Gustilo**  
Sacramento Valley Climate College  
Corps Fellow, Winter/Spring

**Gracielle Garin**  
Sacramento Valley Climate College Corps  
Fellow, Winter/Spring

**Keller Kramer**  
Sacramento Valley Climate College Corps  
Fellow, Winter/Spring

**Angel Espinoza**  
Sacramento Valley Climate College Corps  
Fellow, Fall

**Katie Trejo**  
Sacramento Valley Climate College Corps  
Fellow, Fall

**Nick Xiong**  
Sacramento Valley Climate College Corps  
Fellow, Fall

**Steven Shi**  
Sacramento Valley Climate College Corps  
Fellow, Fall

# 2023 TREE DAVIS TEAM

## Tree Davis Board of Directors

**Greg McPherson, Ph.D., President**

Emeritus Professor, UC Davis  
USFS Emeritus Research Scientist

**Luke Vitanza, Vice President**

Operations Manager, Two Enlighten

**Paul Meyerhoff, Treasurer**

Founder and Principal, Symphony  
Financial Planning, LLC

**Stephanie Holstege, Secretary**

Environmental Scientist, State Water  
Resources Control Board

**Emily Griswold**

Director of GATEways Horticulture and  
Teaching Gardens, UC Davis

**Diane Crumley, Ph.D.**

Community Outreach Coordinator,  
Davis Media Access

**Don Shor**

Owner, Redwood Barn Nursery Inc.

**Larry Guenther**

Community Activist

**Wesley Sagewalker**

Partner, Gateway Development Company  
Partner, Spafford & Lincoln

**Jaques Franco**

Environmental Scientist, Retired

**Melody Meyer, Ph.D.**

Senior Manager of Clean Stock & Plant Health, Driscoll's, Inc.





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