

SOUTHERN GUAM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SGSWCD) ANNUAL REPORT | 2023



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2025

Michael E.D. Aguon
Chairperson

Martha Tenorio
Vice-Chairperson

Glenn Takai
District Director

**Yvonne Manglona-
Juaneza**
District Director

Glenn Dulla
District Director

DISTRICT STAFF

Erica Pangelinan
District Administrator

Rita Barcinas
Program Support Specialist



ABOUT US

The Southern Soil and Water Conservation District is a Government of Guam Board established by Guam Public Law 31-125:2 that works with government agencies and private landowners to promote the conservation of Guam's soil and water resources. The District is operated by a Board of five (5) Directors who are the designated officials elected by Guam's registered bonafide farmers, landowners, and land occupiers.

VISION

Promoting stewardship through the conservation of our soil and water and natural resources for our island and our future.

MISSION

Promote, sustain, and support the conservation of Guam's soil and water resources.

OUR PARTNERS

- University of Guam
- Northern Guam SWCD
- Guam Department of Agriculture
- CHamorru Land Trust Commission
- Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans
- Guam Environmental Protection Agency
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- NAVFAC Joint Region Marianas
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
- USDA United States Forest Service

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SGSWCD GOALS 2023–2025

- Steward & Develop Guam's Agricultural Industry and Conservation Reserves
- Actively Engage & Build Relationships with the various Island Communities
- Develop Team Capacity and Organizational Culture
- Strengthen Organizational Systems and Structures

FY2023 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

GRANTS & AGREEMENTS. Through successful partnerships, the Southern District has been able to obtain additional resources to help achieve its goals. This has been made possible through the acquisition of partner grants and agreements to include:

- USDA NRCS Guam Long Range Planning Partnership
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services - Guam Feral Swine Program
- Southern District Technical Assistance Program
- GACD Technical Assistance Grant
- Guam Department of Agriculture - Farmer Stress Grant
- NACD REPI Grant

EDUCATION & OUTREACH. In fulfilling its mission, the Southern District has conducted various education and outreach initiatives to advance the conservation of Guam's natural resources. These outreach efforts include:

- 2023 CIS Conference on Island Sustainability - April 11-15, 2023
- Guam Local Working Group - April 11, 2023
- Stewardship Week - Proclamation Signing & PSA Activities - April 30 - May 07, 2023
- USDA NRCS Typhoon Mawar Program Support Outreach

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & CAPACITY. To develop team capacity and culture, the District prioritizes strengthening operations and staff capacity. The Districts participate in professional development opportunities for directors and staff. Training includes:

- NACD Executive Board Member Retreat
- USDA NRCS Operational Training
- Next Generation Leadership Training Application

COLLABORATIVE BOARDS & COMMITTEES SERVED. The Southern District of Guam is actively involved in collaborative boards and committees to enhance partnerships and efforts for the conservation of Guam's natural resources. Boards and committees include:

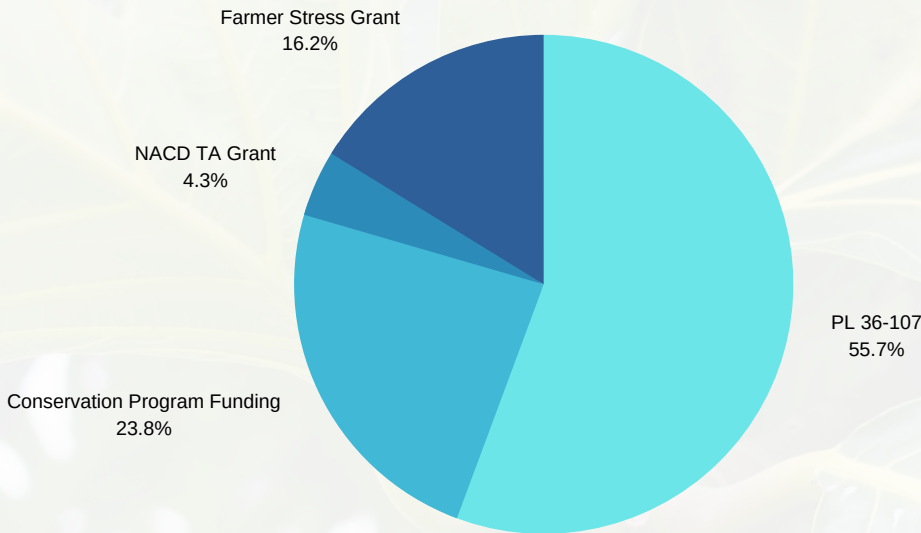
- NACD - Natural Resources Policy Group; Climate Change Subcommittee; Invasive Species Subcommittee; Farmbill Taskforce; Executive Board
- Guam Invasive Species Council
- Guam Habitat Steering Committee
- Guam Association of Conservation Districts



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Fiscal Performance: Income

According to Guam Budget Public Law 36-107, the Southern District received an appropriation of \$116,733 for Fiscal Year 2023. Additionally, the District received \$50,000 dedicated to feral swine management and other conservation activities; \$9,000 for its current NACD Technical Assistance program; and \$34,000 as part of its new grant partnership with the Guam Department of Agriculture for the impending Southern District Farmer Stress Program set to launch in FY24.



FY2023 Income

\$209,783

Appropriation PL36-107

\$116,733.00

Conservation Program Funding

\$50,000.00

NACD TA Grant

\$9,000.00

Farmer Stress Grant

\$34,000.00

Fiscal Performance: Expenses

The District's financial allocation has been divided into different categories, with the largest portion of the budget being spent on employee salaries and benefits, which comprises 44.3% of the overall budget. This is followed by meetings and trainings, which account for 33.5% of the budget. The District has also dedicated 19% of its budget towards Conservation programs, demonstrating its commitment to stewarding the island's natural resources. In addition, miscellaneous expenses such as advertising costs, director stipends, and membership dues are also taken into consideration, making up approximately 3.2% of the District's budget. With this detailed breakdown, the District has effectively managed its finances and allocated resources to the areas that require more attention to accomplish its goals best.

FY2023: Expenses

\$173,875.85

Conservation Program Support

\$33,032.82

District Employees & Benefits

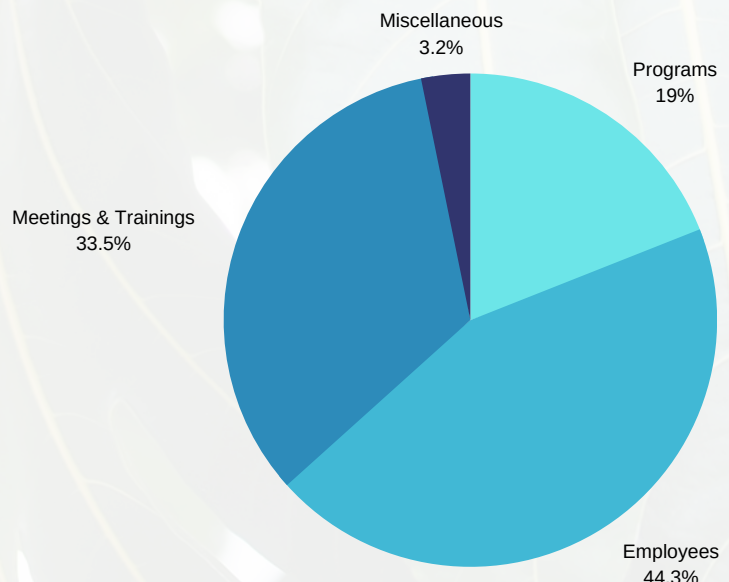
\$77,095.00

Meetings & Training

\$58,166.19

Miscellaneous

\$5,581.83



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Southern District Regular Board Meetings

- November 30, 2022 - Joint Partner Meeting
- December 28, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting
- January 31, 2023 - Joint Partner Meeting
- March 29, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting
- April 26, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting
- June 21, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting
- July 12, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting with Partners
- July 26, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting
- August 16, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting
- September 20, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting with Partners
- September 27, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting

As per its mandate, the Southern District holds its regular Board meetings every month. In order to optimize strategic partnerships, the district meets bi-monthly with partners to discuss collaborative efforts that would benefit mutual clients. The incoming Board conducted its first meeting on November 30, 2022. The District strives to ensure that monthly meetings are conducted in accordance with the open government law. Additionally, a substantial amount of its limited budget is dedicated to advertising costs of board meetings.

Collaborative Boards & Trainings Attended

- NACD Executive Board Board Member Retreat - December 02-08, 2022 Washington D.C.
- 2023 NACD Annual Meeting - February 11-15, 2023 New Orleans Louisiana
- 2023 Spring Fly-In - March 22-23, 2023 Washington D.C.
- 2023 NACD Summer Meeting - July 15-19, 2023, Bismarck, North Dakota
- 2023 NACD Pacific/South West Region Meeting - August 23-25, 2023 Lake Tahoe, Nevada
- USDA NRCS Operational Training - September 11-13, 2023 Honolulu, Hawaii

Challenges & Moving Forward

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) on Guam play a crucial role in safeguarding the island's natural resources, by promoting conservation and best management practices for soil and water resources. They educate the community on the importance of being good stewards of the land and advocate for programs and policies needed for conservation efforts.

However, the SGSWCD faces several challenges that hamper its ability to fulfill its mandates. These include delays in funding, limited administrative and technical capacity, disconnected partnerships, and low community exposure of efforts. The program activities of FY 2023 were also hindered by Typhoon Mawar.

The budget allocated to the District prevents it from contributing local matching funds for more extensive grant opportunities and agreements. Its limited benefits package has resulted in high employee turnover, restricting the District's capacity to implement projects and strengthen overall operations.

The District aims to improve partnerships to contribute to meaningful conservation projects that address Guam's top priority resource concerns, such as soil quality limitations, long-term protection of land, pest pressure, wind and water erosion, and source water depletion.

To improve their services, the board has developed a strategic plan to better serve its farmers, ranchers, partners, and affiliates. Their goal is to protect and preserve Guam's natural resources for future generations. The SGSWCD team is exploring various funding opportunities to build staff capacity and increase its value locally, regionally, and nationally.

ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT US HERE

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