**RESCAPE CALIFORNIA:**
**8 PRINCIPLES FOR REGENERATIVE LANDSCAPES**

ReScape California is a non-profit organization that educates about and advocates for a whole-systems approach to landscaping that works in harmony with the natural world and addresses the changing environment. ReScape's landscaping practices are based on 8 regenerative principles which foster soil health, sequester carbon, conserve water and protect habitat and valuable resources while reducing waste and preventing pollution in our communities and watersheds.

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**Watersheds**
- San Francisco Bay
- Sacramento River
- San Joaquin River
- Tulare Lake Basin

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**SAN FRANCISCO BAY DELTA WATERSHED**

A watershed is all the land in a region from which rain collects and drains into a common creek, river, lake or bay. The water in a watershed moves across the land and through the storm drain system both underground and on the surface. Water that flows onto streets and into gutters is called urban runoff. On the way to the creeks and rivers, urban runoff picks up pollutants that eventually end up, untreated, in our waterways.

The San Francisco Bay Delta Watershed includes the largest estuary in western North America and encompasses over 60,000 square miles, extending from the Sierras to the Golden Gate. It includes the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries as well as the Delta, Suisun Bay, San Pablo Bay, San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Strait where the entire watershed drains into the Pacific Ocean. Fresh water is diverted to supply drinking water for 25 million Californians and irrigation for millions of acres of farmland. Endangered and threatened species also rely on the watershed for habitat while two-thirds of California's salmon pass through these waters. At least half of the water birds whose migration follows the Pacific Flyway count on the region's remaining wetlands (more than 90% of California's wetlands have been lost).

Whether your landscape is next to a creek or miles away, your activities impact the quality of water in the watershed. In healthy landscapes, water from rain or irrigation percolates through soil that is rich in organic matter and alive with organisms. Living soils absorb and retain much of the water while also filtering out pollutants before the water reaches the aquifer or watershed. Incorporating ReScape's 8 Principles into your landscaping practices will ensure that you are helping to protect the watershed and minimize pollutants that reach the waterways where we live, work and play.
1. Act Local
   Built landscapes are a part of the larger ecosystem of the San Francisco Bay Delta Watershed and they can contribute to its health if designed and maintained using sustainable practices.

2. Reduce Waste
   Reduce waste by choosing the right plants, avoiding invasive plant species, using recycled and salvaged products in the landscape, and by composting, mulching and grasscycling plant debris.

3. Nurture the Soil
   Soils are living ecosystems and when landscape practices allow the soil food web to thrive it can filter pollution, store water, provide plant nutrients and help plants resist pests naturally.

4. Sequester Carbon
   Healthy vegetation works together with soil rich in organic matter and beneficial microorganisms to remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it as soil carbon, an important strategy for addressing climate change.

5. Save Water
   Use a holistic approach of creating drought resistant soils with compost and mulch, select plants naturally adapted to summer-dry climates, use stormwater, greywater and recycled water in the landscape as much as possible, and use efficient irrigation systems that include self-adjusting, weather-based controllers.

6. Conserve Energy
   Reduce the need for mowing and shearing, shade buildings and paved areas, use efficient outdoor lighting, and buy local landscape products.

7. Protect Water and Air Quality
   Maximize permeable surfaces and minimize stormwater runoff, use integrated pest management, minimize the use of synthetic pesticides and avoid overuse of fertilizers, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and plant trees to remove CO2 and absorb air pollutants.

8. Create Wildlife Habitat
   Biodiversity is crucial to the health of natural ecosystems and by using native plants and increasing the diversity of plant palettes, our built landscape can provide food, water and shelter for birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and other welcome creatures.