

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District  
Board of Director's Meeting  
August 20, 2015

- CALL TO ORDER President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.
- ATTENDANCE Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Jack Hamm, Molly Watkins, John Thoming, Bill Koster, Marden Wilber and John Herrick. Members absent excused included Diego Olagaray and Phil Balmat. Staff members and contractors present included Ora VanSteyn (NRCS), Mike Wackman, Ruth Mulrooney, Michael Johnson (MLJ, LLC) and Jonna Spaletta. Guests present included Kamal Bagri (Ag Commissioner's Office), Julianne Phillips (SJFB), Shasta Burns and Krista McCoon.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS There was discussion of a letter being drafted in opposition of land acquisitions for tunnel construction on the west side of the County. Motion to have Mr. Brodie draft this letter. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously.
- MEETING AGENDA The meeting agenda was amended to include both a contracting considerations and financial matters discussion in closed session. Accept meeting agenda as amended and approve July 16, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion Mr. Herrick, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously.
- TREASURER'S REPORT Income and bills to be paid for both the RCD and Coalition were presented, along with current financial reports. Accept the Treasurer's report and pay all the bills. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously. The revised (to match all income and expense sources) 2015-2016 RCD Budget was presented and discussed. Accept the revised 2015-2016 RCD budget. Motion Mr. Koster, second Ms. Watkins, approved unanimously.
- NRCS UPDATE It was reported that \$2 mln will be used to fund irrigation system applications with every eligible application being funded, and all obligating completed by mid-September. An update on NRCS personnel was provided, noting that 5 positions will be vacant, including: area engineer, soil conservationist, engineering technician, Farm Bill assistant and Ag engineer. The only update available for the anticipated NRCS and RCD office move was that a meeting was scheduled for today with FSA as the lead agency and the NRCS State Office to discuss the innards of the new building.
- RESOURCES The Ag Commissioner's office reported that commercially produced wines grapes will be excluded from the CDFA light brown apple moth (LBAM) quarantine. An update on the drought assessment completed by the Ag Commissioner's office applicable to native rangeland was provided. It was discussed that there have been more LBAM finds (12-14 within 1-1½ months) in cherry trees in the east side of the county; this will have effects on quarantine compliance agreements. The potential for grower losses due to LBAM continuing to spread was discussed; it was explained that Asian citrus psyllid is CDFA's current focus. It was noted that the Ag Commissioner's office is trying to change the structure of continuing education classes, with 114 attending their most recent event that was moved up from the typical November timing. It was asked that growers complete the survey for pesticide disposal to help support potential funding. New regulations for personal protective equipment taking effect in July were reviewed; the most notable change being to rubber gloves.

It was reported that SJFB's Rural Health and Safety committee will meet Monday at 9am. An update on SJFB's (and other partners throughout the county) approach to the MokeWISE resolution process was discussed.

It was reported that the CRAE white-paper previously discussed was not published; interest holders could not come to agreement on proposed edits. Details on the next CRAE meeting (2015 CRAE Summit on the Future of Working Lands) scheduled for Tues, Sept 29<sup>th</sup> from 10am-4pm were provided.

The RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator noted that many items pertinent to this report will be discussed throughout the remainder of the meeting topics. The MokeWISE resolution process was discussed; it was concluded that the SJCRCD would like to adopt a letter of support in place of a resolution. Motion to have MokeWISE letter of support drafted. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Ms. Watkins, approved unanimously.

#### GRANT UPDATES

It was confirmed that NRCS would like to amend the current PMC agreement to add \$14K and extend the term of the agreement. Accept and approve amendment to PMC agreement 5-258. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Koster, approved unanimously.

An update on the NRCS Planning Assistance grant approved during last month's meeting was discussed. Approve contract for Sarah Lucchetti at \$25/hr and approximately 20 hrs/week. Motion Mr. Hamm, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.

#### NEW BUSINESS

It was discussed that the RCD insurance policy should be renewed with appropriate changes incorporated. Renew RCD insurance policy. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Thoming, approved unanimously.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

The Directors' attention was called to communication items in the meeting packet. It was reported that the SJCRCD had been contacted about potentially working with American Rivers, River Island and South Delta Water Agency to submit grant proposals for the Paradise Cut Bypass project. Details of the project, intended to improve flood control on the San Joaquin River, were discussed. SJCRCD join River Island and South Delta Water Agency to submit Paradise Cut grant proposals. Motion Mr. Herrick, second Mr. Hamm, approved unanimously.

#### IRRIGATED LANDS

Coalition financials were reviewed. Accept financials. Motion Mr. Koster, second Mr. Wilber, approved unanimously.

A membership report was provided noting that 700 postcards will be mailed to nonpaying members, with outstanding dues totaling \$250K. It was discussed that these members will have one year to bring their membership current and the late payment fee is \$0.50/ac. It was also reported that 14,000 acres will be added to the SJCDWQC as of January 1, 2016 through the transfer of members from East San Joaquin's Coalition.

A program report was provided. It was reported that the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Control Report was conditionally approved. Updates on Nitrogen Management Plans and grower workshops for self-certification were provided. The RMP (Regional Monitoring Program) was discussed, with reference to the meeting scheduled with the Assistant Director next Friday. History of the RMP program, monitoring exchange recommendations, and potential future requirements were discussed.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board members retired into closed session to discuss the RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator positions, contracting considerations and financial matters.

Upon adjourning from closed session, the Board approved posting the RCD Administrator/Watershed Coordinator positions.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the USDA Stockton Service Center at 12:00 noon. Adjourn meeting at 2:30 p.m. All in favor, approved unanimously.