

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
3290 Ad Art Rd • Stockton, CA 95215

Thursday, March 20, 2025 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, John Herrick, Bill Koster, and Molly Watkins. Kamal Bagri (SJC Ag Commissioner's Office), Parry Klassen (Valley Water Collaborative), Krista McCoon (RCD), Sonya Miller (NRCS-Stockton), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), and Kelle Schroeder (SJC Ag Commissioner's Office) were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the March 20, 2025, meeting was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from February 20, 2025, was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKER –

Mr. Parry Klassen from Valley Water Collaborative discussed the work the group is doing in the subbasin. He noted the VWC represents 5 subbasins. He discussed progress in this subbasin as well as others. He noted in other areas it's costing \$80-100/house to provide water to those who qualify. Recruiting has begun for participants. A large report is due in year 3, which will be costly.

TREASURER'S REPORT

All bills for the month were presented. A motion to pay all invoices presented in the packets was made by Mr. Koster. Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE

EQIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Miller said EQIP applications are open, selections will be made soon. IRA funding is on hold. If it's not available, those applications will be put aside. She explained there is currently a hiring freeze while three previously released employees are on a 45-day admin stay.

RESOURCES

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Bagri introduced Kelle Schroeder, the new Assistant Agricultural Commissioner. She discussed that pest prevention funding is stable within the Farm Bill. She noted that cross training detector dogs is something being reviewed, and new training

sites are being evaluated. Ms. Bagri noted she attended Ag Day at the Capitol. She let the group know that pest detection program for fruit flies was cut by 3%. There is potential to partner with the RCD as weed management funds are available to address invasive weeds. The group discussed doing something to address Tree of Heaven. Spray Day notices must be submitted electronically. Regional DPR offices are being established.

- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins discussed the CARCD board changed the name of the JEDI committee without consent of the board. There is growing concern regarding the processes and procedures, or lack thereof. The board discussed various committee positions available. The following board members agreed to apply to these committees: Water – Bill Koster and John Herrick; Land and Soils - Phil Balmat, Ryan Hansen, and Richard Rodriguez.
- C. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon provided updates as agenda items came up.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – All bills for the month were presented. Mr. Koster moved to pay coalition invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Program Report – The program manager's report was included in the packet.
- C. Steering Committee – No report.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney asked for guidance regarding those who owe several year's worth of dues. Discussion took place.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – No update.
- F. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Updated during guest speaker.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Progress is being made at all locations covered under the contract.
- B. Land Development within SJC – SJC Community Development reached out regarding a previous letter submitted asking if SJCRCD wished to submit additional comments since the project has a new name. An updated letter will be sent.
- C. Kings County Legal Support – Mr. Hamm moved to support the Kings County Farm Bureau with \$500 to aid with the ongoing legal battle regarding SGMA. Mr. Hansen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. 23/24 Audit Review – suspended until the April meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on March 20, 2025, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the Robert J Cabral Agricultural Center.