

**San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District**  
***Regular Board Meeting***

Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center  
2101 E Earhart Ave • Stockton, CA 95206

**Thursday, April 17, 2025 • 12:00 p.m.**

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**Minutes**

**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, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, Ryan Hansen, Bill Koster, and Molly Watkins. Kamal Bagri (SJC Ag Commissioner's Office), Amber Gariety (NRCS-Stockton), Krista McCoon (RCD), Sara Medina (Restore the Delta), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) were also in attendance.

**MEETING AGENDA**

A motion to accept the agenda for the April 17, 2025, meeting was made by Mr. Hamm. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**CLOSED SESSION –**

The board went into closed session at 12:09 and returned to open session at 12:14. Upon return to open session, Mr. Balmat moved to increase S. McQueen's rate of pay to \$35/hour. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**NRCS UPDATE**

EQIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Gariety noted that Conservation Stewardship applications are now due on April 30. Two more staff members took the voluntary resignation, making 8 staff remaining in the Stockton office.

**RESOURCES**

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Bagri noted that Josh Harder was at the Ag Center pushing for a dog training facility to come to California. She reviewed her interview with Kenny Kruse for his research project. She discussed Assembly Bill 732, which would give the Ag Commissioners additional recourse regarding abandoned orchards. She reviewed current process regarding abandoned orchards.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins noted that there were no financials provided in the recent board meeting and minutes from executive and board meetings remain vague. She also reviewed an issue regarding a southern California region that is having trouble with the election results and the legitimacy of the current results. She discussed a RICO case with Suisan RCD; a copy was emailed to the board. The following board members were accepted to CARCD committees: Water – Bill Koster (pending) and John Herrick; Land and Soils - Phil Balmat, Ryan Hansen, and Richard Rodriguez.
- C. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon reviewed a recent meeting with Delta Conservancy, DWR, and Solano County RCD regarding needs within the Delta. The board gave her direction to continue with these discussions.

## **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. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. 25/26 Coalition Draft Budget – Mr. Wackman reviewed the proposed budget and assumptions. The proposed budget was approved as presented, \$6.00/acre and \$.50/acre for land within the management zone.  
Ms. Watkins moved that parcels not enrolled in the Coalition will be charged back dues for up to 5 years upon entering the Coalition. Back dues, at the designated rate per acre per each year, and an additional \$1 per acre per year late fee will be assessed.
- C. Steering Committee – No report.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted that there is approximately \$5,000 in management zone fees that haven't been remitted. Discussion took place about sediment erosion control plans and the cost associated with getting one done. Options for providing assistance to growers was discussed.
- E. Program Report – The program manager's report was included in the packet. Mr. Wackman noted there is a list of candidates to be on a panel to discuss nitrates and nitrification filtration. One person proposed by the water board was rejected. There is a letter being sent around to approve the remaining panelists.
- F. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – No update.
- G. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman noted that work is being completed for the large report due at the end of 2025 for approval in 2026. SJCDWQC has a credit going into next year. There is a management zone meeting at the end of the month.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. DWR Contract – Progress is being made at all locations covered under the contract. A tour of Medford Island is set for April 18.
- B. Land Development within SJC – No update.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

## **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on April 17, 2025, was made by Mr. Hamm. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, May 15, 2025, at the SJC Farm Bureau.