

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, May 15, 2025 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, John Herrick, Ryan Hansen, Diego Olagaray, and Molly Watkins. Kendra Altnow (Lange Twins), Kamal Bagri (SJC Ag Commissioner's Office), Alyssa Drake (Constellations), Sonya Miller (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 May 15, 2025, meeting was made by Mr. Olagaray. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from April 17, 2025, was made by Mr. Olagaray. Mr. Herrick 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. Herrick. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE

EQIP and Personnel Update – Mrs. Miller discussed there is currently more money being allocated to less contracts than in the past due to a cap removal on the top end of projects. There are about 59 contracts totaling \$9.2M. Fifty employees in California either took the early resignation or retired, which puts California in a good position regarding employee load within the state. The Stockton office lost 3 people, leaving 8 total. Mrs. Miller discussed the need for a local work group meeting, which will take place after a board meeting in upcoming months. She also discussed office use at the Stockton office, she and Ms. McCoon will work on an MOU or office use authorization for a cubicle at the NRCS office.

RESOURCES

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Bagri discussed the cherry market, noting the export number is way down. She noted quality and quantity are poor, estimating \$9M in damages and 43% reduction in production. She also discussed the abandoned orchard case in Stockton; the court ordered a warrant allowing things to move forward. However, prevailing wage requirements are creating additional expenses. She also discussed a weed grant that the ag commissioner's office received and is interested in seeing how the RCD can help implement. She also noted the Ag Center Rental fee structure is being revised. Golden Mussel has been found in the Delta; an informational flyer will be sent for distribution. The next CE session will take place on July 2.

- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins discussed her attendance at the recent Bay-Delta Regional Meeting. She noted Aubrey Bettencourt is the NRCS Chief of Staff in CA. She stated there were no financial reports provided at the CARCD board meeting. Bill Koster was approved to be on the CARCD Water Committee.
- C. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon stated that legal counsel brought up that public hearing is required in response to AB 2561. This will be set for next month.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – All bills for the month were presented. Ms. Watkins moved to pay coalition invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Wackman noted that moving forward, he will put the management zone fees in a restricted account in QuickBooks to allow for it to show differently on financials.
- B. 25-26 Coalition Fee Resolution – 25.1 – Mr. Wackman reviewed the Resolution 25.1, 25/26 Water Coalition fees and policies. Discussion took place regarding the need to modify the proposed management fee to accommodate increasing costs and to allow fees to be raised incrementally, opposed to large sums at once
Mr. Balmat moved to amend and approve Resolution 25.1 to reflect a \$6.00 per acre fee and a \$.60 management zone fee. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Steering Committee – The steering committee met virtually.
- D. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted that invoices went out on 5/3 and are due on 6/15. She noted there have been lost of changes and land being fallowed.
- E. Program Report – The program manager's report was included in the packet. Mr. Wackman noted the report submitted to the Regional Board is expected to be approved.
- F. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman noted the program is moving forward. Analysis is being completed and the focus is shifting to nutrients.
- G. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman stated the management zone has the highest response rate of any and of those requesting testing, 70% have nitrate exceedances.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Mrs. McCoon stated progress is being made at all locations covered under the contract and an invoice was submitted.
- B. Land Development within SJC – No update.

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/possible action)

- A. 23/24 Audit Review – After board review of the audit documents, Mr. Herrick moved to accept and file the 23/24 audit findings. Mr. Olagary seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously,

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on May 15, 2025, was made by Mr. Balmat. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2.08 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the SJC Farm Bureau.