

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

San Joaquin County Farm Bureau  
3290 Ad Art Rd • Stockton, CA 95206

**Thursday, June 19, 2025 • 12:00 p.m.**

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**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, John Herrick, Ryan Hansen, Diego Olagaray, Jim Thoming, and Molly Watkins. Kamal Bagri (SJC Ag Commissioner's Office), Sonya Miller (NRCS-Stockton), Krista McCoon (RCD), Ruth Mulrooney (SJCDWQC), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) were also in attendance.

**MEETING AGENDA**

A motion to accept the agenda for the June 19, 2025, meeting was made by Mrs. Watkins. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from May 15, 2025, was made by Mrs. Watkins. Mr. Balmat 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.

Mrs. McCoon reviewed the proposed 25/26 RCD budget. Mr. Hamm moved to approve the 25/26 RCD budget as presented. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Olagaray moved to transfer \$1,000 from the RCD account to the Coalition account to correct an accounting error. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**NRCS UPDATE**

EQIP and Personnel Update – Mrs. Miller discussed a meeting with Aubrey Bettencourt, Chief of the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Ms. Bettencourt expressed interest in staying ag-focused and integrating all USDA activities into farmers.gov. Mrs. Miller reviewed current contracts and those applications not funded. She also reviewed logistics with FSA and other offices to help fill in, when needed.

**RESOURCES**

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Bagri noted that cherry season is officially complete, with 50% less certificates being issued that last year. Anecdotally, this is the fewest in 30 years. The walnut disaster letter from last year has been deferred. Another submission has been made. She also noted the joint legislative audit committee is going to conduct a review of the audit regarding pesticide use. It will take place in four counties, which are yet to be determined. The PGE shut off incident is being reviewed by

SJC OES to determine shut off preparedness. Ms. Bagri noted that her and RCD staff would be meeting to review a collaboration on a weed grant. She also highlighted that the cherry orchard abatement has been completed. The SJC Board of Supervisors approved the budget and the Ag Commissioner's Office is status quo. The crop report should be approved at the end of August/beginning of September. She also noted that efforts are being made to bring a detector dog training facility to SJC. Ms. Bagri and Ms. Miller will work together to see if progress can be made with the Air Board regarding ag burning.

- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins reviewed the recent CARCD board meeting. She noted the budget being reviewed, at the time, included a \$150K deficit. As part of the financial oversight committee, she has yet to receive complete financials.
- C. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon reviewed the printer options. Mr. Balmat moved to approve the purchase of a Ricoh C2510 printer and corresponding maintenance plan. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **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. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Steering Committee – No report.
- C. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney noted that invoices are due on 6/15. There is approximately \$760K in dues outstanding. She noted there have been lots of changes and land being fallowed. She also noted that the water board is doing on-site inspections more often, especially for those chronically late.
- D. Program Report – The program manager's report was included in the packet. Mr. Wackman reviewed exceedances. He noted the groundwater assessment report is due in December. He also noted that a transition in reporting is occurring, opposed to using statistical averages, which results in someone always being an outlier. Instead, the goal is to use agronomic averages for each crop.
- E. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman noted analysis is being completed and the focus is shifting to nutrients. The program has been beneficial.
- F. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman noted there have been approximately 80 requests for well testing, no water has been delivered yet.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. DWR Contract – Mrs. McCoon stated progress is being made at all locations. Mrs. McCoon reviewed current contract status and that DWR would like to extend the contract to 2029. Mr. Herrick moved to continue forward in extending the DWR contract to 2029. Mrs. Watkins seconded the motion. Motion passed, with Directors Balmat and Hamm in opposition.
- B. Land Development within SJC – No update.

## **NEW BUSINESS (discussion/possible action)**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

## **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on June 19, 2025, was made by Mr. Olagaray. Ms. Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:41p.m.

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