

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, August 21, 2025 • 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Board present included Richard Rodriguez, Phil Balmat, Jack Hamm, John Herrick, Ryan Hansen, Bill Koster, Diego Olagaray, Jim Thoming, and Molly Watkins. Kelle Schroeder (SJC Ag Commissioner's Office), Almmad Majie, Sara Medina (Restore the Delta), Sonya Miller (NRCS-Stockton), Krista McCoon (RCD), Stephanie McQueen (SJCDWQC), and Mike Wackman (SJCDWQC) were also in attendance.

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the August 21, 2025, meeting was made by Mrs. Watkins. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from July 17, 2025, was made by Mrs. Watkins. Mr. Hamm 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. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NRCS UPDATE

EQUIP and Personnel Update – Mrs. Miller noted the FY25 is closing and FY26 is opening on October 1. Applications are being accepted with a November 15 deadline. The RCD and NRCS are co-planning a grower outreach meeting set for November 13, at the Ag Center. She briefly discussed proposed USDA reorganization, which could remove the USDA office.

Mrs. Watkins moved to write a letter of concern regarding USDA reorganization and potential negative impacts to California agriculture. Mr. Olagaray seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOURCES

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Schroeder discussed an upcoming trip to Georgia to see the dog training facility. The Ag Commissioners office is working to find a way to build a training center in SJC. She noted the scope of work for the CDFA Weed Contract is being revised to allow the RCD to help manage the project. The crop report will be presented to the SJC Board of supervisors on September 9. There haven't been any new abandoned orchard complaints, most are related to squirrel issues.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins noted that the speech contest prize money has been increased.
- C. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon reviewed an email from CRAE requesting engagement regarding funding possibilities for growers in the Delta. She will set up a meeting with Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Herrick, Mr. Koster and CRAE representatives to discuss.

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. Steering Committee – No report.
- C. Membership Report – Mrs. McQueen noted that the membership list was sent to the Water Board on July 31. INMP delinquents were emailed, there are currently 516 outstanding reports. There have been internet issues in the office, Mike is working to resolve these.
- 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. He noted methylmercury monitoring is taking place.
- F. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman noted the program is moving forward and conversations are ongoing on how to find an alternative to perpetual water deliveries.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Mrs. McCoon noted that the projects are moving forward, and a contract extension is in the works. SJCRCD will be able to charge 5% indirect in addition to being reimbursed for staff time. Mr. Herrick moved to authorize Board President Rodriguez to approve and sign DWR subcontractor contracts once the updated budget is complete. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Land Development within SJC – Mr. Herrick noted the final chapters of a feasibility study for the Paradise Cut project are being completed. There are potential complications regarding the dredging component, which was needed to get stakeholders on board.

NEW BUSINESS (discussion/possible action)

- A. Letter to send to CDFA, UCANR, and NRCS about the California Conservation Planning Partnership Memorandum of Agreement (effective November 2022) on delivery of conservation assistance. – Mrs. Watkins reviewed the concerns regarding the C2P2 MOA between CARCD, CDFA, NRCS, and UCCE.

Mr. Thoming moved to approve board president Rodriguez to sign on to a joint letter of concern regarding the C2P2 MOA. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Resolution directing the Board President or their designee to submit or co-submit the attached resolutions, to be finalized by the Executive Director and District Counsel prior to submittal, to the CARCD Policy Committee for consideration at the CARCD 2025 Annual General Membership Meeting. – Mrs. Watkins and Mrs. McCoon reviewed proposed resolutions for adoption and submission to CARCD for consideration at the annual meeting.

Mr. Hamm moved to approve the eight resolutions as presented for review and consideration by the CARCD membership. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on August 21, 2025, was made by Mr. Balmat. Mr. Koster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the SJC Farm Bureau Office.