

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

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

Thursday, April 18, 2024 • 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.
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Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll call/introductions of guests
- B. Acceptance of agenda – last minute additions/deletions
- C. Public comments – limited to 3 minutes per speaker

2. CONSENT CALENDER

- A. Minutes for meeting on March 21, 2024

3. TREASURER'S REPORT: presentation of bills, income received

4. NRCS UPDATE

- A. Program and Personnel Update

5. RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report
- C. RCD Administrator Update

6. IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report
- B. '24 Coalition Fee/Policy Resolution
- C. Steering Committee
- D. Membership Report
- E. Program Report

- F. Delta Regional Monitoring Program
- G. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative
- H. Back Dues - Coalition Member #10904, Iron House

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract
- B. Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant
- C. Land Development within SJC

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. COMMUNICATIONS

10. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Personnel/Board Matters

All actions taken in closed session will be reported in open session.

11. ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on May 16, 2024, at the SJC Farm Bureau.

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Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Richard Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

MEETING AGENDA

A motion to accept the agenda for the April 18, 2024, 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 March 21, 2024, was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Olagaray 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

- A. EQUIP and Personnel Update – Ms. Heather Vice reviewed some of the CSP changes, including increased contract rates and increased payments for underserved communities. She noted the deadline is April 26, with awards being at least \$20K over 5 years. Ms. Sonya Miller noted that the Stockton office is trying to hire as fast as possible with the direct hire process. She discussed an upcoming leadership program trip to DC where they will talk to various members of congress. She also noted this is the most demand they have had for funding. Selections have been made, but more may be possible if more funding becomes available.

RESOURCES (Limited to 5 minutes/speaker)

- A. Ag Commissioner's Report – Ms. Kamal Bagri discussed the ag burn exemption letter and a biochar machine created by Flory. She reviewed her recent trip to DC to discuss the need for funding for various programs. Last year, there were over 1,000 fruit fly detections. CDFA received \$103.5 million from commodity credit corporation to combat this infestation. She noted cherry shipments are estimated to begin April 25. SJC is getting a dog team, the dog is Waylon. Ms. Bagri noted that SJC Worknet is seeking to reimburse agriculture businesses for employee trainings. She also reviewed two potential bills currently being proposed. She noted a new quantity control position is being created in the county.
- B. CARCD (California Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts) Report – Ms. Watkins noted the bylaws committee is separating the current document into two separate documents: bylaws and policy. She mentioned the goal is for the drafts to be ready for review by July 1. Additionally, the Bay-Delta Region Spring Meeting is set for April 30. She also reviewed the CARCD officer elections and candidates.
Mr. Herrick moved to authorize SJCRCD delegate, Molly Watkins, to submit the completed CARCD ballot for the positions of vice president (Van Dyke) and treasurer (James). Mr. Hamm seconded the motion. Motion pass unanimously.
- C. CRAE (California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment) Report – No report.
- D. RCD Administrator Update – Ms. McCoon updated the group Ryan Hansen is officially a board member. She invited the group to the Bay-Delta Meeting and virtual farm trip featuring the board president.

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

- A. Financial Report – All bills for the month were presented. Mr. Olagaray moved to pay coalition invoices as presented and accept and file the financial report. Mr. Herrick seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Mr. Hamm moved to transfer \$350,000 from the Coalition contingency fund to the Coalition general fund to cover the remaining year-end expenses. Mr. Balmat seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Proposed 2024 Coalition Budget and Fee Schedule – The board members reviewed the resolution as prepared and adjusted the language. The updated version to be presented at the May meeting.
- C. Program Report – Mr. Wackman reviewed water column toxicity hits.
- D. Steering Committee – The program manager's report was included in the packet.
- E. Membership Report – Ms. Mulrooney reviewed the invoicing template and adjustments were made, as needed/desired.
- F. Delta Regional Monitoring Program – Mr. Wackman discussed some of the challenges regarding the Water Board desiring to reject data from USGS.
- G. CV Salts/Valley Water Collaborative – Mr. Wackman discussed this is an on-going process.
- H. Back Dues - Coalition Member #10904, Ironhouse – Payment was received for 2023 dues.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. DWR Contract – Ms. McCoon has reached out to DWR to express interest in continuing the project with a different project lead. A meeting will be set to move the project forward.
- B. CDFA – Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Grant – Ms. McCoon noted 11 evaluations were completed in 2023. No internship applications have been received.
- C. Land Development within SJC – No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the board meeting on April 18, 2024, was made by Ms. Watkins. Mr. Thoming seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

The next board meeting of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. Thursday, May 16, 2024, at the SJC Farm Bureau.