

Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District
Temalpakh Farm
1 Roberta Way
Coachella, CA 92236

Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2026
8:00 AM

Directors Present: President Ruben Arias; Director Juan De Lara; Director Celeste Alonzo

Directors Absent: Vice-President Blaine Carian; Director Don Ackley

Staff Present: District Manager Yvonne Franco; Administrative Assistant Valerie Velazquez

Members of the Public: Janet Hartin and Dr. Lydia Tymon

1. CALL TO ORDER

a) Roll Call and determination of a quorum

The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Arias at 8:05AM.

b) Pledge of Allegiance

Director Ruben Arias led the pledge of allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

No motion made. The agenda remains as is.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presentation: Janet Hartin, UCCE Area Environmental Horticulture Advisor, Emerita and Dr. Lydia Tymon Environmental Horticulture Advisor UCCE for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Ms. Hartin introduced Dr. Tymon and provided information on the accomplishments of the Trees for Tomorrow, Start Today program in the Coachella Valley for fiscal year 2025/26. Events were held in Desert Hot Springs, Indio, Coachella, and Mecca. With Board approval a proposed agreement, next year's program will include six tree distribution events and two workshops on tree maintenance and pruning.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) Meeting Minutes for May 2026
- b) Financials – Receive and File Financial Information for May 2026

Arias	Aye	Carian	Absent
Ackley	Absent	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

**Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the consent calendar.
Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 3-0.**

7. PARTNER REPORTS

- a) NRCS Report – USDA NRCS District Conservationist Tomas Aguilar-Campos provided an update on NRCS programs and operations.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES

- a) Tire Collection Event update, June 2, 2026, College of the Desert East Valley Campus. Once COD's approval is received, flyers will be posted on the District's social media account and emailed. The event is scheduled to start at 7:30 am. Eight roll-off containers have been ordered for the event. The District Manager informed the Board that the two previous events were closed before 10:15 am due to capacity.
- b) California Special District Association (CSDA) Annual Conference, JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa, Palm Desert, on August 24-27, 2026
This year's conference will be held in Palm Desert. Director Juan De Lara expressed interest in attending.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- a) Update on current District programs and projects and discussion for fiscal year 2026/2027

An update to the annual work plan was provided. No action was taken. Staff informed that a draft for Fiscal Year 2026/27 will be brought to the Board in June or July.

10. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing to report. The Board was informed that Melissa Cushman is once again the District's primary counsel.

11. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The next meeting will include a draft of the fiscal year 2026/27 budget.

12. CLOSED SESSION – **CLOSED SESSION STARTED AT 8:50AM.**

Closed Session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8:

Conference with real property negotiator

Property negotiator: Yvonne Franco

Property location: APN 625-122-003

74271 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Closed session ended at 9:05AM.

The Board directed the District Manager to start the eviction process.

13. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Date: June 17, 2026

USDA Indio Service Center

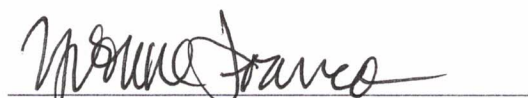
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A

Indio, CA 92201

14. ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:06AM.

Approved this 17th day of June 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Franco', is written over a horizontal line.

Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary