

Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District
USDA Service Center
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A
Indio, CA 92201

Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2026
8:00 AM

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

Directors Absent: Vice-President Blaine Carian

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

Members of the Public: NRCS District Conservationist Tomas Aguilar-Campos

1. CALL TO ORDER

a) Roll Call and determination of a quorum

The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Arias at 8:04AM.

b) Pledge of Allegiance

Director Ruben Arias led us in the pledge of allegiance.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

Arias	Aye	Carian	Absent
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the agenda. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

a) Meeting Minutes

b) Financials – Receive and File for June 2026

Arias	Aye	Carian	Absent
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the consent calendar with additions to the Board Meeting Minutes for June to add Vice-President Blaine Carina left the meeting at 8:31AM in June's meeting. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

7. PARTNER REPORTS

- a) NRCS Report –verbal report provided by USDA NRCS District Conservationist Tomas Aguilar-Campos.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES

- a) FFA Indio High School Discussion
There was no action on this item.
- b) Regional Meeting update and consideration to become a member of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) at no cost to the District.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Absent
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to become a member of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) at no cost to the District. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

- c) Fiscal Year 2026-27 Annual Work Plan
There was no action on this item.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- a) Discussion and possible action on an agreement (Agreement No. Y26-8278) between Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District and the Regents of the University of California, for the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources for \$29,000 to include funding for a part-time Trees for Tomorrow Start Today Coachella Valley Coordinator, the distribution of 300 trees at six events and provide two pruning workshops for public and private landscapers, Fiscal Year 2026/27.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Absent
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the agreement (Agreement No. Y26-8278) between Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District and the Regents of the University of California, for the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources for \$29,000 to include funding for a part-time Trees for Tomorrow Start Today Coachella Valley Coordinator, the distribution of 300 tress at six events and provide two pruning workshops for public and private landscapers, Fiscal Year 2026/27. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

- b) Discussion and potential appointment of a real property negotiator for the potential sale of 45125 Panorama Drive/74271 Highway 111, APN 625-122-003.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Absent
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara volunteered to be the real property negotiator for the potential sale of the property. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the motion to appointment Director Juan De Lara and District Manager Yvonne Franco as the real property negotiators for the sale of 45125 Panorama Drive/74271 Highway 111, APN 625-122-003. President Ruben Arias provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0

10. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Nothing to report.

11. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA
Discussion at Board Meeting

12. **CLOSED SESSION – Closed session started at 8:44AM**
Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code section 54956.8)
Property: 45125 Panorama Drive/74271 Highway 111, APN 625-122-003
Negotiating Parties: Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District and Husnu Emir Kocaballi and Cigdem Ahu Kocaballi – Ahu Kocaballi Real Estate Group Inc.
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

Closed session ended at 8:55AM.

The Board unilaterally opted to not decline the offer from Husnu Emir Kocaballi and Cigdem Ahu Kocaballi – Ahu Kocaballi Real Estate Group Inc.

13. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Date: August 19, 2026

USDA Indio Service Center

81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A

Indio, CA 92201

14. ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:58AM.

Approved this 21st day of September 2026.



Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary