

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

Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2024  
8:00 AM

**THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE LOCATED AT 81077 INDIO BLVD., STE. K, INDIO, CA 92201. THE USDA SERVICE CENTER HAS BEEN LOCKED DURING BUSINESS HOURS DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS.**

Directors Present: President Ruben Arias; Vice-President Blaine Carian; Director Juan De Lara; Director Don Ackley

Directors Absent: Director Celeste Alonzo

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

Members of the Public: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Arias at 8:03AM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Arias led us in the pledge of allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes were made to the approved as is.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

V. CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The District received correspondence on the following:

- A. Correspondence from Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz: Informational letter addressed to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee and the House Committee on Agriculture on the Fiscal Year 2024 Farm Bill, urging the Committee to include specific provisions.
- B. Correspondence received from Special District Risk Management Authority: Congratulating the District for no "paid" workers' compensation claims for Fiscal Year 2023/24.

- C. Correspondence from American Transparency, Public Records Act Request for Vendor Payment Checkbook Report for Fiscal Year 2022/23 and Employee Salaries for 2023.

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Approval of Minutes for August 2024
- B. Receive and File Financials for August/September 2024

<b>Arias</b>	Aye	<b>Carian</b>	Aye
<b>Ackley</b>	Aye	<b>De Lara</b>	Aye
<b>Alonzo</b>	Absent		

Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

**VII. REPORTS**

- A. NRCS Report – verbal report provided by USDA NRCS District Conversationist Tomas Aguilar-Campos.

**VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Update: Weather Station Program
- B. Update: Palm Desert Property Improvements
- C. Tire Collection events
  - 1. Tractor Tires, tentatively scheduled for December 16, 2024
  - 2. Indio Hills Community Center, confirmed November 2, 2024

Vice-President Carian made a motion to use signage at the tire events; followed by a second by Director De Lara, motion passed 4-0
- D. Update: Tress for Tomorrow event, Coachella Library October 19, 2024; 10:30-12:30pm. This is the first of three events planned for the east end of the Coachella Valley.
- E. Update: Laserfiche Document Management - Staff has been uploading the district’s documents. This project is ongoing.

**IX. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Consideration to adopt Resolution No. 2024-06 determining that the 2018 Ford F-150 with VIN 1FTEX 1CP3JG11159 is Surplus Property pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 9453.

<b>Arias</b>	Aye	<b>Carian</b>	Aye
<b>Ackley</b>	Aye	<b>De Lara</b>	Aye
<b>Alonzo</b>	Absent		

**Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-06 determining that the 2018 Ford F-150 with VIN 1FTEX 1CP3JG11159 is Surplus Property pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 9453. Director Juan De Lara provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.**

B. Discussion of a Coachella Valley Latino Farmer Technical Support and Workshop.  
No action taken.

C. Consideration of a district manager’s reimbursement request for parking fees in the amount of \$32.

Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the motion to Consideration of a district manager reimbursement request for parking fees in the amount of \$32. Director Juan De Lara provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

<b>Arias</b>	Aye	<b>Carian</b>	Aye
<b>Ackley</b>	Aye	<b>De Lara</b>	Aye
<b>Alonzo</b>	Absent		

X. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no counsel reports.

XI. DISTRICT ITEMS FOR THE FUTURE BOARD CONSIDERATION

Director De Lara mentioned a sponsorship and participation opportunity for an agricultural event planned. The discussions are preliminary.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

There were no scheduled closed session items.

XIII. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the USDA Indio Service Center if the doors are unlocked during business hours.

XIV. ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 AM.

Approved this 20th day of November 2024

Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary