

Minutes of the Coachella Valley Conservation District Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 15th at 8:00 AM
USDA Service Center
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste A.
Indio, CA 92201

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

Directors Absent: None

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

Members of the Public: Tomas Campos; Danel Delgado-Riverside County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Ruben Arias led us in pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the agenda. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR:

5-1: Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 2022, January 2023

5-2: Approval of Financial Report – January 2023

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the Meeting Minutes. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

6. CORRESPONDANCE

6-1: Support Letter for Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement Project Application to the Wildlife Conservation Board Program.

Director De Lara discussed the importance of a support letter requested by the Wildlife Conservation Board. A motion was made to submit the support letter.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Abstain
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

7. REPORTS

7-1: NRCS Report – Tomas provided an update on NRCS operations. Tomas asked the Board for volunteers for the Civil Rights interview on March 21st, 2023.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

8-1: Rental Property Update – There been interest on the property, however the lack of parking is deterring anyone from entering into a lease.

8-2: Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival – Director Alonzo requested that the District and NRCS have a table at the Taj Mahal building.

8-3: Preschool Learning Garden – Construction has started on the garden.

8-4: California Special District Association – It is not too late to register for the conference, this year’s event will be held in La Quinta.

8-5: CalRecycle Farm & Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant – This is on-going and will be finished next month.

8-6: Tire Cleanup –

8-7: Solid Waste Illegal Dumping Cleanup – The district manager is working with the Code Enforcement officer in Coachella to contact surrounding property owners.

9. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

9-1: Consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District and the Southern California Mountains Foundation.

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District and the Southern California Mountains Foundation. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

9-2: Consider Sponsoring the 2023 Farm to Fork event organized by Coachella Valley California Women of Agriculture.

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve Sponsoring the 2023 Farm to Fork event organized by Coachella Valley California Women of Agriculture. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved, 4-1.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Abstain
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

9-3: Discussion of a Building Vacancy located at 81077 Indio Blvd.

The Board decided to not explore relocating to any of the available suites in the building, however an Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to provide direction on possible relocation for the District. The Ad-Hoc Committee includes Director De Lara and Alonzo, and District Manager Franco

10. Discussion for the Good of the District/Items for Future board Consideration

Board President Arias mentioned that the District Manager's evaluation needs to be completed. The district manager was given direction to inform County Counsel to start drafting the employee agreement.

11. District General Counsel Report and Announcements

None.

12. Closed Session

No closed session items were included.

13. Date and location of Next District Regular Board Meeting

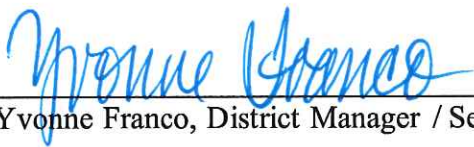
Date: March 15, 2023

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14. ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Approved this 15th day of March 2023



Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary