

Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District

USDA Service Center
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A
Indio, CA 92201

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2026

8:00 AM

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

Directors Absent: None

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

a) Roll Call and determination of a quorum

The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Arias at 8:00AM.

b) Pledge of Allegiance

Director Ruben Arias led us in 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

Ms. Christa Blackburn provided an update of Indio High School's Future Farmers of America program. She mentioned that the program may lose its funding for the next academic school year, and that there is still a lot of interest in continuing the program.

Direction was given to include this item on the next agenda as a discussion item.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

7. PARTNER REPORTS

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

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES

- a) Update: Tire Collection Event held on June 2, 2026 at College of the Desert East Valley Campus.

The event collected 17.70 tons of tractor and passenger tires. Tonnage collected for fiscal year 2025-26 totaled 83.52. Future events are planned for fiscal year 2026/27, with possible collaboration with the Urban Conservation Corps. An event is planned in November at Sky Valley Community Center.

- b) Engagement letter for auditing services with Nigro & Nigro PC.

The district manager signed an engagement letter with Nigro & Nigro PC for the preparation of the audit report for Fiscal Year 2025/26 for \$3,500.

- c) Funding Agreement between Inland Empire and Coachella Valley RCDs to provide technical assistance under the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) grant.

The agreement will be presented to the Board in the July or August board meeting. A draft hasn't been reviewed at this time.

- d) UC Cooperative Agreement for the Trees for Tomorrow, Start Today program.

The agreement will be presented to the Board in the July meeting. The agreement will include six tree distribution events in low-shade areas in the Coachella Valley as determined by the UC Cooperation Extension Horticulturist and include two tree pruning events.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- a) Discussion and possible action on the CSDA Board of Director Election Ballot for Term 2027-2029; Seat C Southern Network.

The four candidates include:

Candidate No. 1 – Nikki Winslow

Candidate No. 2 – Jason Dafforn

Candidate No. 3 – Melinda Sedmak

Candidate No. 4 – John Horst

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to select Jason Dafforn for Seat C. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

- b) Discussion and possible action on the District's Fiscal Year Budget for 2026/27.

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the District's Fiscal Year Adopted Budget with revisions to add the sale of the Palm Desert property income. Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

10. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing to report.

11. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Nothing to report.

12. CLOSED SESSION

No closed session items.

13. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Date: July 15, 2026
Location: USDA Indio Service Center
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A
Indio, CA 92201

14. ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:00AM.

Approved this 15th day of July 2026



Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary