

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

Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2024
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 Valerie Velazquez

Members of the Public: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Arias at 8:02AM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Ruben Arias led us in the pledge of allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	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 5-0.**

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

V. CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Correspondence: from California Farm Bureau
- B. Correspondence: Notice of Lawsuit Southern CA Edison v. State Board of Equalization, et al.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes for June 2024
- B. Receive and File Financials for June 2024

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the consent calendar. Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

VII. REPORTS

- A. NRCS Report – Tomas Campos NRCS District Conversationist joined the meeting at 8:13AM.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS –

- A. Update: Business Account Fraudulent Activity - The district manager provided an update on the fraudulent activity that took place on June 25, 2024, on the District primary business account with California Bank & Trust. The issue has been resolved. The amount has been deposited into the account. The matter was reported to the Riverside Sheriff’s Office and the Postmaster in Palm Desert where the mail theft occurred. According to the Postmaster, they already have an open case on the matter.

Due to the late arrival of the district conversationist, Tomas Aguilar-Campos provided an update on NRCS operations.

- B. Update: PRA Request to AQMD and cities - The senior public affairs specialist Javier Enriquez was contacted. A reply is pending.
- C. Update: Palm Desert Property Improvements- The improvements are ongoing, there were several plumbing related improvements that were unreported by the previous tenant and are now being addressed.
- D. Southern Baja Regional Meeting, scheduled for August 28,2024, hosted by Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District - The district manager plans to attend the meeting.
- E. Local Working Group Meeting, scheduled for August 21, 2024, City of Coachella Corporate Yard – Meeting is planned for 1:00 pm., presentations will be provided by the NRCS and Farm Service Agency
- F. Tire Collection events
 - a. Tractor Tires, pending – The event will most likely be held in early December.
 - b. Indio Hills Community Center, confirmed November 2, 2024

- G. City of Plam Desert Business License for rental property – An email was received that a business license is necessary.

IX. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Consideration to Adopt Resolution No. 2024-02 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District updating the District’s Records Retention Schedule pursuant to Government Code Section 60200 et. seq.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-02 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District updating the District’s Records Retention Schedule pursuant to Government Code Section 60200 et. seq. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

- B. Consideration to Adopt Resolution No. 2024-03 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District amending the Conflict-of-Interest Code.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to Adopt Resolution No. 2024-03 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District amending the Conflict-of-Interest Code. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

- C. Consideration to Adopt Resolution 2024-04 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District amending Section II Code of *Ethics and Conflict of Interest* and Section III part E *Conflicts of Interest and Nepotism* of the District’s Policy Manual.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to Consideration to Adopt Resolution 2024-04 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District amending Section II Code of *Ethics and Conflict of Interest* and Section III part E *Conflicts of Interest and Nepotism* of the District’s Policy Manual.

Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

- D. Consideration to Adopt Resolution No. 2024-05 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District amending Section III (F) (3) *Paid Holidays* to increase the number of holidays from ten to fourteen.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

President Ruben Arias provided the motion to Consideration to Adopt Resolution No. 2024-05 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District amending Section III (F) (3) *Paid Holidays* to increase the number of holidays from ten to fourteen (12 holidays to match federal holidays and include 2 floating). Director Juan De Lara provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

- E. Discuss of a possible land management opportunity.
No action taken.

- F. CARCD Membership fees

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to opt out of CARCD membership and not participate. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

- G. Consideration to appoint the Board President and Vice-President as signers to the district’s business account at California Bank & Trust.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to appoint the Board President, Vice-President and district manager as signers to the district’s business account at California Bank & Trust. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

- H. Consideration to approve the trade-in or sale of the district’s vehicle, not to exceed \$40,000, and authorize the District Manager to execute all paperwork for same.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the trade-in or sale of the district’s vehicle, not to exceed \$40,000, and authorize the District Manager to execute all paperwork for same. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

- I. Consideration of a sponsorship opportunity for Desert Healthcare District’s Healthy Desert Healthy You Environmental Health Summit, to be held in Rancho Mirage on September 20-21, 2024
No action taken.
- J. Discussion of a Coachella Valley Latino Farmer Technical Support Workshop
No action taken.
- K. Consideration to approve the District Manager’s reimbursement of \$13, for a copy of an incident report from Sherriff’s Office.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the District Manager’s reimbursement of \$13, for a copy of an incident report from Sherriff’s Office. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.

X. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing to report.

XI. DISTRICT ITEMS FOR THE FUTURE BOARD CONSIDERATION

None.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

None.

XIII. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING


Date: September 18, 2024

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

XIV. ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Approved this 16th day of October 2024



Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary