



North Santa Clara Resource Conservation District

(formerly the Guadalupe-Coyote RCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

SUMMARY MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Note: Though agenda items may be considered out of order (for example, to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers and/or members of the public in attendance for a specific item, or when items are removed from the consent agenda), the official minutes remain recorded in the same order as originally published in the official agenda. Number of votes are reflected in the following order: Aye-Nay-Abstention, with nays and abstentions called out by Director name.

Susan Hare
President

Gail Bautista
Vice-President

Frank Maitiski
Director

Cynthia McColl
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

Larry Johmann
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Rick Lanman, MD
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Bill Leikam
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Brian Schmidt
Associate Director

Mel Sarmiento
Associate Director

Kat Wilson
Associate Director

Stephanie Moreno
Executive Director &
District Clerk

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

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1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Hare at 5:03 p.m. Directors present: President Hare, Vice President Bautista, and Director Maitiski. Directors McColl and Quintero were absent (excused). Associate Directors present: Associate Directors Rick Lanman and Bill Leikam. Executive staff present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.

2. Meeting Agenda

Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Maitiski/Bautista; 3-0-0; McColl and Quintero absent)

3. Public Comment: President Hare asked Associate Director Bill Leikam if he would like to give a report under Public Comment since he is scheduled to leave the meeting early, so he reported that he is working to have the gray fox removed from the list of authorized animals that may be hunted in California.

4. Consent Agenda: Item 4.1 will be continued to the next meeting to provide additional time for Director review.

Motion: Approve the consent agenda as amended. (Maitiski/Bautista; 3-0-0; McColl and Quintero absent)

5. Partner Reports

5.1 *USDA-NRCS:* District Conservationist James Booth was unable to attend the meeting.

5.2 *Other Partners:* Genevieve Yip, Senior Management Analyst, Valley Water Office of Government Relations, reported that they have launched their 2024 Water Conservation campaign and have an outreach toolkit available on their website. Rosario Torres, Director of Tamien Nation Cultural Fire Program, announced that they have recently received two grants to advance their work.

6. Administration

6.1 *Director Appointment:* President Hare reported that Santa Clara County has responded to the notice provided to them of Director McColl's intended resignation. They indicated that since it is an unexpected vacancy, the NSCRCD Board has the authority to make the appointment for the remainder of Director McColl's term, so she has asked Executive Director Moreno to begin the recruitment. Candidates would be brought forward to the Board for consideration under a process to be determined by the Board. Associate Director Rick Lanman indicated he will be submitting a letter of

recommendation for William Ware, a San Jose resident. In response to Director Bautista's question regarding development of a recruitment process, Executive Director Moreno reported that the District already has a robust recruitment process in place; applicants will be screened for eligibility pursuant to the minimum requirements of Division 9 and referred to the Board for consideration. She also reported that the District has already received two applications for the vacancy, which takes effect on April 5, 2024.

Motion: Create an ad hoc committee to develop objective criteria for evaluating candidates for the open Director position. (Bautista/Maitski; 3-0-0; McColl and Quintero absent)

Vice President Bautista and Director Maitski were subsequently appointed to the ad hoc committee by consensus.

6.2 California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD):

6.2.1 *Elections:* Executive Director recommended the Board authorize Director and CARCD Delegate Maitski to vote for Peter Van Dyke for Vice President and John James for Secretary-Treasurer.

Motion: Select Peter Van Dyke as the choice for Vice President and John James as the choice for Secretary-Treasurer for CARCD. (Maitski/Hare; 3-0-0; McColl and Quintero absent)

6.2.2 *Special Membership Meeting:* Executive Director Moreno gave an update on the request submitted to CARCD for a special membership meeting by the five RCDs. Director Maitski reported on his work so far as a member of the CARCD Bylaws Committee.

6.2.3 *Member Records:* Executive Director Moreno gave an update on the formal records request submitted to CARCD by the five RCDs.

6.3 *NSCRCD-SBRCD MOU:* NRCS is encouraging the District to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with San Benito Resource Conservation District (SBRCD) in order to formalize the RCDs' mutual initiative to collaborate on agricultural programs, watershed restoration and enhancement projects, community outreach, and public education, including but not limited to the sharing of resources for the NSCRCD Farm and Ranch Resilience Program, which has been funded by a USDA-NRCS historically underserved producer cooperative agreement.

Motion: Approve the MOU between the two RCDs as written (Hare/Bautista; 3-0-0; McColl and Quintero absent)

6.4 *Executive Director Report:* Executive Director Moreno reported she is working with the Farm and Ranch Conservation Program Coordinator on extending work eligibility in order to be able to have them continue in their current assignment.

7. Programs and Projects

7.1 *Farm & Ranch Resilience Program:* Executive Director Moreno reported the program's community engagement plan is in the process of being finalized after review by NRCS. The District will be hosting a series of workshops for Chinese growers based on the resource priorities the growers identified during the Local Work Group meeting. She also said it would be nice if individual Directors could take turns attending the workshops to introduce themselves to attendees.

7.2 *Executive Director Report:* Executive Director Moreno reported that Conservation Program Coordinator Andrew Lopez was invited to present on Integrated Pest Management at a workshop hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP) for municipal employees. President Hare asked Seth Schalet, CEO for Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, if he had anything to report. He referred to the planned joint collaboration with the District on the PSA for the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative Forest Health Project.

8. **Board Member, Associate Director and Committee Reports:** President Hare reported on her attendance at a California Special Districts Association (CSDA) arranged meeting with Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. Vice President Bautista asked for and received an update on the logo contest. Associate Director Lanman reported that he had been in contact with Cal Trans regarding fencing to protect wildlife attempting to cross Highway 101 in Coyote Valley, and they are open to a meeting to discuss. He has had a paper accepted for publication on the historic presence of elk in the Sierra Nevada, and is continuing work on the redwood suitability analysis publication. President Hare asked for an update on the Chinook salmon range after the aDNA study, and Associate Director Lanman responded that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) has accepted that Chinook salmon are historic to the South Bay tributaries, but he said relevant maps have not yet been updated.
9. **Meeting Adjourned:** Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- 4.1 Approve minutes for the February 1, 2024 Board Meeting. *(continued until next meeting)*
- 4.2 Accept financial reports through February 2024.
- 4.3 Authorize the President or their designee to sign the Fourth Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Santa Clara County Weed Management Area.
- 4.4 Authorize the Executive Director to sign an agreement with the Santa Clara Council FireSafe Council to serve as lead agency for the CalVTP project-specific analysis (PSA) for the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative Forest Health Project.
- 4.5 Authorize the Executive Director to sign an agreement with the City of Palo Alto for the provision of technical assistance to their code enforcement division.
- 4.6 Authorize the Executive Director to submit a cooperative agreement continuation request to USDA NRCS California for the *Farm & Ranch Resilience Program*.
- 4.7 Authorize the Executive Director to submit authorization to the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) to include NSCRCD on their coalition letter being sent to in support of H.R. 7525, also known as "The Special District Grant Accessibility Act".

Information Only:

- 4.8 County of Santa Clara Controller-Treasurer's Office; *Excess ERAF Distribution Update*; received March 6, 2024.
- 4.9 County of Santa Clara Finance Agency; *Quarterly Investment Report for Schools and Special Districts for the period ending December 31, 2023*; received March 21, 2024.
- 4.10 Valley Water; *Potential changes to Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program*; received March 29, 2024.
- 4.11 County of Santa Clara Finance Agency; *Redevelopment Property Tax Trust Fund (RPTTF) June 3, 2024 Distribution Estimate*; received March 29, 2024.
- 4.12 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board; *April 10, 2024 Agenda* (for off-site educational tour); received March 29, 2024.