



# 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, November 2, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Hybrid In-Person and Online Format  
(with Directors present in person at the meeting location)

*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. Directors present: President Hare, Vice President Bautista, and Directors Maitiski and Quintero (left at 6:33 p.m., excused), with Director McColl absent (excused). Associate Directors present: Bill Leikam and Brian Schmidt. Executive staff present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** President Hare requested that items under *8. Administration* be moved between Items 5 and 6 to allow Director Quintero to participate.  
*Motion: Approve the agenda as presented, with Administration items to be considered at an earlier time in the meeting. (Hare/Bautista; 4-0-0; McColl absent).*
- 3. Public Comment**  
Rosario Torres, Cultural Fire and Land Stewardship Program Director for the Tamien Nation Tribe, introduced herself and indicated the Tribe's interest in working collaboratively with the District.
- 4. Consent Agenda**  
*Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Quintero/Hare; 4-0-0; McColl absent).*
- 5. Introduction of New District Employees:** Conservation Program Coordinators Nuoxian "Teddy" Peng and Andrew Lopez introduced themselves.
- 6. Partner Reports**
  - 6.1 *USDA-NRCS:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed District Conservationist James Booth's written report, which was also included in the Board packet.
  - 6.2 *Other Partners:* None.
- 7. Programs and Projects**
  - 7.1 *Agricultural Producer Technical Assistance:*
    - 7.1.1 *Urban Agriculture Technical Assistance Program:* Executive Director Moreno reviewed the CDFA Urban Agriculture Grant Program District proposed budget and work plan that was submitted as part of a CARCD block-grant application.

- 7.1.2 *Farm and Ranch Resilience Program*: Executive Director Moreno gave an implementation update for the program, which is funded by a USDA-NRCS Historically Underserved Farmers and Ranchers Grant.
- 7.2 *Climate Action*:
  - 7.2.1 *Resilient and Equitable Urban Stream Corridors Research Project*: Executive Director Moreno gave an implementation update for the UC Regents Climate Action 2023 Seed Award and reported that the budgeted intern has been assigned through a partnership agreement with the Student Conservation Association.
  - 7.2.2 *Zen Project*: Executive Director Moreno reviewed the list of planned projects and outreach for the District's partnership project with the City of San Jose to implement urban greening activities in the Santee neighborhood.
- 7.3 *Community Engagement*:
  - 7.3.1 *Jewish Community Sustainability Fair*: The Executive Director reviewed the event materials and participant response to the tabling event held on October 22, 2023.
  - 7.3.2 *One Tree Planted Event at Veggielution Community Farm*: The Executive Director reviewed the event materials and day's activities for the tree planting event on October 24, 2023.

## 8. Administration

- 8.1 *District Special Meeting*: Executive Director Moreno reviewed the proposed November special meeting for the Board of Directors to tour the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (hosted by Valley Water). Genevieve Yip reviewed protocol for the site, and proposed two dates. The Board chose December 13, 2023 as the preferred date; three Directors (Hare, Bautista and Maitiski) indicated an ability to attend, plus interested Associate Directors, staff and members of the public. There was additional discussion regarding the need to allow members of the public to attend pursuant to Brown Act requirements.

*Motion: Set a special Board meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> to tour Anderson Dam beginning at 8:30 a.m. (Maitiski/Quintero; 4-0-0; McColl absent).*

- 8.2 *CARCD Representation*: Executive Director Moreno reviewed the process to select the delegate and alternate delegate to represent the District in CARCD general and regional meetings, and also let the Board know that there are some issues regarding the ability for NSCRCD to attend the business meeting as the conference is already booked and it is not clear that one can attend the business meeting if not registered for the conference. She also briefly mentioned other issues with CARCD compliance with the bylaws. Director Maitiski volunteered to be the delegate.

*Motion: Appoint Director Maitiski as the CARCD delegate for the one-year term, with Directors McColl and Bautista appointed as first and second alternates. (Hare/Quintero; 4-0-0; McColl absent).*

- 8.3 *District Name Change*: Ad Hoc Branding Committee members reviewed the draft document and discussed intent of the marketing effort with the Board. Executive Director Moreno relayed a request from Associate Director Lanman to change the language in Item 3b to 1) the word "preserve" to "conserve", and 2) to add "using the best available science" as reflected in the mission statement. President Hare suggested focusing action on the Logo Design at this time. Rosario Torres commented on the importance of language and suggested that there may also be artists who would be interested in submitting logo designs.

*Motion: Adopt the Logo Design contest portion of the draft plan as an action item, and designate that the judges shall be the two ad hoc committee members and District staff. (Hare/Bautista; 4-0-0; McColl absent).*

Director Maitiski 1) recommended an explanation of why the District's name was changed be included in the document; 2) recommended a reference to "agriculture" be included in the key messages; and 3) inquired about the District's intention to conduct outreach to schools and the

County Office of Education beyond marketing the name change, to which Executive Director Moreno responded. Director Quintero mentioned the need to make sure information provided is accessible to everyone.

8.4 *District Reports and Updates:*

8.4.1 *Board Committee and Study Group Reports:* Executive Director Moreno reported for the Highway 101 Overcrossing Study Group.

8.4.2 *Executive Director and Staff Reports:* Watershed Project Assistant Roger Castillo shared recent stream observations.

8.4.3 *Director and Associate Director Updates:* Associate Director Brian Schmidt announced his Op-Ed on the overlap of military and environmental protection has been published (link included in the Board packet).

9. **Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.**

*Motion: Adjourn the meeting. (Bautista/Maitski; 3-0-0; McColl and Quintero absent).*

**Consent Agenda**

4.1 Approve minutes for the September 2023 Board Meeting.

4.2 Accept financial reports for September 2023.

4.3 Authorize the Executive Director to sign the *Santa Clara County Climate Collaborative Commitment Letter* on behalf of the District.

**Information Only:**

4.4 County of Santa Clara Finance Agency; *RPTTF Distribution Estimate for ROPS 23-24B (January 2024 Distribution)*; dated October 2, 2023.

4.5 Valley Water; *Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project Draft EIR comment period extended*; received October 18, 2023.