



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, January 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 Maitski
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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Information Only Portion of the Meeting (5:05 to 5:25 p.m.) The meeting was delayed due to a lack of quorum. The following scheduled presentation commenced in the interim.

- 5.1 *Tamien Nation Tribe:* Tribal Chairperson Quirina Geary and Cultural Fire & Land Stewardship Program Director Rosario Torres gave a presentation on Tribal history and the potential for forging a collaborative relationship that would be mutually beneficial to our organizations, our community, and the environment.

- 1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Hare at 5:28 p.m. Directors present: President Hare (arrived at 5:25 p.m.), and Directors Maitski and Quintero. Directors Bautista and McColl were absent (excused). Associate Directors present: Associate Director Leikam. Associate Directors excused: Associate Directors Lanman and Schmidt. Executive staff present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.

2. **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Hare/Quintero; 3-0-0)

- 3. **Public Comment:** Roger Castillo reported on behalf of his organization, the Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Group.

- 4. **Consent Agenda:** Executive Director Moreno requested that Item 4.2 on the consent agenda be continued.

Motion: Approve the consent agenda as amended. (Maitski/Quintero; 3-0-0)

5. **Presentation (continued):**

- 5.1 *Tamien Nation Tribe:* Tribal Chairperson Quirina Geary and Cultural Fire & Land Stewardship Program Director Rosario Torres answered questions and engaged in discussion with the Board and members of the public. Ms. Torres indicated that areas they have identified that have potential for collaboration are: climate adaption, agroecology, public education, and enhancing wildfire resiliency. The Directors indicated their interest in engaging with the Tribe on collaborative projects.

6. Partner Reports

- 6.1 *USDA-NRCS: Continued without discussion.*
- 6.2 *Other Partners: Continued without discussion.*

7. Programs and Projects:

- 7.1 *Tule Elk Habitat: Continued without discussion.*
- 7.2 *Redwood Habitat Suitability Analysis Project: Continued without discussion.*
- 7.3 *Executive Director Report: Continued without discussion.*

8. Administration

- 8.1 *Director Appointment: The Board discussed regarding the anticipated resignation of Director McColl and the recruitment process for her successor. They reviewed a draft letter to be sent to the Board of Supervisors.*

Motion: Authorize the District President to sign a letter to the Board of Supervisors to clarify the appointment process and establish a consistent method/policy that meets the unique requirements of our special district in making Director appointments. (Maitski/Quintero; 3-0-0)

- 8.2 *Santa Clara County Special Districts Association: Continued without discussion.*
- 8.3 *District Reports and Updates:*
 - 8.3.1 *Board Committee and Study Group Reports Continued without discussion.*
 - 8.3.2 *Executive Director/Staff Reports Continued without discussion.*
 - 8.3.3 *Director and Associate Director Updates Continued without discussion.*

9. Closed Session

- 9.1 *Conference with District Counsel—Potential Litigation (Government Code §54956.9(d)(2), (e)(1); 1 item). Continued without discussion.*

10. Meeting was adjourned when the Board lost its quorum at approximately 6:35 p.m. All further items were continued without discussion.

Consent Agenda

- 4.1 Approve minutes for the November 2, 2023 Board Meeting.
- ~~4.2 Approve minutes for the December 7, 2023 Board Meeting. (continued)~~
- 4.3 Accept financial reports through November 2023.

Information Only:

- 4.4 Santa Clara County Office of Sustainability; *Response to Participant Commitment Letter*; received December 4, 2023.
- 4.5 Santa Clara LAFCO; *LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review Final Report - Now Available*; received December 5, 2023.
- 4.6 Santa Clara County Department of Planning and Development; *Lehigh's 2023 Reclamation Plan Amendment application has been deemed incomplete*; received December 8, 2023.
- 4.7 Valley Water; *Santa Clara County Weed Management Area meeting minutes*; received December 12, 2023.