



# Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

## SUMMARY MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.  
President

Susan Hare  
Vice-President

Gail Bautista  
Director

Rick Lanman, M.D.  
Director

Paula Quintero  
Director

Roger Castillo  
Associate Director  
Director Emeritus

Larry Johmann  
Associate Director  
Director Emeritus

Bill Leikam  
Associate Director  
Director Emeritus

Mel Sarmiento  
Associate Director

Kat Wilson  
Associate Director

Stephanie Moreno  
Executive Director  
District Clerk

Nathan Hale  
Program Manager

Julie Gantenbein  
District Counsel

Richard Roos-Collins  
Special Counsel

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Due to the Shelter-in-Place Order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and the Santa Clara County Health Officer in response to COVID-19, this meeting was held via Zoom teleconference only, as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, Section 3. Call-in information for the meeting was provided on the agenda.

*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.*

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- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by President Jahns. Directors present: President Jahns, Vice-President Hare, and Directors Bautista, Lanman and Quintero. Associate Directors present: Associate Directors Leikam, Sarmiento and Wilson. Staff present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno and Program Manager Hale (entered at 5:24 p.m.).
- 2. Approval of Agenda**

*Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Lanman/Hare; 5-0-0)*
- 3. Continuation of Local Emergency:** Executive Director Moreno presented the information regarding the requirements of AB 361, which allows the Board of Directors to continue remote teleconferencing because in-person meetings would continue to cause imminent risk to attendees due to the continued threat of COVID-19.

*Motion: Adopt a resolution proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom's State of Emergency by Governor Newsom's on March 4, 2020, and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of GCRCD for the period of January 6, 2021 through February 5, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provision. (Hare/Bautista; 5-0-0)*
- 4. Public Comment:** None
- 5. Consent Agenda:** Regarding Item 5.8, Associate Director Leikam asked whether GCRCD is supporting the development of Pacheco Dam. Executive Director Moreno responded that the Board has not taken an official position, but she currently plans to provide comments in response to the EIR. She further clarified that typically District comments are provided to agencies regarding the impacts of their projects

without taking an official position for or against, but the Board does have the ability to take an official position if they wish to do so. In this case, the plan is to place the District's comments on the consent agenda.

*Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Lanman/Bautista; 5-0-0)*

## **6. Partner Reports**

6.1 *USDA-NRCS:* District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center, reported to the Board on this month's NRCS activities and accomplishments.

6.2 *Other Partners:*

6.2.1 *Valley Water:* Roseryn Bhudsabourg was present to answer questions. Director Lanman and Associate Director Leikam asked about the consideration of alternative sites in the preparation of the EIR.

## **7. Programs and Projects**

7.1 *Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP):* Executive Director Moreno gave background on GCRCD's scheduled workplan activity to draft a rangeland management component for the CWPP, and the idea that the California Coastal Conservancy's Wildfire Resiliency Program might be a good opportunity to seek funding for that activity. However, after discussions with Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) Chief Executive Officer Seth Schalet, they agreed a better option would be to collaborate on a more general pre-proposal response to the RFP to address fire resiliency. She requested the Board allow her to proceed with the pre-proposal even though a specific project has not yet been identified.

*Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to collaborate with the SCCFSC to submit a proposal to the California Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience Program. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0)*

## **8. Administration:**

8.1 *Conservation Program Manager:* Executive Director Moreno asked for feedback from the Board regarding the provision of employee benefits via a cafeteria plan and potential remote work allowances to prepare for the new position.

8.2 *California Envirothon:* Executive Director Moreno recommended increasing the District's allocation up to an additional \$2,000 in support of travel expenses for the two local teams participating in the 2022 event. The Board discussed how best to ensure assistance is prioritized for those who financially need it to participate and indicated they would like to see additional outreach to schools in disadvantaged communities. Directors Hare and Quintero and Associate Director Sarmiento volunteered to assist with outreach efforts for the next year's event.

*Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to increase the District's allocation to cover the two teams. (Lanman/Quintero; 5-0-0)*

## **9. Board Members, Associate Director and Staff Reports:**

9.1 Director, Associate Directors and the Executive Director gave updates and made inquiries regarding topics and activities relevant to GCRCD. Executive Director Moreno reported that she may need to convert Associate Director Castillo's agreement to a short-term extra help employee position due to liability requirements imposed by the Silver Creek Linear Park ROE and indicated that she plans to postpone the Board's retreat date until the new COVID variant spike recedes.

9.1.1 Participants were unable to view the YouTube video *(Re)Connecting Wild: Restoring Safe Passage* through Zoom but listened to the audio portion of the recording.

## **10. Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m. until the February Board meeting.**

## Consent Agenda

- 5.1 Approve minutes for the December 2, 2021, Board Meeting.
- 5.2 Approve correction to Item 5.1 on the consent agenda for the December 2, 2021, Board Meeting (change “October 7, 2021” to “November 4, 2021”).
- 5.3 Accept financial reports through November 2021.

### Information Only

- 5.4 San Francisco Estuary Partnership Estuary Blueprint; *Draft Actions for the 2022 Estuary Blueprint: Tell Us What You Think*; dated December 2021.
- 5.5 Correspondence from State Water Resources Control Board; *Notice of CEQA Scoping Meeting & Opportunity for Public Comment – Proposed PG&E Bay Area O&M General Order*; dated December 7, 2021.
- 5.6 Correspondence from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); *FW: Introducing NRCS New Assistant State Conservationist for Field Office Operations*; dated December 13, 2021.
- 5.7 Correspondence from the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board; *Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s Routine Maintenance Program: Tentative Order Posted*; dated December 15, 2021.
- 5.8 Correspondence from Valley Water; *Re: Notice of Availability, Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report*; dated December 20, 2021.
- 5.9 Correspondence from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); *USFWS Seeks Public Comment on Draft Lehigh Permanente Site Operations and Maintenance HCP*; dated December 27, 2021.