



# 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, November 4, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Rick Lanman, M.D.  
President

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.  
Vice-President

Gail Bautista  
Director

Susan Hare  
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.*

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by President Lanman. Directors present: President Lanman, Vice-President Jahns, and Directors Bautista, Hare (until approximately 5:45 p.m.) and Quintero. Associate Directors present: Leikam. Staff present: District Counsel Gantenbein (until approximately 5:54 p.m.) and Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Director Hare requested that items 8.1.1 and 8.2 be moved forward for discussion before the Consent Agenda because she is having internet issues and may lose her connection.  
*Motion: Approve the agenda as amended. (Jahns/Quintero; 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 October 7, 2021 through November 6, 2021 pursuant to Brown Act provision. (Hare/Jahns; 5-0-0)*
- 4. Public Comment:** None

5. **Consent Agenda:** Director Jahns asked if there is a connection between Item 5.16 and the recent City of San Jose Planning Commission decision to reject the City staff recommendation to change the land use in Coyote Valley from industrial development to open space and agriculture. Executive Director Moreno responded that although the County and the City do not have overlapping land use authority in Coyote Valley, they have been working collaboratively to preserve agriculture and open space, and that any decision the City makes related to allowable uses in Coyote Valley could potentially cause impacts for landowners within unincorporated areas of the valley. After hearing concerns expressed by members of the Board, she indicated if there were no objections, she would draft a letter to the City Council encouraging support for their staff recommendation.

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

6. **Partner Reports**

- 6.1 *USDA-NRCS:* District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center, reported to the Board on NRCS activities and accomplishments, and indicated NRCS will be accepting applications for their first round of funding for this year's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) until December 10, 2021, with a second date in April for EQIP and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications. NRCA will be placing more emphasis on soil carbon sequestration practices this year and will be implementing a new program to provide funding for groundwater recharging practices by agricultural producers.
- 6.2 *Other Partners:* Roseryn Bhudsabourg reported on the Drought Summit that Valley Water recently held. President Lanman requested a status update on the Anderson Dam and Singleton projects for the next Board meeting.

7. **Programs and Projects**

- 7.1 *Tule elk:* Dr. Rick Lanman, GCRCD Board President, presented recent research and field study findings from a new paper he co-authored regarding Santa Clara's Tule elk herds. He asked the Board if they would be supportive of him and Executive Director Moreno initiating stakeholder meetings to discuss findings, opportunities, concerns and potential action regarding developing elk habitat and crossings, and there were no objections. District Conservationist Booth requested a copy of the paper when it is available and suggested including Pajaro Compass in the discussion; Executive Director Moreno will follow up with Pajaro Compass.

8. **Administration:**

- 8.1 *Community Grant Writer:* Executive Director Moreno presented her recommendation to initiate a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to solicit grant writing services, reviewed the draft RFP with the Board, and answered questions. She committed to addressing the issue of avoiding potential conflicts of interest between the grant writer and recipient CBOs by developing some language for the agreement in consultation with District Counsel Gantenbein.

*Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to issue an RFP for community grant-writing services and select a contractor for the Community Grant Writing Program; if a contractor is hired, authorize the transfer of the funding from salary and wages to consulting services to cover the cost of the service agreement (Lanman/Hare; 5-0-0).*

- 8.2 *Office Space:* Executive Director Moreno presented her recommendation and reviewed her staff memo to continue to rent a portion of the existing office space until October 31, 2021 in order to properly manage the records digitization project.

*Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to execute an amendment to the lease agreement with Civic Enterprises to continue leasing one office from May through October 2022, at an approximate cost of \$362.50 per month, to facilitate timely and cost-effective completion of the District's records digitization project. (Jahns/Quintero; 5-0-0)*

- 8.3 *California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD)*: ED Moreno indicated that CARCD would like formal designation of the delegates able to vote at the annual business meeting.

*Motion: Authorize President Lanman and Vice President Jahns to be the primary and alternate delegates at the CARCD annual business meeting and for President Lanman to be able to designate additional alternate delegate(s) if needed. (Lanman/Jahns; 4-0-0; Director Hare absent).*

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

- 9.1 The Board heard individual updates and reports on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD. Executive Director reported that the District would be paying registration fees for two teams to participate in California Envirothon next year and is looking for volunteers to translate the outreach documents into Spanish and Vietnamese.

**10. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. until the December 2, 2021 meeting.**

**Consent Agenda**

- 5.1 Approve minutes for the October 7, 2021, Board Meeting.  
5.2 Accept financial reports through September 2021.  
5.3 Notice of dissolution of the GCRCD Ad Hoc Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) committee.  
5.4 Authorize Executive Director on behalf of the District to vote “yes” on the proposed California Special District Association (CSDA) Bylaws changes.

**Information Only**

- 5.5 Publication from SPUR San José : *Rewilding the Guadalupe River in San José*; <https://bit.ly/31mLHPt> ; September 8, 2021.  
5.6 Fully executed agreement with USDA-NRCS; *Develop the San Jose Community Compost Network to provide education, establish accessible food scrap hubs, and create compost for urban and community farmers in CA*; September 21, 2021.  
5.7 Correspondence from California Beaver Summit; *Beaver Restoration in National Forest Land: A Guide to Advocating for Beaver Restoration in National Forests* (and other notices, including a reference to Dr. Rick Lanman); October 4, 2021.  
5.8 Correspondence from the Salmonid Restoration Federation; *Co-sponsorship of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference*; October 5, 2021.  
5.9 Press Release from County of Santa Clara; *Supervisor Otto Lee Leads Board Of Supervisors To Create New County Commission On Sustainability*; October 5, 2021.  
5.10 Notice from California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (2); *Opportunity to Comment on Draft NPDES Permit Amendment for Municipal Wastewater*; October 11, 2021.  
5.11 Correspondence from Santa Clara County FireSafe Council; *Commissioner Lara announces comprehensive solution to growing agricultural and commercial insurance needs*; October 12, 2021.  
5.12 Notice from California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (2); *Notice of Extension of Written Public Comment Period for the Tentative Order for the San Francisco Bay Region Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit*; October 15, 2021.  
5.13 Comments to Valley Water regarding FAHCE Draft Program Environmental Impact Report from:  
5.13.1 United States Fish and Wildlife Service; *Comments on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Santa Clara Valley Water District’s (Valley Water) Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE) in the Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Watersheds in Santa Clara County, California*; July 28, 2021.

- 5.13.2 California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); *Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort, Draft Program Environmental Impact Report, SCH No. 2015022008, Guadalupe River and Stevens Creek Watershed in Santa Clara County*; October 15, 2021.
- 5.13.3 National Marine Fisheries Service; *NOAA's NMFS' Comments on Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort*; October 15, 2021.
- 5.13.4 San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board; *Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort Program, Santa Clara County (SCH No. 2015022008)*; October 15, 2021.
- 5.13.5 San Francisco Baykeeper; *Comments of San Francisco Baykeeper on Santa Clara Valley Water District's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort, dated June 30, 2021*; October 15, 2021.
- 5.13.6 Water and Power Law Group PC on behalf of California Trout, Inc., Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association, Northern California Council of Fly Fishers International (NCCFFI), and GCRCD; *Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort Draft Program Environmental Impact Report*; October 15, 2021.
- 5.14 Correspondence from GCRCD to the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD); *FY21-22 Dues*; October 19, 2021.
- 5.15 Notice from California Natural Resources Agency; *State Releases Draft California Climate Adaptation Strategy*; October 19, 2021.
- 5.16 Correspondence from Santa Clara County Planning and Development Department; *Coyote Valley Item Postponed until 11/18 Planning Commission Meeting*; October 21, 2021.
- 5.17 Valley Water Encroachment Permit #21427; *Silver Creek Linear Park Wetlands Project and Gaging Program*; October 21, 2021.
- 5.18 Correspondence from CalFire; *Workshop on California's Strategic Plan for Prescribed Fire, Cultural Burning, and Prescribed Natural Fire*; October 22, 2021.
- 5.19 Publication from San Francisco Estuary Institute; *Peninsula Watershed Historical Ecology Study*; <https://bit.ly/3brNRiC> ; October 26, 2021.
- 5.20 Notice from State Water Resources Control Board; *Notice of Public Workshop & Opportunity to Comment – Microplastics in Drinking Water*; October 26, 2021.
- 5.21 Notice of RCD Grant Opportunity from the California Department of Conservation; *Riparian Corridors Restoration Guidelines Released*; October 29, 2021.