



# Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Thursday, February 3, 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 5:03 p.m. by President Jahns. Directors present: President Jahns, Vice-President Hare, and Directors Lanman (arrived at 6:00 p.m.) and Quintero. Director Bautista was absent (excused). Associate Directors present: Castillo, Leikam, and Wilson. Staff present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:**

*Motion: Approve the agenda as presented. (Hare/Quintero; 3-0-0; Bautista/Lanman absent)*
- 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 February 3, 2022 through March 5, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provision. (Quintero/Hare; 3-0-0; Bautista/Lanman absent)*
- 4. Public Comment:** None
- 5. Consent Agenda:**

*Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Hare/Jahns; 3-0-0; Bautista/Lanman absent)*

## 6. Partner Reports

- 6.1 *USDA-NRCS*: Executive Director Moreno read a brief report provided by District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center.
- 6.2 *Other Partners*: Roseryn Bhudsabourg, Valley Water, introduced Genevieve Yip as the new liaison to GCRCD and provided a response to the question raised at the last Board meeting regarding project alternatives for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. She shared a visual of the project alternatives from the Draft Environmental Impact Report; it does not include the east fork alternative proposed to Valley Water by Director Lanman.

## 7. Programs and Projects

- 7.1 *Community Grant Writing Program*: Executive Director Moreno reported that she has executed the service agreement with the community grant writer, and they have begun identifying potential eligible organizations for technical assistance.
- 7.2 *Climate Action Initiative*: Executive Director Moreno gave an update on her outreach efforts to identify a potential collaborative project for the climate action funding allocated in the FY21-22 budget. She reported that she and President Jahns had a meeting with staff from the City of San José's Climate Smart Program, and they will be submitting a partnership application for consideration by the Board at the March meeting.
- 7.3 *Silver Creek Linear Park Project*: Executive Director Moreno reported that she has executed the Right of Entry agreement with the City of San Jose and that the gages have been installed by Balance Hydrologics in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The research study is scheduled to continue through fall of 2023; the resulting report is intended to help inform future decisions by the City of San Jose to protect their wetlands habitat.
- 7.4 *Coastal Conservancy RFP*: Executive Director Moreno and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Seth Schalet of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC) reported on the submittal of SCCFSC's pre-proposal to the Coastal Conservancy by SCCFSC to enhance rangeland wildfire resiliency. It is anticipated that GCRCD and Loma Prieta RCD will provide subcontractor services if the proposal is funded.

## 8. Administration:

- 8.1 *Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC)*: Executive Director Moreno and SCCFSC CEO Schalet commented on the invitation received from SCCFSC to serve on their Board of Advisors for 2022. Director Hare asked if an Associate Director could serve in lieu of a Director and received an affirmative reply from CEO Schalet.
- 8.2 *CARCD-WCB Block Grant Application*: Executive Director Moreno reported on the funding opportunity for RCDs and partners through a California Association of Resource Conservation District (CARCD) block grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). She reviewed the pre-proposal submitted to CARCD for the *Los Gatos Creek Watershed Restoration Project*, a collaborative project with the South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition and the San Jose Water Company. The Board indicated they were pleased with the pre-proposal and intended collaboration.
- 8.3 *District Policy Review*:
  - 8.3.1 *Associate Directors*: Executive Director Moreno reviewed recommended changes to the policy.

*Motion: Approve a resolution adopting the amended Associate Director Policy as presented, effective February 3, 2022 (Quintero/Jahns; 3-0-0; Bautista/Lanman absent).*

- 8.3.2 *Volunteer*: Executive Director Moreno reviewed recommended changes to the policy. Director Hare requested the language be further amended to add the following to the end of the last sentence under “Volunteer Selection”: “ .... and who best meet the objectives of the District’s Environmental and Social Justice policy”.

*Motion: Approve a resolution adopting the amended Volunteer Policy with the additional amendment, effective February 3, 2022 (Lanman/Jahns; 4-0-0; Bautista absent).*

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

- 9.1 Board members, Associate Directors and staff reported on topics and activities relevant to GCRCD. Director Lanman congratulated Associate Director Leikam on the publication of his book “Road to Fox Hollow” detailing his experiences among the gray foxes of the Palo Alto Baylands, and reported on his continued outreach presentations regarding Tule elk habitat and connections. Associate Director Wilson reported that public comments are due on February 4, 2022 regarding the City of San José’s draft Natural Working Lands Element. President Jahns said he is participating in docent training with the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. Executive Director Moreno reported on other District activities and indicated that Director Lanman’s request for a name change for the District will be placed on the March agenda.

**10. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m. until the March meeting.**

**Consent Agenda**

- 5.1 Approve minutes for the January 6, 2022, Board Meeting.  
5.2 Accept financial reports through December 2021.

Information Only

- 5.3 County of Santa Clara; *Participate in the Climate Roadmap*; dated January 14, 2022.  
5.4 County of Santa Clara; *Filing of Statements of Economic Interests - Form 700*; dated January 20, 2022.  
5.5 Correspondence from Valley Water; *Valley Water Board of Directors Considers Adoption of One Water Plans*; dated January 24, 2022.  
5.6 Correspondence from NOAA Fisheries; *Recovering Threatened and Endangered Species FY 2019-2020*; received January 31, 2022.