



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

October 14, 2022

The Honorable Mike Wasserman
President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: Term Expiration from the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District

Dear President Wasserman:

Thank you for providing notice of the upcoming expiration of my and Dr. Rick Lanman's terms on the Board of Directors for the Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (District). As District President, I hereby provide formal notice that Director Lanman and I will not be seeking reappointment to new terms following the expiration of our current terms on November 25, 2022. The District has already posted a notice of anticipated vacancy on its website ([see *Notice of Anticipated Vacancy*](#)).

While Public Resources Code section 9314(a) allows a Resource Conservation District (RCD) director to remain in office until their successor has qualified in order to avoid a vacancy, Director Lanman and I hope this will not be necessary. We encourage your office, as the nominating authority for the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, to initiate and conduct a robust recruitment process as soon as possible to help ensure the District can move forward into 2023 with a full Board that includes two new directors.

Under the Public Resources Code, RCD directors are required to meet certain minimum requirements. The District requests your office add or otherwise clarify these criteria in the County's Maddy Report prior to issuing the recruitment so candidates can independently evaluate whether they are qualified prior to applying:

- Pursuant to Section 9314, the Legislature declared its intent that "the board of supervisors solicit recommendations from within the district, including public, private, and nonprofit entities, and appoint only applicants who are determined by the board of supervisors to have a demonstrated interest in soil and water conservation. In selecting directors pursuant to subdivision (b), the board of supervisors shall endeavor to achieve balanced representation on the board of directors."
- Pursuant to Section 9352(a), directors "shall be registered voters in the state."
- Pursuant to Section 9352(b), directors "shall (1) reside within the district or alternatively have served, pursuant to the district's rules, for two years or more as an associate director providing advisory or other assistance to the board of directors, or (2) be a designated agent of a resident landowner within the district."

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.
President

Susan Hare
Vice-President

Gail Bautista
Director

Rick Lanman, M.D.
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

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

Roger Castillo
Watershed Project
Assistant

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

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The District, with the assistance of the County Board of Supervisors, has made significant strides in diversifying representation on the Board consistent with the District's social and environmental justice goals. As we look to the next round of appointments, the District hopes to maintain diversity and also improve balance by adding representation from the agricultural sector. Representation by farmers and ranchers is commonly found on RCD boards because it helps ensure RCDs are meeting local producers' needs for agricultural programs and technical assistance. The District therefore requests that during this particular biennial recruitment process, you personally make it a priority to appoint one or more directors that are or have been involved in Santa Clara County agricultural production.

Information regarding the District's current goals, activities, and services provided to constituents and stakeholders are readily accessible online as described below:

- The District's annual and long-range strategic planning documents can be found at <https://www.rcdsantaclara.org/strategic-planning>;
- Descriptions of some of the District's collaborative partnerships developed to leverage both District and partners' funding and other resources can be found at <https://www.rcdsantaclara.org/community-grants-and-partnerships>; and
- Results of some of the scientific research projects we have undertaken can be found at <https://www.rcdsantaclara.org/research-projects>.

Executive Director Stephanie Moreno is available to answer any questions you or your staff may have regarding the recruitment specifically, or the District generally. She is best reached by email (smoreno@gcrsd.org) or by cell (831-235-1799).

The District looks forward to collaborating with your office on the recruitment process to ensure the appointment of Directors committed to service of our mutual constituencies.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gary Jahns, Ph.D.
Board President