

Subject **IMPORTANT: CARCD Officer Election Ballot (see attachment)**
From CARCD Elections <elections@carcd.org>
To <ksweet@cattlemen.net>, <agardner@cafiresafecouncil.org>, <hatfield001@gmail.com>, <grapes@desertfresh.com>, <reneefernandezlipp@gmail.com>, <david@tvfarming.com>, <zach@eastmercedrca.org>, <amiranda@carboncycle.org>, <weeeej@gmail.com>, <dpierce@innercite.com>, [95 more...](#)
Date 2024-03-14 10:01 AM



- Candidate Statement – John James.pdf(~42 KB)
- Candidate Statement – Peter Braudrick.pdf(~70 KB)
- Candidate Statement – Peter Van Dyke.pdf(~228 KB)
- Candidate Statement – Harold Singer.pdf(~35 KB)
- 23-24 Election Ballot.pdf(~779 KB)

Delegates at the March 7, 2024 General Membership Special Meeting voted to adjourn the meeting and hold the vote for Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer by email or printed ballot. **The ballot is attached to this email** and a hard copy of the ballot will be provided by mail if requested.

The CARCD by-laws require that mail ballots be addressed by a board action of the member districts. The election ends on Monday, April 29th at 5:00 p.m. to allow 45 days for member districts to itemize the vote on their agendas. Districts may vote for one nominee for Vice President and one nominee for Secretary-Treasurer.

The district secretary must certify by signing and printing their name that the action taken on the ballot is the action of the Board of Directors of the member district.

The ballot should be returned by email to elections@carcd.org. The member district may choose to email the ballot from an email address of its choosing provided the ballot is signed by the district secretary. The ballot may alternatively be returned by mail with a postmark dated no later than the close of the election on April 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Mailed ballots must be addressed to:

CARCD
1007 7th Street, #414
Sacramento, CA 95814

REMINDER

- Emailed ballots must be received at elections@carcd.org by April 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- Mailed ballots must be postmarked by April 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Attachments:

- *Election Ballot*
- *Candidate Statement – Harold Singer*
- *Candidate Statement – John James*
- *Candidate Statement – Peter Braudrick*
- *Candidate Statement – Peter Van Dyke*

This email is being sent to all delegates and alternates for whom we have email addresses and all DMs/EDs for whom we have email addresses.



ELECTION BALLOT

Officers to California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Board of Directors

The election ends on April 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

CARCD by-laws require mail ballots be addressed by a board action.

Choose only one nominee for Vice President and one nominee for Secretary-Treasurer.

Vice President	
Name, District	Choose One
Peter Braudrick, Mendocino County RCD	
Peter Van Dyke, Loma Prieta RCD	

Secretary-Treasurer	
Name, District	Choose One
Harold Singer, Tahoe RCD	
John James, El Dorado County RCD	

Please return this ballot to elections@carcd.org.

If you choose to mail this ballot, the postmark must be no later than the close of the election on April 29, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

NAME OF VOTING DISTRICT:

SIGNATURE OF DISTRICT SECRETARY:

The district secretary certifies that the action hereon is the action of the Board of Directors of the member district.

PRINTED NAME OF DISTRICT SECRETARY:

Email to:
elections@carcd.org
 or
Mail to: CARCD
1007 7th Street, #414
Sacramento, CA 95814

Peter Braudrick
Candidate for Vice President of California Association of Resource Conservations Districts

I am running for the position of Vice President of the CARCD because I have a lifelong passion for conservation and the outdoors and believe that Resource Conservation Districts are incredibly important to improving and restoring the wild and working landscapes of California and in helping landowners improve the vitality of their land. My management and conservation experience will be integral to my effectiveness as a Vice President of the CARCD.

I was fortunate to grow up on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula and attended college in Sonoma County at the JC and Sonoma State University. I enjoyed a 33-year career with the California Department of Parks and Recreation throughout Northern California in a variety of different field positions. My last thirteen years I was a manager in Mendocino County. I have been a resident of the county for 30 years. Those years of working on California parkland gave me tremendous insight and knowledge of conservation, but it also taught me to be a good manager and collaborator.

I was appointed by the Director of California Department of Forestry to the Jackson State Forest Advisory Committee which was tasked to develop a plan to implement the management plan. We had 13 members, and everything was accomplished through consensus. It took four plus years, and we were successful.

From there I joined Mendocino RCD as an Associate Director and asked to serve as the RCD representative to the North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council. This is a four-county non-profit in support of the 5 RCDs in the counties. We lost our federal funding which provided a NRCS staff member, office space and overhead. Most of RC and DC in the state went out of business. We have struggled but on a firm financial footing now and have 12 employees. I have been the board chair for fourteen years.

I have been on the Board of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District as a District Director since 2010. We rotate the Chairmanship annually. I am currently on the Executive Committee of CARCD and I am the North Coast Area Chair sitting on the Board of CARCD. I have been on the board of CARCD for approximately eight years.

While on the Board of the CARCD, I have worked with others to modernize our structures to fit the needs of our constituent RCDS. I went through a three-week DEI training with Karen Buhr who at the time was the ED of CARCD. On a quarterly basis Karen Buhr, Harold Singer and I meet with the Director of the Department of Conservation to improve relationships through better communications and an exchange of ideas and develop stronger relationships with this state agency that funds so much of our work as RCDs. One of my accomplishments with other board members has been opening our board membership to RCD staff as non-voting members so that can give an unfettered view of the board procedures and give input during discussions.

I believe it is important that CARCD is a transparent organization that entertains a variety of ideas, opinions and viewpoints as is demonstrated by 90 plus RCDs.

In 2019 I was presented the Presidents award by Paul Williams who was President of CARCD at the time for my contributions as a board member.

I believe it is important to listen to people and respect their opinions. My goal as a board member is to have an inclusive organization that abides by the Bylaws of CARCD. While dealing with COVID and the lack of face-to-face meetings presented a challenge, I believe we emerged as a strong organization ready to meet the challenges of state budget cuts and new technology on the conservation front. With the return of personal meetings comes the return of better personal relationships which is the cornerstone of any organization.

I am also privileged to serve on the board of the Cancer Resource Centers of Mendocino County for ten years and have been the board chair for eight years of this highly successful organization that provides services through Lake and Mendocino Counties to cancer patients.

My name is Peter Van Dyke, and I am running for the position of CARCD Vice President. I am a board member and the President of the Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District, the Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, and a director on the Land Trust of Santa Clara Valley board. My extensive local governance experience will serve CARCD well as we ask it to become a more transparent, accountable, and inclusive organization that strives to meet the needs of all RCDs, regardless of their size, location, financial resources, or organizational capacity.

Being in the fourth of five generations of a family farming fruits and vegetables in the Santa Clara Valley for over a hundred years has given me a deep-rooted commitment to promoting ecologically sound farming practices. Our farm has been certified organic for 38 years and is a model for the economic and ecological value of regenerative and organic agriculture. Our family's passion for stewarding the land we live on motivated us to find a way to protect our farm in perpetuity, and in March 2020, we entered into a conservation easement agreement with the Land Trust of Santa Clara Valley. Their process and commitment to the preservation of agricultural lands in a way that honors both the lands and the families that manage them impressed me so much that I asked to be on the board and was accepted.

I am very passionate about RCDs' history of working to preserve and enhance the physical integrity of working lands, to mitigate ecological impacts, and to provide technical assistance to landowners, growers, tribal groups, and other land stewards. Our RCD has established lasting and productive relationships with neighboring RCDs, local agencies, tribal groups, their leaders, and many conservation groups throughout the region and state, building our capacity to serve our constituents. My goal is to help all RCDs in the state build that same capacity. Given my experience and background, I am uniquely qualified to represent the RCDs as a CARCD officer and I ask that you support me for the position of CARCD Vice President. Please feel free to contact me personally if you would like to talk about my vision or ask me any questions

Thank you,
Peter Van Dyke
President and director Loma Prieta RCD
408 483 3636 / pvd7635@gmail.com.

My name is John James and I have been asked to throw my hat in the ring for the position of Secretary -Treasurer of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. I have been an active Eldorado County RCD Director for many years and served numerous years as the Central Sierra Regional Chair. At the time I was the Central Sierra Regional Chair the six regional Chairs were active voting members in all aspects of the CARCD's decision making. I am extremely disappointed that under the current/previous CARCD leadership that is no longer the case.

I was born and mostly raised in Seaside, California. My parents are from farm families in Mississippi. We currently have relatives farming in California, Mississippi, Michigan and Texas. Coincidentally numerous of those family members serve on their local Soil (and Water) Conservation District Boards. Two of my daughters are involved professionally in sustainability issues here in California. I was born on a US Army base, started grade school on the Monterey peninsula. My family spent time in Washington, Georgia, New Jersey and Hawaii, but the Army in it's infinite wisdom and great organizational skills transferred us back to the Monterey peninsula where I was able to spend 11th grade and graduate high school with some of the same kids I started kindergarten thru 2nd grade with! Pretty cool. Many of those are still friends of mine to this day. I have earned degrees in Engineering and Economics and one of my highest and proudest achievements is being an alumni of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, in which I am still engaged with the Cal Poly President to increase minority students at that University.

I am an experienced staff manager, program/project manager and financial manager. During my career at the California Department of Transportation I was responsible for capital public transportation infrastructure projects proposed and ultimately managed by cities, counties, non-profits and regional agencies. Projects ranged from lift-equipped vans to provide senior citizen transportation and hot-meals, to ferries, public transit agency busses, intermodal facilities, light rail lines, intercity rail and high-speed rail projects. I got a Lionel train set from Santa Claus when I was 4 years old and became enthralled with electric trains. I applied to Cal Poly SLO because I wanted to go to work for Caltrans & electric trains and SLO was the only university in California that offered classes on electric railroads. Caltrans came to SLO and interviewed a bunch of us in my senior year, offered me a job, and subsequently in that role I have been involved in every electric passenger railroad project developed in California since 1980. (Some dreams do come true!)

My responsibilities included insuring that Caltrans was in full compliance and followed the financial management and reporting requirements as required by the California State legislature and the U.S. Department of Transportation. My duties included reviewing and approving the local agencies project delivery administrative operations and the financial administrations to ensure the local and regional agencies were at all times equipped to be in full compliance with the financial administrative and management requirements of both the State of California and the US Department of Transportation.

I managed the successful growth of the public transportation capital programs from 3 people managing \$10,000,000 of public transportation projects to a multi-billion (\$4.5 billion) dollar statewide program encompassing a Caltrans staff of a hundred with financial oversight of hundreds of public transportation projects from Humboldt county through Fresno and Sacramento, the Bay area and into Los Angeles and San Diego counties. Our goal in oversight of the local and regional agencies were to help them be successful. Because if they were successful then our program was successful and the people of California reaped the benefits. I received Caltrans' "Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award" for my organizing and leadership of that program.

Since retiring from Caltrans I have been keeping myself busy consulting on major public works projects including as a project environmental, stormwater and erosion control manager on rebuilding the Bay Bridge after the Loma Prieto earthquake and on many other major (in excess of \$300 million each) construction projects throughout California. In my spare time I am planting a Barbera and Pinot Noir vineyard in Eldorado County using natural cuttings that UC Davis Foundation Plant Material services grafts for me onto St. George (Vitus Rupestris) rootstock which is a native vigorous Mississippi River Valley rootstock naturally resistant to phylloxera.

I am skilled in state and federal funding compliance and look forward to helping CARCD providing guidance and support to the local RCDs in leading their local resource conservation missions, while providing full transparency of CARCD Board operations to RCDs and receiving, sharing and magnifying the knowledge & skills of both the local RCD Directors and professional staff. Having a good financial administrative and management function is key to ensuring continued and increased financial support from our State and Federal environmental & resource conservation focused partners.

I look forward to working together to help grow the impact and variety of RCD activities in California. I would appreciate your vote and support!

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Name: Harold Singer

Position: Secretary/Treasurer - CARCD

I am the CARCD Nominating Committee designate for the position of Secretary/Treasurer for CARCD. I have held this position for the last three years. Prior to that I was the CARCD Vice-President for one year before moving into the Secretary/Treasurer position upon a mid-term vacancy in that position and on election by the CARCD Board of Directors. I was the Regional Chair for the Central Sierra Region for four years before being elected to the Vice-President position. I have been a Director on the Tahoe RCD for nine years and currently serve as its Treasurer.

While serving for eight years on the Board of Directors for CARCD and four years on the Executive Committee I have been actively involved in many aspects of the Association. I currently serve on the Revolving Loan Committee, the Legislative Committee and the Bylaws Committee. In my role as the CARCD treasurer I assumed a very active role between the time Emily Sutherland (our former Office Manager) and when we hired our current Financial and Administrative Manager. This involved doing all the CARCD banking and issuing checks to pay our invoices. We moved most of our banking to a new institution which provides more flexibility to all CARCD to process our revenue and expenditures and spreads-out our financial exposure. Under my direction we currently have an application pending with this new institution for a line-of-credit to help CARCD be more timely in its payments to RCDs, a situation that surfaced due to the significant increase in grant funds that CARCD has acquired for pass-through to RCDs. Additionally, for the last six years I am one of two Board of Directors that, along with our Executive Director, meets regularly with the Director of the CA Department of Conservation and senior staff to maintain and improve our collaborative relationship.

In addition to my role on the CARCD Board of Directors, I have been the treasurer for two not-for-profit organizations for the past nine years. One provides environmental education about the Lake Tahoe watershed to elementary through college students and the other provided an educational exchange program for US and Russian college students between Lake Tahoe and Lake Baikal in Russia. This second program has been suspended due to the political difficulty in operating this type of NGO program in Russia.

In 2012 I retired from a position I held for 23 years as the Executive Officer for a CA State agency. This was an at-will position reporting to a nine-member board appointed by the Governor. I oversaw the work of approximately 75 staff. Prior to holding this position I was employed by a State agency overseeing statewide environmental regulatory programs and involved in both budget and legislative work associated with these programs.

If elected to serve as your Secretary/Treasurer my goals are to continue to improve the lines of communication between the Association and the RCDs and to actively increase the transparency of the Association governance structure. These two goals are interconnected. Communication is a two-way street. The current avenues for communication are not as robust as they should be due, in part, to our lack of face-to-face meetings during COVID and our current reliance on LISTSERV which is a passive means of communication and does not reach everyone that should be receiving important communications. While I believe the Association governance structure is sound, the Association is not doing a good job of providing meaningful information to its RCD members. I am committed to improve this situation.

I would be pleased to discuss my qualifications and goals with any District Directors. Please email me at hstahoe@gmail.com to set up a day and time to talk.