

Minutes of the Coachella Valley Conservation District Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 15th at 8:00 AM
City of Coachella Library
1500 6th Street
Coachella, CA 92236

Directors Present: President Ruben Arias; Vice-President Blaine Carian; Director Don Ackley; Director Juan De Lara; Director Celeste Alonzo

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: District Manager Yvonne Franco; Irrigation Specialist Carlos Velazquez; Administrative Assistant Valerie Velazquez Tomas Aguilar-Campos, NRCS District Conservationist

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Arias at 8:13 AM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Ruben Arias led us in pledge of allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director De Lara provided the motion to approve the agenda. Director Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

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|--------|-----|---------|-----|
| Arias | Aye | Carian | Aye |
| Ackley | Aye | De Lara | Aye |
| Alonzo | Aye | | |

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the Meeting Minutes. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

5-1: Approval of Meeting Minutes – Minutes were not prepared for the meeting.

5-2: Approval of Financial Report – December 2022

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| Arias | Aye | Carian | Aye |
| Ackley | Aye | De Lara | Aye |
| Alonzo | Aye | | |

6. CORRESPONDANCE

6-1: California Special District Association – CLASS

President Arias requested that a meeting with the representatives from CLASS be arranged for a future meeting.

6-2: LAFCO - Special District Board Vacancies

Director Juan De Lara expressed interested in the LAFCo vacancy for Eastern Riverside County.

7. REPORTS

7-1: NRCS Report – Tomas provided an update on NRCS operations.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

8-1: Rental Property Update – Mr. Marshal, from Baxley Properties is currently working to find a tenant for the property in Palm Desert.

8-2: Desert Healthcare District - The Desert Healthcare District expressed interest in participating in CSDA’s awards.

8-3: CDFA Technical Assistance Grant – If the technical assistance grant becomes available, Dr. Montazar from the UC Cooperative Extension has agreed to partner with the District to apply for the grant.

8-4: Preschool Learning Garden - District Manager announced that the garden’s construction would be starting in the coming week.

9. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

9-1: Mid-Year Budget Review.

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the Mid-Year Budget Review.

Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

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| Arias | Aye | Carian | Aye |
| Ackley | Aye | De Lara | Aye |
| Alonzo | Aye | | |

9-2: Consideration to allow the District Manager to attend the Special District Leadership Academy Conference, held in La Quinta from February 26 – March 1, 2023. Registration costs to not exceed \$625.

Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve District Manager to attend the Special District Leadership Academy Conference. Director Blaine Carian provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

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| Arias | Aye | Carian | Aye |
| Ackley | Aye | De Lara | Aye |
| Alonzo | Aye | | |

9-3: Consideration to reimburse the District Manager for the cost of notarizing documents at \$7.50.

Director Blaine Carian provided the motion to approve the cost of notarizing documents of \$7.50. Director Juan De Lara provided the second. The motion was approved unanimously, 5-0.

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|--------|-----|---------|-----|
| Arias | Aye | Carian | Aye |
| Ackley | Aye | De Lara | Aye |
| Alonzo | Aye | | |

10. DISCUSSION FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT/ ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD CONSIDERATION

There were no items for discussion.

11. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no items for discussion.

12. CLOSED SESSION

No closed session

13. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Date: February 15, 2023

USDA Indio Service Center
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A
Indio, CA 92201

14. ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 AM.

Approved this 15th of February 2023



Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary