

Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District
USDA Service Center
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A
Indio, CA 92201

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 8:00

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

Members of the Public: Tomas Campos NRCS District Conservationist, Stephen Corona, LAFCO Special District Candidate for the Western Area

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Arias at 8:00 AM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Ruben Arias led us in pledge of allegiance.

President Arias gave Mr. Corona an opportunity to introduce himself and speak of his candidacy for LAFCO's Special District seat for the Western Area. He left the meeting at 8:05 AM.

Director Blaine Carian joined the meeting at 8:06 AM.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

4. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR:

5-1: Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 2022, January 2023

5-2: Approval of Financial Report – January 2023

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

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Aye
Alonzo	Aye		

6. CORRESPONDANCE

6-1: None.

7. Reports

7-1: NRCS Report – Tomas Aguilar-Campos gave a Civil Rights presentation.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS

8-1: Rental Property – There's interest in the space but the lack of parking discourages protentional tenants.

8-2: CDFA Urban Agriculture Grant – After reaching out to CDFA staff and reading the grant guidelines it was determined that the District didn't qualify for the grant.

8-3: Preschool Learning Garden – Construction has started on the garden and continues.

8-4: Solid Waste Illegal Dumping Cleanup – Ave 50th & Filmore will be the site of the first event. District Manager Yvonne is working with City of Coachella staff for outreach.

8-5: Meeting with Assemblymember Greg Wallis' staff – District Manager Yvonne Franco was invited by the CSDA regional rep with two other special districts to meet with office staff.

8-6: Desert Healthcare District update – District Manager Yvonne Franco is meeting with staff from the healthcare district to discuss the nomination submittal for the

8-7: Farm to Fork Event – The sponsorship amount has been paid and the event will be held on March 23.

- 8-8: CARCD Board Meeting on April 12, 2023 – In Sacramento CA, District Manager will be attending.
- 8-9: CSDA’s Special District Leadership Academy (SDLA) attendance. - President Arias and the district manager attended the conference held in La Quinta.
- 8-10: Policy Manual upcoming updates – The district manager will be working on updates.
- 8-11: Report on possible future District office locations – District manager updated the Board on the three locations that were discussed by the ad hoc committee.

9. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 9-1: Discuss possible attendance to California Special District Association’s Special Districts Legislative Days, in Sacramento on May 16-17, 2023.

Directors Ruben Arias and Juan De Lara plan to attend the conference.

The Board agreed to hold the regular meeting on May 24, 2023, due to President Arias and Director De Lara attending the Legislative Days event on May 16-17.

- 9-2: Tree publication prepared by Inland Urban Forest Council.

The district manager was advised to work with someone to recreate the publication for the desert and also have it translated into Spanish.

- 9-3: Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission Special District Election Seats.

The Board was given the information and the voting instructions.

10. Discussion for the Good of the District/Items for Future board Consideration

President Arias updated the Board on the need to renew the employment agreement with the district manager. The district manager was tasked with getting information from other similar districts.

11. District General Counsel Report and Announcements

None.

12. Closed Session

No closed session items were included.

13. Date and location of Next District Regular Board Meeting

Date: April 19, 2023

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14. ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 AM.

Approved this 19th day of April 2023



Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary