

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

Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2026  
8:00 AM

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

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: District Manager Yvonne Franco

Members of the Public: None

1. CALL TO ORDER
  - a) Roll Call and determination of a quorum.  
The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Arias at 8:09AM.
  - b) Pledge of Allegiance  
Director Ruben Arias led us in the pledge of allegiance.
2. AGENDA REVIEW  
No revisions were proposed to the agenda.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT  
There was no public comment.
4. PRESENTATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - a) Stephen J. Corona – Candidate for LARCO’s Regular Special District Member – Western Region  
Stephen Corona was not present at the meeting, and the Board President moved on to the next presenter Janet Hartin.
  - b) Janet Hartin – Environmental Horticulture Advisor Emerita UC Cooperative Extension.  
Janet Hartin provided the Board with a summary of the events that have been held in the Coachella Valley and discussed funding for next year’s Trees for Tomorrow.
5. CORRESPONDENCE
  - a) Received: Postcard from National Association of Conservation Districts. The district manager informed the Board that the District continues to be a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts.

- b) Received: Joint Ribbon Cutting Ceremony invitation for Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District. The invitation was received via email.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) Meeting Minutes
- b) Financials – Receive and File

<b>Arias</b>	Aye	<b>Carian</b>	Aye
<b>Ackley</b>	Aye	<b>De Lara</b>	Aye
<b>Alonzo</b>	Aye		

**Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Juan De Lara provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.**

7. PARTNER REPORTS

- a) NRCS Report – verbal report provided by USDA NRCS District Conservationist Tomas Aguilar-Campos.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES

- a) Tire Collection Event update.  
The district manager provided an update on the event held the day before, March 17. All eight roll-off containers were filled by 10:00 a.m. and the event was formally closed at 10:05. The district manager was instructed to hold another event before the end of the fiscal year. The district manager also informed the Board that the City of Desert Hot Springs reached is interested in holding a tire collection event.
- b) Agreement between Water and Power Law Group PC and the District not to exceed \$5,000 for legal services.  
The district manager signed an agreement with Water and Power Law Group PC, not to exceed \$5,000. Water and Power Law Group currently works with two RCDs in Northern California. The District’s current counsel is County Counsel and was recently reassigned to another attorney.
- c) Invitation to three Legislative Roundtables scheduled by CSDA’s Southern Network Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator  
There were three meetings organized by the CSDA Field Coordinator. Various districts were represented at the meetings, and all provided a summary of their activities.
- d) Listing Agreement for Palm Desert property  
The agreement hasn’t been signed.

9. ACTION ITEMS

- a) Discussion and possible approval action of the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) 2026 Special District Selection Committee

(SDSC) Ballot for Regular Special District Member of Riverside LAFCO – Western Region

No formal action was taken. The Board was given the opportunity to provide input on the ballot, but it was agreed that President Arias fill it out without input.

- b) Discussion and possible action of Resolution No. 2026-02 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District to revise the Administrate Policy Manual’s Board Policy (BP-14) Agenda Format and divide the existing Financial Policy (FP-1) into seven different sections

<b>Arias</b>	Aye	<b>Carian</b>	Aye
<b>Ackley</b>	Aye	<b>De Lara</b>	Aye
<b>Alonzo</b>	Aye		

**President Arias provided the motion to approve the Resolution No. 2026-02 of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District to revise the Administrate Policy Manual’s Board Policy (BP-14) Agenda Format and divide the existing Financial Policy (FP-1) into seven different sections. Director De Lara provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.**

- 10. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Nothing to report.
- 11. NEW BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA  
Discussion at Board Meeting
- 12. CLOSED SESSION  
No closed session items
- 13. Date and Location of next Regular Board Meeting:  
Date: April 15, 2026  
USDA Indio Service Center  
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A  
Indio, CA 92201
- 14. ADJOURN MEETING  
Meeting adjourned at 9:09AM.

Approved this 15th day of April 2026

Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary