

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

Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2025  
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; Administrative Assistant Valerie Velazquez

Members of the Public: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Ruben Arias at 8:01AM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Ruben Arias led us in the pledge of allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No motion taken on the agenda.

Vice-President Blaine Carian joined the meeting at 8:06AM.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

V. CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Shayra Hernandez, Government Relations and Communications Manager introduced herself to the board.

*The following Action Item was moved to accommodate Auditor Paul Kaymark from Nigro & Nigro PC.*

IX. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Consideration to accept the final audit for Fiscal Year 2023/24

Mr. Paul Kaymark presented the findings of the District's financial audit. The Auditor issued an Unmodified Opinion for the District's Annual Financial Statements.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes for January 2025
- B. Receive and File Financials for January 2025
- C. Appointment of District Director, per Section 9314(b)(4) of Division 9 of Public Resources Code, Don Ackley
- D. Appointment of District Director, per Section 9314(b)(4) of Division 9 of Public Resources Code, Blaine Carian
- E. Appointment of District Director, per Section 9314(b)(4) of Division 9 of Public Resources code, Juan De Lara

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

**Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.**

VII. REPORTS

- A. NRCS Report – USDA NRCS District Conservationist Tomas Aguilar-Campos did not attend board meeting.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS –

- A. Update: Weather Station Program  
There’s one possible applicant; awaiting candidate’s application submittal.
- B. Tire Recycling Event, March 11, 2025, to be held at College of the Desert’s East Valley Campus, Thermal/Mecca  
The event is scheduled for March 11, 2025. Four roll-off containers were ordered for the event. Two to three crew members from the Urban Conservation Corps are expected to assist the District. The County’s Code Enforcement Department has agreed to work with the District and informing the public. The event information has been uploaded to the District’s social media account.

IX. BOARD ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Consideration to accept the final audit for Fiscal Year 2023/24  
Action for the item was moved.
- B. Discussion of Palm Desert Property  
**No motion taken. Item for discussion in next meeting.**  
*The Board was informed of the ongoing maintenance on the property. Additional information will be provided at the next meeting.*

- C. Consideration to contribute funding for a pesticide container recycling event and to supplement a CDFG grant for noxious weeds in collaboration with the Low Desert Weed Management Area  
**No action taken. The pesticide container recycling event is on hold for now. The agricultural commissioner’s office informed the District that information on tonnage, number of participants and the amount of pesticide is needed to organize the event and request funding. They also need to know if the District would be financially contributing to the event. The Board took no action on financially contributing to the to the 2025 Weed Management Area Grant.**
  
- D. Training and Conferences attendance opportunities  
**Directors Arias and De Lara volunteered to attend the Special District Legislative Days in Sacramento to be held in the month of May. Directors Arias, De Lara, Ackley, and Carian volunteered to attend CSDA’s annual conference in August 2025.**
  
- E. District Officers: Selection of President and Vice-President, effective immediately.

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

**Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to approve President and Vice-President remain the same. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.**

- F. Consideration to appoint the District’s President Ruben Arias, Vice-President Blaine Carian, and District Manger Yvonne Franco as signers to the business checking account, effective immediately

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

**Director Juan De Lara provided the motion to appoint the District’s President Ruben Arias, Vice-President Blaine Carian, and District Manger Yvonne Franco as signers to the business checking account with California Bank & Trust, effective immediately. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 5-0.**

X. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
Nothing to report.

XI. DISTRICT ITEMS FOR THE FUTURE BOARD CONSIDERATION  
Discussion at Board Meeting

XII. CLOSED SESSION  
None.

XIII. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Date: March 19, 2025  
USDA Indio Service Center  
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A  
Indio, CA 92201

XIV. ADJOURN MEETING  
Meeting adjourned at 9:02 AM.

Approved this 19th day of March 2025

  
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Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary