

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

Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2025
8:00 AM

Directors Present: President Ruben Arias; Vice-President Blaine Carian; Director Juan De Lara (8:31 arrival); Director Don Ackley; Director Celeste Alonzo

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: District Manager Yvonne Franco; Irrigation Specialist Carlos Velazquez; Administrative Assistant Valerie Velazquez

Members of the Public: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Arias at 8:02AM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Arias led us in the pledge of allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes to the agenda.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

V. Presentations and Announcements

Nothing to report.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Email from Nancy Wal-Scheurich regarding Strategic Growth Council (SGC) Land Equity Task Force Recommendations related to RCDs – The district manager brought up concerns regarding specific language to “change” Division 9 to allow non-landowners to serve on Boards. The district manager further added that there’s already a pathway for non-landowners per Section 9352 of the Public Resources Code. According to the email, CARCD claims to not be involved with the with the addition in the latest draft.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes for August 2025
- B. Approval of Minutes for August 2025

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Absent
Alonzo	Aye		

Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the motion to approve the consent calendar. Director Celeste Alonzo provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

VIII. PARTNER REPORTS

- A. NRCS Report – No report was given. District Conservationist Tomas Aguilar-Campos was not unavailable due to a meeting at the NRCS office in Blythe.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS AND UPDATES –

- A. Update: Tire Recycling Event Scheduled for September 24, 2025, at College of the Desert Thermal/Mecca Campus. The event will be accepting both passenger and tractor tires. Six roll-off containers will be provided.
- B. Update: Working Group Meeting – Held on September 10, 2025, and was held at the Boys & Girls Club in Mecca. Over two dozen attendees participated in the meeting. The Meeting was a collaboration between UC Cooperative Extension, NRCS, FSA, and the District. The District sponsored lunch.
- C. Update: Trees for Tomorrow, Start Today – Event took place on September 13, 2025, at the City of Desert Hot Springs. Eighty trees were given away to participants. An event is planned for October 11, 2025, at the Coachella Library.
- D. CVRCD’s Administrative Manual revisions to be presented in next month’s meeting.

X. BOARD ACTION ITEMS

- A. Discussion and possible action of a mileage reimbursement request of \$641.20 from the district manager.

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Absent
Alonzo	Aye		

Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the motion to approve the mileage reimbursement request of \$641.20 for the district manager. Director Don Ackley provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

- B. Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2025-02, Finding and Declaring that certain real property located in the City of Palm Desert, County of Riverside, identified as APN 625-122-003 is “exempt surplus land”, pursuant to Government Code section 54221 (f)(1)(B).

Arias	Aye	Carian	Aye
Ackley	Aye	De Lara	Absent
Alonzo	Aye		

Director Celeste Alonzo provided the motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-02, Finding and Declaring that certain real property located in the City of Palm Desert, County of Riverside, identified as APN 625-122-003 is “exempt surplus land”, pursuant to Government Code section 54221 (f)(1)(B). Vice-President Blaine Carian provided the second. The motion was approved 4-0.

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

XII. DISTRICT ITEMS FOR THE FUTURE BOARD CONSIDERATION
No discussion.

Director Juan De Lara joined the meeting at 8:31AM

XIII. CLOSED SESSION – **Closed session started at 8:32AM**
Closed Session pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8:
CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR
Property Negotiator: Yvonne Franco
Property Location: APN 625-122-003 (Palm Desert)
74271 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260

Closed session ended at 8:43AM

XIV. DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Date: October 15, 2025
USDA Indio Service Center
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. A
Indio, CA 92201

Director Alonzo announced she wouldn't be attending the October meeting.

XIV. ADJOURN MEETING
Meeting adjourned at 8:48AM.

Approved this 15th day of October 2025

Yvonne Franco, District Manager / Secretary