



Guadalupe-Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD)

An independent special district of the State of California

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Gary Jahns, Ph.D.
President

Susan Hare
Vice-President

Gail Bautista
Director

Rick Lanman, M.D.
Director

Paula Quintero
Director

Roger Castillo
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Larry Johmann
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Bill Leikam
Associate Director
Director Emeritus

Mel Sarmiento
Associate Director

Kat Wilson
Associate Director

Stephanie Moreno
Executive Director
District Clerk

Nathan Hale
Program Manager

Julie Gantenbein
District Counsel

Richard Roos-Collins
Special Counsel

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Due to the Shelter-in-Place Order issued by Governor Gavin Newsom and the Santa Clara County Health Officer in response to COVID-19, this meeting was held via Zoom teleconference only, as permitted by the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, Section 3. Call-in information for the meeting was provided on the agenda.

Note: Though agenda items may be considered out of order (for example, to accommodate the schedules of guest speakers and/or members of the public in attendance for a specific item, or when items are removed from the consent agenda), the official minutes remain recorded in the same order as originally published in the official agenda. Number of votes are reflected in the following order: Aye-Nay-Abstention, with nays and abstentions called out by Director name.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by President Jahns. Directors present: President Jahns, Vice-President Hare, and Directors Bautista, Lanman, and Quintero. Associate Directors present: Castillo and Leikam. Staff present: Executive Director/District Clerk Moreno.
- 2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Approve the revised agenda as presented (with the numbering correction). (Hare/Quintero; 4-0-0; Quintero temporarily absent due to lost Zoom connection)
- 3. Continuation of Local Emergency:** Executive Director Moreno presented the information regarding the requirements of AB 361, which allows the Board of Directors to continue remote teleconferencing because in-person meetings would continue to cause imminent risk to attendees due to the continued threat of COVID-19. The Board discussed timing for moving to a hybrid meeting, and subject to the continuation of the local emergency, agreed to wait until the District relocates into its new facility.

Motion: Adopt a resolution proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom's State of Emergency by Governor Newsom's on March 4, 2020, and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of GCRCD for the period of March 3, 2022 through April 2, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provision. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0)
- 4. Public Comment:** Associate Director Castillo gave a brief report on water conditions he observed at SAP Center.

5. Presentations:

- 5.1 *Retirement Plans:* Michael Kleczek, CRC®, CalPERS 457 Business Development Manager, gave a presentation regarding the opportunity to offer employees an IRS 457(b) deferred compensation plan as a benefit and answered questions from the Board. Executive Director Moreno explained the existing Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) plan and reviewed advantages of transitioning to a 457(b) plan.

Motion: Direct the Executive Director to pursue the CalPERS 457 program. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0)

- 5.2 *Climate Action Initiative:* City of San José representatives Julie Benabente, Amanda Leonis, and Monica Nanez presented on the Climate Smart Zero Emissions Neighborhood Pilot and Climate Smart GoGreen Teams projects, and the Board asked questions and discussed the projects in terms of entering into a partnership project with the City of José.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to proceed with the execution of a partnership agreement with the City of San José for the Zen Project in an amount not to exceed \$73,000. (Jahns/Bautista; 5-0-0)

6. Consent Agenda

Motion: Approve the consent agenda as presented. (Jahns/Hare; 5-0-0)

7. Partner Reports

- 7.1 *USDA-NRCS:* Executive Director Moreno read the report submitted by District Conservationist James Booth, Hollister Service Center.
- 7.2 *Other Partners:* No updates.

8. Programs and Projects

- 8.1 *Valley Water Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Grants & Partnerships Program:* Executive Director Moreno explained two potential opportunities to partner on grant proposals for this Valley Water grant program. The first project is proposed by the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy to raise environmental awareness, with GCRCD and San Jose Water Company (SJWC) participating as partners. GCRCD would assist by developing and hosting 1-2 workshops, presentations and public outreach; costs for workshops would be reimbursed, with additional in-kind services provided by the Executive Director. She also indicated she would be submitting a letter of support for the project to be attached to the grant application.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to proceed in partnership with GRPC and SJWC on a project application to Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Grant & Partnerships Program. (Lanman/Bautista; 5-0-0)

The second project is being proposed by ReScape, a nonprofit organization, in partnership with Earth Foundries to highlight the benefits and applications of biochar by designing a stormwater bioswale project. GCRCD would partner on the project by developing and hosting a workshop; costs for the workshop would be reimbursed. Executive Director Moreno also indicated she would be submitting a letter of support for the project to be attached to the grant application.

Motion: Authorize the Executive Director to proceed in partnership with Rescape and Earth Foundries on a project application to Valley Water's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Grant & Partnerships Program. (Hare/Quintero; 5-0-0)

Director Hare complimented Executive Director Moreno on her efforts to identify and present partnership opportunities to the Board.

8.2 *Community Grant Writing Technical Services*: Executive Director Moreno gave an update on initial outreach efforts and indicated that one application has already been received and approved, and she is expecting another application to be submitted shortly.

9. Administration:

9.1 *District Name*: Director Lanman explained his rationale for changing the District's name. Executive Director recommended that the District seek stakeholder input prior to final selection of a new name. Director Bautista requested that the Executive Director contact Valley Water for information on how they processed their recent name change. The Board requested the Executive Director compile a report detailing procedural requirements, input received from partner agencies, and rationale for the preferred name.

10. Board Members, Associate Director and Staff Reports:

10.1 Board members, associate directors and staff gave individual updates and reports on topics and activities relevant to GCRC. Associate Director Castillo shared a YouTube video he developed titled "Christmas King Salmon 2021" and gave a brief update on the Chinook salmon migration.

11. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m. until the April meeting.

Consent Agenda

- 6.1 Approve minutes for the February 3, 2022, Board Meeting.
- 6.2 Accept financial reports through January 2022.
- 6.3 Authorize the Executive Director to apply to the Special District Leadership Foundation for a Special District Technology Grant in an amount not to exceed \$3,000.
- 6.4 Committee Referral: Authorize the Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee to review and provide comments to the California Association of Resource Conservation District (CARCD) Bay-Delta Region Chair regarding the draft Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee Charter for CARCD.

Information Only

- 6.5 Correspondence from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); *USDA to Invest \$1 Billion in Climate Smart Commodities, Expanding Markets, Strengthening Rural America*; dated February 8, 2022.
- 6.6 Correspondence from the County of Santa Clara; *County of Santa Clara Treasury Investment Portfolio Status*; dated February 10, 2022.
- 6.7 Correspondence from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region; *Notice of Opportunity to Comment and Public Hearing for County of Santa Clara's Oregon Expressway Underpass NPDES Permit Reissuance*; dated February 11, 2022.
- 6.8 GCRC Correspondence to the Santa Clara County Fish & Game Commission; *South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition's (SBCCC) Los Gatos Creek Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Improvement Conceptual Design Project*; dated February 15, 2022.
- 6.9 Comments to Valley Water regarding the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report from:
 - 6.9.1 United States Fish and Wildlife Service; *Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Santa Clara Valley Water District's (Valley Water) Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project in Santa Clara County, California*; dated February 9, 2022.
 - 6.9.2 Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency; *RE: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project (PREP) Draft EIR/EIS Comments*; dated February 8, 2022.
 - 6.9.3 California Department of Fish and Wildlife; *Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project, Draft Environmental Impact Report, SCH No. 2017082020, Santa Clara, San Benito, Stanislaus, and Merced Counties*; February 11, 2022.
 - 6.9.4 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); *NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Santa Clara Valley*

Water District's (Valley Water) Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project in Santa Clara County, California; dated February 14, 2022.

- 6.9.5 Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter; *RE: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft EIR (State Clearinghouse #2017082020); dated February 14, 2022.*
- 6.9.6 Cal Trout and GCRC; *Re: Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report; dated February 15, 2022.*
- 6.9.7 State Water Resources Control Board; *Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse #2017082020) for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project in Santa Clara County; dated February 15, 2022.*
- 6.10 Correspondence from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region; *San Francisco Bay Municipal Regional NPDES Stormwater Permit (MRP) reissuance schedule update; dated February 23, 2022.*
- 6.11 Correspondence from California Water Quality Monitoring Council; *EJScreen 2.0 Training Webinar on March 9th, 2022 at Noon E.T.; dated February 23, 2022.*
- 6.12 Correspondence from California Water Quality Monitoring Council; *Notice for Public Comment: State Agency Sea Level Rise Action Plan; dated February 24, 2022.*
- 6.13 California High Speed Rail Authority; *California High-Speed Rail Releases Final Environmental Studies to Connect Silicon Valley and Central Valley; dated February 25, 2022.*