

## MINUTES

**Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District  
Regular Board Meeting  
Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 4:00 PM  
Truax Building  
41923 Second Street, Fourth Floor  
Temecula, CA 92590**

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### **I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS**

Call to Order – 4:00 p.m., meeting recorded by Zoom

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi, President; Pablo Bryant, Vice President ; Newt Parkes, Secretary; Rose Corona, Director; Stuart Kuhn Director.

Also Present: Rae Shirer, Office Manager

Approval of Agenda

Director Bryant moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to approve the Agenda as presented. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public comment

Guest Bryce Bryant spoke about the recent fires and reported seeing homeless in the Temecula area and looking out for those who might in danger.

### **II. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Director Parkes requested that items 2 and 3 be pulled from the consent calendar as financial reports were not available.

Director Corona requested that item 4, the Soil and Water agreement, be pulled for discussion.

Director Bryant moved, and Director Parkes seconded that the board approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of December 12, 2024.

Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The board then discussed the Soil and Water Agreement, with Director Corona stating that she was seeking a termination clause in any agreement in which TEAM RCD was a party. The Agreement in the packet was not between TEAM RCD and another organization. Director Corona moved, and Director Parkes seconded, that the matter be tabled to a future meeting.

Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **III. ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **A. Subject: Document retention schedule and handbook update.**

*Background: Office Manager Rae Shirer has been reviewing and sorting all District documents and designing a data retention system that will comply with Riverside County's standards. She is also updating the policy manual in coordination with the retention schedule which are correlated.*

Manager Shirer reported that due to illness and unexpected workload, she was unable to provide additional information at this time.

#### **B. Subject: SoCal Inland Region Elections**

*Background: SoCal Inland Region is one of ten geographic regions organized within the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. Under the Association's Bylaws, each Region shall biennially, at the Region's regular meeting, elect a Regional Chair and Regional Vice Chair. The term of Regional Chair and Regional Vice Chair shall be 2 years and they may succeed themselves.*

A copy of the written ballot was distributed to each Director, who then submitted their individual ballot to Office Manager. Manager Shirer tabulated the votes and reported that the majority of the directors had voted for Nancy Sappington. Manager Shirer was directed to complete the TEAM RCD ballot and submit it to So Cal Inland Region.

#### **C. Subject: Mitigation Committee report**

*Background: The Land Conservation and Mitigation Committee formed in December met in early January to discuss potential partnerships and projects.*

Director Kuhn read the report of the committee into the minutes. A full copy of the report is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

### **IV. DISCUSSION**

#### **D. Subject: TEAM RCD Financial Overview**

*Background: At the December regular meeting, Treasurer Newt Parkes asked to agendize a discussion in January about the financial position of TEAMRCD.*

Director Parkes presented a list of reports he would like to see in future meeting materials and requested that there be a more detailed presentation of the financial reports by the President to the board.

## DIRECTORS' REPORTS

- Teri Biancardi: Community Wildfire Defense Grant application—David Hernandez is proposing working together for a wildfire plan, hiring a contractor to do the work. We will not be a party to the grant application. Conservation Technician—Kit Swift has been on-boarded as of January 6, 2025, and is working on moving into the District in February. Kit has begun preparing a report describing assets and challenges in the District.
- Newt Parkes—Homeless report, not received from SAWA, nothing to report.
- Pablo Bryant—Nothing to report.
- Rose Corona—CARCD meeting was not held due to the holidays.
- Stuart Kuhn—reported on new federal legislation creating new money for outdoor recreation and national parks.

## V. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Manager Shirer reported that she and President Biancardi had attended a NRCS training regarding reimbursement procedures. The board discussed the frequency of the reimbursement requests and the personnel responsible to generate the requests.

Rae reported that annual audit for 2023-24 was nearing completion and expected to be completed on time, by January 31, 2025.

Manager Shirer also reminded the board that forms 700 are due and that directors should mail them or bring them to the next meeting.

Rae asked for a review of liability insurance, to be sure that Kit is covered when in the field. President Biancardi will confirm with SDRMA.

She requested that the board approve a transfer of funds from the “flood account” to the general account. Following discussion, Director Bryant moved, and Director Parkes seconded, that \$100,000 be transferred from the flood account to the general account. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Director Parkes, as TEAM RCD treasurer, will make arrangements with Chase bank for the transfer.

## VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

## VII: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made, seconded, and carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Dated: 3/13/2025

  
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Newt Parkes, Secretary

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**TO:** TEAM RCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM:** STUART KUHN

**SUBJECT:** MEETING SUMMARY ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MITIGATION ALTERNATIVES

**ATTENDEES:** TERI BIANCARDI, STUART KUHN, SHELLI LAMB, KERWIN RUSSELL

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This memo summarizes the meeting held on January 2, 2025, with representatives from SRMA to discuss the state of environmental impact mitigation alternatives within TEAM RCD district boundaries.

### **Summary of Discussion**

**Introduction** Shelli Lamb provided an overview of the environmental mitigation process required for development projects. When a developer proposes a project, the site must first be assessed for environmental resources. If resources are identified, the developer has four options for addressing their impact:

**1. Avoidance:**

- Avoiding resources to eliminate impacts is the most cost-effective approach.
- However, avoidance is not always feasible, such as when a stream must be crossed to access the project site.

**2. Mitigation Bank Credits:**

- Developers can purchase conserved lands through established mitigation banks.

**3. In-Lieu Fee Funds:**

- Developers can pay into an in-lieu fee fund to offset impacts.

**4. Permittee-Responsible Mitigation:**

- Developers directly mitigate impacts by acquiring, restoring, and managing conservation lands.

**Current Challenges** The availability of mitigation bank and in-lieu fee credits within the district is severely limited. As a result, developers often have no choice but to pursue permittee-responsible mitigation. This approach, once improperly managed, was largely abandoned by resource agencies two decades ago. However, due to the lack of alternatives, it has been reinstated with robust safeguards to ensure effectiveness.

**Safeguards for Permittee-Responsible Mitigation** A “three-legged stool” approach has been implemented to ensure long-term stewardship of mitigation lands. This system involves three accountable parties:

**1. Landowner:**

- Typically, the developer requiring mitigation assumes this role. The landowner purchases the mitigation site, funds its restoration and establishment, secures the site with fencing, and provides an endowment to cover perpetual management costs.

**2. Conservation Easement Grantee:**

- A nonprofit land conservator holds the conservation easement and manages the site using the endowment. Responsibilities include trash cleanup, weed abatement, and fence maintenance.

**3. Monitoring and Reporting Party:**

- This party inspects the property and submits annual reports to resource agencies, verifying that the property is maintained as intended.

This structure ensures accountability and minimizes conflicts of interest.

**Potential Partnership** Shelli and Kerwin expressed interest in a partnership between SRMA and TEAM RCD. Under this partnership:

- SRMA and TEAM RCD could serve as the conservation easement holder and the monitoring and reporting party, respectively.
- Roles may vary depending on the specific project.

This collaboration would support both land and agricultural development within district boundaries.

**Current Projects**

Several projects in the area are seeking permittee-responsible mitigation. One proposed site, approximately 30 acres in size, includes a portion of Santa Gertrudis Creek in Temecula Wine Country, regulated by Riverside County. Shelli and Kerwin provided Teri and me with a tour of the site, which has significant potential to benefit the regional environment and support development efforts. Such projects could contribute to addressing the regional housing affordability crisis.

**Conclusion**

The meeting highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts to ensure meaningful environmental mitigation while supporting responsible development. A partnership between SRMA and TEAM RCD could play a pivotal role in achieving these goals. Further discussions and planning are recommended to formalize this collaboration and support ongoing projects in the district.