

## **MINUTES**

### **Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District**

#### **Regular Board Meeting**

**Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 4:00 PM**

#### **Truax Building**

**41923 Second Street, Fourth Floor**

**Temecula, CA 92590**

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### **I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS**

Call to Order – 4:04 p.m. President Biancardi called the meeting to order. Conservation Technician Kit Swift led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in person and via teleconference and was recorded.

#### Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi, President; Newt Parkes, Secretary-Treasurer; Rose Corona, Director; Arturo Garcia, Director.

Arriving During the Consent Calendar: Stuart Kuhn, Vice President.

Directors Absent: None

Also Present: Clifton Meek, District Manager; Kit Swift, Conservation Technician.

Public Guests: Members of the public attended via teleconference.

A quorum was established.

#### Approval of Agenda

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

Biancardi: Aye

Corona: Aye

Garcia: Aye

Parkes: Aye

#### Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

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

The consent calendar comprised the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2026, and the bills and reimbursements for June and July 2026, including bills paid, bills to be paid or reimbursed, accounts receivable, and the monthly financial reports for the periods ending June 30, 2026 and July 31, 2026. President Biancardi pulled the minutes and the financial reports for separate discussion.

Director Garcia moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to approve the remaining items on the consent calendar. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes

Corona: No

Garcia: Yes

Parkes: Yes

Minutes and Financial Reports. Director Corona objected for the record that the minutes do not materially and accurately represent the actions, discussion, and objectives that occurred.

Questions were raised regarding the financial reports. The District Manager confirmed that the Greer Ranch figure reported under fixed assets appeared to be an error and should be corrected, and agreed to look into director access to the District's Ramp account.

Director Parkes moved, and Director Garcia seconded, to approve the minutes of July 9, 2026 and the monthly financial reports, with the understanding that the fixed asset discrepancy would be corrected. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes

Corona: No

Garcia: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

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

#### **A. Subject: Authorization to Execute Maintenance Agreement with the Santa Ana Watershed Association for the Greer Ranch Conservation Easement Fuel Modification Project**

*Background: TEAM RCD's Greer Ranch Conservation Easement requires active fuel modification to reduce fire risk and maintain the ecological integrity of the property. In May 2026, District staff conducted a joint field day at Greer Ranch with President Biancardi, Murrieta Fire, and Greer Ranch Community Association personnel to assess conditions and lay out a multistage cleanup plan organized around Murrieta Fire's clearance standards. The Santa Ana Watershed Association submitted a proposal to provide the required fuel modification and biomass removal services, structured in two phases. Phase 1 targets areas within 30 feet of structures and 10 feet of roads and includes an initial biological assessment of the full work area as required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, at an estimated cost of \$24,304.88. Phase 2 addresses the remainder of the easement and includes two years of annual biological site assessments following completion of removal, also as required by the Department, at an estimated cost of \$40,004.45. All work will take place in September 2026 as approved by the Department in its Verification Request Form. The combined not-to-exceed amount is \$64,309.33, inclusive of a TEAM RCD administration fee of \$8,337.86, which will be retained to offset staff administrative and oversight costs. TEAM RCD will serve in an oversight and administration role and all costs will be paid by the Greer Ranch Community Association.*

It was reported that the Greer Ranch Community Association approved the proposal earlier in the week, and that final approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife was received in July. The board discussed the distinction between this maintenance work and the District's

separate easement monitoring obligations, and a request was made to review the conservation easement language.

Director Garcia moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to authorize the District Manager to develop, execute, and administer a maintenance agreement with the Santa Ana Watershed Association for fuel modification and biomass removal services at the Greer Ranch Conservation Easement in a not-to-exceed amount of \$64,309.33, and to take all administrative actions necessary to implement the agreement on behalf of TEAM RCD. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes

Corona: No

Garcia: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

**B. Subject: Authorization to Execute Letters of Support and Commitment – State Healthy Soils Program Block Grant (IERCD) and State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant (RCDGSD)**

*Background: Two neighboring resource conservation districts have invited TEAM RCD to serve as a partner agency and technical assistance provider on pending state grant applications. The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District is applying under the California Department of Food and Agriculture State Healthy Soils Program Block Grant, and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego is applying under the Department's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant. Both programs support on-farm conservation projects benefiting agricultural producers and align with TEAM RCD's core mission and technical capabilities. TEAM RCD would provide technical assistance to participating producers throughout the project lifecycle, including outreach and education, application development support, project planning and design, implementation guidance, site visits, verification of completed projects, and documentation and reporting. There is no direct fiscal impact; staff time associated with technical assistance would be reimbursed through each respective grant agreement.*

It was reported that both partnerships have been invited to submit full proposals and that the District's combined portion is estimated at approximately \$83,000 to \$85,000.

Director Garcia moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to authorize the District Manager to execute the letter of support and commitment to the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District for the State Healthy Soils Program Block Grant application, and the letter of support and commitment to the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grant application. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes

Corona: Yes

Garcia: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

### **C. Subject: SB 827 Compliance – Ethics and Fiscal Training Requirements for Board Members and District Manager**

*Background: SB 827 (2025) expands existing ethics training requirements and creates a standalone fiscal and financial training mandate for local agency officials, including special district board members and executive staff. It expands the existing AB 1234 ethics training requirement of two hours every two years to explicitly include the District Manager and board members, and creates a new fiscal and financial training requirement of two hours every two years covering financial administration, budgeting, auditing, capital financing, cash management, investments, and ethics of public resource stewardship. All board members and the District Manager are covered under both tracks. Director Garcia, appointed March 10, 2026, must complete both by September 10, 2026, and District Manager Meek, who started April 13, 2026, must complete both by October 13, 2026. Sitting board members in office before January 1, 2026 must complete the new fiscal training by January 1, 2028, with their existing AB 1234 ethics cycle continuing unchanged. The District is also required to maintain training records for at least five years as public records, post instructions on the TEAM RCD website explaining how the public may request those records, and notify covered officials of available training at least annually. Fiscal impact is minimal, as training is available from multiple low-cost or no-cost providers.*

It was noted that both trainings are available at no additional cost through the District's California Special Districts Association membership, and that the District Manager would circulate the training links to all covered officials.

Director Garcia moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to direct the District Manager to identify and enroll all covered board members and staff in an SB 827 compliant fiscal training provider and to enroll Director Garcia and District Manager Meek in both ethics and fiscal training ahead of their respective deadlines; to establish and maintain a training tracking log documenting completion dates and certificates; to prepare the required website posting explaining how the public may request training records; and to adopt a policy manual addition, Policy 2190, formalizing ethics and fiscal training obligations, recordkeeping responsibilities, and onboarding requirements for future board members and District Managers. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes

Corona: Yes

Garcia: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

### **IV. DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### **1. Subject: District Manager Report**

- The District holds approximately \$2.7 million in assets, of which approximately \$443,000 is unencumbered. A reserve account will be established in the California CLASS system, sized to cover approximately six months of District expenditures.
- The District is undergoing its annual audit.

- The District Manager has completed the required ethics and financial trainings through the California Special Districts Association.

## **2. Subject: Projects Update**

- I-15 Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing: The consulting contract was finalized and executed with County Counsel, and Caltrans received authorization to begin work and charge to the project. The first project development team meeting was held in early August, kicking off the CEQA and NEPA phase.
- Greer Ranch Easement: Monitoring was completed and the annual easement report is in progress. Monitoring was also completed at Adeline's Farm, and its annual report is likewise in progress. The annual report to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife awaits biological reports.
- Whitewood Easement: The required report has been commissioned and the District is awaiting delivery.
- Kiley Property: The District is evaluating a potential acquisition of an approximately 450 acre property in Wildomar, to be acquired by a partner organization through a Wildlife Conservation Board grant and transferred to the District for long-term maintenance and monitoring. A property analysis report is in preparation.
- Clinton Keith Property: County road maintenance completed a cleanup of the accessible area and has agreed to install a fence to deter further dumping. Remaining debris on the lower slope lies outside District property.
- Riverside County Flood Control: Reimbursements continue to be received. A meeting is scheduled for September 3 regarding renewal of the District's agreements and potential additional projects.
- IECF: A second payment of \$49,000 from the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity grant is expected imminently. Funds must currently be expended by the end of October, with some indication the deadline may be extended. A demonstration workshop resulted in twelve assessment sign-ups, and work continues on populating the Regional Priority Plan.
- Cannabis Cleanup: The District is awaiting a funding decision from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- IERC: The application was submitted during the past month, with no response expected before August 18.
- WETA: Funding was reinstated at the end of July and those funds are again accessible.
- Healthy Soils and SWEEP: Proposals are being finalized with the Southern California hub.

## **3. Subject: SAWA Update**

Director Garcia reported on the recent Santa Ana Watershed Association board meeting, which addressed an annual revenue gap of approximately \$500,000 arising from changes to a multi-year Army Corps of Engineers contract, related staffing and capacity pressures, and the executive director's contract. The SAWA board approved a two-month extension of that contract

while performance metrics are finalized with counsel, with input from TEAM RCD and the other member districts. A further update is expected next month.

#### **4. Subject: Governance Briefing**

The board reviewed the statutory basis and purpose of resource conservation districts under Public Resource Code Division Nine, Section 9001, tracing the statute's adoption in 1938 through the 2022 amendments adding climate adaptation, resilience, and carbon sequestration to the statutory purpose. This marks the beginning of a short and intermittent series in which the board and staff will review relevant legislation. No action was taken.

### **V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

A director reported a change in the District's banking contact at Chase, with no resulting difficulties. It was noted that the majority of District funds are now held in California CLASS, with the general fund and the two conservation easement certificates of deposit remaining at Chase.

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board, the board unanimously voted to end the meeting. Director Kuhn moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to adjourn. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes

Corona: Yes

Garcia: Yes

Kuhn: Yes

Parkes: Yes

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 2026.

*Newt Parkes*

Newt Parkes (Sep 11, 2026 12:06:38 PDT)

Newt Parkes, Secretary

September 10, 2026

Date Approved by Board