

MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Truax Building, 41923 Second Street, Fourth Floor, Temecula, CA 92590

Meeting recorded by Zoom.

I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS

Call to Order – 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: Teri Biancardi, President; Newt Parkes, Secretary/Treasurer; Rose Corona, Director; Stuart Kuhn, Director.

Directors Absent: None.

Also Present: Kit Swift, Conservation Technician.

Public Guests: Charles Fozelle (community member); Peter Van Dyke, Loma Prieta RCD (via Zoom); Angus McLean, The Nature Conservancy (via Zoom).

Approval of Agenda

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

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| Biancardi | Aye |
| Corona | Aye |
| Kuhn | Aye |
| Parkes | Aye |

Public Comment

Charles Fozelle, a local community member, addressed the board expressing interest in the vacant director seat.

Peter Van Dyke of Loma Prieta RCD addressed the board via Zoom, sharing views on the recent CARCD delegate election and offering to share his Land Trust's experience with wildlife corridor projects.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Corona noted for the record her objection that minutes do not fully report board conversations, and reported difficulty accessing financial documents through SharePoint. President Biancardi stated she would follow up with staff.

Director Kuhn moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to approve the consent calendar as presented. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

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| Biancardi | Yes |
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| Corona | No |
| Kuhn | Yes |
| Parkes | Yes |

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Subject: Rainbow Canyon I-15 Wildlife Crossing — Wildlife Conservation Board Grant Agreement

Background: The WCB grant agreement was received at approximately 1:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting, with a deadline for signature initially set at February 20, later extended to February 25. The project is scheduled for the WCB board agenda on February 26. Failure to submit the signed agreement by the deadline would risk removal from the agenda, potentially delaying the project and jeopardizing approximately \$4 million in funding.

The board reviewed the agreement, with particular attention to Section 42(a), which allows either party to terminate for any reason prior to project commencement by providing 30 days written notice. The board discussed the timeline for legal review and risk mitigation strategies. Concerns were raised regarding the agreement not having been posted 72 hours in advance; it was noted that the document was received that day and copies were made available at the meeting.

The board took three votes:

1. Director Kuhn moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to fund travel to Sacramento for the WCB board hearing on February 26. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

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| Biancardi | Yes |
| Corona | No |
| Kuhn | Yes |
| Parkes | Yes |

2. Director Kuhn moved, and Director Parkes seconded, to authorize President Biancardi to sign the WCB grant agreement contingent upon favorable review by legal counsel, with submission no earlier than February 24, and to tentatively schedule a special meeting on February 24 as a contingency. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

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| Biancardi | Yes |
| Corona | No |
| Kuhn | Yes |
| Parkes | Yes |

3. Director Parkes moved, and Director Kuhn seconded, to authorize President Biancardi to begin implementation of the project upon receipt of the notice to proceed from the WCB, in the event the signed agreement is not withdrawn. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

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| Biancardi | Yes |
| Corona | No |
| Kuhn | Yes |
| Parkes | Yes |

Project update provided: the draft RFP for the design engineering consultant is being finalized with Caltrans, a media package is being prepared for the WCB, and a WCB representative recently visited the project site. A proposed hiring timeline for the District Manager/Project Manager was presented, with a target start date of May 1 and an anticipated salary of approximately \$150,000, to be covered by the WCB grant.

A member of the public shared experience with wildlife corridor projects along Highway 101, encouraging the board to consider water resources and land preservation in the context of the I-15 crossing.

IV. DISCUSSION

A. Subject: Conservation Technician Updates

Kit Swift provided updates on current projects:

- Wildfire Resistant Communities / Home Hardening: Awaiting qualifying entity workshop. Five assessments completed. Full operations to begin after certification.
- Lake Elsinore Trash Cleanup: Delayed due to rain. Coordination ongoing with Flood Control.
- Easement Monitoring: Reporting completed for Greer Ranch and Adeline. Issues identified at Adeline property regarding unauthorized sprinkler installation in the stream area; a letter will be sent to the management company.
- Greer Ranch / USFWS: USFWS is considering designating TEAM RCD as land manager for the easement sites, which would allow greater flexibility for maintenance and fire resiliency work. A long-term Land Management Plan will be developed.
- CRGP Cannabis Restoration Grant: Application pivoted to a planning grant with pilot implementation component, based on CDFW guidance. Multiple sites identified.
- Whitewood Mitigation Site: Developer interest in TEAM RCD taking on mitigation. Awaiting USFWS comment.

B. Subject: Billing Rate Analysis

Director Parkes presented an overview of billing rate methodology for the District, covering direct hourly costs, indirect cost percentages, reserve allocation, and the distinction between stipulated and discretionary rates. No specific rate was recommended; the presentation established a framework for future billing rate decisions.

C. Subject: Additional Updates

The board received updates on wildfire resilience partnerships. The Department of Conservation has \$300 million available for wildfire resilience projects and has expressed interest in funding projects in the District's service area. NRCS and WETA invoices totaling approximately \$30,000 have been submitted. The annual audit has been completed and filed.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

No additional reports.

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT

No separate management report.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None noted.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the board unanimously voted to end the meeting.

Dated: _____

Newt Parkes, Secretary/Treasurer