MINUTES

Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 4:00 PM

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

I. PRELIMINARY FUNCTIONS

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

Roll Call/Establish a Quorum

Directors Present: T. Biancardi, President; N. Parkes, Secretary; S. Kuhn, Director; A. Garcia, Director.
Directors Absent: R. Corona, Director.
Also Present: K. Swift, Conservation Technician.
Public Guests: A. McLean, The Nature Conservancy (via Zoom).

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.
Biancardi: Aye
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Aye
Kuhn: Aye
Parkes: Aye

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Closed Session

The board adjourned to closed session. Upon reconvening in open session, it was reported that the board considered two items: (1) selection of a candidate for the District Manager / Project Manager position; and (2) a personnel matter regarding employee performance and compensation for the Conservation Technician.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR:

It was noted that minutes from the May 8, 2025 meeting had not previously been produced and were now included for approval as a separate item. The remaining consent items (minutes of the prior month, bills, and financial reports) were taken together.

Director N. Parkes moved, and Director S. Kuhn seconded, to approve the minutes of May 8, 2025. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

Director N. Parkes moved, and Director S. Kuhn seconded, to approve consent calendar items 2, 3, and 4 (minutes of the prior month, bills, and financial reports). Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

III. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Subject: Authorization to Execute At-Will Employment Agreement for District Manager / Project Manager

Background: Following selection of a candidate in closed session, authorization was requested for the board president to execute an at-will employment agreement on terms approved by the board. The position is contingent upon available grant funding, which has been awarded. The agreement was prepared by legal counsel. The position is structured as a co-hire with CARCD, which manages personnel administration, payroll, and benefits, while TEAM RCD provides day-to-day direction.

It was confirmed that grant-funding contingency language is included in the contract.

Director S. Kuhn moved, and Director A. Garcia seconded, to authorize the board president to execute an at-will employment agreement with the selected District Manager / Project Manager candidate, or with the second-choice candidate as a fallback, on terms approved by the board. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

B. Subject: Compensation Adjustment for Conservation Technician

Background: Pursuant to direction provided in closed session, authorization was requested to implement a compensation adjustment for the Conservation Technician.

Director N. Parkes moved, and Director S. Kuhn seconded, to authorize the compensation adjustment for the Conservation Technician as directed by the board in closed session. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

C. Subject: Policy Manual Amendments

Background: In preparation for the onboarding of the District Manager, amendments to the District policy manual were prepared to clarify lines of authority and the working relationship between the District Manager and the board. The proposed amendments were included in the meeting packet.

Director S. Kuhn moved, and Director N. Parkes seconded, to adopt the policy manual amendments as presented. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

D. Subject: Contractor Services Agreement for Biological Monitoring (TABLED)

Background: An expansion of the District's contractor bench for biological monitoring services was sought to support work during nesting bird season, particularly for ongoing homeless encampment and trash cleanup work in Lake Elsinore. Legal counsel returned recommendations for additional contract language that had not yet been incorporated.

This item was tabled to a future meeting pending revisions to the agreement language.

E. Subject: LAFCO Authorized Voter Designation

Background: LAFCO requires the District to designate an authorized voter for an upcoming ballot due April 23, 2026. Materials are included in the meeting packet.

Director S. Kuhn moved, and Director N. Parkes seconded, to designate A. Garcia as the District's LAFCO authorized voter and direct him to submit the District's ballot on April 23, 2026. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

F. Subject: Support for AB 2483 (Incarcerated Firefighter Workforce Program)

Background: A workforce program operator that connects formerly incarcerated firefighters from the state fire camps with post-incarceration employment requested the District's support for AB 2483. It was noted that this is a legislative item rather than a campaign or ballot measure, and that the District has a programmatic interest given anticipated expansion into fuel modification work for municipalities.

Director S. Kuhn moved, and Director A. Garcia seconded, to authorize the board president to sign on behalf of TEAM RCD as an organizational supporter of AB 2483. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Yes
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

<u>G. Subject:</u> Support for SB 1250 (Wildlife Connectivity in Caltrans Processes)

Background: SB 1250 would embed wildlife connectivity as a core performance objective within Caltrans processes for maintenance and repair on the state highway system, allowing connectivity infrastructure to be planned alongside existing highway projects rather than retrofitted afterward. The bill's analysis indicates de minimis fiscal impact and projects long-term cost savings to the state.

A director disclosed for the record an employment relationship with an official sponsor of SB 1250 and recused themselves from discussion and vote on this item.

A representative of The Nature Conservancy presented the item via Zoom and responded to questions from the board regarding fiscal impact and motorist safety implications.

Director S. Kuhn moved, and Director N. Parkes seconded, to authorize the board president to sign on behalf of TEAM RCD as an organizational supporter of SB 1250. Upon voice vote, the motion carried:

Biancardi: Yes
Corona: Absent
Garcia: Recused
Kuhn: Yes
Parkes: Yes

<u>IV. DISCUSSION:</u>

<u>A. Subject:</u> Rainbow Canyon I-15 Wildlife Crossing Project Update

It was reported that TEAM RCD has received the Notice to Proceed from the Wildlife Conservation Board, authorizing reimbursable spending on the project. Initial steps include onboarding new project capacity (the District Manager / Project Manager hire), legal review of the draft Request for Proposals, and review of the cooperative agreement with Caltrans. Once those documents are released, the RFP process is anticipated to take approximately three months to bring on a contractor for environmental permitting and design.

<u>B. Subject:</u> District Updates

Highlights: CDFW has preliminarily approved the District's CRGP grant request at the requested amount of approximately $350,000; final approval of the budget itself is pending and anticipated the day following this meeting. The WRC Home Hardening program is operational with approximately 30 sign-ups; assessments begin this month in Anza, with four community workshops planned across the grant period. WETA invoiced approximately $30,000 this quarter, well above the typical $6,000 to $8,000 range, reflecting expanded analysis work. NRCS funding has been received in full and closeout reporting is underway. Both Lake Elsinore flood control cleanup sites are complete (approximately four 40-foot bins of trash removed); active work is paused for nesting bird season and homeless monitoring continues, with fence repair pending coordination with Eastern Municipal Water District. The Whitewood mitigation easement is progressing through review of the developer's draft HabDat plan; next step is a deposit agreement and partnership work with Surma.

V. DIRECTORS' REPORTS

No additional reports.

VI. MANAGEMENT REPORT

Work continues on building out the minutes archive on the District website. Directors were reminded to confirm SharePoint access and to report any technical issues.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Contractor Services Agreement for Biological Monitoring (returning from this meeting).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, the board unanimously voted to end the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Newt Parkes
Newt Parkes (Sep 9, 2026 11:41:43 PDT)

Newt Parkes, Secretary
TEAM RCD

May 14, 2026
Date of Board Approval