



District Regular Board Meeting, March 16, 2026
3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by President Scott Murray.

II. Welcome Guests – Celine Morales, NCRS

III. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum - A Quorum is present.

Directors present: Scott Murray President
Bob Lin, Vice President
Peggy Brown, Treasurer
Lynne Barnett, Director

Directors absent: none
Associates present: Cheryl Lindberg, Ross Pike, Mark Mervich
Staff present: Ani Vartanians, District Manager

IV. Additions to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(b)) - none.

V. Oral Communications to the Board of Directors – none

SECTION 1 - CONSENT ITEMS

- 1-A: Treasurer’s Report
- 1-B: Monthly Expenses – January and February 2026
- 1-C: Minutes – January 12, 2026

Following discussion about District finances, a motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Items as presented. The motion carried under the following vote:

Director Murray , Aye
Director Lin, Aye
Director Brown, Aye
Director Barnett, Aye

SECTION 2 - STAFF, OTHER AGENCY, DIRECTOR, COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 2-A: NRCS Report – Celine Morales gave a verbal report.
- 2-B: District Manager Report – Ani Vartanians delivered a report on current activities. Significant changes include engagement of an independent bookkeeping service to assist with financial matters and purchase of an auto for district business. Renewed effort for fundraising on mission medians and community garden. A draft of the recently completed Audit was provided.
- 2-C: Directors Reports – none.
- 2-D: Legislative Updates: Pertinent to MRCD: 76th District Assembly Member has attained increased funding for fire prevention.
- 2-E: Board Committee Reports – none



SECTION 3 - CORRESPONDENCE - none

SECTION 4 - BOARD ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

4-1: Legal Counsel - After review of an Agreement for Legal Services proposed by the legal firm Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC, a motion was made and seconded:

To authorize the District Manager to sign the Agreement.

The motion was carried under the following vote:

Director Murray, Aye
Director Lin, Aye
Director Brown, Aye
Director Barnett, Aye

It was noted that the Agreement does not include a retainer, and there is currently no need for legal services.

4-2: Board Member Updates and appointments. It was noted that Victor Santos resigned his director position effective January 13, 2026. Associate Members Cheryl Lindburg and Mark Mervich are both interested in filling the vacant position. An appointment with Supervisor Jim Desmond's office is pending.

4-3: Bank signers – Current bank signers, in addition to DM Vartanians, are Scott Murray, Robert Lin and Peggy Brown. The DM will draft a policy for consideration by the Board at the next meeting, stating that signers will be the individuals holding the offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer.

4.4: LAFCO MSR Lance Andersen joined the meeting telephonically, in order to report with Director Lin on the recent LAFCO MSR meeting. LAFCO desires to conclude the MSR in the near future, and it has been determined that no boundary adjustments will be made among the various RCDs. This MSR will focus on eliminating "Islands" within the various RCDs. 95 service islands exist throughout the RCDs, resulting in service area confusion and a varying degree of RCD income loss. Property tax revenue generated within an island does not flow through the County to an RCD, as does the apportionment revenue generated outside of an island. Only one such island is located within the MRCD boundaries. The island contains part of downtown Fallbrook and includes both businesses and apartment buildings. It is noted that the residents of the island are included in MRCD services such as the Community Garden and possibly others.

The County's Planning and Development Services (PDS) department will review the Islands issue. If tax apportionment adjustments are applied for, PDS will also manage those. Applications must be filed with PDS and normally require a substantial fee. Annexing the island is considered an "adjustment". MRCD will request a fee waiver.

A desirable (but unlikely) additional outcome would be a Master Agreement which will address all future annexations, preventing such service "islands" in the future as the region continues to develop.



SECTION 5 - LEGAL MATTERS

No closed session was held.

SECTION 6 – AGENDA SUGGESTIONS – NEXT MEETING date May 18, 2026

Bank Signers Policy
LAFCO Report
Board Vacancy.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and carried to *adjourn the meeting* under the following vote:

- Director Murray, Aye
- Director Lin, Aye
- Director Brown, Aye
- Director Barnett, Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Minutes approved on: _____ 2026

Approved by: _____

Attest by: _____