



District Regular Board Meeting, September 15, 2025
3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by President Scott Murray.

II. Welcome Guests Nico Hillman, soil conservationist with NCRS, substituting for Celine Morales.

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

Directors present: Scott Murray President
Bob Lin, Treasurer
Peggy Brown, Director
Victor Santos, Director

Directors absent: none

Associates present: Mark Mervich, Cheryl Lindberg
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 Reports
- 1-B: Monthly Expenses – August 2025
- 1-C: Minutes – August 18, 2025 meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Items. The motion carried under the following vote:

- Director Murray , Aye
- Director Lin, Aye
- Director Brown, Aye
- Director Santos, Aye

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

- 2-A: NRCS Report – Nico Hillman gave a verbal report on NRCS matters.
- 2-B: District Manager Report – Ani Vartanians delivered a full written report on current activities, grants in process, and new grants applications pending. In addition, Ani and staff attended a grant-writing workshop and made good contacts with potential awarding decision makers.
- 2-C: Directors Reports –Victor provided a Community Garden update. Media interest in the garden is increasing. Neighborhood relations are currently positive. Property access issues continue.



Scott reported on a wildfire resilience seminar offered by the California Wildfire Alliance. Noteworthy was a tour of Wrightwood highlighting forest management and residential hardening.

2-D: Legislate Update – Ani reported that Prop 4 has passed to the Governor’s office. Prop 4 provides for conservation efforts which should benefit RCDs. Peggy reported that agricultural zoning statewide is under threat, and anyone concerned could attend the planning group meeting for more info. Scott noted zoning restrictions surrounding the city of Ventura which support agriculture.

2-E: Board Committee Reports – none

SECTION 3 - CORRESPONDENCE – none to review.

SECTION 4 - BOARD ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

4-1: Board Member Updates and appointments. Ani reported that a selection is pending from Supervisor Desmond’s office to fill the vacancy.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Scott Murray to a Board term effective January 1, 2025. With Scott Murray recusing himself, the motion passed under the following vote:

Director Lin, Aye
Director Brown, Aye
Director Santos, Aye

4.2: Bylaws

A. Signing Authority, disbursements and contracts. A draft bylaw policy memorializing signing authority of President and District Manager was reviewed. After minor editing to clarify financial limits on disbursements and contract amounts (\$3,500 and \$50,000 respectively) and retitling the document title to “Signing Authority” a motion was made and seconded to approve the document. The motion carried under the following vote:

Director Murray
Director Lin, Aye
Director Brown, Aye
Director Santos, Aye

B. Officers terms. It was noted that Vice President Julia Escamilla’s resignation from the MRCD Board of Directors, invoked Section 402 of the Bylaws. Under this section, Treasurer Lin advances to the position of Vice President. A motion was made to appoint Bob Lin to the position of Vice President. The motion carried under the following vote:

Director Murray, Aye
Director Lin, Aye
Director Brown, Aye
Director Santos, Aye

Director Brown serves on the Finance Committee. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Peggy Brown to the position of Treasurer. The motion carried under the following vote:

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



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Director Santos, Aye

SECTION 5 - LEGAL MATTERS

No closed session was held.

SECTION 6 – AGENDA SUGGESTIONS – NEXT MEETING 10/20/2025

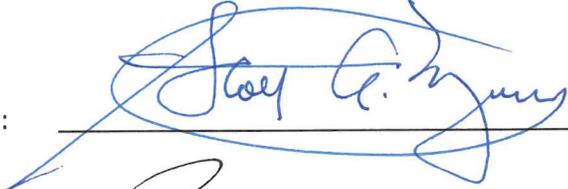
Bylaws Review , LAFCO MSR update, Board Appointments.

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 Santos, Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes approved on: 10.20.2025

Approved by: 

Attest by: 