

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Bethallyn Black, Lorena Castillo, Walter Pease & Renee Fernandez-Lipp

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Derene Allen
Remote: Bob Peoples, Chris Choate & Tracey Rogers Brandt

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim & Patty Pell
Remote: Ben Weise, Heidi Petty, Elena Rich, & Ivette Rivero

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: Remote: Luis Rivera-Cruz, District Conservationist &
Allen Curry, Assistant State Conservationist, Area 2

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Igor Skaredoff

Call to Order: Renee Fernandez-Lipp called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

No members of the public were present

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: BROWN ACT, SECTION (54954.2(B) (2))

DETERMINATION THAT A NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION EXISTS:

No item added; no immediate action required

NRCS REPORT: Luis Rivera-Cruz presented updates on fiscal year-end contracts and a rise in the number of applications. Allen Curry outlined new engineering support structures and funding guidelines, expressing appreciation for CCRCD's partnership and enthusiasm for the upcoming national RCD convention.

PRESENTATIONS: Ivette Rivero, new CCRCD Watershed Conservation Coordinator, introduced herself and shared her relevant experience. Ivette Rivero described site visits to projects she will help manage and discussed her current areas of involvement.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Item 7.1-August 19, 2025 Board Minutes

Item 7.2-August 2025 Financials

Item 7.1 removed from consent calendar. Item postponed due to lack of quorum from attendees of the August meeting.

Walter Pease made a motion to approve Item 7.2 August 2025 Financial Report as presented. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

8.1 Consider approval of contracting Civicorps for vegetation management of Little Frank's Tract.

Ben Weise presented an overview of the proposed vegetation management work at Little Frank's track, including the scope of services Civicorps will perform and the funding source.

Motion: Bethallyn Black moved to approve the contract with Civicorps. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

8.2 Item number inadvertently skipped.

8.3 Consider approval of agreement with Bay Area Community Resources to also partner with California Climate Action Corps for placement of 4 fellows.

Heidi Petty presented the proposed agreement to host four California Climate Action Corps Fellows through Bay Area Community Resources. The fellows will serve a 11-month term supporting the CCRCD.

Motion: Walter Pease moved to approve the agreement with Bay Area Community Resources for placement of four fellows. Bethallyn Black seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

8.4 Consider approval of agreement with C & H Sugar Company, Inc. for the Crockett Shoreline Flood Mitigation project funded through the Crockett Shoreline Flood Mitigation Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP).

Heidi Petty explained the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funding and the goals relating to the Crockett Shoreline Flood Mitigation, clarifying S&H Sugar participation.

Motion:, Bethallyn Black moved to the agreement with C & H Sugar Co. Walter Pease seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

DISCUSSION:

9.1 Bethallyn Black noted that she will be unavailable for the November 2025 Board meeting. Due to lack of availability at the usual location (DVC), the Board discussed relocating the meeting to Industrious, Concord, CA. A formal resolution to approve the temporary location change will be presented at the October Board meeting.

REPORTS:

10.1 President Reports— Renee Fernandez-Lipp shared highlights from her recent attendance at the CA Special Districts Association (CSDA) conference, including workshops focused on Board cohesion, community engagements and interagency collaboration. Renee Fernandez-Lip encouraged the Board to explore opportunities for the CCRCD to strengthen partnerships with local agencies.

10.2 Directors' Reports –

Lorena Castillo—Lorena Castillo announced that Groundwork Richmond will host an Arbor Day event on October 18th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lorena Castillo suggested CCRCD consider tabling at the event.

Tracey Rogers Brandt shared a tabling opportunity at the upcoming San Francisco Bay Delta Bioregional Regeneration, Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Laney College, Oakland, CA.

10.3 Staff Reports—There were no questions

10.4 Executive Director Reports—Chris Lim provided updates on staffing and highlighted developments in the Bay Point project, including concerns about groundwater intrusion and the nearby property for sale. Chris Lim also discussed the presence of the Henkel facility in the area and their expressed interest in supporting community projects. Chris Lim concluded by announcing that Proposition 4 funds have been reinstated and outlined several potential projects that are preparing to submit funding requests.

Adjournment Motion: Walter Pease moved to adjourn the meeting; Motion seconded by Bethallyn Black. Renee Fernandez-Lipp adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Board Clerk, CCRC