

Contra Costa Resource Conservation District
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District** was held Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at Industrious, Concord, CA.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Walter Pease, Renee Fernandez-Lipp & Igor Skaredoff
Remote: Lorena Castillo (Emergency)

ASSOC. DIRECTORS PRESENT: Remote: Bob Peoples & Tracey Rogers Brandt

RCD STAFF PRESENT: Chris Lim & Patty Pell
Remote: Ben Weise & Genna Fudin

NRCS STAFF PRESENT: None Present-Excused

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Bethallyn Black

Call to Order: Renee Fernandez-Lipp called the meeting to order at 9:16 A.M.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:
Martin Steinpress & Soumya Suresh (Remote)

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: Absent.

PRESENTATIONS: None

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Item 7.1-October 21, 2025 Board Minutes

Item 7.2-October 2025 Financial Report

Motion: Walter Pease made a motion to approve Items 7.1 & 7.2 as presented. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

DETERMINATION ITEMS:

8.1 Consider approval of Voluntary Local Program renewal with California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Current CCRCDD VLP Agreement ended in October 2025 for a 5-year renewal with automatic renewals thereafter.

Following Ben Weise and Genna Fudin explaining the amendments to the original contract and clarifying how the VLP supports landowners in implementing conservation practices.

Motion: Walter Pease moved to approve the renewal of the VLP agreement extension. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

8.2 Consider approval of memorandum of Understanding for the Greater Bay Area Conservation Hub (GBACH) to work collaboratively on conservation agriculture amongst Bay Area RCDs and position CCRCD for broader regional grants in the future.

Ben Weise described the Greater Bay Area Conservation Hub's purpose, emphasizing collaboration among the Bay Area RCD's allowing for potential expanded regional opportunities.

Motion: After the Board expressed their support of collaborative work between RCDs, Walter Pease moved to approve the MOU with the Greater Bay Area Conservation Hub. Igor Skaredoff seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

8.3 Consider approval of two-year extension of Independent Contractor Agreement (ICA) between Earth Island Institute (EII) and CCRCD to continue supporting the California Urban Streams Partnership (CUSP) with soil bioengineering workshops and demonstration installations.

Chris Lim outlined the current work under the CA Urban Streams partnership and noted the extension would continue the collaboration with existing partners.

Motion: Walter Pease moved to approve the agreement extension with Earth Island Institute. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

8.4 Consider approval of Resolution 2025-05 changing December's Board meeting location to Industrious, Concord, CA.

Patty Pell explained the change of location was to align the meeting with the Holiday Party, reducing travel for Board members.

Motion: Walter Pease moved to approved Resolution 2025-05 with a revised start time of 10:30 a.m. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

8.5 Consider approval of Resolution 2025-06 nominating Renee Fernandez-Lipp as delegate to CARCD Annual Conference. Nomination of Renee Fernandez-Lipp cancelled due to being unnecessary.

8.6 Consider nomination of Soumya Suresh for Associate Board Member position.

Soumya Suresh shared her background and interest in supporting CCRCD's mission.

Motion: Igor Skaredoff moved to approve Soumya Suresh for Associate Board Position. Walter Pease seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

8.7 Consider nomination of Martin Steinpress for Associate Board Member position.

Marin Steinpress introduced himself, described his professional experience, and shared personal interests relevant to conservation.

Motion: Walter Pease moved to approve Martin Steinpress for Associate Board Member. Lorena Castillo seconded the motion. Motion carried 4:0.

DISCUSSION:

9.1 A brief description of each of the current events given.

REPORTS:

10.1 President Reports— No report given

10.2 Directors' Reports – No Director's report

10.3 Staff Reports—There were no questions

10.4 Executive Director Reports—Chris Lim reported on potential grants to support unhoused population near Martinex Amtrak and Pinole Creek. Chris Lim announced that he would be presenting at the State of Estuary Conference and noted his vacation plans following the Christmas holiday.

Adjournment Motion: Walter Pease moved to adjourn the meeting; Motion seconded by Igor Skaredoff. Renee Fernandez-Lip adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Pell, Board Clerk, CCRCD