



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Director

Mary Ellen Strote
Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Clark Stevens

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-FIRST MEETING

Monday March 24, 2014—6:00 P.M.

Resource Conservation District Office

NPS Peter Strauss Ranch: 30000 Mulholland Hwy., Agoura Hills, CA 91301

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** the meeting was called to order by President R.C. Brody at 6:05 p.m. A quorum was established with Directors Beth Burnam, Steve Rosentsweig and Mary Ellen Strote in attendance. Director Nancy Helsley was absent. Also in attendance were Associate Directors Glenn Bailey and Dennis Washburn, and RCD staff members Clark Stevens, Executive Officer, and John Hendra, Operations Manager.
2. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** John Bertolli, Christine Conway, Martha Fritz, Beatrice Jordan, Tara Margolin, Don Richstone, Don Schmitz and Bruce Schultz.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Ms. Jordan, Mr. Richstone and Mr. Schmitz spoke out against the recently passed Los Angeles County Local Coastal Plan (LCP), specifically section CO-102, which they said would take away agriculture in the Santa Monica Mountains and stop local, organic farming, among other issues. Ms. Fritz agreed and added that the LCP also creates too much barrier between urban areas and wildlands and takes people's property rights. They asked the Board to consider holding a special meeting prior to the April 10, 2014 hearing of the LCP before the California Coastal Commission in order to rescind the RCD's previous letter of support and to advocate for allowing agriculture in the mountains. As this item was not agendaized for this meeting, the Board took no action.
4. **CONSENT CALENDAR: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Ms. Burnam; approved 4-0.**
 - **MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for meeting of February 24, 2014 and special meeting of March 13, 2014
 - **MONTHLY CLAIMS AND FINANCIALS:** Approval of financial report and claims for February 2014



5. REGULAR CALENDAR

- A. Presentation by Executive Officer Clark Stevens: Highway 101 Wildlife Overpass project: Mr. Stevens reported on the progress of State Senator Fran Pavley's efforts to construct a wildlife overpass over U.S. Highway 101 near Liberty Canyon. The RCD is assisting in the initial planning and design phases.
- B. Resolution #2014-03-02: A Resolution Amending the Standing Committees of the Board of Directors: Moved/Seconded: Ms. Burnam/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.
- C. Board meeting day and time: tabled to a future meeting.
- D. Resolution #2014-03-03: A Resolution Adopting Policies Governing Administration of Federal Grant and Contract Awards: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Rosentsweig/Ms. Strote; approved 4-0.
- E. Progress update on search for RCD home and lab facilities: Mr. Stevens introduced Mr. John Bertolli, who represents the new owner of the Wildwood property in Topanga. Mr. Stephens and Mr. Bertolli described the discussions they have had regarding the RCD's potential relocation to Wildwood. They are looking for an arrangement that works for both parties financially and have discussed such issues as rent, an equity stake in the property and potential services the RCD can provide. They will present an agreement to the Board at a future meeting if something can be done.

6. USDA/NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE REPORT: no report.

7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

- A. Staff Reports for February:
 - i. Clark Stevens, Executive Officer (oral): planning for Trancas Lagoon restoration has begun. CalTrans needs to upgrade the bridge at that location and the RCD is trying to get a larger opening underneath. Also, the RCD is assisting the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash with land planning for their potential takeover of part of the Santa Susana Field Lab property. Staff recently submitted comment letters on the cleanup plan for the property.
 - ii. John Hendra, Operations Manager (written)
 - iii. Stephen Vodantis, Education Supervisor (written)
 - iv. Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist (written)
 - v. Jenna Krug, Conservation Biologist (written)
- B. California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Central Coast Area: Spring meeting April 23 hosted by Cachuma RCD: Ms. Burnam, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Washburn will represent the RCD at the Area meeting.



- C. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee: Assoc. Director Glenn Bailey: a consultant for the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has developed seven proposals to remedy the damage caused by ACOE cutting and plowing last year. Consensus among the groups at this point seems to be toward creating a seasonal wetland, pothole ponds and a marsh. Mr. Bailey asked the Board to let him know if the RCD has a preferred option.
- D. California Association of Resource Conservation Districts: Quarterly Report, Conservation Strategy Group: A Primer, 2014 Membership Application and Minimum Requirements for RCDs: the Board reviewed the report and materials.

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**: the Board reviewed the correspondence.

- A. California Special Districts Association Board of Directors Call for Nominations and Candidate Information Sheet
- B. North American Envirothon Update from Sandy Huey, Chair of the NAE Board of Directors

9. **DIRECTORS' COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mr. Rosentsweig commented that the Los Angeles County Women of the Year Luncheon at which Senior Conservation Biologist Rosi Dagit was honored was a very nice affair.
- Mr. Bailey announced an Earthday event at Chatsworth Nature Preserve on Sunday April 6.
- Ms. Strote asked if the RCD has a policy on filming of Board meetings and, if not, should we have one. Mr. Bailey said that filming of meetings is allowed under the Brown Act. Ms. Strote then asked for the topic to be put on the agenda to discuss how filming should be handled on the agenda and at meetings.
- Ms. Strote suggested the RCD consider doing an educational press release regarding the watering of oak trees mentioned by Ms. Helsley last meeting.

10. **ADJOURNMENT: Moved/Seconded: Mr. Brody/Mr. Rosentsweig; approved 4-0.**
 The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
 John Hendra, Operations Manager

Date: _____

Approved by: _____
 R. C. Brody, President
 Board of Directors

Date: _____