

VENTURA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Wednesday, April 15th, 2026 MINUTES

Mark Mooring, President
Roy Talley, Vice President
Kevin Cannon, Secretary/Treasurer
Sean Anderson, Director
Misty McNamara, Director
Remington Richardson, Director
Brienne Schwabauer Whitcomb, Director
Jamie Whiteford, Executive Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The **April 15, 2026**, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD) was called to order by President **Mooring** at 8:35 a.m. with a quorum of Directors present.

2. **ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS**

Mark Mooring was present
Roy Talley was present
Kevin Cannon was not present
Sean Anderson was present
Misty McNamara was present
Remington Richardson was present remotely
Brienne Schwabauer Whitcomb was present remotely

STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Whiteford, Executive Director
Alicia Miramontez, Administrative Coordinator
Mary Reyes, Outreach and Education
Lauren Zaragoza, Fire Preparedness
Kevin Mason, Fire Preparedness
Jia Wiebe, Wildlife Habitat and Development Team
Rachel Ray, Wildlife Habitat and Development Team

PUBLIC

None Present

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** On motion by Vice President **Talley**, second by Director **McNamara**, the Board adopted the **April 15th, 2026, agenda**. Motion carried 6-0.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

5. **REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 NRCS, represented by Brooks Engelhardt, presented on conservation planning and soil health assessments were completed for participants in the Conservation Stewardship Program. Assessments and rankings were finished the previous week, and the program is moving into the next phase of selecting applications for funding. Current staffing includes Brooks and Jordan Atmore, with engineering staff (including Justin and another engineer) now operating under state-

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level NRCS engineering structure. Brooks confirmed NRCS can accept volunteers and encouraged referrals. Volunteers can sign up through NRCS and gain experience useful for resumes and future opportunities.

5.2 Report from the Fire Preparedness Team *Lauren Zaragoza and Kevin Mason*

Lauren and Kevin presented updates on a post-wildfire monitoring project at South Mountain funded by the Thelma Hansen Fund. The project seeks to better understand whether frequent fires contribute to long-term habitat conversion from native plant communities to invasive species dominance.

- Research Findings & Ecological Monitoring
- Invasive Species & Fire Risk
- Fuel Reduction & Prescribed Fire
- Partnerships & Collaboration
- Community Outreach & Education

The Fire Preparedness Team continues advancing a collaborative and science-based approach to wildfire resilience through monitoring, invasive species management, prescribed fire planning, strategic partnerships, and community engagement.

5.3 Report by the Administration team Alicia Miramontez and Jamie Whiteford, joined by Rachel Ray and Jia Wiebe to share development team updates. The team announced Coco's departure effective May 1 and shared that Jia Wiebe and Rachel Ray will serve as Development Co-Leads alongside Remy to support continued program coordination and leadership. Staff also reported that interviews for the Resource Conservation Technician position have been completed, while interviews for additional specialist and coordinator positions are currently underway. The team mentioned the potential creation of a future Fire Preparedness Lead position, contingent upon grant funding opportunities.

The Administration team also provided office operational updates, noting that planned office expansion efforts will require the current tenant to vacate adjacent office space. They further reported that replacement of the electrical panel and master breaker remains necessary to address building safety needs. The team concluded by thanking board members for completing and submitting their Form 700 filings.

5.4 Report by Directors

Anderson

- Suggested proactive outreach and messaging around potential strong El Niño conditions and future flooding risks.
- Recommended using fall outreach opportunities to educate the public on resilience efforts and

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how RCD work helps communities prepare for extreme weather events.

Whitcomb

- Asked questions about public perception and acceptance of prescribed burns and whether community attitudes are changing. This opened discussion around outreach, education, and landowner concerns.

Richardson

- Mentioned involvement in development leadership and participation in upcoming fundraising activities.

Board members during financial discussion

- Questions were raised about:
 - Office electrical panel replacement costs,
 - Vehicle mileage reimbursement and fuel expenses,
 - IRS repayment status and investment/interest considerations.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6.1 On Motion by Director **Anderson** and Seconded by Vice President **Talley**, the Board voted to approve **April 15th, 2026, minutes of the regular meeting**. Motion carried 6-0.

6.2 On Motion by Vice President **Talley** and Director **Anderson**, the Board voted to accept the **April 2026 financial reports**. Motion carried 6-0.

7. ACTION CALENDAR

7.1 None noted

8. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

8.1 None noted

9. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS BY DIRECTORS:

9.1 Questions were raised regarding investment options,

10. ADJOURNMENT – President **Mooring** adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Whiteford, Executive Director

MINUTES APPROVED:

Vice-President:

Roy Talley, Vice-President

Attest:

Jamie Whiteford, Executive Director

