

Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

5905 Capistrano Ave, Suite F, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.460.7272 | www.us-ltrcd.org

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

4:00 pm June 25th, 2026

Atascadero Library O'Grady Conference Room
6555 Capistrano Ave, Atascadero, CA

I. Call to Order AT 4:02PM by Tom Mora

Attendance:

Board Directors: Tom Mora, President; Chris Smith; Eric Michielssen; Mike Bonnhien

Staff: Drew Loganbill, Executive Director/Board Secretary; Marina Washburn, Finance Officer

Associates: Hilary Phillips, NRCS; Royce Larson, UCANR

II. Additions/Changes to the Agenda (Gov. Code §54954.2(b))

- a. Remove Treasurer's report due to Steve Carter absent.

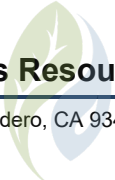
III. Public Comment- No comments.

IV. Guest Presentation

SLO County Rangeland Update [Presenter: Royce Larsen, Area Natural Resource/Watershed Advisor, UCANR] – “How to Keep a Ranch a Ranch” Continuous challenges to ranchers – Economics, taxes, regulations, labor, development. In the past laws and ordinances shifted from ranchers to intensive row crop agriculture, especially in the Salinas River Valley. Concern that regulation may come back to ranchers particularly involving sediment from poorly maintained ranch roads and bare soil from overgrazing and fire. 4 seasons in California – Fire, flood, mud, drought. People are now experiencing Climate Whiplash or weather whiplash from going from one weather extreme to another. This January and February was first time in 25 years Royce has seen grass growth during these months due to warmer temperatures. Grazing can be used to reduce fire risk and intensity as well as help control weeds. Need for workshop on ranch road maintenance as it's been long time since it's happened. Rainfall totals have decreasing trend and average temperatures trending upward. Dryland perennial seeding trials struggle without irrigation or outside of wet areas. Behave.net website with information on how to train a cow to eat weeds. Cal Poly has trained cows to eat several varieties of thistle, mustard (which are high in protein) and has resulted in decrease in protein supplements. Yeomans plow trial didn't have enough data/sites. Potential to do more trials in area. Thank you to Royce for all his assistance to ranchers in the county, you will be missed. Looking positive that Royce's position will be replaced but will likely take 18-24 months.

V. RCD Reports

- a. Board Updates - none
- b. Executive Director Report –
 - Pollinator night tonight after meeting – trivia and fundraiser for RCD.
 - WCC workshop – July 18 – Oyster mushroom propagation
 - Local Work group –Resource fair with local partners sharing services and programs. Presentation on Ag Order and GSA- July 14th at 9am
 - Newsletter Q4 out 6/26
 - Central Coast Butterfly ball – nomination for Young Leader Award - \$100
 - Farm Games Hoedown – nomination for Rooted in SLO award for women farmer. \$75
 - ED Vacation – 6/29-7/10
 - Working on scheduling site visit with Panetta's office at WCC
 - Working with CARCD to schedule visit with Ca Senator Laird in August
 - College Corps – 1-2 interns to start in August



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

5905 Capistrano Ave, Suite F, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.460.7272 | www.us-ltrcd.org

c. Project Updates

- Closed out CAPG – waiting final payment
- MIL done for year. PO cover next year so will continue into 2027
- Started up DOE meetings again. Will work on planning community engagement
- NRCS Equity – funds toward LWG and then close out
- 25-08 HVR –closing- working with county to get new PO for 2027
- WCC
 1. TAC – August 20
 2. Cal Poly projects complete with new shadehouse, toolshed, kiosk, shell for bathrooms.
 3. Working with school of education faculty member Kurt Holland on training students/teachers on science/conservation/environmental to provide lessons to K-12 in county. Will start at Willow Creek.
- Grants
 1. CIG
 2. WCB
 3. Invasive Species – discussions with partners about addressing yellow star thistle, ragwort, and Arundo. MB and EM advocate for treating YST as it's really bad this year and need to start somewhere. MB mentioned short pod mustard is emerging invasive weed that has potential to be worse than YST. Encouraged to work with county for better weed control on county roads.

VI. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of regular meeting minutes for May (distributed prior to meeting) – CS motion to approve, EM seconds, all present approve
- b. Approval of June Treasurer's Report – no report

VII. Other Agency, Director, and Association Reports

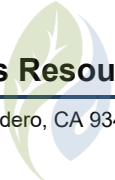
- a. NRCS Report – New Chief – Colton Buckley and new motto: Keeping Working Lands in Working Hands; Reorganization announced for NRCS. No details yet. In 30 day review period. New Farm Bill coming that continues to support Farm Bill programs and conservation work. Ask to include 1 pager on NRCS programs for MIL irrigation evaluation reports.
- b. WRAC- no report
- c. ALAB – EM addressed YST issue with county.

VIII. Board Discussion and/or Action Items

- a. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Statement Audit

Board Action: Adopt Resolution 2026-01 to receive and file the 2023-2024 Financial Statement Audit and Supplementary Information and to Authorize the Board President to Sign the Management Representation Letter Associated Therewith.

This is an official audit, not a disclaimer of opinion, but there is still some things we need to work on. Many of these things we are aware of. We don't want to delve into details at this point as we are still working with CPA to increase understanding. They are working on FY25 audit and plan to present on finding for both audits once complete. Sick and PTO accrual error in QBs when health stipend changes were made in December and QB used total hours of health accrual rather than total hours worked. This was caught May and are making adjustments to overage in PTO and Sick leave. Recommend allocating 20 hours per employee of PTO to adjust for mistake. MB motion to approve, CS seconds, all present approve.
- b. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Q4 Budget [co-Presenter: Marina Washburn, Finance Officer (may present remotely via teleconference)]



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

5905 Capistrano Ave, Suite F, Atascadero, CA 93422 | 805.460.7272 | www.us-ltrcd.org

Board Action: Review and approve budget modifications. –

Reduction of project income of approximately \$600,000 due to not all projects completed within FY and less development of infrastructure occurred at WCC. Income category revision and wage categories revision and redistribution to fit CA standards. Wages still underbudget. Increase in software costs for pending high dollar invoices. Increase in utilities due to increased rates. Increase in Melio and back fees. Vehicle maintenance and fuel cost increases to stay within budget. Results in increase in income for the FY to approximately \$223,000 which is up from projected. EM motion to approve, MB seconds, all present approve.

- c. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget [co-Presenter: Marina Washburn, Finance Officer (may present remotely via teleconference)]

Board Action: Review and approve.

Minor changes from draft budget reviewed at board meeting. Project income and expenses slightly changed. Includes 2.8% COLA for all employees. CS motion to approve, EM seconds, all present approve.

- d. Conflict Waiver for Cal Trans Toro Creek Mitigation Co-Op Agreement

Board Action: Review and approve.

Conflict waiver for County Counsel represent RCD and County Parks for this agreement. EM motion to approve, CS seconds, all present approve.

- e. Cal Trans Toro Creek Mitigation Co-Op Agreement Resolution 2026-02

Board Action: Adopt Resolution 2026-02 for approval of a mitigation agreement for the Toro Creek Restoration Project with the California Department of Transportation.

Completed review with county counsel. Waiting for CSD and Caltrans to make final adjustments so we can proceed with signatures and entering agreement. CS motion to approve, MB seconds, all present approve.

- f. Forest Health Grant Governing Resolution 2026-03

Board Action: Review and approve.

Approval to submit for Ca Climate Investment (CCI) funding application. EM motion to approve, CS seconds, all present approve.

- g. Forest Health Grant Governing Resolution 2026-04

Board Action: Review and approve.

Approval to submit for Prop 4 funding application. EM motion to approve, CS seconds, all present approve.

IX. Agenda Setting

- a. Next board meeting location and date

X. Adjournment – TM motions to adjourn, EM seconds. Adjourn at **6:02PM**

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: July 23, 2026