MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Monday, September 28th, 2026, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Sierra National Forest – 1600 Tollhouse, Clovis, CA & Via MS Teams

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order *President*

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Director Roll Call

Pete Lassotovitch, Alan Fry, Don Dukleth, Matt Hurley, Joe Denham (online)

C. Introduction of Guests and Staff

Arturo Mendez(CalPERS), Erwin Duenas (NRCS)

John Heywood, Erwin Duenas, Sokmarly In, Kelly Kucharski, Daisy Guzman

D. Core Values: Stewardship, Responsibility, Innovation

II. Approval of Minutes from August Special Meeting 2026 (A) *President*

Board made a suggestion to make an edit to the resolution approval.

Director Hurley made a motion to approve the August Special Meeting Minutes. Director Fry seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote with 3 votes in favor and 2 abstains. (3-0-2)

III. Public Comment for any item not on the agenda (No action can be taken)

IV. Partner Reports (I)

A. NRCS

Erwin Duenas gave an update on the NRCS office. They are starting their new fiscal year and taking in new clients. They are having changes made to what they have clients submit for this new application.

V. SRCD Board Action Items and Discussion Topics: (I) Info / (A) Action

A. Financial Management *Controller*

1) Financial Reports: Balance Sheet 08/31/2026, AR Aging 08/31/2026, AP Aging 08/31/2026, Profit and Loss 08/31/2026, Budget to Actuals 08/31/2026, FY Audit 24-25 **(I)**

The audit was completed and the next audit meeting will be at the end of November. Kelly Kucharski reviewed the financials with the Board. The district will be hiring a bookkeeper to start in December to help with the financial record upkeep.

2) (R9-2026) Resolution Approving Adoption of CalPERS 457 Plan **(A)**

The district is looking to adopt the CalPERS 457 as an additional benefit which is a supplemental retirement plan. Employees will have the option to defer any amount of their paycheck into their CalPERS account. The district will also have the option to chose a different provider other than CalPERS to manage the plan if they see fit in the future.

Director Dukleth motioned to approve the resolution & adoption of CalPERS 457 plan, Director Fry seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote with 3 votes in favor and 2 abstains. (3-0-2)

B. Projects and Programs *Manager*

(F/W – Forestry, C/I – Collective Impact, A/R – Agriculture, ASG – Alignment Strategies Group)

1) Motion to Approve California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemptions for Community Wildfire Defense Grant Projects – Vincent, Sycamore, Shaver Springs, and Mill Creek **(A)**

This is an almost 5 million dollar project that includes work in 9 Firewise communities. With 3 communities already completed and looking to get approval to start on 4 more, it would leave 2 communities left to complete the project.

Director Hurley made a motion to approve all four Notice of Exemptions for the Community Wildfire Defense Grant Projects, and Director Fry seconded the motion. All present voted in favor and motion passed by majority vote with 4 votes in favor and 1 abstain (online). (4-0-1)

2) (R-10) Resolution Authorizing the Application for Grant Funding Under the Transformative Climate Communities Program as Administered by the Strategic Growth Council **(A)**

The district is looking to apply for grant funding to work in partnership with the Public Works Department. They have envisioned a planning grant where the SRCD is the lead doing community outreach and inventory of the urban trees in the Mayfair airport area in Fresno.

Director Dukleth motioned to approve the application for grant funding under Transformative Climate Program, Director Hurley seconded. All present voted in favor and motion passed by majority vote with 1 motion abstain (online). (4-0-1)

3) Sequoia National Forest Letter from the Supervisor **(I)**

   The district is becoming known by the Sequoia National Forest from the work the ASG crew is performing. There has been letters of support sent on both ends with plans to strengthen relationships and work on future partnerships.

4) Sierra RCD 17 new staff - ASG – 6, CI – 8, AR – 2 FW- 1 **(I)**

   There have been 17 new staff onboarded within the past few months. The District is quickly growing to keep up with the demand for all programs work.

VI. Adjournment – Next Meeting: October 26th, 2027 3pm-5pm Location TBD

To make changes/additions/corrections please email: Daisy Guzman dguzman@sierrarcd.com