

DRAFT Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 21, 2021
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
via Zoom teleconference

Directors: Barbara Kossy, Adrienne Etherton, Rudy Espinoza-Murray

Associate Directors: Steve Stielstra, John Keener

RCD staff: Kellyx Nelson, Lau Hodges, Amy Kaeser, Sheena Sidhu, Amanda Brenner-Cannon, Erica Harris, Stephanie MacDonald, Jarrad Fisher

NRCS staff: none

1. Call to Order

Kossy called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2. Declaration of Emergency Continuing Teleconferencing (subject to AB 361)

Etherton moved to approve the declaration of emergency continuing teleconferencing, Espinoza-Murray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda

Etherton moved to approve the agenda, Espinoza-Murray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Introductions of Guests and Staff

- Kossy welcomed Espinoza-Murray to the Board; Espinoza-Murray stated he was excited to be part of the RCD, a strong organization, and the first in the state.
- Nelson introduced Brenner-Cannon, the RCD's new Forest Health & Fire Resilience Project Manager.
- All in attendance introduced themselves.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Consent Agenda

- Nelson clarifies an error on item 6.6; farmers do not pay for their ponds.
- Etherton moved to approve to approve the consent agenda, Espinoza-Murray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Regular Agenda

7.1 Board will consider contracting with Panorama Environmental, Inc. to be the El Granada Wildfire Resiliency Planning Consultant.

- Discussion included how the high level of concern about fire from the El Granada helped launch the RCD's Forest Health & Fire Resiliency Program; questions about the scope of work, project footprint, and community outreach; and why only two of the seven potential contractors submitted bids.
- **ACTION:** Espinoza-Murray moved to contract with Panorama Environmental, Inc., Etherton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Executive Director's report (see attached)

- Keener asked what the depth was from Cloverdale Bridge; Fisher explained it was both higher and wider now and the old cement embankments had been contributing to bank incision.
- Kossy noted she was interested in hearing the processing chain of recycling of agricultural plastics. There was discussion about next month's study session and participation by County representatives.
- Nelson asked Etherton if she would be willing to take an early look at the Personnel Manual; Etherton agreed.
- Stielstra offered to help with contract issues referenced on the *What we're Thinking About* slide.
- Nelson noted the Board might expect to hear directly from members of the El Granada Community. Kossy explained the more details the Board had the more capable they would be to help communicate it. Espinoza-Murray asked for two to three talking points and a contact; Nelson said the RCD would prepare that for him.

7.3 NRCS report

No report given.

7.4 Directors' reports

- Keener expressed an interest in fish surveys in San Pedro Creek. Kaeser noted that they are generally done in a creek that supports coho salmon; Nelson said the RCD should try to do it if possible to find the resources.
- Espinoza-Murray reported that he had been hearing of a community desire for water testing and that there was concern about nitrates in the water; he would like to find a way to provide that service. Nelson explained previous communications with Ayudando Latinos A Soñar (ALAS) and Puente de la Costa Sur and the lack of community response for free testing. There was some discussion about concerns of losing housing if water quality concerns are found.
- Etherton reported that she had been participating in study sessions looking into Half Moon Bay's Building Electrification Code; no other city in the U.S. has gone as far as Half Moon Bay will by 2045. Stielstra asked if Half Moon Bay had been working with PG&E regarding the substantial upgrades it would require.

- Kossy reported that she had been noticing lots of neglected and fallowed land lately and was wondering if it could be put into production using healthy soils techniques or agrophotovoltaics.

8. **Adjourn Meeting**

- Kossy adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

DRAFT

Executive Director Report

October 21, 2021

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors





Water Quality

- First Flush happened last night
 - 28 volunteers, 14 sites sampled
 - expect to present results in January
- National Water Quality Initiative grant to assess water quality in Pescadero-Butano watershed and facilitate EQIP funding
- Planning for scoping sewer and storm lines at Pillar Point Harbor
 - Spring 2022

Water for Farms, Fish and People

Domestic

Loma Mar Mutual Water Company

- replaced failing water storage infrastructure (2019)
- updated electrical system for water system resilience (2021)
- applied for \$3M grant to replace 70+ yr old pipelines (2022)



Water for Farms, Fish and People

Domestic

Memorial County Park

- replaced pipeline (2018)
- in bid process for next phase pipeline replacement (2021-2022)

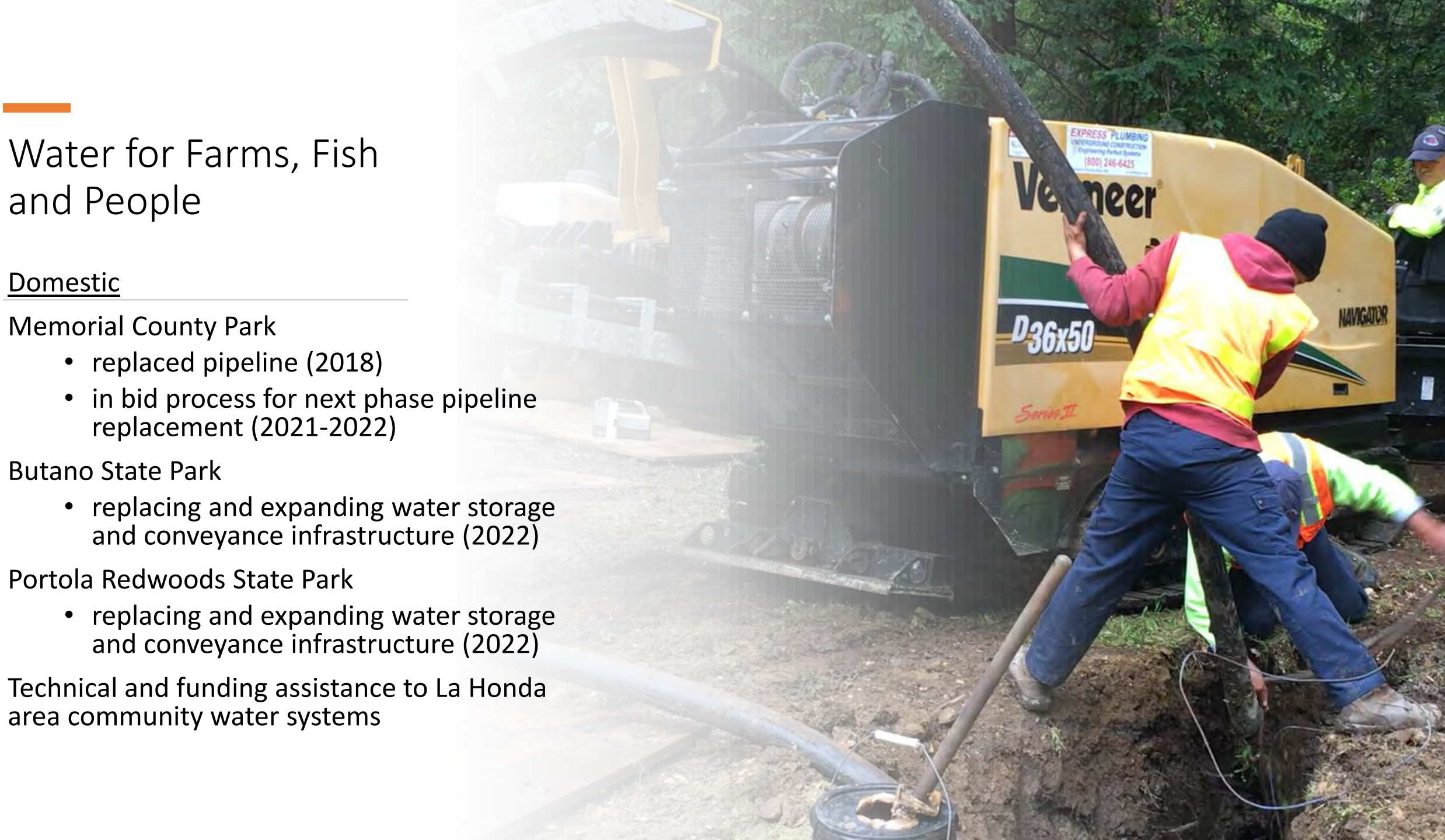
Butano State Park

- replacing and expanding water storage and conveyance infrastructure (2022)

Portola Redwoods State Park

- replacing and expanding water storage and conveyance infrastructure (2022)

Technical and funding assistance to La Honda area community water systems



Water for Farms, Fish and People

Agriculture

- Completed first series of projects developed in 2014
- In final stages of developing second set of projects and seeking funds



Habitat Enhancement

- Butano Farms habitat enhancement project is complete
 - 65 acres
 - wetland and upland
 - forage, breeding, and refuge features for frog and snake
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4B5dmoOG5o>



Habitat Enhancement

Snorkel Surveys for Fish

- Partnership with CDFW
- Monthly surveys for fish and drought since August
- Pescadero, Butano, and San Gregorio creeks
- Documenting streamflow, drought impacts, presence and condition of fish
 - In a nutshell: it's pretty bad



Habitat Enhancement

- Butano Creek channel stabilization and habitat enhancement at Cloverdale Road Bridge
- Green Oaks Creek wetlands restoration project
 - CA Wildlife Conservation Board recommending for \$1.2M in funding
 - Will restore 15 acres of historic wetland for wildlife including SFGS and CRLF

Climate and Agriculture

- Funding focus groups
- CA Working Lands Plan
- Outreach to help farmers plan projects and apply to funding sources (CA Healthy Soils Program and Zero Foodprint)
- Begun work with farms increase recycling of agricultural plastics (very high interest- at least 2000 pounds of drip tape lined up to be recycled)
- Working with 3 livestock operations to apply compost on 24 acres in next three weeks (weather dependent)
- Providing soil health technical assistance to 10 urban farms or gardens in San Mateo and San Francisco (teaching them how to test soil for ph, organic matter, heavy metals, etc.)





Forest Health & Fire Resiliency

- 540 acres of treatment underway in various stages
- Camp Butano, Wunderlich, Huddart, Quarry Park shaded fuel break

Forest Health and Fire Resiliency

- Euc-a-thon
- Advocacy regarding post-fire recovery
- El Granada Wildfire Resiliency scoping project



Operations &
Administration

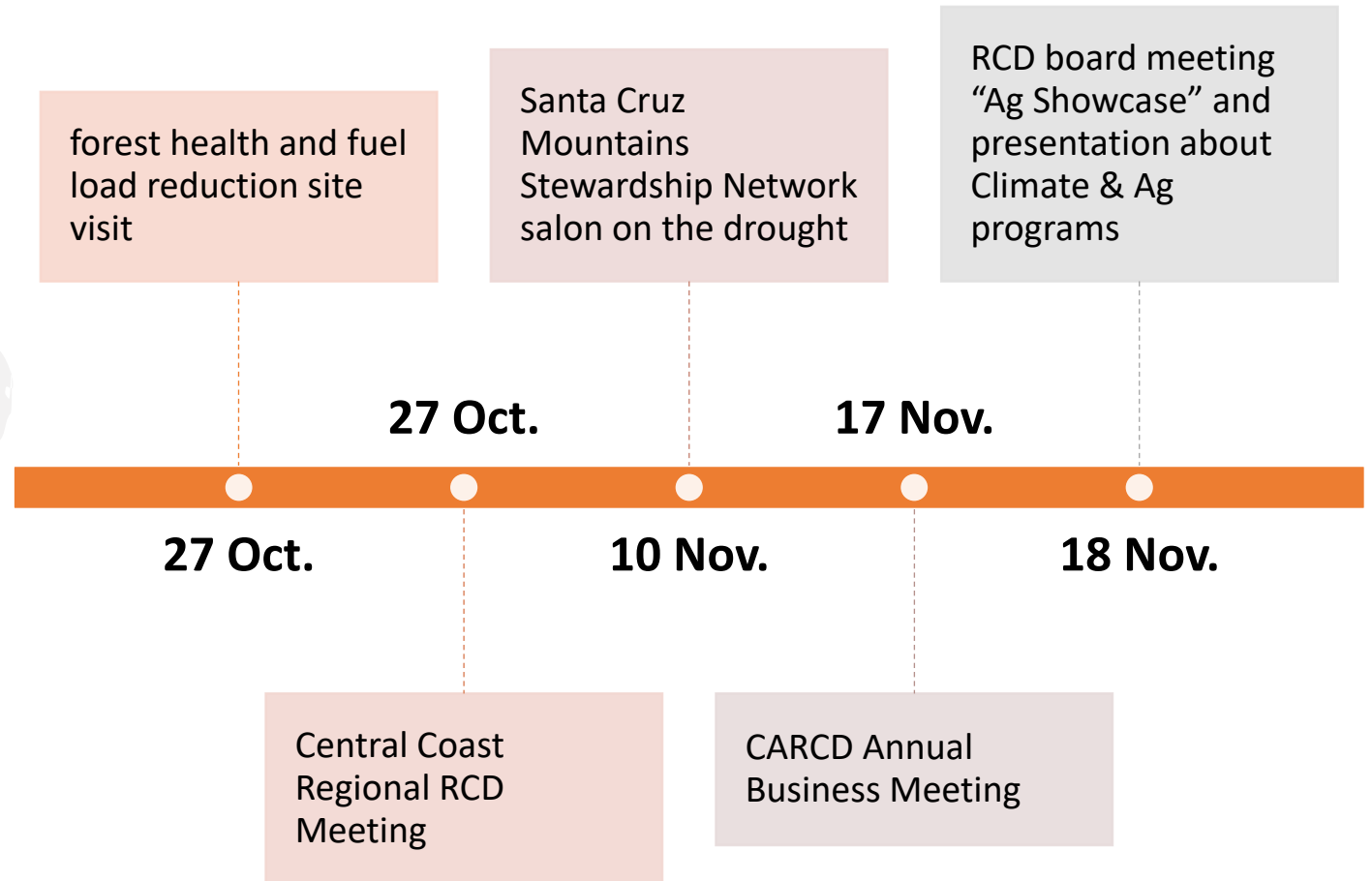
New staff

Personnel manual

PTO and and holidays policy

New mission statement!

Events



Some things we're thinking about...

- How local contractors can be successful bidding on projects
- State funds and indirect rates
- Wavecrest and Army Corps of Engineers
- Mudslide awareness time with rains

