



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: July 15, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Contact: Jacquelyne Alexander, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
SUBJECT: **Cachuma Resource Conservation District Board of Director Appointments**

DocuSigned by:

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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider the reappointments of Directors to the Cachuma Resource Conservation District pursuant to California Public Resources Code sections 9314 and 9316, as follows:
 - i) Reappoint Gary Cavaletto, Jim Stollberg, and Paul Van Leer to the Cachuma Resource Conservation District Board to serve four-year terms, with their terms expiring on November 29, 2028; and
- b) Determine that the reappointments of a Director to the Board of Directors of the Cachuma Resource Conservation District does not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as the actions are organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

In a letter dated March 17, 2025 (Attachment A), the Cachuma Resource Conservation District (CRCD) Board of Directors informed the Board of Supervisors of vacancies under Division 9, Section 9, Section 9314 of the California Public Resources Code.

The Clerk of the Board posted a notice of vacancy for the Directors of the Cachuma Resource Conservation District reflecting the vacancy on May 22, 2025, for the reappointment of Gary Cavaletto, Jim Stollberg, and Paul Van Leer. Appointments pursuant to these vacancy notices can be made on or after June 9, 2025.

In compliance with Section 9316 of the Public Resources Code, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors reappoint Gary Cavaletto, Jim Stollberg, and Paul Van Leer as Directors of the Cachuma Resource Conservation District.

Discussion:

The CRCD has requested that the Board of Supervisors make the reappointments pursuant to Division 9, Section 9314(c):

“It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage districts to opt for the selection of directors by election, but where directors are appointed pursuant to subdivision (b), it is the intent of the Legislature that the board of supervisors solicit recommendations from within the district, including public, private, and nonprofit entities, and appoint only applicants who are determined by the board of supervisors to have a demonstrated interest in soil and water conservation. In selecting directors pursuant to subdivision (b), the board of supervisors shall endeavor to achieve balanced representation on the board of directors. To avoid undue financial burdens to districts and to thereby promote the objectives of this division, the Legislature hereby encourages counties to waive or minimize the charges for costs of elections conducted pursuant to this division.”

The terms of office for the Cachuma Resource Conservation District Directors span four years. The expiration of a director’s term does **not** constitute a vacancy—each director remains in office until they are either reappointed or until their successor has qualified. As these positions are filled by appointment and not election, no notice of election is required.

Background:

In 1986, Section 9314 of the California Public Resources Code was amended to allow Resource Conservation Districts to request by Resolution that the Board of Supervisors appoint directors to the governing board of their district.

The Board of Directors of the Cachuma Resources Conservation District adopted a Resolution requesting that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara appoint the District’s directors as provided for in California Public Resources Code Section 9314. Pursuant to Section 9314, the Resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Board of Directors of the Cachuma Resource Conservation District, or until a petition requesting the rescission is received by the elections official. The Resolution has not been rescinded and remains in effect.

The Cachuma Resource Conservation District is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors, currently with two (2) vacancies. The terms for the following four (4) directors are scheduled to expire on November 27, 2026:

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- Russell Chamberlin
- Johannah Bradley
- Ron Labastida
- Jim Wegis

Special Instructions:

Send a copy of the minute order to the Cachuma Resource Conservation District:

Attn: Lacy Litten

lacy@rcdsantabarbara.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – Cachuma Resource Conservation District Letter Dated March 17, 2025

Attachment B – Applications of Gary Cavaletto, Jim Stollberg, and Paul Van Leer

Contact Information:

Jacquelyne Alexander, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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