

NOTICE

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

will be held at

Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California
at 6:30 pm, **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

AGENDA OF SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 27, 2023
4. Public Comment (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any non-agenda matter within the Board's jurisdiction. The total time for all public participation shall not exceed fifteen minutes and the time allotted for each individual shall not exceed five minutes. No action will be taken by the Board at this meeting on any public item.)

Staff recommends any potential new agenda items based on issues raised be held for discussion under the Agenda Item "Requests from the Board of Directors for items to be included on the next Agenda".
5. Appointment to Fill Division 4 Director Vacancy pursuant to Government Code Section 1780(d)
 - a. Review and Consider Information from and regarding Applicants and Selection of Appointee to Fill the Vacancy in the Position of Division 4 Director
 - b. Consideration of Adoption of Resolution No. 723 Making an Appointment to Fill the Vacancy in the Office of Director of Division 4
 - c. Oath of Office of Person Appointed to Fill Division 4 Director Vacancy
6. Consideration of Adoption of Resolution No. 724 Expressing Appreciation to Director Art Hibbits
7. Reports, acts by Board members, questions of staff, status reports, announcements, observations, and other matters, and/or communications not requiring action
8. Requests from the Board of Directors for items to be included on the next Agenda.
9. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

In compliance with the California Water Code, regular meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday in March, June, September, and December at various locations within the District. Special meetings may be held at any location within the District.

10. Closed Session

The Board will hold a closed session to discuss the following items:

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)): Wolff vs SYRWCD, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, Case No. 20CV01552 and Case No. 22CV02062
- b. Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)) relating to proceedings pending before the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding Permits 11308 and 11310 issued on Applications 11331 and 11332 of the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Cachuma Project, and complaints filed by the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance regarding the operation of the Cachuma Project and SWRCB Order WR 89-18; proposed changes to the place and purpose of use of waters obtained through aforementioned permits for the Cachuma Project; and Reclamation’s Petition for Reconsideration or Rehearing re Order WR 2019-0148; and proceedings related to SWRCB Permit No. 15878 (Application A022423) held by the City of Solvang including the City of Solvang’s Petitions for Change and Extension of Time.
- c. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(2)): Significant exposure to litigation (Two Matters).
- d. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(4)): Possible initiation of litigation (Two Matters).

11. Reconvene into Open Session / Closed Session Report

12. Adjournment

[This agenda was posted on the District website (SYRWCD.com), at 3669 Sagunto Street, Suite 101, Santa Ynez, California and at 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc, California. Notice was delivered in accordance with Government Code Sections 54950-54963. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to review agenda materials or participate in this meeting, please contact the District at (805) 693-1156. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.]

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT JUNE 27, 2023

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen, Mark Altshuler, Art Hibbits, and Steve Jordan

Director Absent: Brett Marymee

Others Present, in-person: Groundwater Program Manager Bill Buelow, Larry Lahr, Carol Redhead, Board Secretary Amber Thompson, Steve Torigiani (Young Wooldridge), and General Manager Kevin Walsh

Others Present, remote participation: Michelle Gearhart (Adamski Moroski Madden Cumberland & Green LLP, during closed session only)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Ms. Thompson called roll. Four Directors were present providing a quorum.

2. CLOSED SESSION

At 6:35 p.m., President Allen closed the Open Session and the Board convened into Closed Session from 6:35 p.m. to 7:14 p.m. to discuss the following item:

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel - Pending Litigation (Gov. Code, § 54956.9, subd. (d)(1)): Wolff vs SYRWCD, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara, Case No. 20CV01552 and Case No. 22CV02062

3. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT

After a 5-minute break, President Allen reconvened Open Session at 7:19 p.m. and advised there is nothing to report from Closed Session.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. Ms. Thompson announced that no written public comments were received prior to the meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 7, 2023

President Allen submitted the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 7, 2023 for Board approval. There was no discussion or public comment.

Director Altshuler made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 7, 2023, as presented. Director Hibbits seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed 4-0-1, with Director Marymee being absent.

7. REVIEW RATE STUDY REPORT BY RAFTELIS AND CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 722 MAKING FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS, ESTABLISHING ZONES, SETTING RATES AND LEVYING A GROUNDWATER CHARGE FOR WATER YEAR 2023-2024

Ms. Thompson provided copies of a memorandum from Kevin D. Walsh and Young Wooldridge, LLP, dated June 27, 2023 and copies of Resolution No. 722 to the Board of Directors and all in attendance.

Mr. Steve Torigiani reviewed the memorandum as well as the Revised Draft Final Rate Study by Raftelis, dated June 22, 2023 (Rate Study Report).

Referring to the “Discussion” section of the memorandum, Mr. Torigiani noted that a written public comment letter, dated June 6, 2023, on the initial Draft Final Rate Study, was received from Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 (ID No. 1) requesting that the costs of certain District activities relating to water rights releases should only be allocated to Zone A and B pumpers, based on the argument that the pumpers in other zones do not sufficiently benefit from such activities to justify charging them for such costs consistent with Proposition 26. ID No. 1 also takes the position that the District should suspend its imposition of all groundwater charges in Zone E arguing that SGMA and the EMA GSA has supplanted the District’s authority to charge Zone E for District’s SGMA-related costs as well as another argument that the District’s EMA GSA SGMA activities, in addition to benefitting pumpers within the District, also benefit pumpers outside the District (but within the EMA) who are not subject to the District’s groundwater charge, and thus Proposition 26 would be violated if the District’s SGMA-related costs are included in District’s Zone E groundwater charges.

Mr. Torigiani also reviewed the “General Responses” provided in the memorandum. He noted that under Proposition 26, the District has considerable discretion as to how it allocates water rights release costs among the zones receiving a specific benefit for such activities. However, without setting any precedent for future years or conceding to ID No. 1’s position, as suggested by ID No. 1’s comments, the revised rate study allocates certain identifiable costs related to water rights releases and other river management functions solely to Zones A and B.

In the Rate Study Report, he noted the rate differences for Zones A and B were established using long-term average amounts of water rights releases from the Above

Narrows Account (ANA) and Below Narrows Account (BNA) as a basis.

With respect to the arguments about Zone E charges, Mr. Torigiani said he respectfully disagrees with ID No. 1 on this point. He noted the SGMA statute expressly did not supplant or limit the District's authority to impose a groundwater charge in Zone E (or elsewhere within the District) or otherwise. With respect to the arguments about Zone E charges, like the initial Final Draft Rate Study (the subject to ID No. 1's June 6, 2023 comment letter), the Revised Final Draft Rate Study, without setting a precedent for future years or conceding to any of ID No. 1's arguments, uses property tax and other District revenues not subject to Proposition 26's restrictions to cover SGMA-related (and certain other) costs. Thus, such costs have not been included in the groundwater charge rates proposed to be levied, and thus, this is not a valid Proposition 26 issue. District Staff and legal counsel do not agree with ID No. 1's position that Proposition 26 prohibits SGMA-related or other costs from being included in the groundwater charge rates for Zone E for reasons summarized in the memorandum, among others.

Discussion followed. No public comment was received.

Mr. Torigiani reviewed Resolution No. 722, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MAKING FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS, ESTABLISHING ZONES, SETTING RATES, AND LEVYING A GROUNDWATER CHARGE WITHIN THE DISTRICT FOR THE WATER YEAR 2023-2024. There was no discussion and no public comment.

Director Jordan **MOVED** to adopt No. 722, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MAKING FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS, ESTABLISHING ZONES, SETTING RATES, AND LEVYING A GROUNDWATER CHARGE WITHIN THE DISTRICT FOR THE WATER YEAR 2023-2024, as presented. Director Hibbits seconded the motion. There was no public comment or additional discussion. The motion passed 4-0-1 by the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Allen, Altshuler, Hibbits, Jordan

NOES, Directors: None

ABSENT, Directors: Marymee

8. **CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES TO GSA COMMITTEES**

Mr. Buelow reviewed his memorandum dated June 27, 2023 regarding Board Representation on SGMA GSAs in the SY Basin. Discussion followed. There was no public comment received.

Director Altshuler made a **MOTION** to appoint Director Steve Jordan (primary representative) and President Cindy Allen (alternate) to the WMA GSA Committee; President Cindy Allen (primary representative) and Director Steve Jordan (alternate) to the CMA GSA Committee; Director Brett Marymee (primary representative) and Director

Steve Jordan (alternate) to the EMA GSA. Director Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 by voice vote, with Director Marymee absent.

9. CONSIDER SCHEDULING SPECIAL MEETING TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND APPOINT DIRECTOR FOR DIVISION 4

Discussion followed. By consensus, Tuesday, August 15, 2023 was chosen as a tentative date to hold a special meeting to review applications and consider appointing a Director for Division 4. The Board directed Ms. Thompson to secure either the Buellton City Council Chambers or Vandenberg Village Community Services District Meeting Room for the meeting, prepare an application for completion by potential candidates, prepare and properly notice a Notice of the Vacancy.

10. CONSIDER SDRMA 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION PACKET AND APPROVE BALLOT

There was discussion.

Director Hibbits made a **MOTION** to vote for candidates Robert Swan, Jesse Claypool, and Sandy Siefert-Raffelson to serve on the Special District Risk Management Authority Board of Directors and approve the Official 2023 Election Ballot. Director Altshuler seconded. There was no public comment, no additional discussion, and the motion passed 4-0-1 with Director Marymee being absent.

11. REPORTS, ACTS BY BOARD MEMBERS, QUESTIONS OF STAFF, STATUS REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, OBSERVATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS, AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS NOT REQUIRING ACTION

Director Hibbits thanked staff and legal counsel for their timely work on the rate study report and groundwater charge rates efforts.

Mr. Torigiani thanked Director Hibbits for his 18 years of service to the District.

12. REQUESTS FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There were no requests.

13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023, AT BUELLTON CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 140 WEST HIGHWAY 246, BUELLTON, CALIFORNIA

The next scheduled regular meeting of the Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

President Allen reminded all that a Special Meeting will be required in August to consider applicants and appoint a Director for Division 4. The date of the Special Meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

14. CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

15. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION / CLOSED SESSION REPORT

There was no Closed Session.

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Cynthia Allen, President

Amber M. Thompson, Secretary

DRAFT

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 15, 2023

TO: Cynthia Allen Mark Altshuler
Brett Marymee Steve Jordan Steve Torigiani

FROM: Kevin D. Walsh, General Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and consider appointment of a Director to fill existing vacancy for Division 4

Recommendation

Board of Directors review and discuss the attached applications and appoint a candidate to fill the vacant Board position for Division 4.

Discussion

California Government Code Section 1780 governs the process to fill a vacancy in any elective office on the governing board of a special district. Section 1780 allows the remaining members of the board to fill the vacancy either by appointment or by having a formal election. Section 1780(d)(1) allows the remaining members of the district board to make an appointment within 60 days after the effective date of the vacancy and requires the district to post a notice of vacancy in three or more conspicuous places in the district at least 15 days before the district board makes the appointment.

- The effective date of the vacancy for Division 4 was June 30, 2023.
- Notices of Vacancy were posted outside of the District office, City of Buellton City Hall, and the City of Lompoc Public Library from July 5-21, 2023, or longer.

Section 1780 states that if the vacancy occurs in the first half of a term of office and at least 130 days prior to the next general district election, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall hold office until the next general district election and thereafter until the person who is elected at that election has been qualified.

- The term of the appointment will end December 2024.

Alternatives Considered

Fill the vacancy through a formal election.

Do not appoint anyone within 60 days of June 30, 2023, in which case the County Board of Supervisors may appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

Background

At the June 7, 2023 Regular Meeting, the Board received Director Hibbits' letter of resignation, discussed options, and decided to seek candidates to consider for appointment to fill the vacancy in the office of Director for Division 4 and directed staff to complete the required notifications.

- **Action: Choose candidate to appoint**
- **Motion: Adopt Resolution No. 723. Roll Call vote.**
- **Board Secretary to administer Oath of Office**

Attachments: Candidate applications for Director Division 4; Resolution No. 723

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD)

Board of Directors, Division 4 Director

Candidate's Statement of Qualifications

Candidate: Larry Lahr

Physical Address: 1109 W. Highway 246, Buellton, CA 93427

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1949, Buellton, CA 93427

Cell Phone: 805-896-4605

e-mail address: LLahr@rinconcorp.com

Attachment of Resume, letters of recommendation, or additional information is optional.

**Are you a registered voter with in the boundaries of SYRWCD, Division 4?
(Response Required)**

YES

NO

Why do you want to serve on the SYRWCD Board of Directors? (Response Required)

I have been involved in the agricultural industry for my entire career, starting with my first job as Branch Manager of the Buellton Branch of the Farm Credit System in 1979, through my current role as owner of Rincon Corporation which is an agricultural real estate company, and my more recent role as trustee and executor for Jim Buell's estate and manager of Rancho Jonata in Buellton. Throughout my career in agriculture I have understood the vital importance of our water resources and the importance of managing it properly. This is what caused me to join the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Central Management Area GSA, which I have done since its inception.

Besides my lifelong experience in agriculture, I have also always been passionate about our land and the proper stewardship of the land. Having worked, managed, owned and lived on cattle ranches I have learned the importance maintaining a sustainable relationship with our natural resources. I believe the missions of the SYRWCD is a critical element of managing our regional natural resources, and I am very interested in being a part of that mission.

**What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member?
(Response Required)**

I have served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Central Management Area GSA since inception. In addition, I served on the Board of Trustees of Allan Hancock College for over 26 years. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for Plantel Nurseries, a vegetable transplant operation located in Santa Maria. I also serve on the Board of the Hancock College Foundation, the Investment Committee for the Hancock Foundation, and the Cal Poly Corporation Investment Committee. I have previously served on the Board of Directors of Medco Containment Services (a public company sold in 1993 for \$6.5 billion), Primus Labs in Santa Maria (a food safety company), Integrated Composites in Marina, CA (an advanced materials manufacturing company), the Board of the WebMD Health Foundation, and the Central Coast World Trade Center Association.

Please see my bio attached hereto.

**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?
(Response Required)**

In addition to my broad exposure to the agricultural industry, my experience has involved much work in finance and legal matters. During my tenure on the Board of Trustees I was considered the finance hawk, and championed a conservative fiscal approach to budgeting and risk management. I have been asked to be involved in a number financial and investment committees and boards. Fortunately, my legal experience in legal matter is limited in the litigation area, with most of my activities involved in contracts and transactions. I am also very interested in groundwater management, and have been involved in overseeing the drilling and development of nine irrigation wells. I currently manage four irrigated farming properties in Santa Maria.

What is your overall vision for SYRWCD? (Response Required)

I believe that the SYRWCD has done an effective job in managing the local water resources for both the residential and commercial users, as well as the agricultural users. My vision for my involvement for the SYRWCD is to continue to do an the effective job that the district has been doing over the years, and to prepare for the future as water resources become more critical. I believe it is essential to balance the needs of human population with the environmental needs of our region. We are blessed to live on the Central Coast with its unique and exquisite natural beauty and environmental resources. Careful and balanced management of our water resources is imperative to preserve these resources while meeting the needs of our human population.

I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), Director of Division 4. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SYRWCD's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for appointment to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature: 

Date: July 10, 2023

Lawrence R. Lahr

Lawrence (Larry) Lahr is owner and President of Rincon Corporation. Mr. Lahr founded Rincon in 1991 to provide management, brokerage, and consulting services for agricultural real estate, primarily in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. Later, Mr. Lahr, expanded the business to provide trust administration and business management services for clients with agricultural and commercial operations. Recently his work as a professional trustee includes serving as executor and trustee for the estate of James Buell, and as manager of Rancho Jonata in Buellton, CA.

Mr. Lahr began working on cattle ranches in high school and continued to do so as he attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in Agricultural Business. Upon graduation in 1978, Mr. Lahr began a career with Farm Credit, managing the Buellton branch office of the San Luis Obispo Production Credit Association. In 1987, after a brief stint working in a mortgage banking company for commercial real estate, Mr. Lahr then became President of River Edge Development Company and was involved in a large land development project in Ventura County. Mr. Lahr then founded Rincon Corporation in 1991. During this time, Mr. Lahr was also active in raising cattle on the ranch he resided on near Los Alamos, CA and on a large ranch in Arizona.

Boards which Mr. Lahr currently serves include:

- The Cal Poly Corporation Investment Advisory Committee, oversees a portfolio of \$125 million
- The Hancock College Foundation Investment Committee, oversees a portfolio of \$25 million
- The Board of Directors of Plantel Nurseries, based in Santa Maria; (\$50 million annual revenues)
- Citizens Advisory Group for the Central Management Area of the Santa Ynez River

Boards which Mr. Lahr has previously served on:

- Medco Containment Services, a public company and pharmaceutical benefits manager sold in 1993 for \$6.5 billion
- Board of Directors and partner of Integrated Composites, Marina CA, an advanced composite manufacturing company, sold in 2009
- Board of Directors Primus Labs, Santa Maria, CA, an agricultural food safety company
- Board of Directors Central Coast World Trade Center, Oxnard CA
- Board of Directors WebMD Health Foundation

Mr. Lahr recently retired as President of the Board of Trustees of Allan Hancock Community College in Santa Maria where he has served as a trustee for over twenty six years. He also served on the board of the Hancock College Viticulture and Enology Foundation, and as a Trustee for the Hancock College Retirement Board of Authority.

Mr. Lahr graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1978 with highest of honors with a degree in Agricultural Business Management. He is a licensed real estate broker with the state of California (#00935487). He is also licensed by the state of California as a Professional Fiduciary (#644). Mr. Lahr currently resides on a ranch outside of Buellton, CA with his wife Krystal, and has six grown children and six grandchildren.

**Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD)
Board of Directors, Division 4 Director
Candidate's Statement of Qualifications**

Candidate: Sarah Suput
Physical Address: 6615 E Hwy 246 Lompoc, CA 93436
Mailing Address: _____
Cell Phone: 805-264-6026
e-mail address: sarah.suput@gmail.com

Attachment of Resume, letters of recommendation, or additional information is optional.

Are you a registered voter with in the boundaries of SYRWCD, Division 4?
(Response Required)

YES

NO

Why do you want to serve on the SYRWCD Board of Directors? (Response Required)

Please see attached

What Board or committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member?
(Response Required)

**What special skills, talents, or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?
(Response Required)**

What is your overall vision for SYRWCD? (Response Required)

I certify that I meet the candidate qualifications for Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District (SYRWCD), Director of Division 4. I further certify that I am willing to serve as a director on SYRWCD's Board of Directors. I will commit the time and effort necessary to serve. Please consider my application for appointment to the Board of Directors.

Candidate Signature: Janet Supra

Date: 7/30/23

Why do you want to serve on the SYRWCD Board of Directors?

My family and I moved to the Sta Rita Hills in the late fall of 2016. Prior to our move, I had only lived in cities. The jump to agricultural life was a large one. And 7 years in, I can say with confidence that it was very worthwhile. My husband, Marko, and I live on 11 acres right off Hwy 246, in the boundary of Division 4. The property was formerly the Flying V Ranch and now operates as a 6 acre (planted) orchard and distillery. Rock 12 Distillery is the first agricultural distillery in Santa Barbara County. Since our move, we have lived, farmed and started a business utilizing the water of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District. While always being conservation minded, living agriculturally has only amplified that in these last years. The deep need to sustain our ground water for the families and farmers utilizing the SYVR is paramount for us. My vision is that our small farm will be held in our family for generations, a vision I knowingly share with many of my neighbors. My hope in joining the board would be to fairly represent the needs of local farmers both immediate and in the long term.

What Board or Committee experience do you have that would help you to be an effective Board Member?

I have extensive professional experience working with boards both in serving on and being accountable to. As detailed on my resume, I held board positions both with Y-Malawi (an international NGO partnering churches, micro finance lending, agricultural education and funding through sponsorship) and Santa Ynez Valley MOPS (mothers of preschoolers). I am familiar with the expectations of what makes a valuable board member. This includes responsive communication, thoughtful consideration of the interests I represent and solution-based insights. Both my temperament and experience instill a very collaborative approach in committee and board work.

What special skills, talents or experience (including volunteer experience) do you have?

My skills and experience are detailed in my included resume. In summation, I am computer and tech savvy, organized and responsible in notation and information collection and decisive in decision making. In the past five years, I developed relationships with the County of Santa Barbara offices in our effort to securing the extensive permitting required to operate a farm distillery. I now possess a solid understanding of the interplay between farmer, entrepreneur and the governing bodies (including but not limited to Land Use, Building, Environmental Health and County Fire).

What is your overall vision for SYRWCD?

My vision for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District is for this body to partner with the people living, farming and ranching in the districts. The values and perspective I would bring to this position would be sustainability and transparency. The SYRWCD must continue to fairly the interests of the residents. I understand that these interests are both immediate and long term. I believe that I can thoughtfully hold that tension in my representation.

I am grateful for your consideration and thank you in advance for your time. Letters of recommendation available upon request.

I desire a position as board member of the Santa Ynez Water Conservation District Division 4

Personal profile & Core Strengths

- ✓ A leader and articulate communicator with over fifteen years in supervision
- ✓ Extensive experience in budget management and operations
- ✓ Recruiting and developing staff and volunteers for the purpose of carrying out customer satisfaction outcomes
- ✓ Decisive problem solver
- ✓ Self-motivated, passionate, energetic, and willing to learn

Professional Experience & Accomplishments:

ROCK 12 DISTILLERY

January 2017 - present

Owner

- Secure all permits and licenses for the first agricultural distillery in Santa Barbara County
- Opened distillery and tasting room to the public in March 2023
- Develop network of local wine making partners and distillers
- Plant and manage 700 tree orchard (apricot, apples and quince)

CASA DUMETZ WINES/HAPPY CANYON WINES

June 2018 – October 2021

Tasting Room Associate

- Develop a working knowledge of Santa Barbara County wine industry
- Wine club shipping and communication
- Onsite vineyard tour associate

AMERICAN RED CROSS

September 2012 – October 2016

Regional Volunteer Manager

- Hire and supervise volunteer coordinators for the Desert to the Sea Region of the American Red Cross
- Design and update orientation to all prospective volunteers
- Lead monthly volunteer coordinator meetings
- Manage regional budgets
- Collaborate with Disaster Managers and First Aid/CPR instructors to place volunteers and meet organization outcomes
- Lead staff in creating meaningful volunteer opportunities
- Train staff and volunteers on new online database
- Adapt and implement national training and brand standards

FOREST HOME CONFERENCE CENTER

January 2009 – June 2012

Interim Senior Director of Guest Experience

September 2011-June 2012

- Supervise the team of directors responsible for each camp center
- Supervise registration and guest conference team
- Design and lead summer staff orientation and seasonal staff trainings
- Participate on the executive team
- Supervise the budgets for multiple departments
- Program and coordinate multiple conferences concurrently
- Develop and coordinate outcomes and projections for all programs
- Present and teach program philosophy and outcomes to all new staff members
- Collaborate with operations teams in the day to day running of multiple facilities and conference centers

Director of Children's Camp Center

January 2009 – June 2012

- Increase group occupancy by 19% over 3 years
- Interview and hire residential staff and develop a comprehensive training curriculum
- Raised \$250,000 from a major donor for architecture and permit costs for redesigned camp center
- Managed redesign for newly themed camp center
- Plan and direct Forest Home Children's Camps
- Regular speaker for conferences for groups of 200-400
- Regularly present program and financial updates to the Forest Home board
- Write articles and blogs for a variety of industry publications
- Achieved and maintained consistent excellence with customer reviews and evaluations

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL Chaplain Intern

June 2008 – August 2008

- Visited and spiritually counseled patients and families
- Participated in action reflection learning with peer chaplain interns
- Supported and counseled nursing and administrative staff

Y-MALAWI- Steering Committee Member and Trip Coordinator

January 2006 – December 2007

- Organized a committee to create a trip manual resource for all churches partnered with Y-Malawi
- Participated in quarterly meetings to decide and implement the start-up and growth of the partnership
- Coordinated and lead two mission trips to Lilongwe, Malawi

SAN CLEMENTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -

January 2002- August 2007

Director of Global Mission Partnerships

January 2006 – August 2007

- Taught Adult Education Classes on Mission and the Church
- Administered Mission Budget of over \$200,000 and regularly lead volunteer team meetings
- Coordinated and lead multiple trips to mission partners in Mexico, Malawi, Ukraine and the Gulf Coast

Director of Young Adult Ministry

January 2007 – August 2007

- Maintained weekly gathering and regular special events for young adults
- Tripled program attendance over my leadership tenure
- Developed a vision team with young adult leaders

Education:

PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, Princeton, NJ Master of Divinity

June 2009

HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, Fullerton, CA MBA

in process

- Emphasis on Marketing

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Irvine, Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

June 2004

- Minor in Philosophy
- Emphasis on Developmental Sociology
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Computer Skills:

- Basecamp (a collaborative marketing tool)
- Raisers Edge
- Volunteer Connection (nationally developed volunteer database)
- Various ARC websites for timecards, reimbursements, and budget management
- Microsoft Office Suite
- ProPresenter
- Microsoft Outlook
- Web design and management
- Proficient in both PC and Mac operating systems
- Excellent web navigation, social networking and research abilities

SYV References:

Angie Horn, proprietor of the Viking Inn Solvang 805-350-8314

Meighan Diethofer, District Representative 805-686-5095

Ofer Shepher, owner of Spear vineyard and winery 818-667-9295

RESOLUTION NO. 723

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
APPOINTING _____ TO FILL THE VACANCY
IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF DIVISION 4**

WHEREAS, by reason of the retirement of ART HIBBITS effective June 30, 2023, a vacancy has been created in the office of Director of Division 4 of this District, and the District timely notified the county elections official of said vacancy as required by Government Code Section 1780(b); and

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 1780 (referenced and incorporated by Water Code §74202) authorizes this Board to appoint a person to fill the vacancy and serve until the next general district election scheduled one hundred thirty (130) or more days after the effective date of the vacancy; and

WHEREAS, this Board previously elected to fill said vacancy by appointment pursuant to Section 1780(d); and

WHEREAS, a Notice of Vacancy, including notice of the District's election to fill said vacancy by appointment, was duly posted as required by Government Code Section 1780 at three (3) conspicuous places within the District not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the adoption of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the power and privilege of filling said vacancy by appointment now rests with the remaining members of the Board of Directors by virtue of said Section 1780; and

WHEREAS, _____ is knowledgeable about the affairs of the District and has been determined by this Board of Directors as an appropriate person to fill said vacancy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by this Board of Directors as follows:

1. That _____ be and hereby is appointed to the office of Director of Division 4 of this District, formerly held by ART HIBBITS, to hold said office until the next general district election and thereafter until the person who is elected at that election has been qualified.
2. That the Secretary of the District prepare and transmit to the Secretary of State and the Santa Barbara County Clerk an amended Statement of Fact as required by Government Code Section 53051(b) and notify said county elections official of said appointment no later than 15 days after the appointment.

3. That the District's staff and attorneys are authorized to do all things necessary to carry out the appointment of _____.

The foregoing resolution being on motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____, was authorized by the following vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Directors:

NOES, Directors:

ABSENT/ABSTAINING, Directors:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said district as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors at a special meeting duly held on the 15th day of August 2023.

Cynthia Allen, President

Amber M. Thompson, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 724

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION TO**

ART HIBBITS

WHEREAS, ART HIBBITS was duly appointed to the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District on September 14, 2005 and served on the District Board with distinction and competence from that date until June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, during this period he was involved in extensive conservation, protection, and planning activities of the District, including:

- ◆ Operation of the required downstream release provisions relating to the Cachuma Project, which resulted in the efficient recharge of the aquifers of the Santa Ynez River above the Lompoc Narrows and the aquifers of the Lompoc Groundwater Basin;
- ◆ Protection of the rights of the District's groundwater pumpers;
- ◆ Defense of the Cachuma Project Settlement Agreement, involving issues relating to water quantity, water quality, environmental protection, and flood control;
- ◆ Improvement of the District's Groundwater Well Registration and Production Reporting Program;
- ◆ Compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2015;
- ◆ Creation and implementation of three Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the Santa Ynez River Groundwater Basin, Bulletin 118 Basin No. 3-15, Central, Western and Eastern Management Areas, and the formation of three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies;
- ◆ Compliance with all laws, regulations and executive orders of the United States and State of California;
- ◆ Promotion of sound District finances and long-term planning; and
- ◆ Involvement in many issues associated with the protection of water rights within the District; and

WHEREAS, his in-depth knowledge of farming and agriculture was an invaluable resource to the District.

WHEREAS, Art Hibbits is younger than the hills and valley that surround his family’s farm and older than most of the trees he steadfastly cares for; orchardist, vigneron, and farmer in the Lompoc Valley for over 50 years, steadfastly and responsibly caring for his crops; master of his home, his dog and his barbeque pit; tirelessly working with consistency and dedication.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by this Board of Directors as follows:

1. ART HIBBITS be acknowledged and honored on his departure from his position as Director of Division 4 of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District; and
2. On behalf of the citizens of the Santa Ynez and Lompoc Valleys, the Board of Directors and Staff of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District hereby conveys to ART HIBBITS its sincere appreciation for a job well done and its heartfelt belief that the community in which he served remains indebted to him for his valuable service.
3. Commends ART HIBBITS for being a gracious host, a family man, a pillar of the community, and a friend to all who meet him.

The foregoing resolution being on motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____, was authorized by the following vote:

AYES, and in favor thereof, Directors:

NOES, Directors:

ABSENT/ABSTAINING, Directors:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of said district as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors on the 15th day of August 2023.

Cynthia Allen, President

Amber M. Thompson, Secretary