Napa County Resource Conservation District

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

AGENDA

Monday, November 16, 2026 at 8:00 A.M.

JoAnn Busenbark Board Room, Napa Valley Transit Authority (NVTA), 625 Burnell St, Napa, CA

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Napa County Resource Conservation District ("Napa RCD" or "District") will hold a special meeting of its Board of Directors in-person at the location noted above. All materials relating to the agenda are available for public inspection at the District office Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., except for District Holidays. The agenda is available online at: http://naparcd.org/

The public should attend Board meetings in-person to ensure the ability to observe and participate. Remote teleconference access is provided for the public's convenience and in the event that a Director requests remote participation due to just cause pursuant to Government Code section 54953.8.3 or the Board of Directors conducts a teleconference meeting pursuant to Government Code Sections 54953.8 and 54953.8.2 during an emergency. Please be advised that if a Director is not participating in the meeting remotely for just cause or the Board of Directors is not conducting a teleconference meeting during an emergency, remote participation for members of the public is provided for convenience only, and in the event that the Zoom teleconference connection malfunctions for any reason, the Board of Directors reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote access and take action on any agenda item. The public may participate telephonically or electronically via the methods below:

Via videoconference at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86774601951?pwd=FIetJfb3ATY0qeJ1FIy5rw539hVUaX.1&from=addon
Meeting ID: 867 7460 1951, Password: 759723

Via teleconference at: Call 669-900-9128 and enter: Meeting ID: 867 7460 1951, Password: 759723

Members of the public may comment on any subject over which the District has jurisdiction that is not on the meeting agenda during the general Public Comment item of the agenda. Under the Brown Act, Directors may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen to comments made during the general Public Comment. Comments related to a specific item on the agenda must be reserved until the time the agenda item is considered and the Chair invites public comment. Per District policy, each speaker is allotted 3-5 minutes for comment on each agendized item.

Members of the public may submit a public comment in writing by emailing Tatia@NapaRCD.prg by 4:00 P.M. on the day prior to the meeting with "Public Comment" as the subject line (for comments related to an agenda item, please include the item number). All written comments should be 500 words or less and will be entered into the record but not read out loud.

Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, aids, or services must be made to Tatia Wieland, District Secretary, at 707-690-3110 or Tatia@NapaRCD.org during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to the time of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order and Roll Call: The meeting is to be called to order by the Chair at 8:00 A.M.

B. Approval of the Agenda: The Board will consider approval of the agenda for this meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may comment on any subject over which the District has jurisdiction that is not on the meeting agenda at this time. Comments related to a specific item on the agenda must be reserved until the time the agenda item is considered and the Chair invites public comment. While members of the public are welcome to address the Board of Directors, under the Brown Act, Directors may not deliberate or take action on items not on the agenda, and generally may only listen.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent calendar are considered ministerial or non-substantive and are approved by a single motion. With the concurrence of the Chair, a Director may request discussion of an item on the consent calendar.

A. Minutes from the October 8, 2026 Regular Meeting.

Recommendation: Approve the minutes from the October 8, 2026 Regular Meeting.

B. Bills Approved by the Executive Director.

Recommendation: Ratify bills approved by the Executive Director.

C. Regular District Bills from October 2026.

Recommendation: Approve District Bills from October 2026.

D. Agreement No. 2026024 with Ecological Solutions CA, LLC for the Westwood Hills Broom Removal Project.

An agreement with Ecological Solutions CA, LLC for French broom removal on approximately 41 acres at Westwood Hills Park in an amount not to exceed $280,000. The work includes cutting and piling, pile burning, and herbicide treatment of regrowth. See the accompanying staff memo for more details.

Recommendation: Approve Agreement No. 2026024 with Ecological Solutions CA, LLC in an amount not to exceed $280,000 for the Westwood Hills Broom Removal Project and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

E. Formation of Policy Advisory Committee and Appointment of Members.

The Executive Director recommends that the Board form a 12-month ad hoc Policy Advisory Committee of no more than three Directors. The Committee would work with staff on new and revised District policies, starting with new Severe Weather and Compensation policies this fall. Later work would likely cover procurement, legislative advocacy, finance, and Board policies. The Committee is advisory only, and all proposed policies will come to the full Board for adoption. The Board considered this item at its October 8, 2026 Regular Meeting but took no action because several Directors were absent. Since then, Directors Allison Day and Bruce

Barge have asked to join the Committee. The draft purpose, structure, and scope of work are included in the meeting packet.

Recommendation: Approve the formation of an ad hoc Policy Advisory Committee as described in the attached draft, and appoint Directors Allison Day and Bruce Barge to serve on the Committee.

F. Budget Amendment No. 2 to the FY 2026-27 Annual Budget.

Budget Amendment No. 2 updates the FY 2026-27 Annual Budget to reflect additional project work now anticipated during the fiscal year, particularly in the District's forest health and wildfire resilience program. The amendment increases total revenues by $191,255, to $7,702,306, based on higher anticipated invoicing on specific existing grants, primarily federal awards, the Department of Conservation Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program block grant, and other state agency agreements. It increases total expenses by $173,815, to $7,403,481, to support the additional work. The largest expense increases are professional services for project implementation (+$113,000); salaries and benefits (+$34,519), reflecting the recent hiring of two Forestry Project Managers and recruitment of a Community Engagement Coordinator, a net increase of one position over the budgeted headcount; and equipment (+$20,000). Staff anticipates additional budget amendments may be necessary during FY 2026-27 given the District's increasingly dynamic funding environment.

Recommendation: Approve Budget Amendment No. 2 to the FY 2026-27 Annual Budget as presented.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Introduction of Rodrigo Vargasrosales, Forester.

Presenter: Ali Blodorn, Forest Health & Restoration Program Director, Napa RCD; Rodrigo Vargasrosales, Forester, Napa RCD. **Duration:** 10 Minutes (5 min presentation / 5 min discussion)

Description: Rodrigo Vargasrosales joined Napa RCD on October 19, 2026 as Forester on the Forest Health & Restoration team led by Alison Blodorn. He will manage forest health and wildfire resilience projects and give forestry technical assistance to landowners across Napa County. Ali will provide context on staffing needs within the Forest Health Program and introduce Rodrigo's position. Rodrigo will introduce himself and share his background and his goals for the role.

Recommendation: No Board action required. This item is for information and discussion.

B. Resolution No. 2026-03 - Standing Request for Appointment of Directors in Lieu of Election.

Presenter: Lucas Patzek, Executive Director, Napa RCD. **Duration:** 10 Minutes (5 min presentation / 5 min discussion)

Description: The terms of three Directors (Gretchen Stranzl McCann, Jim Lincoln, and Bruce Barge) expire at noon on November 27, 2026. As discussed in the attached memo, Public Resources Code section 9314(b) allows the District Board, by adoption of a resolution, to request the Napa County Board of Supervisors to make appointments to the District Board in lieu of holding an election. This request for appointment would apply to the three Director terms expiring this year and to all future expiring terms.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 2026-03 requesting that the Napa County Board of Supervisors appoint Directors in lieu of election pursuant to Public Resources Code section 9314(b), and direct the Executive Director to transmit certified copies to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and the Napa County Registrar of Voters.

C. Napa River Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Program – Project Update.

Presenter: Martin Perales, Senior Project Manager, Napa RCD. **Duration:** 20 Minutes (10 min presentation / 10 min discussion)

Description: Staff will update the Board on the Napa River Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Program, a multi-year, watershed-scale effort to remove man-made barriers that block federally threatened Central California Coast steelhead and other native fish from historic spawning and rearing habitat. The Program runs from August 2024 to December 2028. It has five parts: (1) design and permitting of the Pickle Canyon Creek barrier; (2) design and permitting of the Soda Creek barriers; (3) construction and monitoring of the Sulphur Creek bridge replacement and fish ladder removal; (4) removal of small barriers with the Napa County Flood Control District; and (5) a watershed-wide barrier assessment and ranking that will serve as a long-term "project pipeline," with full design of the top three sites. Together, the work is expected to restore access to about 15 miles of habitat and lay the groundwork for another 56 miles. The update will cover progress on each part since the Board's last briefing, as well as upcoming milestones and funding needs.

Recommendation: Receive the update and provide feedback to staff. No action is required.

D. Regenerate Napa – Proposed Partnership with Zero Foodprint.

Presenter: Anthony Myint, Executive Director, Zero Foodprint; introduced by Lucas Patzek, Executive Director, Napa RCD. **Duration:** 30 Minutes (15 min presentation / 15 min discussion)

Description: Zero Foodprint (ZFP) is a nonprofit that channels contributions from food and beverage businesses and philanthropists into on-the-ground regenerative agriculture projects. It has awarded more than $10 million to over 1000 farm projects. Napa RCD and ZFP are developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to launch a Napa County program, working name "Regenerate Napa." The program would raise funds from local businesses and philanthropists to help Napa farms and vineyards adopt soil health and carbon farming practices such as compost application, cover crops, and hedgerows. Many local growers are under significant economic pressure, and this kind of support could help them continue protecting their soil. Napa RCD would recruit sponsors, provide technical assistance, and monitor projects. ZFP would administer the fund and report on impact. Mr. Myint will describe ZFP's model, its results in other regions, and the longer-term potential of an industry-wide funding approach for healthy soil in Napa County. Staff expects to bring the MOU to the Board for authorization at a future meeting.

Recommendation: Receive the presentation and provide feedback to staff. No action is required.

5. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. USDA-NRCS Report

Presenter: Evelyn Denzin, District Conservationist. **Duration:** 5 Minutes.

B. Funding & Visibility Committee Report

Presenter: Frances Knapczyk, Program Director. **Duration:** 5 Minutes.

C. **Huichica Creek Preserve Advisory Committee Report**

Presenter: Aaron Fairbrook, Program Manager. **Duration:** 5 Minutes.

D. **Executive Director's Report**

Presenter: Lucas Patzek, Executive Director. **Duration:** 5 Minutes.

E. **Directors' Reports**

Presenter: Any Director. **Duration:** 5 Minutes.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**