



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

January 28, 2025

Scott Powers
County Chief Financial Officer

County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

Danielle Keys
County Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

Subject: Appointment of Four Directors to the Ventura County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors with Terms Expiring November 29, 2029

Recommendation:

Appoint the following individuals to the Ventura County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors. The term of office for each appointment is four years and will expire on November 29, 2029.

- Misty McNamara (By Supervisorial District 1)
- Kevin Cannon (By Supervisorial District 2)
- Remy Richardson (By Supervisorial District 3)
- Brianne Schwabauer Whitcomb (By Supervisorial District 4)

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

None

Discussion:

The Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD) is a special district created by statute and governed by a board of seven directors. RCD is legally and organizationally separate from the County. RCD boundaries include only unincorporated land throughout the County. The mission of RCD is to support both public and private parties within the County in development and advancement of resource conservation practices. These practices include farm, range, open space, wildlife, recreation, watershed, and water quality, among others. In particular, RCD provides assistance in regard to water and soil conservation, runoff and soil erosion prevention and control, and erosion stabilization. RCD is funded primarily by grants; however, it also administers some fee-for-service programs.

Board of Supervisors
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From 1994 through 2015, your Board appointed members to the RCD Board. In 2015, the RCD Board rescinded its former resolution authorizing such appointments and opted to have its members elected by district voters. On June 20, 2018, the RCD Board adopted and timely filed with the Clerk of the Board a resolution requesting your Board to once again appoint RCD Board members in lieu of the elections that would otherwise have been held last November and every two years thereafter. Under the provisions of the Public Resources Code, your Board therefore "shall appoint directors ... from those candidates who have filed an application with [your Board], as prescribed by [your Board]." (Pub. Resources Code, § 9314, subd. (b)(1).)

RCD Board members' terms of office are for four years, staggered to fall on even numbered (election) years, with the terms of office for four seats having expired on November 30, 2024. For these terms of office that expired last year, the window of opportunity for your Board to fill those seats is 60 days, expiring January 30, 2025.

To be eligible for appointment to the RCD Board, nominees must meet qualifications required by subdivisions (a) and (b) of Public Resources Code section 9352. These sections require that a director:

a) Be a registered voter in the state;

and

b) 1. Reside within the district *and* either own real property in the district *or* have served for at least two years as an associate director providing advisory or other assistance to the RCD Board;

or

2. Be a designated agent of a resident landowner within the district.

On September 18, 2018 your Board approved an appointment process that starts with District #1 and moves sequentially through all five supervisorial districts as the RCD seats expire.

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Election/Expiration Year (Nov)	2018	2020	2022	2024	2026	2028	2030
BOS Appointment Year (Jan)	2019	2021	2023	2025	2027	2029	2031
Supervisory District 1	X	X		X	X	X	
Supervisory District 2	X	X		X	X		X
Supervisory District 3	X		X	X		X	X
Supervisory District 4		X	X	X		X	X
Supervisory District 5		X	X		X	X	

The recommended appointments are as follows:

- Misty McNamara (By Supervisory District 1)
- Kevin Cannon (By Supervisory District 2)
- Remy Richardson (By Supervisory District 3)
- Brianne Schwabauer Whitcomb (By Supervisory District 4)

This letter was reviewed by County Counsel, the Auditor-Controller's Office and the County Executive Office. If you have any questions, please contact Justin Bertoline, Program Management Analyst in the CEO Budget and Finance Division at (805) 677-8759.

Sincerely,



Justin Bertoline
Program Management Analyst



Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer