

DELANO MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

July 17, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Art Armendariz called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the District Board Room.

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Trustees Present – Armendariz, Perales, Cano

Trustees Absent – Alexander, Nunez, Jr.

Others Present – Thai Thao, Manager; Sergio Vega, Assistant Manager; Kristen Baker, Office Administrator; one member of the public (12:10 p.m.)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION**

The Flag Salute was led by Trustee Perales.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

Trustee Armendariz opened the floor to public communication. There were no public comments at the District and no comments submitted on Zoom.

**PRESENTATION**

Trustee Armendariz opened the floor to Presentations. There were no presentations.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Trustee Armendariz proceeded to request approval of the district bills for the month of June, as well as minutes of the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting held on June 19, 2025, and accepting of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Reimbursement Report. A motion was made by Trustee Cano, seconded by Trustee Perales and a 3 – 0 – 2 roll call vote: Perales Aye, Cano Aye, Armendariz Aye, Alexander Absent, Nunez Jr. Absent; carried to approve the District bills in the amount of \$328,034.29 for June (24-25FY \$45,644.21 25-26FY \$282,390.08), and the Minutes of the Regular Board of Trustee Meeting of June 19, 2025, as well as accepting the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Reimbursement Report.

## INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Under Item VII-A-i Manager Report, the District Manager, Thai Thao, reported:

District staff completed CEU requirements for the CDPH Vector Control License (2023–2025). The District Manager hosted Congressman Valadao’s staff for a tour and, along with the Assistant Manager, visited vendors for storage shed quotes—an order has been placed pending permits. A Storage Building RFP was released on June 27, with a site walk held on July 10. Staff attended a CalChambers wage violations webinar, and the Office Administrator met with the County Auditor Controller’s office regarding new accounting systems. AEDs were installed and registered as part of the safety program. A West Nile Virus-related death was reported in Tulare County, outside the District’s service area.

Laboratory and Surveillance per Scientific Program Director, Javier Valdivias:

Routine mosquito surveillance continued through the month of mid-June and mid-July. A total of 148 mosquito samples has been tested for arboviruses, all of which were negative. Field cage trials were conducted in McFarland to evaluate equipment efficacy. Spray equipment was retrofitted with a Lazy Susan attachment, allowing spray angle to be adjusted to 45 degrees due to findings. There have been 0 WNV/SLEV/WEEV human cases reported to the District by the local public health department. There were 88 mosquito samples collected from June 13 to July 11, 2025.

Under Item VII-A-ii Operation Report, the Assistant Manager, Sergio Vega, reported on:

A comprehensive field study was conducted on the Kubota Granule/Spray System, documenting best practices and treatment effectiveness. Research into drone program and provided vendors for future spray drone acquisition. Equipment improvements included a modified fogger with a swiveling mechanism, enhancing field performance. Two fogging missions were completed in McFarland in response to high mosquito counts. Larval activity was detected in orchards and vineyards, prompting treatments using various equipment. A new Instagram series was launched to boost public engagement, with more episodes planned. Training materials were developed for quad and Kubota treatments. Technicians are actively managing increased larval activity, particularly in Zones E, B, and D, with strong suppression results. A full-team fogging operation was documented for training and PR use. The District also engaged the public during McFarland’s Freedom Fest by distributing materials and answering questions.

Under Item VII-A-iii Financial Report, the Office Administrator, Kristen Baker, reported:

- a) Monthly Financial Report was given comparing current numbers with the same period last year, and gave totals of all financial accounts.
- b) Dental and Vision Claims for the month were reported.
- c) Petty Cash detail was given; balance and activity.
- d) California CLASS income earned on deposit was reported.
- e) The Office Administrator reported to the Board that the Kern County Auditor Controller’s office has a new accounting and reporting system and revenues may not be correct at this time; pending updates from the County.

## OLD BUSINESS

Under item VIII of Old Business, Trustee Armendariz opened the floor to Old Business. There was no Old Business.

## NEW BUSINESS

Under item IX-A of New Business, the District Manager asked the Board to review and authorize the Manager to sign and return the consent of sale form approved by the Kern County Board of Supervisors for approval of sale for Kern County Tax-Defaulted Properties. After review, a motion was made by Trustee Cano, seconded by Trustee Perales and a 3 – 0 – 2 roll call vote: Perales Aye, Cano Aye, Armendariz Aye, Alexander Absent, Nunez Absent; carried to approve the manager to sign and return the consent form.

Under item IX-B of New Business, the District Manager asked the Board to review candidates and select for the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) Board of Directors election. After discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Cano, seconded by Trustee Perales and a 3 – 0 – 2 roll call vote: Perales Aye, Cano Aye, Armendariz Aye, Alexander Absent, Nunez Absent; carried to approve a vote for all incumbents and Steven Ruettgers.

Under item IX-C of New Business, the Board was asked to approve amendments to multiple District policies. The Manager provided redlined versions of the two policies with amendments and explained reasons for changes to the Board. Changes were made to clarify language and match with California's Paid Sick Leave Laws. The Manager also requested the Board approve one additional Holiday, Columbus Day, for all District Staff. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Cano, seconded by Trustee Perales and a 3 – 0 – 2 roll call vote: Perales Aye, Cano Aye, Armendariz Aye, Alexander Absent, Nunez Absent; carried to approve the amended District Policies #2030 Holidays, additional Columbus Day Holiday and #2040 Sick Leave.

Under item IX-D of New Business, the Manager presented an engagement letter received from Albert & Associates, LLP for the District's FY 2024-2025 financial audit. The Manager reported that a request for proposal was also sent out to other auditing firms and CPAs. The Manager asked the Board if they would like to table and reissue the request. Trustee Cano asked about cost of the audit with Albert & Associates, LLP. The Manager referred to the listed price in the engagement letter provided. After much discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Cano, seconded by Trustee Perales and a 3 – 0 – 2 roll call vote: Perales Aye, Cano Aye, Armendariz Aye, Alexander Absent, Nunez Absent; carried to approve the Manager to sign engagement letter with Albert & Associates, LLP.

Under item IX-E of New Business, the Assistant Manager provided a thorough description of pros and cons of submitted spray Drone models currently available. The Board was asked to set an allowance and approve the Manager to select a vendor for purchase of a spray drone. After much discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Cano, seconded by Trustee Perales and a 3 – 0 – 2 roll call vote: Cano Aye, Perales Aye, Armendariz Aye, Alexander Absent, Nunez Absent; carried to table the purchase of a spray drone until staff gathers further information regarding the spray drones.

Under item IX-F of New Business, the Board was asked to approve the Manager to select a vendor for District vehicle decal wraps. The Manager explained he has reached out to vendors for informal bids of vehicle vinyl wrap services. The Manager explained that one vendor provided an explanation of their material and ink used. Following discussion, a motion was made by Trustee Cano, seconded by Trustee Perales and a 3 – 0 – 2 roll call vote: Perales Aye, Cano Aye, Armendariz Aye, Alexander Absent, Nunez Absent; carried to table vinyl wrap vendor selection and have staff reach out and obtain more information from vendors.

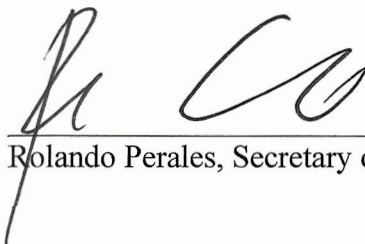
Under item IX-G of New Business, the Board was asked to review the Fiscal Year End 2024-2025 financial statements of the adopted two year 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 District Budget. The Board discussed line items from the statements and asked for reasons of overages on certain line items like equipment maintenance and training & safety. The Manager explained recent AED purchases were placed in training & safety line item and the District had several work trucks requiring parts replaced during the fiscal year resulting in an increase in equipment maintenance expenditures.

## BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Under item X Board Member Reports, Trustee Armendariz asked if there were any reports or announcements from members of the Board. There were no reports or announcements from members of the Board.

## ADJOURNMENT

Under item XI Adjournment, the date for the Regular Board Meeting was noted – August 21, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. at the District Office. Motion was made by Trustee Cano, seconded by Trustee Perales and a 3 – 0 – 2 roll call vote: Cano Aye, Perales Aye, Armendariz Aye, Alexander Absent, Nunez Absent; carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

 for Rolando Perales  
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Rolando Perales, Secretary of the Board