

**CONEJO RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
June 19, 2025
6:00 PM
HILLCREST CENTER
M I N U T E S**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Nickles called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and Nickles the flag salute.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Cusworth, Huffer, Nickles, and Orozco

Directors Absent: Buss

Staff Present: General Manager Friedl; Callis, Recreation and Community Services Director; Mooney, Parks and Planning Director; Smith, Management Services Director; and Dickson, Administrative Assistant

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

4. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

George Lange, retired CRPD board member and current Board Chair of Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), gave a brief report about MRCA's activities, including assisting the Trust for Public Land in a property acquisition project in Orange County, and working over the last few years to acquire three fire engines. The Board thanked George for his report.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Cusworth, seconded by Orozco, and carried 4-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes June 5, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

B. Approval of Warrants
Accounts Payable Check Registers Total \$661,813.20
Payroll \$548,000

It was moved by Huffer, seconded by Cusworth, and carried 4-0 to approve the consent calendar as presented.

7. NEW ITEMS

A. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721 – Adopt Resolution No. 061925-A

Smith reported that after meeting with the bargaining committee, a tentative agreement had been reached and that the agreement was ratified by a vote of the members. She provided highlights of the new agreement and answered questions from the Board.

It was moved by Cusworth, seconded by Huffer, and carried 4-0 to adopt Resolution No. 061925-A approving the MOU between the District and SEIU Local 721 and adjusting employee compensation and benefits as outlined, that it be read in title only and all future readings be waived.

B. CRPD Salary Schedule

Smith reported that the salary schedule will become effective on June 28, 2025, and reflects the changes in the MOU with SEIU that we have adopted. The only other change is a note on differential pay.

It was moved by Orozco, seconded by Huffer, and carried 4-0 to approve and adopt the CRPD Salary Schedule as presented.

C. AB 2561 – Annual Public Hearing on Job Vacancies and Recruitment/Retention Efforts

Smith reported that AB 2561 passed last year and requires that we report vacancies for our represented positions. The primary goal of the bill is to ensure that if there were public agencies that had represented positions that were beyond a 20% vacancy rate, the union would be offered the opportunity to discuss recruitment/retention efforts with the Board. The law also requires all agencies to provide their vacancy status (the District vacancy rate is about 2%) and to offer the union the opportunity to make a presentation to the Board before the budget is adopted. The District extended an invitation to the union to attend the Board meeting.

Nickles opened the Public Hearing. Smith answered questions from the Board.

There being no public present, Nickles closed the Public Hearing.

D. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Final Budget Fiscal Year 2025-26

Smith reported that the budget needs to be approved by all four of the Joint Authority's partners and CRPD is the first. It will be on the agenda for the other three Boards next month. Smith reviewed the budget report with the Board, including an overview, anticipated revenue sources, expenses by category, and a list of projects. Changes include a reduction in enterprise revenues (parking and filming), focusing on wildfire resiliency, and pass-through agreements for project management. MRCA budgeted \$4.7M for insurance premiums. Smith answered questions from the Board.

It was moved by Orozco, seconded by Huffer and carried 4-0 to approve the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Final Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025-26.

E. California Special Districts Association (CSDA) 2025 Board Elections

Friedl gave a brief review of the three candidates and opened it up for discussion.

It was moved by Huffer, seconded by Orozco, and carried 4-0 to select and cast the District's ballot for Incumbent, Scott Duffield, to serve as the representative to the CSDA Board of Directors.

8. DEFERRED MATTERS

A. Public Hearing Preliminary Budget Fiscal Years 2025/26 – 2026/27 Final Operating and Capital Budgets Fiscal Years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 – Adopt Resolution 061925-B

Smith reported only minimal changes to the previous document. Changes include eliminating duplicate items and implementing the costs associated with the MOU with SEIU. Smith discussed the policy matter regarding the District's carry-over authority for the capital projects.

Nickles opened the Public Hearing. There being no public present, Nickles closed the Public Hearing

It was moved by Cusworth, seconded by Orozco, and carried 4-0 to adopt Resolution 061925-B adopting the Fiscal Years 2025-26 and 2026-27 budgets

for all funds as presented, that it be read in title only and all future readings be waived.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Recreation Division Highlights**
- B. Park Dedication Fees**
- C. Budget Performance Report – May 2025**

11. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Parks Division Report

Mooney reported that there was a recent ad hoc meeting regarding Conejo Creek West and Northwest. Staff is scheduling stakeholder meetings with our two user groups, ETI Corral and Las Flores Community Garden. He will keep the Board and public informed of outreach meetings that will take place in late Summer and Fall.

B. Recreation Division Report

Callis reported that there are 288 kids in day camp and 974 people participating in summer programs. Touch-a-Truck was well-attended, and she thanked Huffer and the Kiwanis for volunteering at the event. On Tuesday, June 24th, Tim Duerr will be making a presentation to the City regarding recreation and the District's partnerships with them. July is Park and Recreation Month. On June 13th, the Goebel Center had a Summer party with about 150 people; they enjoyed dancing, hamburgers, and cobbler. There was a 45-minute part-time staff training with about 100 people; after the training, they ate hamburgers and hotdogs and enjoyed the Teen Center backyard. She reminded the Board to get their parking spots for the Fourth of July fireworks, and that there will also be activities at the Borchard Center and the pools.

C. Management Services Division Report

Smith reported that the last couple of months have been very busy, and she thanked her staff. She will be out of the office on Friday, June 20th.

D. General Manager's Report

Friedl complimented staff on their work on the agenda items over the past few months. Conejo Valley Days starts tonight. Chair Nickles and recreation staff will be at the Thousand Oaks City Council's meeting on June 24th to present CRPD's annual report. At that same meeting, the City is scheduled to approve its downtown campus Master Plan. Friedl shared high quality imagery from the city's YouTube channel that shows their vision for the Civic Arts Plaza. The District recently purchased Placer.ai, a service that allows for collection of park visitor counts. It's a powerful counting tool that involves geofencing and mapping. A presentation to the Board regarding this technology will be planned for a future meeting. Friedl advised that staff has adjusted workload so that the meeting on July 3rd may be canceled with no effect on the following meeting, July 17th. Friedl stated the need for an Executive Closed Session with no report expected.

E. Directors Reports and Follow-up Reports on Meetings/Conferences Attended

Cusworth attended two city pop-up concerts in the park. She also attended Americans Supporting Americans and a Juneteenth celebration. Cusworth has students from China who enjoy badminton, and she asked if the District was providing enough opportunities for badminton. Callis reported that current badminton needs are being met. Cusworth read a quote from a book titled "The Nature Fix". Orozco had a lot of fun at Touch-a-Truck. She attended a Property and Acquisitions Committee meeting with Director Buss. Huffer has enjoyed three of the city's pop-up concerts. On June 6th, he stopped by the Safe Passage program at Conejo Community Center, and the kids seemed to be having a lot of fun. On June 10th, he attended the Community Action ribbon cutting. He had a lot of fun volunteering with the Kiwanis club at Touch-a-Truck. Nickles attended an ad hoc committee meeting for Conejo Creek West and Northwest with Buss. He also enjoyed attending Touch-a-Truck with his grandchildren. He will be attending the City Council meeting on June 24th. County Supervisor Gorell is appointing Nickles to the Ventura County Parks Advisory Council. Huffer added that two ladies who attended the last Board meeting invited them to the Juneteenth celebration at Ascension Lutheran, and it was attended by Friedl, Cusworth, and Huffer.

12. REQUEST STATUS REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT AGENDAS

13. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

14. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8

Fireworks Hill owned by City of Thousand Oaks (aka 401/403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360) APNs: 525-0-053-11 (7.73 acres); 525-0-060-09 (5.69 acres); 525-0-060-11 (6.40 acres); 525-0-053-19 (2.40 acres); 525-0-060-08 (3.32 acres); 525-0-060-13 (4.99 acres); 525-0-060-12 (26.99 acres); 525-0-053-17 (3.11 acres) Agency Negotiator: General Manager Jim Friedl, Purpose of closed session is to discuss price & terms.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 – District Representatives: General Manager Friedl, Management Services Director Smith, Adrianna Guzman, Esq. Relative to Labor Negotiations with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) (Represented Employees) and Salary Schedules and Fringe Benefits for Unrepresented Employees

15. ADJOURN

Nickles adjourned the Regular Meeting at 6:55pm to the next regular meeting on July 17, 2025 (July 3, 2025, Regular Board meeting is canceled).

Date: _____

Attest:

Approved by:

Aline Reynders, Executive Assistant

Doug Nickles, Chair