

MOSQUITO AND VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
of Santa Barbara County  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF TRUSTEES  
October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

The special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Mosquito and Vector Management District of Santa Barbara County was held at 1:00 PM, on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 via teleconference and in person at the Santa Barbara City College Wake Center Campus, Room 20.

1. ROLL CALL.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

President Robert Williams  
Vice-President Joe Franken  
Secretary Hugh Rafferty  
Trustee Charles Blair  
Trustee Russell Dahlquist  
Trustee Danica Taber

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Trustee Teri Jory  
Trustee Barbara Silver

IN ATTENDANCE:

Brian Cabrera, General Manager  
Jessica Sprigg, Administrative Assistant  
Carrie Troup, CPA  
Jena Acos, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck  
Paige Samblanet, Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck (remotely)  
Holly Harris, Rincon Consultants (remotely, for Item 6B)  
Eric Zahn, Tidal Influence (remotely, for Item 6B)

2. CONSIDERATION OF TELECONFERENCING NOTIFICATIONS OR REQUESTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS Per Government Code § 54953(f), less than a quorum of Board members may on a limited basis videoconference to Board meetings for just cause or emergency circumstances  
*-No requests for remote participation.*

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA  
*-No changes requested.*

4. PUBLIC COMMENT-Time reserved for the public to address the Board of Trustees relative to matters of District business not on the agenda. Comment time regarding specific agenda items will be available during consideration of the particular agenda items.  
*-None.*

5. OLD BUSINESS. The Board will discuss and may take action on the following items:

- A. Consider and approve the Memorandums of Understanding and Mosquito Management Plan to provide mosquito management services to: (1) Storke Ranch for fiscal years 2025- 2026 and 2026-2027; and (2) Santa Barbara Airport for fiscal year 2025-2026.

*-Jena Acos provided background on this item. She explained that, following objections to the MOUs expressed by representatives of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society at the July board meeting, an ad-hoc committee was formed and met with Audubon representatives as well as*

*Santa Barbara Airport and Storke Ranch staff. Revisions were made to the MOUs including the addition of two larvicide products that do not contain Methoprene, a stipulation that District staff be accompanied by a qualified biologist when treating Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas on the airport property, an acknowledgement that is required to be signed by District staff prior to treatment at the airport to exercise extreme caution when entering the airport's environmentally-sensitive habitat areas, additional explanation and mapping of the treatment areas and activities, and language that expressly prohibits use of the Argo in the Goleta Slough unless authorized and in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws.*

*Paige Samblanet addressed further objections that were stated in a 254-page comment letter provided to the District by Marc Chytilo, representing the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, 58 minutes prior to the meeting. During public comment for this item, Katherine Anderson, with the Law Office of Marc Chytilo, also objected to the approval of the MOUs without substantive revisions, and requested that approval be continued to a future meeting. Mark Holmgren reiterated the request to hold off on the approval of the MOUs pending further communication and collaboration with the Audubon Society. Paige Samblanet responded to both Katherine Anderson and Mark Holmgren's concerns and objections regarding the MOUs and explained how the revisions specifically addressed their concerns.*

*Trustee Franken made a motion to approve the MOUs and associated Mosquito Management Plans to provide mosquito management services to Storke Ranch for FY 25-26, FY 26-27 and Santa Barbara Airport for FY 25-26. Motion seconded by Secretary Rafferty and passed 6-0-0 by roll call vote.*

6. NEW BUSINESS. The Board will discuss and may take action on the following items:

- A. Consider and approve a Notices of Exemption for the Memorandums of Understanding and Mosquito Management Plan to provide mosquito management services to: (1) Storke Ranch for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027; and (2) Santa Barbara Airport for fiscal year 2025-2026.

*Legal counsel explained that the MOUs are exempt from CEQA review for several reasons. First, the MOUs qualify for multiple categorical exemptions, and the many of the exceptions to those exemptions do not apply. Second, because the mosquito control activities are necessary to prevent or mitigate a potential public health emergency, including the spread of disease and impacts to wildlife and human populations, the statutory emergency exemption also applies. Finally, legal counsel explained during the meeting that the District's mosquito control efforts, as required by the California Health and Safety Code, likely do not meet the definition of a "project" under CEQA. The District is authorized by statute to take action to abate nuisances and control mosquito populations, and the approval of the MOUs is considered a ministerial action involving no discretionary decision-making, and therefore the MOUs are not subject to CEQA.*

*Marc Chytilo discussed the reasons that he believes the stated exemptions to CEQA do not apply. Paige Samblanet responded to Marc Chytilo's comments and explained why the categorical and statutory exemptions apply and why the MOUs are likely not a project that is subject to CEQA.*

*Trustee Blair made a motion to amend the Notices of Exemption for the MOUs to include an explanation that the approvals are ministerial actions, that the MOUs are not subject to CEQA, and additional clarification regarding the applicable exemptions. Trustee Blair further moved to approve the amended Notices of Exemption for the MOUs and the associated Mosquito Management Plans to provide mosquito management services to*

*Storke Ranch and the Santa Barbara Airport. Motion seconded by Trustee Dahlquist and passed 6-0-0 by roll call vote*

- B. Consider and approve an agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for a comprehensive Integrated Vector Management Plan for the District.

*-Trustee Dahlquist made a motion to approve an agreement with Rincon Consultants. Motion seconded by Trustee Blair and passed 6-0-0 by roll call vote. During public comment for this item, Mark Holmgren stated that, due to the lack of current information about resource richness/assets in the slough, survey work needs to be undertaken in order to establish a baseline and understand what precautions need to be implemented.*

7. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

I certify that the above minutes substantially reflect the actions of the Board:

APPROVED:

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Robert Williams  
Board President

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Hugh Rafferty  
Board Secretary