

**SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 9TH, 2025 AT 2:00 PM
SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S CHAMBERS
675 TEXAS STREET
FAIRFIELD, CA 94533

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Vaccarella
Mike Lewis
H. Kent Hansen
Dick Vanderkous
Jim Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Becker, SRCD Assoc. Dir.
Steven Chappell, SRCD
Kevin Clark, DWR
John Eudy, SRCD Assoc. Dir.
Mike Frost, Frost Slough
Desmond Mackell, SRCD
Kelli Perez, SRCD
Fred Reidel, SRCD Assoc. Dir.
Melissa Riley, DFW
Orlando Rocha, DFW
Jamel Stewart, DWR
Kathy Su, DFW
John Takekawa, SRCD
Dajanae Stitts, DFW

1. Call to Order ~ Mr. Vaccarella called the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors meeting to order at 2:07 PM.

2. Public Comments ~ There were no public comments.

3. Open Session ~ Mr. Vaccarella opened the Board of Directors meeting for July 9th, 2025. Mr. Vaccarella asked for consideration of agenda Item 3a.

- a) Approval of the June 11, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes ~ Mr. Vaccarella asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting of June 11, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Vanderkous to approve; all were in favor and the motion carried.
- b) Approval of Resolution of Appreciation 2526-1 honoring Dr. John Takekawa-SRCD's Operations Manager upon his retirement ~ Mr. Chappell read a prepared draft resolution for SRCD Board considerations. A motion was made by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve; all were in favor and the motion carried.

4. Financial Reports ~

- a) Approval of Vendor Claims for June 2025 ~ Mr. Chappell reported the June 2025 SRCD General Fund vendor claims totaled \$94,874.48. All expenses were regular general fund operations, salaries, or reimbursable contract expenses. Claim 157 was for drone mixing system for DWR FRPA contract. Claim 162 for BCDC Marsh Development Permit application for 2025 Dredging program. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2025 Lower Joice Island vendor claims totaled \$13,628.44. All expenses were normal LJI operational and salary expenses. Claim 75 and 77 were for materials for dock repairs at LJI from damage from the December 2024 storms. Mr. Chappell reported the June 2025 Water Managers Program vendor claims totaled \$32,990.40. All expenses were Water Managers operational and salary expenses. Discussion ensued. Mr. Waters moved to approve the vendor claim summaries as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.
- b) FY 25/26 SRCD ~ Draft Budget Approval ~ Mr. Chappell presented SRCD's FY 25/26 draft budgets at the June 11th Board meeting. Mr. Chappell presented the revised budget for adoption, which included an increase in interest on SRCD funds in the County Treasury and an increase in salary for two staff positions. The CalPERS retirement rates are about the same as last year. The budget has health insurance increase of 10% for half of the fiscal year as the rates increase in January. The Water Manager Program budget is covered by the 2015 SMPA Agreement contract and includes a payout of John's accrued leave balance upon retirement, 50% of which is budgeted to be reimbursed from DWR under the contract. Operations Manager position expenses are doubled for the month of July to account for the overlap for

cross training period Desmond Mackell before Mr. Takekawa's retirement. The budget also includes the annual contract COLA on Water Manager Program operational expenses. Salary considerations are also included. Lower Joice Island: operational and staff expenses are similar to last year, while projecting a contribution from the SCF endowment of 66,500. This year the budget includes a contribution from SRCD General Fund for habitat work.

Mr. Chappell reviewed projected grant budgets: Revenues will be lower this year, as several grants have ended. Fish Screen Maintenance is minimal with landowner reimbursements. NFWF grant will be coming to an end on August 1, 2025. Pest Weed Program is a pass thru landowner reimbursable grant. DWR Support grant has minimal reimbursable staff time, but only when work activities are requested by DWR. SMPA Cost Share (PAI) – remaining funding is dwindling down, reducing overall grant revenue overhead to SRCD. Delta Conservancy Pipe Grant, Bird Returns, DWR Mein's Landing, DWR FRPA, and UC Davis Fish & Fowl study will continue into next year. Special Revenue Department included small expenditures for the portable pump program, Potrero Hills Land Fill, and ENXCO funds. A motion was made to adopt the 25/26 budgets as presented by Mr. Waters and seconded by Mr. Vanderkous. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- c) Write off SRCD Bad Debt for FY 21/22 & 22/23 ~ Mr. Chappell presented the amount of \$2,319.80 for fiscal year 21/22 & 22/23 as bad debt to write off and to clear out receivables. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Lewis, all were in favor and the motion carried.

5. Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Report ~ Ms. Kathy Su presented the DFW report.

Ducks The staff at Grizzly Island is planning to band ducks this year. Initial baiting started on Wednesday July 2nd, with the goal of determining primary trapping locations. Initial brood surveys conducted at Pond 12, Pond 20, and Island Slough Pond 4 revealed a high presence of Gadwalls, followed by Mallards. Interestingly, since Gadwalls have a later nesting initiation, Gadwalls were more commonly observed in the younger age groups, 1A to 2C. In contrast, Mallards were more commonly observed in the older age groups, 2B to 3.

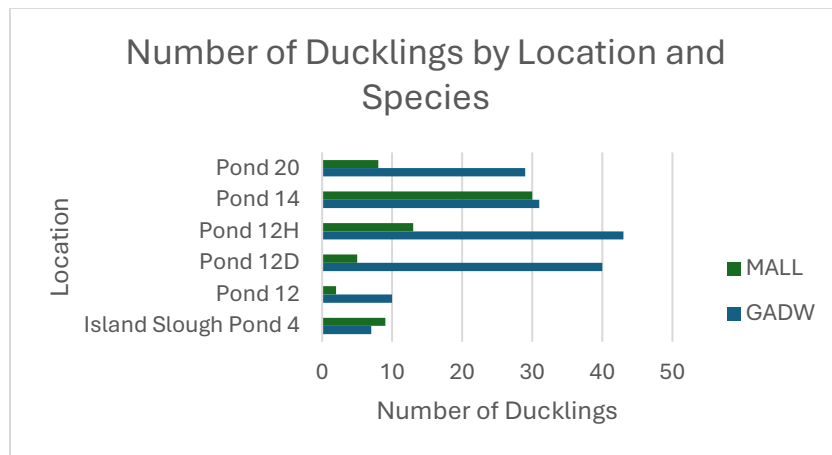


Figure 1. This chart shows the number ducklings, and their species overserved per brood on 7/2.

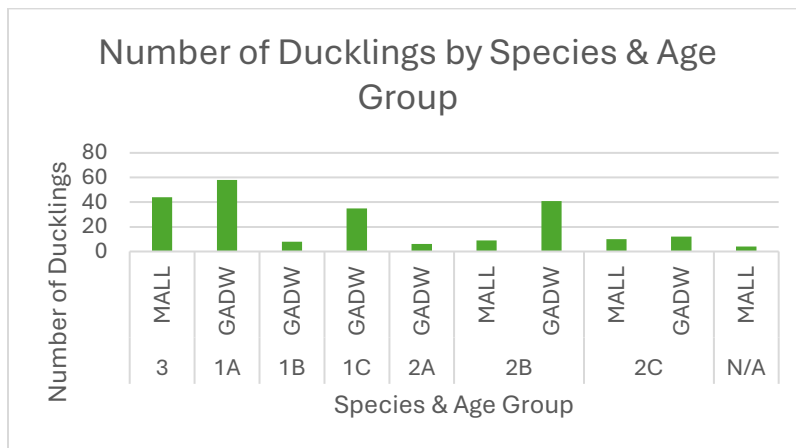


Figure 2. This chart shows the number of ducklings in each age group by species observed on 7/2.

Elk Season

The wildlife area is open through July 27th for public use. Our first hunt begins on August 2nd; general hunts will begin on August 12th and end on September 26th.

Elk surveys from April to June 2025 have determined that there are at least 50 bulls, 102 cows, 55 calves, and 27 spikes on Grizzly Island.

Grizzly Island

As usual, there have been some issues with equipment, but mowing continues along with discing. Despite equipment challenges, staff are making progress prepping for the season.

Nutria

Detection and eradication of nutria continues; Solano County has the 2nd most nutria take this year. So far, in 2025, a total of 545 nutria has been eradicated in the state of California.

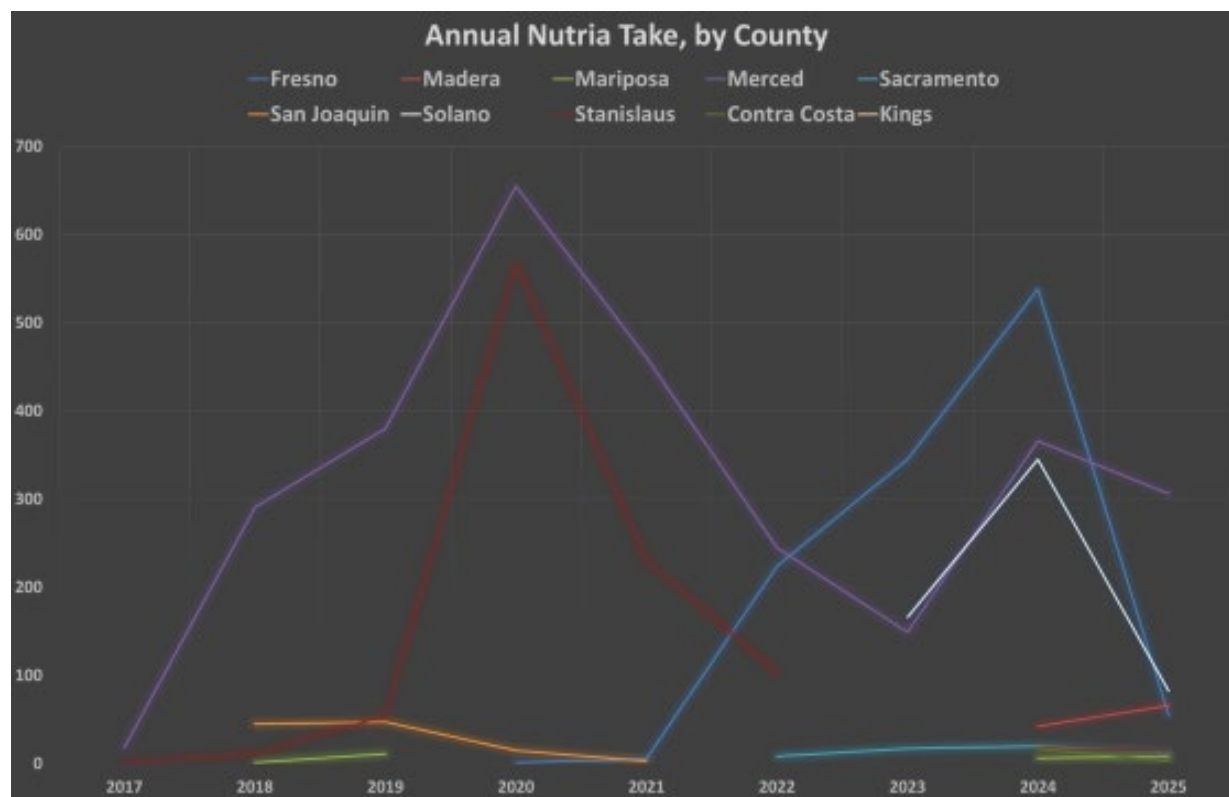


Figure 4. The distribution of nutria takes per county in California through the years 2017 to 06/2025.

Other Projects

Joice Island: dredge spoils from last year's dredging have been spread on the levee and our exterior levee is now repaired. The next step is to work on the interior levee; we have staged materials, and we are prepared to go to work once the levee breach on our neighbor's property is fixed and the water recedes.

6. Department of Water Resources Report ~ Mr. Jamel Stewart presented the DWR Suisun Marsh briefing packet. The Progressive Daily Mean (PDM) salinities in the Marsh ranged from 2.5 – 11.7 mS/cm. Salinity monitoring station S-97 remained offline while Cygnus was at 12.1 mS/cm. At the end of June, the net Delta outflow was 8,995 cfs. As of July 6th, salinities in the Marsh ranged from 2.3 – 11.6 mS/cm, and Delta outflow had increased to 12,706 cfs. There are no Suisun Marsh salinity standards for the month of July.

DFD staff completed a maintenance and levee inspection for Roaring River Distribution System (RRDS). Fish screen cleanings were performed at RRDS on June 5th and 19th. The Morrow Island Distribution System (MIDS) and Goodyear Slough Outfall (GYSO) had maintenance and levee inspections conducted. Maintenance was cleared to be extended into the month of July at MIDS. DFD staff also mowed vegetation, trimmed trees, applied herbicide, and graded and applied AB rock on the levee service road where needed. DFD staff cleaned intake screens at GYSO on June 3rd and conducted a survey for upcoming removal of floating debris in front of the inlet. The Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates began tidal operations for Summer-Fall Action on June 23rd. DFD staff conducted landscape maintenance at Montezuma Day Use Area (MDUA). Russian thistle has become more prevalent in RRDS and MIDS. DWR is conducting a study on how to manage Russian Thistle. A 3-year study on Phragmites management is wrapping up, and Blacklock is applying for permits for treatment by SRCD starting this fall. Discussion ensued.

California reservoir capacity in June ranged from 84-99% of average in the northern Sierra and 85-97% in the southern Sierra. For the new water year, precipitation year to date was 105% of average for the northern Sierra and 67% for the southern Sierra.

7. Suisun Resource Conservation District Reports ~

- a) 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement ~Mr. Chappell attended the June 12th Principal's meetings. Mr. Chappell reported that there have been no changes in the 2015 Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement. There will not be Drought Response Program this year, due to fresh conditions. Discussion ensued.
- b) 2025 PAI Program Update ~ Mr. Chappell provided an update of the PAI programs. Mr. Takekawa completed technical review for the second batch of applications. 5 projects were submitted to DWR. One club was declined and has asked for reconsideration. Discussion ensued.
- c) Suisun Marsh Plan Update ~ There have been no changes with the Suisun Marsh Plan Implementation. Mr. Chappell and Mr. Mackell attended Principle's meetings on June 12th and July 10th. On July 22nd there will be another Adaptive Management Advisory Team meeting for the monitoring program. All required environmental reporting is current. Discussion ensued.
- d) USACE Permits ~ RGP 3 and RGP 47 updates. SRCD continues to administer the RGP 3 permit. A June RGP 3 package was submitted on July 1st and approved on July 2nd. On July 2nd, the new RGP 47 dredging permit was received and signed. On June 30th we received the 30 day notice from BCDC for the Dredging Program

Marsh Development Permit. On July 17th there will be a BCDC Commission meeting we are trying to get on the agenda, but 7 out of 13 properties needed additional documents prepared, so it will likely delay getting on the agenda until August 7th BCDC Commission meeting. SRCD Water Managers also continue to work on other Marsh Development permits for maintenance projects requiring BCDC approval. Discussion ensued.

- e) SRCD 5 year Strategic Plan Update. ~. Mr. Takekawa, Mr. Mackell and Mr. Taylor have completed drafting the new 5 year strategic plan. A hard copy was distributed to Board at the June meeting for review. The final draft is in progress and will be printed shortly. Discussion ensued.
- f) Water Manager Program Update ~ Mr. Takekawa introduced Mr. Mackell and requested that he present the July Water Manager Program update.

Mr. Taylor worked on the RGP 47 Dredging permit. The BCDC comment letter was received on June 30th regarding processing checks and addressing property deed questions. USACE approved the new RGP 47 5-year dredging permit on July 1st. Copies of permit applications were sent to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and USACE. The RGP 3 June package was sent on July 1st, approved on July 2nd, and returned to landowners. Mr. Taylor worked with the Water Manager team to remove fish screens, to repair the dock at Lower Joice Island, and provide edits for the updated SRCD 5-year strategic plan and July SRCD newsletter. He completed the diesel inventory and closed out the fiscal year end pump invoices. Additionally, he checked water levels in Frost Slough, and processed drought response funds reimbursement applications.

Mr. Edmunds was on annual leave starting June 25th and will return on July 11th. Before leaving, he flew the survey drone for an invasive weed survey. Using the spray drone, he also sprayed herbicides for *Lepidium* in the south unit of Lower Joice Island. He also operated the boom truck and assisted the team in removing all the fish screens to be cleaned and repaired this summer.

Ms. Guzman worked to help remove fish screens. She provided content, edited, and assisted in composing the upcoming July newsletter. Ms. Guzman downloaded and managed the water logger as well as carrying out salinity checks. Along with the rest of the SRCD staff, she completed her first aid and CPR recertification. She helped plan carried out PAI gate inspections and took RTK elevation measurements of proposed projects.

Ms. Collins completed administrative tasks, including tracking quarterly grant hours and contract budgets. She compiled employee timesheets and submitted payroll for processing. She created multiple Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to document

the processes of carrying out administrative tasks. Ms. Collins provided support for the Suisun Fall Pilot Program of the Bird Returns Projects, including attendance and coordinating fall site visits with project partners. She submitted a manuscript regarding a spatial analysis of fish biomass near managed wetland drainage to the journal Ecological Applications. She also worked with BCDC on the GeoMarsh project. She completed imagery analysis, identifying phragmites from drone flights in the marsh. Ms. Collins also worked with the Delta Conservancy, providing pipe elevation data. She collaborated with UCD on a grant proposal focused on fish and managed wetlands.

Ms. Brandon worked on the salt marsh harvest mouse distribution modeling project. She worked on the final draft edits for the manuscript and is working with coauthors for a final review. Additionally, Ms. Brandon is working to train staff on protocols for the upcoming levee inspections at Tule Red and Wings Landing. Her last day at SRCD is July 31st.

g) Lower Joice Island Update ~ Mr. Mackell presented the Lower Joice Island update.

Mr. Mouton worked with SRCD staff to repair the dock on Lower Joice Island, including the acquisition of the necessary building materials for the repair. He is currently working and coordinating repairs on the excavator. He finished mowing the levees and sprayed phragmites on the outer levees. He provided general cleanup of the clubhouse and the surrounding area and reclaimed lumber for the fallen machine shed. He has been bucking up fallen eucalyptus trees and splitting the logs for firewood. Mr. Mouton cleaned out the septic system and brought waste to Suisun City. He repaired the boat trailer for some upcoming boat maintenance.

h) Summary of Past & Future Meetings, Tours, and Presentations ~ Mr. Chappell attended the Delta Conservancy meeting at the end of July. SCF Fun Shoot is scheduled for July 25th. Discussion ensued.

8. Suisun Resource Conservation District Committee Reports ~

- a) Agency Committee ~ No report.
- b) Legal Committee ~ No report.
- c) Personnel Committee ~ Staff evaluations are scheduled for next week.
- d) Finance Committee ~ No report.
- e) Associate Director's Committee ~ No report.

9. Meeting Adjournment ~ A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Vanderkous, seconded by Mr. Lewis; all who were present were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.