



COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION
DRIVE, ROOM 102A
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

SUMMARY REPORT

Agenda Date: 8/12/2025

To: Board of Supervisors

Department or Agency Name(s): County Administrator's Office

Staff Name and Phone Number: M. Christina Rivera 707-565-2431

Vote Requirement: Majority

Supervisorial District(s): Countywide

Recommended Action:

Approve the Appointment of John Gorman to the Sonoma Resource Conservation District to fill the remainder of an unscheduled vacancy from July 22, 2025, through December 3, 2028. (Countywide)

Executive Summary:

Rule 50 of the Board Rules of Procedures states that the Clerk of the Board shall put forward appointment recommendations to the Board for countywide positions. The Sonoma Resource Conservation District Board of Directors approved and put forward the current recommendation. The current item recommends the appointment of John Gorman to the Sonoma Resource Conversation District (SRCD).

Discussion:

Resource Conversation Districts (RCD's) are established under California Public Resource Code Division 9. Resource conservation Districts are locally governed with independent boards of directors. The SRCD is steward of public and private funds and is subject to transparency and accountability laws that require public meetings, open records, annual audits, and financial reporting. The SRCD was formed established in 1946 by local agriculturalists to address critical natural resource concerns in Sonoma County. The SRCD's 15 District Directors serve approximately 85% of Sonoma County working toward improving the control of runoff, the preservation or control of soil erosion, the development and distribution of water, and the improvement of land capabilities.

Per Article 7. District Directors, section 9314 (b) (1) of the California Public Resource Code Division 9 "As an alternative to the election of directors, the board of directors may, by a resolution presented to the board of supervisors of the principal county, request the board of supervisors to appoint directors, except those first elected. Additionally, per Article 7 District Directors, of the California Public Resource Code Division 9, the Board of Supervisors shall fill a vacancy through an unexpired term.

June 26, 2025, The SRCD Board of Directors approved the recommended appointment of John Gorman to fill the remainder of the current vacancy through December 3, 2028. The incumbent, Jennifer Kuszmar, resigned April 10, 2025. The SRCD publicly noticed the unscheduled vacancy in Press Democrat May 15, 2025. No additional applications or interest in the vacant position were received.

John Gorman, has worked in diversified agriculture in Sonoma County for over 20 years in dairy, row crops, and viticulture. He currently manages Stuhlmuller Vineyards in Alexander Valley, growing both grapes and cattle. He is the Senior Agricultural Program Advisor for the Sonoma UC Cooperative Extension office as well

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as Director for the Sonoma County Vineyard Technical Group. Volunteer at the Alexander Valley Elementary school to help kids learn about farming and in the school's native garden. John has been an Associate Board Director with Sonoma RCD for almost three years.

Strategic Plan:

N/A

Prior Board Actions:

N/A

FISCAL SUMMARY

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

N/A

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

N/A

Attachments:

California Public Resource Code Division 9

Proof of Publication Notice of Unscheduled Vacancy

Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board: N/A