
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 24, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Windset Farms

1650 Black Rd, Santa Maria
(in person only)

Thursday, August 24, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

City of Goleta, City Council Chamber

130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta

And via Video and Teleconference for Public Commenters

Friday, August 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

City of Goleta, City Council Chamber

130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta

And via Video and Teleconference for Public Commenters

Video and teleconference recordings of the meeting are currently available on the following website: <https://cal-span.org/static/meetings-RWQCB-CC.php>

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Windset Farms

1650 Black Rd, Santa Maria

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Board Business

1. Roll Call

[Harvey Packard, Section Manager, 805/542-4639, Harvey.Packard@waterboards.ca.gov]

Present: Chair Gray, Member Hunter, and Member Rodriguez

Absent: Vice Chair Wolff, and Member Harlan,

Educational Field Trip

2. Tour of Windset Farms, Santa Maria

[Harvey Packard, Section Manager, 805/542-4639,
Harvey.Packard@waterboards.ca.gov]

The following participated in the tour:

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | MATTHEW T. KEELING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Board members: Chair Gray, Board Member Hunter, and Board Member Rodriguez.

State Water Resources Control Board

- Sean Maguire, State Water Resources Control Board liaison

Regional Water Board staff:

- Matt Keeling, Executive Officer
- Sophie Froelich, Attorney, Sacramento
- Harvey Packard, Supervising Engineer
- Angela Schroeter, Supervising Engineer
- Jennifer Epp, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
- Julia Dyer, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
- Greg Bishop, Senior Engineering Geologist
- Cecile Blancarte, Water Resource Control Engineer
- Kristina Olmos, Water Resource Control Engineer
- Jose Lozano, Scientific Aide
- Amber Sellinger, Engineering Geologist

Chair Gray adjourned the tour portion of the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Thursday, August 24, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

City of Goleta, City Council Chamber

130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta

Chair Gray reconvened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Board Business

3. Roll Call

[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,
Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hunter, Member Harlan, and Member Rodriguez

Absent: None

4. Introductions

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling made the following introductions and announcements:

- Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board; Sophie Froelich, legal counsel; section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton.
- State Water Resources Control Board liaison Sean Maguire.

Announcements:

Staff Introductions and Recognitions:

- Phill Hammer, Program Manager for stormwater program introduced new staff Alia Ajina, Environmental Scientist and Alex Lung Scientific Aide.
- Daniel Ellis, Senior Environmental Scientist welcomed Jamie Pratt, Environmental Scientist to the basin planning program.

Public Commenters: none

5. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes,

Motion: Member Harlan motioned to approve the minutes of June 22-23, 2023.

Second: Member Rodriguez

Aye: Chair Gray, Member Hunter, Member Harlan, and Member Rodriguez

Abstain: None

Absent: Vice Chair Wolff

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

Motion: Member Hunter motioned to approve the minutes of July 21, 2023.

Second: Member Rodriguez

Aye: Chair Gray, Member Hunter, Member Harlan, and Member Rodriguez

Abstain: None

Absent: Vice Chair Wolff

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

Public Commenters: none

6. Reports by Regional Board Members

Member Rodriguez:

- July 18, 2023, attended a California Strawberry Commission tour of Valle El Paraiso Berry Farm in Santa Maria.
- August 15, 2023, attended a reception in Sacramento to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Association of California Mutual Water Companies.

Member Hunter:

- August 22, 2023, attended board briefing with Board Member Harlan.
- August 15, 2023, remotely attended the State Water Board, Once Through Cooling Policy hearing.
- August 2, 2023, participated in a meeting with Executive Officer Matthew Keeling, Jeff Edwards, and Julie Tacker regarding the Central Coast Blue Project and Los Osos groundwater basin management.
- Participated in several closed session board meetings regarding personnel matters.

Member Harlan:

- August 22, 2023, attended board briefing with Dr. Hunter.
- July 27, 2023, participated in a California Water Commission Workshop via Zoom regarding Preparing for Drought in a Non-Drought Year.

Chair Gray:

- July 11, 2023, had a phone conversation with Mr. Michael Brady, a community member in Los Olivos, regarding the Los Olivos Community Services District community wastewater system project.
- July 11, 2023, had a discussion with Ms. Elizabeth Fanam regarding the Los Olivos Community Services District community wastewater system project.
- July 18, 2023, conversation with Ms. Sarah Lopez of Preservation Inc.
- July 27, 2023, discussion with Mr. Ted Morton of Santa Barbara Channel Keeper.
- August 11, 2023, conversation with Ms. Claire Wineman and Mr. Chris Valdez of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo Grower Shippers, related to the provision of replacement water in our region.
- August 17, 2023, conversation with Ms. Chelsea Tu, Monterey Waterkeeper.

- August 21, 2023, conversation with Executive Officer Matthew Keeling and State Water Board Member Nicole Morgan regarding the State Water Board's proposed order in response to the Agricultural Order 4.0 petitions.
- August 21, 2023, conversation with Executive Officer Matthew Keeling and State Water Board Member Joaquin Esquivel regarding the State Water Board's proposed order in response to the Agricultural Order 4.0 petitions.
- August 23, 2023, conversation with Executive Officer Matthew Keeling, Mr. Brandon Bolinger and Mr. Kyle Jones with Community Water Center, and Ms. Cheslea Tu with Monterey Channel Keeper regarding the agricultural order.

Public Commenters: none

7. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison
[Sean Maguire, 916/341-5877, Sean.Maguire@waterboards.ca.gov]

State Water Board Member, Sean Maguire, provided updates on the following: highlighted the morning tour of the Windset Farms greenhouse facility regarding the innovative practices being implemented; California Water Commission Preparing for Drought in a Non-Drought Year workshop; climate change effects on our water resources and impacts to disadvantaged communities; Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio regarding efforts to increase storage and water use efficiency, addressing contaminants, and identifying new sources of supply; Water Board mission to protect the beneficial uses of water and provide tools to help facilitate innovative water use; July 10th State Water Board release of draft Seawater Desalination Citing Criteria; July 21st State Board release of draft Direct Potable Reuse rulemaking with a tentative timeline to adopt it by December of this year; August 18th State Water Board release of its Conservation as a Way of Life rulemaking to establish water budgets and water use efficiencies for all urban communities in California; Once Through Cooling Policy update hearing during the previous week and associated discussions regarding mitigation fees and habitat restoration project costs; the State Water Board's implementation of the Drinking Water Needs Assessment and associated investment needed to help support drinking water systems in small, disadvantaged communities and implementation of the human right to water so all communities have access to safe and affordable drinking water; and, the forthcoming development of a Wastewater Needs Assessment via a recently enacted state contract with a third party and associated September 6th State Water Board meeting information item to discuss the scope of the assessment.

Board members thanked Mr. Maguire for attending the meeting in person including the Windset Farms tour and engaged with him about the Once Through Cooling Policy workshop, coastal power plants and energy needs, and the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Public Commenters: none

Public Forum

8. Public forum

Public Commenters: none

Waste Discharge Requirements

9. Amendment to Order No. R3-2019-0089, General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges

[Amber Sellinger, 805/549-3866, Amber.Sellinger@waterboards.ca.gov; Kristina Olmos, 805/549-3121, Kristina.Olmos@waterboards.ca.gov]

Amber Sellinger, Engineering Geologist with the Site Cleanup and Department of Defense Programs, and Kristina Olmos, Water Resources Control Engineer with the Waste Discharge Requirements Program, provided the Board an overview of the amendment to the General Waiver, Order No. R3-2019-0089. Staff highlighted the UCLA pilot projects that provided data to support the amendment to add reverse osmosis drinking water treatment systems for nitrate to the list of low-threat discharges in the General Waiver for Specific Types of Discharges. The Board had questions that were answered by Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer; Angela Schroeter, Supervising Engineering Geologist; Eugene Leung, Division of Drinking Water; and Dr. Yorum Cohen, UCLA. The Board expressed gratitude for the completion of this project and getting the amendment to the General Waiver to the Board for adoption. Dr. Cohen spoke about the UCLA pilot projects, estimated cost of the systems, the status of the final report, and thanked the group for the cooperation during the project. A public comment was received by John Erickson, Community Water Center; he spoke about the balance involved to provide drinking water treatment solutions and protect groundwater quality and thanked the Central Coast Water Board staff for incorporating their comments within the draft amendment.

Public Commenters:

John Erickson, Community Water Center

Motion: Member Rodriguez moved to motion to adopt proposed order number R3-2023-0044, amending order number R3-2019-0089.

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Chair Gray, Member Hunter, Member Harlan, and Member Rodriguez

Abstain: None

Absent: Vice Chair Wolff

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

Discussion/Informational Items

10. Overview of Wastewater Consolidation Program Established by Senate Bill 1215 (2018)

[Kathy Truong, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3293, kathy.truong@waterboards.ca.gov; Leah Lemoine, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3159, leah.lemoine@waterboards.ca.gov]

Central Coast Water Board Water Resources Control Engineers Kathy Truong and Leah Lemoine and Senior Water Resource Control Engineers James Garcia and James Garret, from the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA), gave a presentation summarizing the staff report and providing a statewide programmatic funding overview. Ms. Truong provided information on the background of the Wastewater Consolidation Program, including the details of Senate Bill 1215. Ms. Lemoine provided an overview of the program implementation status in the Central Coast Region and highlighted priority projects including Hacienda Apartments, the community of Bolsa Knolls, Bear Creek Estates, and regionalization of the Chualar wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Garrett provided information on wastewater consolidation related grant funding program opportunities. Board members engaged in discussion with staff regarding streamlining and coordination of process for high priority projects, the importance of technical assistance and community income surveys, the State Water Board's forthcoming wastewater needs assessment, and buffers and setback requirements between agricultural land and housing.

Public Commenters: none

Administrative Items

11. Executive Officer's Report

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140, Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling introduced the report and asked if there were any questions. Member Hunter inquired about the PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant intake cove dredging 401 certification and Chair Gray inquired about the Division of Financial Assistance dashboards and associated tracking of funding utilization.

Public Commenters: none

12. Board Calendar 2024

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140, Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item and noted that he was working with the Board Chair and Ms. Olson to line up alternative off-site meeting locations throughout the region.

Public Commenters: none

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve the Board Calendar for 2024.

Second: Member Harlan

Aye: Chair Gray, Member Hunter, Member Harlan, and Member Rodriguez

Abstain: None

Absent: Vice Chair Wolff

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

Friday, August 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
City of Goleta, City Council Chamber
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Board Business

13. Roll Call

[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,
Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov]

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hunter, Member Harlan, and Member Rodriguez

Absent: none

Special Announcements:

Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer, read into the record a resolution of appreciation for the Executive Officer, Matthew Keeling, who will be retiring at the end of September. Various staff and board members provided additional comments in support of the resolution and Mr. Keeling, and Mr. Keeling thanked and acknowledge everyone and the great work of our agency.

Chair Gray announced that Ryan Lodge would be the next Executive Officer and various staff and board members provided comments in support of Mr. Lodge and his appointment as Executive Officer

Discussion/Informational Items

14. Strategic Planning Discussion

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov]

Mr. Keeling opened the discussion and gave an overview of the draft strategic plan with an emphasis on the strategic narrative regarding the Water Board's evolving work environment, collaboration, and public service, and the four regional priorities set forth in the draft plan: 1) workforce planning and development, 2) core programmatic functions, 3) climate adaptation and resilience, and 4) environmental justice. Board Members, Mr. Keeling and various members of the management team engaged in discussions about priorities, workload, staff resources, and how to manage pace, and the importance and statutory nature of the Water Board's public process. Board Members provided general recommendations regarding various components of the draft strategic plan with respect to tone, content, and structure for staff to consider. Chair Gray discussed having an all-staff workshop with the Board in early 2024 to

further the discussion about strategic planning and priorities. It was determined to not have the management team give an overview of each of the programmatic priority sections of the draft strategic plan.

Chair Gray thanked everyone for being there in person and for their participation.

Public Commenters: none

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Jane Gray, Chair

R:\RB3\Shared\Board Meetings\Current
Agenda\2023\08_AUG_24\Minutes\Min_Aug_Draft.Docx