

Minutes of Meeting

1:00 P.M., Thursday, June 9, 2022
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Video Conference

Thursday, June 9, 2022

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at:
[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings.](#)

Audio recordings of Board meetings (11/2018 and before) are available at:
[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](#)

- i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Board Member McCovey led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:	Hector Bedolla, Shaunna McCovey, Bill Matsubu, and Valerie Quinto.
Board Members absent:	Gregory Giusti
Regional Water Board staff present:	Patti Corsie, Clayton Creager, Josh Curtis, Kason Grady, Nathan Jacobsen, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Charles Reed, Matt St. John, Claudia Villacorta, and Jonathan Warmerdam.
- iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure.** Board members Bedolla and Quinto participated in a tour this morning (June 9, 2022) of the Graton and Forestville Wastewater Treatment Facilities, and on April 21, 2022 Board member McCovey attended a Government-to-Government Consultation with the Tolowas Deeni Nation regarding Enforcement Actions for Reservation Ranch.
- iv. **State Water Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Water Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo, gave a comprehensive update on the ongoing drought, adopted Emergency Curtailment Orders for the Russian River, Scott and Shasta Rivers, and water conservation measures being taken at the State Water Board with a ban on irrigating turf at commercial, industrial, and institutional properties, and getting urban water suppliers to reduce water usage up to 20%. Several Board members asked clarifying questions which Ms. D'Adamo responded to. Mr. St. John deferred his oral report to Item 7.
- v. **Regional Board Chair's Report:** No report given.

vi. Public Forum:

Comments were taken from:

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
- Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager, Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 7, 2022

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt April 7, 2022, Board meeting minutes; Board member McCovey seconded the motion; Vice-Chairman Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

McCovey aye
Quinto aye
Matsubu abstained
Bedolla aye

Motion passed

2. 2023 Board Meeting Schedule (*Matt St. John*)

Matt St. John, Executive Officer reviewed the 2023 Board Meeting schedule below:

- February 2 & 3, 2023
- April 6 & 7, 2023
- June 8 & 9, 2023
- August 3 & 4, 2023
- October 5 & 6, 2023
- December 7 & 8, 2023

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt the 2023 Board Meeting Schedule; Board member McCovey seconded the motion; Vice-Chairman Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

McCovey aye
Quinto aye
Matsubu aye
Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

Uncontested Items

3. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2022-0011 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Happy Camp Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1A75211OSIS (*Roy O'Connor*)
4. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2022-0015 (Proposed Order) to consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for the City of Point Arena Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80045OMEN (*Ben Zabinsky*)
5. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2022-0010 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Sonoma County Central Disposal Site, WDID Nos. 1B801490SON and 1B99011RSON (*Terri Cia*)
6. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2022-0013 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters Following Extraction and Treatment of Groundwater Polluted with Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Volatile Organic Compounds, General NPDES No. CAG911001 (*Craig Hunt*)

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt Agenda Item 3 - Order No. R1-2022-0011; Item 4 - Order No. R1-2022-0015; Item 5 - Order No. R1-2022-0010; & Item 6 - Order No. R1-2022-0013; Board member Matsubu seconded the motion; Vice-Chairman Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

McCovey aye

Quinto aye

Matsubu aye

Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Item

7. **Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan for the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.** Matt St. John, Executive Officer gave a presentation on the proposed 2022 - 2023 Workplans for the Watershed Stewardship Program and each of the four Regional Water Board Divisions: 1) Point Source & Groundwater Protection; 2) Non-Point Source & Surface Water Protection; 3) Planning & Watershed Stewardship; and 4) Cannabis & Enforcement. The purpose of the Work Plans is to prioritize and guide the work of Regional Water Board staff during the fiscal year, and to manage expectations regarding the scope, content and schedule associated with work plan milestones and deliverables and to receive feedback from Board members and the

public. The Regional Water Board will also be developing a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy, along with prioritizing technical assistance to disadvantaged communities; the adoption of a North Coast Region-specific Racial Equity Resolution; and the work of the Regional Water Board Staff's Employee Engagement Steering Committee and six sub-Committees addressing the following topics: 1) Communications; 2) Organization; 3) Expectations; 4) On-boarding; 5) Social engagement; and 6) Culture. **Clayton Creager, Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, Planning & Watershed Stewardship Division**, updated the Board on his upcoming retirement in early August 2022, and that his position will be rescoped as a Senior Policy Advisor Climate Specialist for the Regional Water Board. This new position will lead the development of our Climate Strategy and will continue to cultivate strong partnerships to leverage the work in order to plan for, protect, adapt, and mitigate the impacts of climate change in the North Coast Region. Mr. Creager also updated the Board on the Klamath Dam removal schedule and the ongoing work in the Klamath Basin, the Elk River, Scott River, Eel River, Shasta River, Russian River, and the Laguna de Santa Rosa. **Charles Reed, Division Supervisor, Point Source Control & Groundwater Protection Division**, reviewed the core regulatory programs that he manages: NPDES wastewater, stormwater, waste discharge to land, land disposal (landfills), contaminated groundwater cleanups, and irrigated agriculture (excluding cannabis). In addition to completing its core regulatory functions, the Division will focus its work in the next fiscal year on reviewing special reports, such as the Disaster Preparedness Assessment Report and Action Plan and Groundwater Impact Study that are required by recently updated facility permits, reviewing and conducting follow up on Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans and conducting other special permit compliance investigations. Division staff will also continue to provide compliance and funding assistance to disadvantaged communities, initiating in 2022 a regionwide Community Needs Assessment to identify, develop, and fund water and wastewater infrastructure projects that the Regional Water Board can support and promote for completion. Another high priority of the Division is to enact projects and initiatives identified by the Regional Water Board as priority projects, such as the actions and goals described in the draft Groundwater Protection Strategy, development of the General Permit for Vineyard Operations, Regional Water Board oversight of water quality components of the Klamath Dam Removal Project, and initiation of the Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Assessment Program required by the Russian River Watershed Pathogen TMDL Action Plan. **Jonathan Warmerdam, Division Supervisor, Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division (NPS Division)** reviewed his division's primary program responsibilities: Oversight of forestry and fire-response activities, land use projects that impact waters of the state, regulation of dairies, and aquatic habitat enhancement and restoration projects. For FY 22-23, the NPS Division will engage in several priority activities, including: ongoing development of a new Federal Lands Permit, active engagement in the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force and its associated Action Plan, support to the State Water Board during development of statewide general orders for restoration and utility corridor maintenance activities, development of a new general order for rural roads in the North Coast Region, and ongoing oversight of activities associated with dredge and fill projects, forest and fuels management projects, county roads, and dairies. **Alydda Mangelsdorf, Division Supervisor, Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division** reviewed her division's core responsibilities of implementing

numerous programs in service of the planning and stewardship functions of the office, including monitoring, assessment, grants, watershed-scale assessment and focused research, and development of policy and regulation. For FY 22-23, the staff will be working on special projects currently under development: TMDLs for the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a narrative flow objective, a 5-year review of the Elk River Sediment TMDL, a Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Strategy, pathogen assessment in multiple pathogen impaired waters, a Restoration Catalogue, the Russian River Regional Monitoring Program and associated Russian River Confluence, and completion of the approval process for the Russian River Pathogen TMDL, also planned for this fiscal year is the Triennial Review of the Basin Plan, which will be initiated as staffing allows. The Triennial Review process results in a renewed list of planning priorities as it relates to the development of TMDLs and other Basin Plan Amendments (e.g., new water quality objectives, plans, or policies). **Kason Grady, Division Supervisor, Cannabis & Enforcement Division** reviewed his division's core responsibilities of providing timely public service, coordinating with other local, state, and federal agencies, coordinating the officewide response to complaints, inspecting regulated and unregulated properties, assessing impacts and threats to water quality, and assessing compliance with orders, policies, and regulations. Division staff work with staff throughout the office to prepare enforcement actions consistent with the statewide Water Boards Enforcement Policy, engage in settlement negotiations consistent with the Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Policy, and present actions to the board for consideration and adoption. Annually, enforcement staff bring the regional enforcement priorities to the Board and public to solicit input for an annual update. Concurrently, enforcement staff reviews all available SEP proposals to update the Board-approved SEP List for use in settlement negotiations. Division staff strive to meet the goals of issuing reports within 30 days of conducting inspections, reviewing submitted compliance plans, determining completeness of applications for water quality certification within 30 days of submission, approving or denying applications for water quality certification within 60 days of determining application completeness while also meeting performance targets for enforcement. For FY 22-23, the Division has prioritized two special projects. For the first project, Division staff will work with staff from the Planning & Stewardship Division and other Water Boards staff throughout the State in the use of the Water Boards' CannaVision machine learning-based model to identify cannabis cultivation sites and to support a research study involving the extent of cultivation in a given area and the change in that extent over time; the exact research questions are still under development. The second project will involve the establishment of a process to recover staff costs during the implementation of Cleanup and Abatement Orders.

Several Board members asked clarifying questions which Matt St. John, Clayton Creager, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Charles Reed, Jonathan Warmerdam, and Kason Grady responded to. Board member McCovey requested future updates regarding staff's work addressing lily bulb operations in the Smith River Plain.

Friday June 10, 2022 – 9:00 A.M.

- vii. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Vice-Chairman Bedolla led the Pledge of Allegiance.

viii. Roll Call and Introductions:

Board Members present: Hector Bedolla, Shaunna McCovey, Bill Matsubu, and Valerie Quinto.

Board Members absent: Gregory Giusti

Vice-Chair Bedolla read an opening statement from Chairman Giusti, who was unable to attend the meeting in person but observed the meeting via CalSpan.

ix. Public Forum:**Comments were taken from:**

- Kimberly Burr - Public

Information Items**8. Post-fire Timber Salvage Operations, Wildfire Remediation, and Monitoring:**

Jonathan Warmerdam, Division Supervisor, Nonpoint Source and Surface Water Protection Division, introduced Eric Huff, CAL FIRE Staff Chief; Drew Coe, CAL FIRE Watershed Protection Program Manager; Edith Hannigan, Board of Forestry Executive Officer; and gave a presentation on the purpose of this information item which includes a joint presentation by staff from the Regional Water Board, CAL FIRE, and the Board of Forestry regarding post-fire timber salvage activities, wildfire remediation actions, and monitoring to inform potential revisions to how post-fire timber salvage operations are regulated. Mr. Warmerdam discussed the Regional Board's Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2014-0111 that is automatically triggered when a CAL FIRE Emergency Notice is approved for post-fire timber salvage operations, and reviewed the results of the 2019 Monitoring Report as required following the passage of Senate Bill 901 (Dodd). Mr. Warmerdam also discussed the current CAL FIRE plans for 2022 in conducting an additional round of Emergency Notice Monitoring (EM) that will guide the Regional Water Board's future decisions regarding potential revisions to the Categorical Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R1-2014-0111, the existing regulatory mechanism for covering post-fire salvage operations. Board member Quinto asked a clarifying question regarding the THP Approval Process; Jonathan Warmerdam and Eric Huff, responded. Eric Huff provided introductory comments regarding CAL FIRE's work addressing post-fire salvage operations and introduced Drew Coe who gave a presentation on the 2018 Post-Fire Salvage Operations Monitoring and Research results as it pertains to water quality protection from erosion and runoff, along with the results of the 2019 Emergency Notices Monitoring Report. Mr. Coe concluded his presentation with a summary of the research findings, along with the development and progress to-date of the Post-Salvage Best Practices rules with outreach to Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs) and Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs), adoption of rules increasing the responsibilities of RPFs on Emergency Notices, a salvage logging guidance document that is currently in progress, and implementing a second round of Emergency Notice Monitoring in summer 2022, and a beta test of revised protocol will be occurring next week. Edith Hannigan, introduced herself and Eric Hedge,

Regulations Program Manager, and Board of Forestry members Liz Forsburg Pardi, and Mike Jani, who attended virtually, and she spoke about the strong relationship between the Board of Forestry, Fire Protection, and the North Coast Regional Water Board and cross-participation in each other’s activities in protecting water quality with Timber Harvesting and emergency regulations to address post-fire salvage operations with numerous studies funded by the Board of Forestry, and a number of new regulatory and guidance documents being drafted. Board members asked clarifying questions; Erik Huff, Drew Coe, Jonathan Warmerdam responded.

Comments were taken from:

- Dan Imhoff – Friends of Felta Creek
- Qiuncey Imhoff – Friends of Felta Creek
- Cedrick Twight – Sierra Pacific Industries
- Larry Hanson – Green Valley Creek
- Kimberly Burr - Green Valley Creek

Board members thanked all of the presenters and expressed interest in future recommendations for potential changes in how CAL FIRE and the Board of Forestry and the Regional Water Board regulates post-fire timber salvage operations.

9. **Executive Officer’s Report.** See Item 7 - Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan for the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Executive Officer’s written report.
10. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest.** Board member Bedolla requested –future updates regarding post-fire timber salvage operations and the Regional Water Board’s regulation of this activity.
11. **Closed Session:** The board met in closed session to discuss Items 11.D. There was no report from the Closed Session discussion.
12. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**
 9:00 a.m., Thursday August 4 and
 9:00 a.m., Friday August 5, 2022
 Online – Zoom Meeting,
 Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Chairperson_____

Date_____