

**Minutes of Meeting**

9:00 A.M., Thursday, April 16, 2020  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Video Conference

**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 Giusti led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**  
  
Board Members present: Hector Bedolla, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti, and Valerie Quinto.  
  
Regional Water Board staff present: Mary Bartholomew, Patti Corsie, Josh Curtis, Kason Grady, Nathan Jacobsen, Matt St. John, Claudia Villacorta, and Jonathan Warmerdam.
- iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** No Board member reports or Ex Parte Communication disclosures.
- iv. **State Board Liaison's, and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo updated the Board on Governor Newsom's April 2, 2020 Executive Order (EO) N-42-20: *Which prohibits water systems from discontinuing residential water service and water service to small businesses in a critical infrastructure sector.* The EO also has the following directive in provision 5: *The State Water Resources Control Board shall identify best practices, guidelines, or both to be implemented during the COVID-19 emergency (i) to address non-payment or reduce payments, (ii) to promote and to ensure continuity of service by water systems and wastewater systems, and (iii) to provide measures such as the sharing of supplies, equipment and staffing to relieve water systems under financial distress.* The State Water Board guidelines and best practices for water systems to implement during the COVID-19 emergency can be found on the State Water Board's website ([SWRCB](#)). Ms. D'Adamo gave an overview of the April 7, 2020 SWRCB Board meeting regarding microplastics in drinking water and the Klamath Dam removal along with the upcoming workshops and webinars at the State Water Board. Matt St. John, Executive Officer, updated the Board on Region 1's operations and response to the Covid-19

emergency. The work of the State and Regional Boards is considered essential work and the agency remains open for day-to-day work protecting public health, safety and the environment. The North Coast Region's Santa Rosa and Eureka offices are open daily with a skeletal crew to process mail, meet with the public by appointment, and to continue essential functions including fieldwork and inspections while observing all Federal, State and Local public health directives and guidelines; with all other staff working remotely since mid-March. Mr. St. John gave his appreciation and thanks to Region 1's staff, State Water Board's Executive leadership, State Board's Division of Administrative Services and Division of Information Technology, stakeholders, waste water treatment operators, drinking water facility operators, agricultural and other essential businesses continuing operations during this emergency. Lastly, Mr. St. John spoke about the guidance posted on the State and Regional Board's websites regarding timely compliance with all Water Board orders and other requirements that are considered essential during the Covid-19 emergency.

v. **Public Forum:** No Public Forum speakers.

**1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 6, 2020.**

**Motion:** Board member Bedolla moved to adopt February 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes, Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

Giusti aye

Gant aye

Quinto aye

Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

### **Uncontested Items**

2. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2020-0006 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters in the North Coast Region, Regionwide General NPDES Permit No. CAG024902 (*Nicholas Colbrunn*)
3. Public Hearing on adoption of Order No. R1-2020-0002, proposed Waste Discharge Requirements and Master Recycling Permit for the Loleta Community Services District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80081OHUM, NPDES No. CA0023671 (*Justin McSmith*)
4. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2020-0004 to consider Rescission of Cease and Desist Order R1-2015-0008 for the Loleta Community Services District Waste Water Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80081OHUM, NPDES No. CA0023671 (*Justin McSmith*)

5. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2020-0005 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the Peninsula Community Services, Town of Samoa District Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B85017RHUM, NPDES No. CA1000001 (*Justin McSmith*)
6. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2020- 0007, Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Timber Harvesting and Related Land Management Activities Conducted by Humboldt Redwood Company, LLC (HRC), in the Stitz Creek Watershed, Humboldt County, California and a Mitigated Negative Declaration (*Maggie Robinson*)

**Motion:** Board member Gant moved to adopt Uncontested Items 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Board member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chairwoman Quinto initiated a roll-call vote:

Giusti aye  
 Gant aye  
 Quinto aye  
 Bedolla aye

Motion passed unanimously

**Comment on Item 6 taken from:**

- Richard Gienger, Director Redwood Forest Foundation, voiced support for adoption of Order No. R1-2020-0007 (Item 6) and encouraged the Board to convene a field day in Stitz Creek watershed to assess watershed conditions and promote on-going restoration of the watershed.

## Information Items

7. **Overview of Staff Recommendations for the 2018 Integrated Report for the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and 305(b) Surface Water Quality Assessment.** Mary Bartholomew, Environmental Scientist, Planning and Stewardship Unit, gave an overview of the Integrated Report and reviewed the water quality assessment process, highlighting the proposed delisting recommendations for: 1) Little South Fork Elk River (Sediment), 2) Redwood Creek (Temperature), and the proposed listing recommendations for: 1) Metals (Aluminum and Manganese), 2) Smith River Tributaries (Copper), Ocean Beaches (Indicator Bacteria), and the Russian River (Indicator Bacteria), along with a timeline of the public review and comment process and the scheduled adoption of the revised 303(d) list by the State Water Board on October 6, 2020.
8. **Forests, fuels, and fires. Adapting to Governors' decrees, new legislation, and evolving regulations in a rapidly changing climate.** Jonathan Warmerdam, Environmental Program Manager 1, Nonpoint Surface Water Protection Division, updated the Board regarding the California Government's recent legislative and regulatory responses to catastrophic wildfires. Mr. Warmerdam gave the background

and context of Senate Bill 901- Wildfires (Dodd), the statewide actions that have ensued since its 2018 adoption, and the changes to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staffing and program implementation.

9. **Executive Officer's Report.** Matt St. John, Executive Officer, spoke about the increase of Notice of Violations (NOVs) associated with cannabis related activities reported in the Enforcement Report, and reminded the Board that the list of future agenda items is for general planning purposes and the timing of some items may be subject to change/postponement.
10. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest**  
Board Member Bedolla requested an update on the storm water monitoring that was conducted following the local fires in recent years. Matt St. John stated that a Fire Monitoring Fact sheet is close to completion and will be posted to the webpage soon.
11. **Closed Session:** The Board did not meet in closed session.
12. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**  
9:00 a.m., Thursday June 18, 2020

**Meeting adjourned at:** 11:25 a.m.

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_