

## Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, August 19, 2021  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Video Conference

### Thursday, August 19, 2021

**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:** Chairman Giusti led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**  
  
Board Members present: Hector Bedolla, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti, Shaunna McCovey, and Valerie Quinto.  
  
Regional Water Board staff present: Stephanie Aguiar, Lisa Bernard, Patti Corsie, Josh Curtis, Nathan Jacobsen, Farzad Kasmaei, Prachi Kulkarni, Lance Le, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Bryan McFadin, Heaven Moore, Jeremiah Puget, Charles Reed, Emma Sevier, Matt St. John, Jake Shannon, Michael Thomas, Claudia Villacorta, Jonathan Warmerdam, Chris Watt, and Ben Zabinsky.
- iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure.** Board Member McCovey reported that she met with representatives of Green Diamond Resource Company to learn more about the Elk River TMDL and the company's perspectives.
- iv. **State Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo gave a comprehensive update on recent as well as upcoming State Water Board actions on the drought, Emergency Curtailment Orders, and financial assistance for drinking, bottled, and hauled water, along with financial assistance for wastewater systems in the communities of the North Coast Region, and updated the Board on the Racial Equity Initiative Resolution that will be presented to the State Water Board for adoption sometime in the Fall of 2021. See Item 8 for the Executive Officer's Report.

v. **Regional Board Chair's Report:** Chairman Giusti reported that he has a monthly phone call with Dorene D'Adamo, State Board Liaison & State Board Vice-Chair, and Matt St. John, Executive Officer (EO), to discuss issues in the North Coast Region, and also has a monthly meeting with all the Regional Boards' Executive Officers, Board Chairs and the State Board Executives to share what is happening in their respective regions. Chair Giusti is interested in hosting a Workshop on water conservation measures, both voluntary and mandated, in the North Coast Region. Additionally, Chair Giusti expressed his support for the Racial Equity Resolution being developed by the State Water Board and stated his intention for the North Coast Regional Board to consider a comparable resolution.

vi. **Public Forum:**

**Comments were taken from:**

- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
- Felice Pace, North Group Redwood Chapter Sierra Club

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** June 17, 2021

**Motion:** Board member Quinto moved to adopt August 19, 2021 Meeting minutes; Board member McCovey seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla aye  
Quinto aye  
McCovey aye  
Gant aye  
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

2. **Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0015 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Barella Family LLC Roblar Road Quarry, WDID No. 1B10104RSON (Ben Zabinsky).**

**Motion:** Board member Bedolla moved to adopt Order R1-2021-015; Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla aye  
Quinto aye  
McCovey aye  
Gant aye  
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

3. **Public Hearing to consider adoption of Stipulated Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2021-0027, requiring Dean Soiland doing business as BoDean Co, Inc. at the Santa Rosa Asphalt Hot Plant to cease and desist ongoing and threatened violations of *General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities*, State Water Resources Control Board Order 2014-0057 DWQ, NPDES Order CA S00001 (*Farzad Kasmaei*).**

Chairman Giusti pulled this Board Item from the Uncontested Calendar for Board member discussion and requested that Nathan Jacobsen, Counsel to the Board and Advisory Team member, give an overview of the minor changes proposed to paragraphs 10 & 14 of the Stipulated Cease and Desist Order. Following Mr. Jacobsen's overview, Catherine Hawe, State Board Office of Enforcement Attorney and Prosecution Team member; Sean Hungerford, Attorney for the Discharger; and Nate Jacobsen, all agreed to the changes made to the Stipulated Cease and Desist Order. Board member Bedolla expressed his concern that a lot of time has passed since the first permit violations by the Discharger, underscored his support for the Order, and expressed his interest for swift actions to prevent future discharge violations by the Discharger. Chair Giusti stated his support for Mr. Bedolla's comments.

**Motion:** Board member Quinto moved to adopt Order R1-2021-0027, with the changes as proposed; Board member McCovey seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Bedolla aye  
Quinto aye  
McCovey aye  
Gant aye  
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

### **Workshop**

4. **Revisions to the Russian River Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**  
Alydda Mangelsdorf, Division Manager, Planning and Stewardship Division, and Lisa Bernard, Senior Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit presented on the status of the Russian River Pathogen TMDL adopted by the Regional Board in 2019 and the identification of a number of errors in the data analysis discovered through the Clean Water Act section 303(d) 2018 Integrated Report assessment process conducted in 2020. To catalog and report those errors, Regional Water Board staff generated the *Reassessment of Fecal Indicator Bacteria and Microbial Source Tracking Data for the Russian River Watershed Pathogen Total Maximum Daily Load (2020 Technical Report)*. The 2020 Technical Report updates the findings of the HUC-12 subwatershed based fecal indicator bacteria and microbial source tracking data analyses. The results of the reassessment necessitated updates to the 2019 TMDL

Action Plan that added the Porter Creek-Mark West Creek HUC-12 to the APMP boundary. These proposed changes to the TMDL Action Plan adopted by the Regional Water Board in 2019, require that the Regional Water Board conduct a new public review and hearing process to consider adoption of the revised 2021 TMDL Action Plan as supported by the 2021 Update of the Staff Report. A 45-day public review and comment period will conclude on September 22, 2021 and the Regional Water Board will hold a hearing to consider re-adoption of the TMDL Action Plan, scheduled for the December 2 or 3, 2021 Board meeting.

**Comments were taken from:**

- Bart Deamer, OWTS Residents of the Russian River
- Steve Trippe, Lower Russian River Wastewater Citizens Advisory Group
- Sarah Yardley, OWTS Residents of the Russian River
- Rich Holmer, Public
- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee

Board member Quinto inquired about the TMDL process and if the Board is to consider the specific changes only in reviewing materials for the upcoming hearing at the December Board meeting. Matt St. John and Nate Jacobsen responded that the entire TMDL Action Plan and Staff Report is open for public review due to the substantive changes made to the supporting documentation and if any repeat public comments are received, staff will refer them back to the responses made during the previous public comment periods. Board member Gant inquired about the timing of the adoption and if it needs to be heard at the December Board meeting or whether additional time could be spent to work with interested stakeholders to address their concerns. Mr. St. John responded that the adoption hearing is not particularly time-sensitive, but noted that the TMDL had been in development for many years, with numerous public comment opportunities, and that staff will continue to work with interested parties ahead of the adoption hearing in an effort to address their concerns. Board member Gant also suggested that future staff presentations first summarize stakeholder coordination efforts and any applicable early implementation actions. Chairman Giusti concurred with Board member Gant.

## **Information Items**

- 5. North Coast Basin Plan Map Web Application.** Lance Le, Water Resource Control Engineer, Planning Unit; Stephanie Aguiar, and Emma Sevier, AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Program (WSP) members, gave a presentation on the newly created North Coast Basin Plan Map Web Application that the Planning Unit and WSP members have developed. The North Coast Basin Plan Map Web Application is an interactive web mapping tool that allows viewing and querying of spatial data layers to view information relevant to water quality standards in the North Coast Region. This web app is not a replacement of the Basin Plan, nor does it constitute any change to the Basin Plan; rather this web app can be considered an interactive companion to the Basin Plan. When completed, this tool will be available on the Region's Basin Plan website page along with an instructional tutorial to assist users in exploring the various tools and features of this application.

- 6. Informational Update on NOAA Fisheries' Species in the Spotlight: Priority Action Plan for Central California Coast Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit and the Regional Water Board's Restoration Program:** Erin Seghesio, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) Recovery Coordinator/Fisheries Biologist, presented on the recently released *Species in the Spotlight: Priority Action Plan for Central California Coast Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit*. In 2015, NOAA Fisheries launched the *Species in the Spotlight* initiative to provide immediate, targeted efforts to halt declines and stabilize populations of the most at-risk species. As of January 2021, nine species are identified in the *Species in the Spotlight*, including Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon evolutionarily significant unit (ESU). The presentation highlighted 2021 to 2025 priority actions for CCC coho salmon including: Summit to Sea – Watershed Restoration; Improving Instream Flow; Continue and Expand Captive Broodstock Programs; Partnering and Outreach; and Monitoring and Research. Jake Shannon, Restoration Specialist, Senior Environmental Scientist, Nonpoint Source & Surface Water Protection Division, provided an update of the region's broad efforts to advance restoration actions and species recovery within the North Coast Region in alignment with the North Coast Water Board's *Policy in Support of Restoration in the North Coast Region – Resolution No. R1-2015-0001*.
- 7. Update on Drought Conditions and Regional Water Board Response.** Bryan McFadin, Flow & Riparian Protection Specialist, Water Resources Control Engineer, Planning & Stewardship Division, gave a presentation regarding the historic drought conditions that California is experiencing with impacts to water quality, beneficial uses and disruption to water supplies throughout the state, with an emphasis on current conditions, water quality issues, and staff's response to drought conditions in the North Coast, including coordination with other agencies and facilitation of efforts to reduce drought impacts. Mr. McFadin introduced Mike Thomas, Environmental Scientist, Region 1's Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) Program Coordinator, Planning & Stewardship Division, who gave a presentation on the factors contributing to the frequency and severity of FHABs, the role of North Coast Region FHAB Program, Partner Agencies, the current status of FHABs in the region, Recreational Public Health Alert signage, and how to access the California Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS) Portal (<http://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>). Mr. McFadin also reviewed Regional Water Board staff's coordination efforts with State Board and other Partners in the Russian, Scott, and Shasta Rivers.
- 8. Executive Officer's Report.** Matt St. John, Executive Officer reviewed the written Executive Officer's Report with an emphasis on the drought and water conservation, and reviewed the article written by Carrieann Lopez, Environmental Scientist, Adaptive Management Unit, on Region 1's Grant Program and opportunities to coordinate and support watershed partners' successful grant funding applications and implementation.
- 9. Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest.** Chairman Giusti has requested that staff present a short (30 to 45 minutes) overview on water conservation measures that are being implemented in the Region. Board

member Quinto also expressed interest in an update from State Board staff on the emergency drought regulations in the Russian, Scott, and Shasta River watersheds. [State Water Board staff have subsequently held workshops on the drought regulations for the Russian, Scott, and Shasta Rivers.

**10. Closed Session:** The Board did not meet in Closed Session.

**Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

9:00 a.m., Thursday October 7, 2021

Online – Zoom Meeting

Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_