

---

## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 20, 2023, 8:00 a.m.**  
Watsonville City Council Chambers  
275 Main Street, 4th Floor, Watsonville

**And via Video and Teleconference**

**Friday, April 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**  
Monterey One Water, Pure Water Monterey  
advanced water treatment and recycling facility,  
14811 Del Monte Boulevard, Marina, CA 93933  
**(in person only)**

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

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Thursday, April 20, 2023, 8:04 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, 4th Floor, Watsonville

#### **Board Business**

1. Roll Call  
[Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3140,  
[Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tammie.Olson@Waterboards.ca.gov)]

**Present:** Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hunter, Member Rodriguez

**Absent:** Member Harlan

Member Harlan arrived at 8:11 a.m. after roll call.

Chair Gray introduced the new Board Member, Alex Rodriguez.

2. Introductions  
[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,  
[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling made the following introductions and announcements (Note: Mr. Keeling participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom):

- Tammie Olson, clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu, legal counsel; Emel Wadhvani, assistant chief counsel; Thea Tryon, assistant executive officer, and section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton.
- State Water Resources Control Board Liaison Sean Maguire.

**Announcements:**

Staff Introductions and Recognitions:

- Mary Hamilton, section manager, introduced April Woods, a recently hired environmental scientist who will be joining the 401 certification program.

3. Approval of February 16-17, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Member Harlan moved to approve the minutes

Second: Member Hunter

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hunter, Member Harlan,

Abstain: Member Rodriguez

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

4. Reports by Regional Board Members

**Board Member Rodriguez:**

- Nothing to report.

**Vice Chair Wolff:**

- March 10, 2023, attended a UC Cooperative Extension, Vineyard Water Management Certification Program.
- March 27, 2023, participated at a Natural Resource Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program.
- March 31, 2023, met with Assemblymember Dawn Addis.
- April 11, 2023, attended San Luis Obispo County Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) meeting.
- April 14, 2023, hosted Cuesta College adult education naturalist certification program regarding farming practices associated with climate adaptation with an emphasis on water quality and water quantity.
- April 17, 2023, meeting with County Board of Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg and Covelop, Inc. regarding a potential development project on the Chevron Tank Farm site in the City of San Luis Obispo.
- April 18, 2023, attended board meeting briefing.
- [Unidentified date], meeting with representative of the YTT Northern Chumash Tribe, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, and Cal Poly, regarding the long-term use of some of the land surrounding the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.
- Reached out to various parties as part of the Board's recruitment process for the executive officer position.

**Board Member Hunter:**

- Reached out to various parties to promote the executive officer recruitment process.
- February 17, 2023, telephone call with Sarah Lopez and Vice Chair Wolff regarding non-SGMA (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) groundwater basins in San Luis Obispo County.
- April 18, 2023, attended board meeting briefing.
- April 19, 2023, met with the Community Water Center staff in Watsonville to discuss growth of their organization in the central coast region, community engagement and metrics of success, program/project implementation, components and outcomes, the implementation of interim and long-term solutions for in-need communities, coordination, and the importance of data and technology to inform actions and document outcomes.

**Member Harlan**

- March 22, 2023, met with Ron Duncan, general manager and Melanie Schumacher, assistant general manager from Soquel Creek water district for an update on the implementation of the Pure Water Soquel project.
- April 18, 2023, attended board meeting briefing.

**Chair Gray**

- March 15, 2023, met with the executive director of the Summerland Sanitary District to discuss permit requirements associated with sea level rise and a potential consolidation project.
- March 16, 2023, met with Shannon Sweeney, City of Guadalupe Public Works Director, to discuss the wastewater treatment plant and flooding during the recent storms.
- April 6, 2023, had lunch with our new board member, Alex Rodriguez.
- April 12, 2023, general conversation with a community member, Mike Oliveira, regarding his request to speak about the San Luis Obispo County Airport PFAS draft CAO at this board meeting.
- April 13, 2023, attended a USEPA Outdoor Recreation Workshop Action Planning meeting, at the request of, US EPA as it relates to, work in that community to fund potential outreach, and outdoor recreation projects, in the city of Guadalupe and was provided an opportunity to talk about the regional board's potential role.
- April 15, 2023, attended Zoom meeting with Ted Morton, the Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Channel Keeper along with Mr. Keeling and other Water Board of staff.
- April 20, 2023, discussion with Chelsea, Tu, Executive Director of the Monterey Waterkeeper
- Attended weekly meetings with the Executive Officer.
- Attended monthly phone calls with State Water Resources Control Board member and Central Coast Liaison Sean Maguire and the Executive Officer.
- Attended monthly State Board Chairs meetings.

Public Commenters: none

5. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison  
[Sean Maguire, 916/341-5877, [Sean.Maguire@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Sean.Maguire@waterboards.ca.gov)]

State Water Board Member, Sean Maguire, provided updates by Zoom on the following: welcomed new board member Alex Rodriguez, and encouraged everyone to take part in earth day this Saturday; nutrient management and associated impacts to groundwater and surface with an emphasis on ocean acidification and hypoxia in our coastal waters and associated research by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to evaluate the relative effects of climate change and NPDES permitted discharges and the potential benefits or unintended consequences of nutrient treatment upgrades and increased wastewater recycling; March 21, 2023, workshop titled “Drought Update and Current Hydrologic Conditions”; May 18, 2023, workshop titled “Statewide Nutrient Management”; climate change and hydrologic uncertainty transitioning from drought to floods; Governor's Office roll back of drought emergency executive orders and transition to flood related executive orders and the promotion of using flood flows for groundwater recharge to help address groundwater sustainability and water supply resiliency while mitigating flood impacts; forthcoming annual drinking water needs assessment update including refined metrics focused on disadvantage community needs and the human right to water; wastewater needs assessment development process; climate change and aging infrastructure related challenges for small water communities, and; communities impacted by flooding.

The Board members thanked Mr. Maguire for his presentation and engaged with him regarding the significant coastal footprint of the central coast region and the importance of Marine Protection Areas, fisheries management, mapping and coordination with the California Coastal Commission and other entities regarding ocean acidification and climate change.

Public Commenters: none

### **Enforcement**

6. Consideration of a Proposed Resolution to Refer Big Basin Woods Subdivision Wastewater Treatment Plant Matter for Formal Enforcement to the California Attorney General  
[Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer, 805/542-4776, [Thea.Tryon@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Thea.Tryon@waterboards.ca.gov); Tamara Anderson, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3334, [Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov); and Jennifer Epp, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-6181, [Jennifer.Epp@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Epp@waterboards.ca.gov); Daniel Woldearegay, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3892, [Daniel.Woldearegay@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Daniel.Woldearegay@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item. Tamara Anderson, Central Coast Water Board enforcement coordinator, and Paul Ciccarelli, State Water Board Office of Enforcement attorney, provided an overview of the facility, summarized the alleged

violations and coordination with other entities and community members, explained the California Attorney General referral process and potential remedies through that process, summarized written public comments, and recommended approval of the proposed resolution to refer the Big Basin Woods Subdivision wastewater treatment plant to the California Attorney General for enforcement along with proposed edits included in a supplemental sheet.

Board members asked about the Attorney General's implementation timing. Mr. Ciccarelli indicated that staff would mark the referral urgent, but the timing of actions is uncertain. Board members also inquired about actions taken since the CZU Complex fire damaged the facility in 2020 and potential opportunities to provide interim relief to the community members while addressing the larger problem with a long-term solution.

In response to Board members questions and during public comments, Santa Cruz County staff explained their understanding of current facility conditions, the County's processes for issuing permits to Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owners, and the County's current involvement related to the inoperable wastewater treatment plant and associated alternatives. Santa Cruz County Supervisor Bruce McPherson supported the proposed resolution and stated that he hopes to see a receiver appointed for both water and wastewater services.

In response to Board inquiries, Big Basin Water Company owner Thomas Moore stated the facility does not have sufficient operating funds and is currently \$300K in debt but that the facility started operating the day before the board meeting under contract with Cypress Water Services to operate the facility. Jennifer Epp, Central Coast Water Board staff, clarified that Big Basin Water Company does not have a signed contract with Cypress Water Services and that Cypress Water Services had not yet been to the facility.

Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owners provided public comments in support of the proposed resolution, but said they need an immediate solution so they can occupy their homes as they get rebuilt. Two property owners said they need to move into their homes within the next one to two months or be at risk of being homeless and losing financing.

Board members asked Central Coast Water Board staff what conditions would need to be met to allow additional property owners to occupy their homes and send wastewater to the facility. Central Coast Water Board staff clarified that the cleanup and abatement order specifies the conditions that would allow the Executive Officer to approve Big Basin Water Company to accept additional wastewater. Executive Officer Keeling clarified the cleanup and abatement order is issued to Thomas Moore and Big Basin Water Company, so Central Coast Water Board staff would need to coordinate with Santa Cruz County staff regarding the issuance of occupancy permits when the wastewater treatment facility can accept additional flows.

**Minutes**Public commenters (submitted speaker card):

- Sierra Ryan, Santa Cruz County
- Samuel Singer, Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owner
- Mannie Ellis, Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owner
- Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County Supervisor
- Robin Bates, Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owner
- Emilio Rubalcava Jr, Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owner
- Julie Wuest, Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owner
- Rebecca McKay Steinberg, Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owner
- Rachel Guerrero, Big Basin Woods Subdivision property owner

Responded to board member questions and provided public comment (did not submit speaker card):

- Carolyn Berg, Santa Cruz County
- Kent Elder, Santa Cruz County
- Thomas Moore, Big Basin Woods Subdivision Wastewater Treatment Plant and Big Basin Water Company, Inc. representative

Motion: Vice Chair Wolff moved to adopt Resolution No. R3-2023-0030 with the changes proposed in the supplemental sheet and including reference to requirement number 2 of emergency Cleanup and Abatement Order R3-2022-0077 regarding the conditions that need to be met for residents to occupy their homes and send wastewater to the facility.

Second: Member Hunter

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 5 to 0

**Discussion/Informational Items**

7. Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Programs Update [Shanta Keeling, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3464, [Shanta.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Shanta.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov); Mary Hamilton, Environmental Program Manager, 805/542-4768, [Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item. Rikke Jeppesen and John Haskins with the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) presented information on water quality trends based on 30 years of monitoring data, the Elkhorn Slough web-based water quality report card, and restoration projects in the watershed. They also discussed how their work relates to the TMDL Project under development that will address nutrient loading and biostimulatory response conditions. Board members engaged with the speakers regarding several topics including the following: the effects of historic drought and recent atmospheric river events; how restoration efforts are building climate change resiliency in the watershed; and big picture solutions needed for the watershed such as removal of tidal control structures,

increasing natural land buffers to allow for migrating of marsh habitats as sea level continues to rise, and additional nutrient management and control. Margie Kay, a longtime water quality monitoring volunteer, spoke about various aspects of the ESNERR work and Elkhorn Slough Reserve.

Public Commenters: none

8. Active Oilfield Program in the Central Coast Region Update  
[Harvey Packard, 805/542-4639, [Mark Davis, Engineering Geologist, 805/549-3592, [mark.davis@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:mark.davis@waterboards.ca.gov); Ryan Lodge, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3506, [ryan.lodge@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ryan.lodge@waterboards.ca.gov) ]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item. Mark Davis, Central Coast Water Board Engineering Geologist, presented a comprehensive overview of the Active Oilfield Program, including the history of oil and gas production in the Central Coast Region, oil field locations, staff workflow (underground injection control projects, aquifer exemption reviews, and waste pile management facility oversight), and applicable policies and regulatory tools. Board members asked staff questions related to abandoned wells in the surf zone along the Santa Barbara County coastline, senate bill 1137 health exclusion zone requirements and water quality sampling associated with the legislation, well stimulation within the Central Coast Region, and current bonding requirements for oil wells and proposed bonding requirements for oil wells associated with assembly bill 1167. Janice Zinky, Groundwater Monitoring Section Manager at the State Water Board, and John Iverson, Senior Oil & Gas Engineer at the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), also participated in the discussion.

Public Commenters: none

9. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program  
[Mary Hamilton, Environmental Program Manager, 805/542-4768, [Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item. Dr. Ravneet Behla of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) presented on the CDFA's implementation of the Healthy Soils Program and State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program since 2017 and grants awarded in the Central Coast Region. Dr. Behla also discussed CDFA's pilot block grant program which started accepting applications this April. Board members engaged with Dr. Behla regarding the carbon sequestration benefits of projects, specific types of projects funded and types of compost used, and the benefits of funding opportunities for purchasing shared equipment.

Public Commenters: none

10. Update - Freshwater and Estuarine Harmful Algal Bloom Program  
[Melissa Daugherty, Senior Environmental Scientist, 805/542-4643, [Melissa.Daugherty@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Melissa.Daugherty@waterboards.ca.gov) and Angela Schroeter, Supervising

Engineering Geologist, 805/542-4644, [Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item. Melissa Daugherty, Central Coast Water Board Senior Environmental Scientist – Specialist, and Carly Nilsen, State Water Board Senior Environmental Scientist - Specialist, presented a comprehensive overview of the Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom (FHAB) Program, including the environmental conditions that cause freshwater harmful algal blooms and the associated threats to public health, the legislative requirements for monitoring and reporting, coordination with local agencies to share data and recommend health advisories, and how information is shared with the public. Melissa Daugherty also provided a summary of FHAB results for the Central Coast Region. Board members asked staff questions related to public outreach and how outreach materials are designed and developed to communicate the appropriate level of urgency. Board Members also discussed that the lack of resources available to implement the FHAB Program at the Central Coast Region is inappropriate given the threat to public health and associated legislative mandates.

Public Commenters: none

11. City of Watsonville, Pinto Lake Harmful Algal Blooms Update  
[Shanta Keeling, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3464, [Shanta.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Shanta.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov) and Mary Hamilton, Environmental Program Manager, 805/542-4768, [Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Mr. Keeling introduced the item. Jackie McCloud of the City of Watsonville presented an update on Harmful Algal Bloom management and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation at Pinto Lake. She also discussed recent phosphorus levels in Pinto Lake in the context of the 2017 alum treatment, cyanobacteria monitoring data collected in coordination with UC Santa Cruz, next steps for management practices in the watershed, and ongoing coordination with the California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom (CCHAB) Network. Board members engaged with Ms. McCloud regarding nutrient management on the disc golf course and other land use categories in the watershed, additional strategies to manage phosphorus loading given the limited life expectancy of the alum and other unanticipated benefits of the alum treatment including decreased turbidity and associated increase in aquatic plant growth.

Public Commenters: none

## **Public Forum**

### 12. Public forum

- Brandon Bollinger, with the Community Water Center (CWC), provided comment regarding the recent flooding in the community of Pajaro and CWC's supporting efforts to help provide bottled water. He also acknowledged and thanked Water Board staff for their ongoing efforts in support of environmental justice issues and for reaching out to CWC to see what they could do to help support the Pajaro



community after the flooding. Board member Hunter engaged with Mr. Bollinger regarding the SAFER program and associated projects to provide replacement water to disadvantaged communities.

- Roberto Rameriz, resident of Royal Oaks, provided comment on drinking water well contamination in the Royal Oaks area associated with nitrate, 1,2,3-trichloropropane, and hexavalent chromium. Vice Chair Wolff engaged with Mr. Ramiriz regarding his well contamination issues.

### **Administrative Items**

#### 13. Executive Officer's Report

[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,

Mr. Keeling introduced the item noting the flood incident response update discussion and our facilitation role in response to the flooding, the semi-annual agricultural order update, new standing item regarding two State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance project funding dashboards, and the standard programmatic performance tables. Vice Chair Wolff commented on the availability of other financial assistance programs and the provision of updates regarding our efforts in support funding meaningful projects in our region. Mr. Keeling clarified the Regional Boards were not a funding agency and that we would continue to provide regular grant program and supplemental environmental project updates focused. Mr. Keeling closed the item with a logistics overview of the Monterey One Water, Pure Water Monterey advanced water treatment facility tour scheduled for Friday, April 21, 2023.

Public Commenters: none

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

### **Friday, April 21, 2023, 8:30 a.m.**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Thursday, April 20, 2023, 8:45 a.m. at the Monterey One Water, Pure Water Monterey advanced water treatment and recycling facility, 14811 Del Monte Boulevard, Marina, CA 93933

### **Board Business**

#### 14. Roll Call

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

**Present:** Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hunter, Member Rodriguez

**Absent:** Member Harlan

**Minutes**

## 15. Introductions

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

(Note: Mr. Keeling was unable to participate in the meeting and Section Manager Harvey Packard acted in his place.)

**Educational Field Trip**

## 16. Field Trip – Tour of the Monterey One Water, Pure Water Monterey Advanced Water Purification Facility

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

Monterey One Water General Manager Paul Sciuto provided an overview of the operation of the advanced water purification facility. The group then toured the facility.

The group returned to the meeting room for a discussion of the facility's tertiary treatment process, recycled water uses for irrigation, and new sources of water for treatment. The discussion was led by Monterey One Water's Mike McCullough.

The following participated in the tours with exceptions as noted:

Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Board Member Hunter, and Board Member Rodriguez. Board Member Harlan was not in attendance.

## Monterey One Staff:

- Paul Sciuto, General Manager
- Mike McCullough, Director of External Affairs
- Jose Guzman, Chief Plant Operator
- Rachel Gaudoin, Communication Services Administrator
- Alison Imamura, Principal Engineer
- Tom Kouretas, Associate Engineer
- David Bradley, Operation Manager
- Garon Goularte, Senior Operator

## Water Board staff:

- Stephanie Yu, Attorney IV, Sacramento
- Harvey Packard, Supervising Engineer
- Tammie Olson, Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board
- Jennifer Epp, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer
- Tamara Anderson, Water Resource Control Engineer
- Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer
- Ryan Lee, Environmental Scientist
- Christopher Barber, Water Resources Control Engineer, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Drinking Water, Fresno

Public guest:

- Fran Olson, member of the public

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

---

Jane Gray, Chair