

---

## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

**Friday, August 26, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

Santa Barbara County Offices  
Board of Supervisors' Chambers - 4th Floor

105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara

And via Video and Teleconference

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 25, 2022, 9:00 a.m.**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Thursday, August 25, 2022, 9:02 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers - 4th Floor 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara.

#### **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, Gray, Member Hunter, and Member Harlan

**Absent:** none

2. Introductions

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

Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer, made the following introductions and announcements:

- The Executive Officer, Matthew Keeling, could not attend the meeting due to a family emergency.

- Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu, legal counsel; and section managers Angela Schroeter, Harvey Packard, and Mary Hamilton
- State Water Resources Control Board Liaison, Dorene D'Adamo (participating remotely)
- Audio Visual Assistance: AGP Staff

**Announcements:**

Staff Introductions and Recognitions:

- Ryan Lodge, Land Disposal and Active Oil Field Program Manager and acting Cannabis Program Manager, introduced Noah Maidrand a new Water Resource Control Engineer joining the Cannabis Program.
- Phil Hammer, Stormwater Program Manager, introduced two new Environmental Scientists joining the Storm Water Program, Trent Buchanan (new hire) and Jacqueline Tkac (transfer from the Irrigated Lands Program).
- Harvey Packard, Section Manager, introduced Rachel Hohn, an Engineering Geologist joining the WDR Program (transfer from the Stormwater Program), and Joseph Fredette, a new student assistant helping the WDR and NPDES Programs.
- Mary Hamilton, Section Manager, introduced two new Irrigated Lands Program staff, Claire Bjork, an Environmental Scientist, and Sarah Treadwell, an Engineering Geologist transfer from the Site Cleanup Program.
- Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer, introduced three new administrative staff, Jessie Woodard, an Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA), Christine Hernandez, AGPA, and, Tiffany Hampton, Office Technician.
- Thea Tryon introduced Diane Kukol who is retiring after 30 years of working for the Water Board and read a resolution of appreciation into the record.

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Diane Kukol

Second: Vice Chair Wolff

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

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

**3. Approval of June 16-17, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve the minutes of June 16-17, 2022

Second: Vice Chair Wolff

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

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

**4. Reports by Regional Board Members**

**Vice Chair Wolff**

- June 27, 2022, attended the Agricultural Liaison Advisory Board meeting for the County of San Luis Obispo to discuss the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

- June 28, 2022, attended a meeting with Mr. Freddy Otte, biologist for the City of San Luis Obispo to discuss San Luis Creek flows and steelhead fish runs.
- June for 29, 2022, hosted Cuesta College field trip and presentation on the nexus of the agriculture order 4.0 and aspects of nutrient management and irrigation.
- July 7, 2022, conversation with Mr. Kevin Merrill of Preservation, Inc., and the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, regarding SGMA in Santa Barbara County and also agriculture order 4.0 as it relates to compost. He also shared that strawberry growers use more compost than other growers and that a recent Agriculture Commissioner's report documented that strawberry production surpassed wine grapes in the County of San Luis Obispo as the largest crop.
- August 16, 2022, attended a board meeting briefing.
- August 18, 2022, a meeting for the San Luis Obispo Edna Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency regarding water augmentation opportunities for groundwater recharge.
- August 22, 2022, phone call with County San Luis Obispo County Board Supervisor, Bruce Gibson, regarding potential water and wastewater projects as it relates to redistricting maps.

**Member Harlan**

- August 16, 2022, attended board meeting briefing.

Noted she has been watching past board meetings on the video archive links, and indicated they were very informative.

**Chair Gray**

- Attended weekly meetings with the Executive Officer.
- Attended monthly State Board Chairs meetings the first Monday of each month.
- Attended monthly phone calls with State Water Resources Control Board Central Coast Liaison Sean Maguire and the Executive Officer.
- July 21, 2022, attended a Zoom meeting with members of the Los Olivos Community Services District and the Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor.
- July 27, 2022, conversation with Chelsea Tu, Executive Director of Monterey Waterkeeper.
- August 9, 2022, conversation with Sarah Lopez, Executive Director of Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. regarding Agricultural Order and third-party implementation.
- August 24, 2022, meeting with Ms. Tryon and members of the Los Olivos Community Services District Board and their Executive Director, Santa Barbara County Department of Environmental Health Services Director, and Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor regarding development of a community wastewater project for Los Olivos.
- August 23. 2022, conversation with State Water Board Members, Sean Maguire, and Laurel Firestone, and Mr. Keeling regarding recent disadvantaged community water system site visits they conducted in Monterey County with the

Community Water Center and also a site visit to the Monterey One Water Pure Water Monterey project facilities.

- August 23, 2022, attended a board briefing.

### **Member Hunter**

- August 23, 2022, attended board meeting briefing.
- Gave her Central Coast Water Board member environmental justice liaison report, noting that she was happy to report on our post-Covid activities associated with a return to in-person community and agency engagement and field work to advance our collective environmental justice efforts. Member Hunter's report focused on two interagency meetings held in our region regarding disadvantaged communities and an update on the UCLA drinking water treatment system pilot project started in 2015.

The first of these meetings was in Salinas on August 3rd, organized by the California Natural Resources Agency to hold an environmental justice round table panel discussion on interagency and community partnerships. It was attended by Angela Schroeder of our staff, Community Water Center, CalEPA Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Engagement, Bidtah Becker, as well as representatives from various California Natural Resource Agency departments, and Consulate General of Mexico in San Jose. Member Hunter noted the Central Coast Water Board's ability to contribute to environmental justice conversations given our water quality expertise and particularly as it relates to our drinking water well testing program and human right to water efforts.

The second meeting held in mid-August, titled the Salinas Valley Water Quality meeting, was hosted by the Community Water Center in Watsonville and included site visits to two households in the Springfield Terrace and Las Lomas areas to meet with community members to discuss drinking water well nitrate and 1,2,3-TCP contamination challenges and opportunities associated with the provision of interim and long-term replacement drinking water alternatives and technical assistance. It was attended by the Executive Officer, Matt Keeling, and State Water Board members, Laurel Firestone and Sean Maguire, in addition to State Water Board staff from the Division of Financial Assistance, Division of Drinking Water, Office of Public Participation and Communications Division, the manager of the Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District, and reporter from the Monterey Herald.

The UCLA pilot project, which has been underway since 2015, is focused on implementing remotely operated water treatment systems to address nitrate contamination as well as other contaminants in three small rural disadvantaged communities in our region. The treatment systems use reverse osmosis to

remove nitrate as well as other contaminants from drinking water. August 5th, there was a site visit to one of the three sites, the Blue Rock Apartments, and the meeting included CalEPA Deputy Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Engagement, Bidtah Becker, State Water Board staff from the Division of Financial Assistance and Division of Drinking Water, representatives from the Monterey County Health Department, and the project team leader from UCLA, Dr. Yoram Cohen. In addition to Blue Rock Apartments, the project also includes drinking water treatment systems for Prior Farms and the Santa Terresa Village. The three systems are in various stages of testing and operation, with the intent of piloting a “distributed” treatment system approach for multiple communities that can be remotely operated at economies of scale for rural areas that could be implemented statewide to support disadvantaged communities. In addition to broadly supporting the drinking water replacement strategy through interagency coordination and collaboration, Central Coast Water Board staff are actively engaged in overseeing monitoring of the treatment system waste discharges to ensure they are protective of water quality such that the “distributed” treatment system approach is viable overall. This approach is promising for communities with limited alternative water supply options, particularly with respect to not being in proximity to other more viable drinking water systems for potential consolidation.

Member Hunter closed her update by reiterating the importance of direct engagement in the communities and with community members to fully understand their challenges to help them develop effective solutions in coordination with other stakeholders. She also acknowledged the leadership, expertise, and perseverance of Central Coast Water Board staff that have helped move efforts like these forward in our region.

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, Dorene D’Adamo, standing in for Mr. Maguire, provided updates regarding the Governor’s August 11<sup>th</sup> release of the California Water Supply Strategy identifying water supply actions focused on conservation, recycling, increased storage, stormwater capture, desal of ocean water, and brackish ground water treatment, etc. to address a dryer and hotter climate and in anticipation of a 10% decrease in available water supply by 2040; increases in water use earlier this year followed by moderate decreases this summer and the need for greater conservation efforts; statewide Large Habitat Restoration General Order; reissuance of the statewide Construction Stormwater General Permit; implementation of the State Water Board Racial Equity Initiative and development of an action plan; the budget and legislative processes currently underway; Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) permit workshops regarding requirement affordability and State Water Board strategy to optimize resource management of stormwater (STORMS); State Water Board funding programs; development of Direct Potable Reuse requirements, and; State Auditor’s report claiming the Water Board lacks

urgency in directing available funding toward addressing urgent drinking water needs of California communities in need without acknowledging the significant accomplishments made in the last three years towards achieving this goal and the significant effort it takes to effectively and equitably allocate the unprecedented amount of funding.

### **Waste Discharge Requirements**

6. Consideration of Proposed Order No. R3-2022-0014, Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit No. CA0048054 for Smerland Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant, Santa Barbara County  
[Leah Lemoine, 805/549-3159, [Leah.Lemoine@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Leah.Lemoine@waterboards.ca.gov)].

Central Coast Water Board staff engineer Leah Lemoine gave a presentation summarizing the staff report and proposed order. The Board asked for additional information regarding the outfall's nearshore impacts, energy footprint of the facility and efficiency upgrades of electrical equipment, coordination with the groundwater sustainability agency, historic flow variation, outfall maintenance, climate adaptation planning provisions, and opportunities for consolidation with neighboring facilities. Ms. Lemoine and Noe Aguilar, the Operations Manager for Summerland Sanitary District, provided responses to the Board's questions.

Hillary Hauser from Heal the Ocean (HTO) commented on the outfall stating that the outfall was short and noted that HTO has studied outfalls on the south coast, but not Summerland's specifically. Ms. Hauser noted that her organization requested to withdraw their comment letters submitted and stated that climate adaptation planning for the south coast should center on consolidation and reuse. Ms. Hauser noted a need for comprehensive evaluation of options between area wastewater providers and the Central Coast Water Board.

Speakers:

- Hillary Hauser, Heal the Ocean
- Noe Aguilar, General Operator, Summerland Sanitary District

Motion: Member Hunter moved to approve Order No. R3-2022-0014

Second: Member Harlan

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

7. Consideration of Proposed Order No. R3-2022-0010, Waste Discharge Requirements and NPDES Permit No. CA0047899 for Montecito Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility, Santa Barbara County  
[Peter von Langen, 805/549-3688, [Peter.vonLangen@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Peter.vonLangen@waterboards.ca.gov)].

Central Coast Water Board staff engineer Sarah Crable and staff geologist Dr. Peter von Langen gave a presentation summarizing the staff report and proposed order. After the presentation, the Board asked how the permit complies with the Ocean Plan and how mixing is calculated, to which Dr. von Langen responded. Hillary Houser of Heal the Ocean mentioned previous studies by UCSB researchers regarding pathogen monitoring and commented that the Montecito Sanitary District should extend the ocean outfall. The Board asked about the age of the facility, and Brad Rahrer from Montecito Sanitary District described facility upgrades and recycled water and consolidation options. Vice Chair Wolff asked questions regarding staffing, back up plans for emergency power outages, and other emergency responses during the past debris flows that were answered by Mr. Rahrer. Chair Gray asked questions regarding the climate change adaptation plan and collection system permitting. These questions and four recycling options were discussed by Mr. Rahrer. Member Hunter asked about regionwide ocean monitoring such as CENCOOS and Dr. von Langen elaborated on this monitoring and responded that it is available to Water Board staff and the discharger. Craig Murray of the Carpinteria Sanitary District made a public comment that the climate change adaptation language was premature and overly prescriptive and presumptive instead of allowing a case by case evaluation. Member Hunter commented that she liked the consistent language and that it would trigger facilities to consider relocation as an alternative. Vice Chair Wolff stated that he appreciated that the language triggers other considerations such as being in flood zones and that the required evaluation could identify other opportunities, and Chair Gray commented that it was not prescriptive but important that it triggers an evaluation and broader associated community dialogue regarding potential challenges and opportunities.

Speakers:

- Hillary Hauser, Heal the Ocean
- Brad Rahrer, General Manager/District Engineer, Montecito Sanitary District
- Craig Murray, General Manager, Carpinteria Sanitary District

Motion: Vice Chair Wolff moved to approve Order No. R3-2022-0010

Second: Member Hunter

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

**Public Forum**

8. Public forum

Speakers:

- Chelsea Tu - Executive director, Monterey Waterkeeper.

### **Discussion/Informational Items**

9. Overview of the Carpinteria Advanced Purification Project and Carpinteria Groundwater Sustainability Plan development process – presentation by Robert McDonald, Carpinteria Valley Water District General Manager and Carpinteria Groundwater Sustainability Agency Executive Director  
[Matthew Keeling, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,  
[Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Matt.Keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Robert McDonald, Carpinteria Valley Water District General Manager and Carpinteria Groundwater Sustainability Agency Executive Director gave a presentation of the Carpinteria Advanced Purification Project and Carpinteria Groundwater Sustainability Plan development process, with Craig Murray, General Manager of the Carpinteria Sanitary District, providing an overview of the wastewater and advanced treatment system. Vice Chair Wolff asked questions regarding groundwater basin subsidence, defining seawater intrusion areas and boundaries, advanced water treatment waste discharge alternatives and outfall diffusers, agricultural water use/demand and the amount of irrigated agricultural acreage, and the existing groundwater basin water quality. Member Hunter inquired about the project community engagement process and community sentiment about the project, and the utilization of a community advisory board/group and potential financial impacts to low income or disadvantaged residents. Chair Gray provided an acknowledgement of the collaborative efforts of the district and sustainability agency to move the project forward and asked how project costs would be communicated to the community.

### **Enforcement**

10. Enforcement Report  
[Tamara Anderson, 805/549-3334, [Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Tamara.Anderson@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Central Coast Water Board Enforcement Coordinator, Tamara Anderson, provided a brief overview of the enforcement report covering enforcement actions taken from March through June of 2022. Board members asked questions related to the factors informing the penalty imposed by the K&A Farms LLC administrative civil liability order, compliance rates for year 2020 total nitrogen applied reporting required by the Agricultural Order, and cannabis cultivation facility compliance with the Cannabis General Order. Vice Chair Wolff requested that future enforcement reports quantify illegal cannabis cultivation operations in the Central Coast Region. Member Harlan inquired about coordination between the various permitting agencies to help inform would-be cannabis operators about the need to comply with other agency permitting requirements.

### **Administrative Items**

11. Executive Officer's Report



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

Ms. Tryon gave a brief overview of the items in the report, including our transition to routine telework and bringing staff back into the office, the ongoing wave of retirements and significant resources being focused on hiring, onboarding, training and mentoring new staff, and a brief update on the ongoing San Luis Obispo County Airport and Buckley Road area TCE and PFAS investigations. There were no board member comments or questions on the report.

Ms. Tryon provided an overview of the logistics for the Friday field tour of the Tajiguas Landfill.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 3:31.

### **Friday, August 26, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order 10:11 a.m. at the Tajiguas Landfill, 14470 Calle Real, Goleta, California, 93117

### **Board Business**

#### 12. 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, Gray, and Member Hunter  
**Absent:** Member Harlan

#### 13. Introductions

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

### **Educational Field Trip**

#### 14. Landfill Program Update and Field Trip to Tajiguas Landfill, Goleta, CA

[Jordan Haserot, 805/542-4781, [jordan.haserot@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:jordan.haserot@waterboards.ca.gov)]  
[Ryan Lodge, 805/549-3506, [ryan.lodge@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ryan.lodge@waterboards.ca.gov)]

Water Board staff provided a Land Disposal Program update and general landfill technical information with Tajiguas specific examples. Various Board members and members of the public asked questions throughout the presentations.

Mustang Renewable Power Ventures, the contract operator for the materials recovery facility, anaerobic digester, and compost operation discussed facility operations including challenges and lessons learned. Board members asked questions about the quality of the compost produced and specifics about the

materials recovery facility operations with respect to landfill gas generating electricity for the site.

After the presentations were complete participants boarded vehicles for the facility tour. The first tour stop was an overlook with views of the active face, materials recovery facility, the anaerobic digester, compost facility, and north sedimentation basin. County staff pointed out different landfill features. The site falconer was present to discuss the success of the falconer program in minimizing site seagull issues.

The second stop on the tour was next to the green waste deck with views of the south sedimentation basin and front face of the landfill. County staff discussed stormwater control measures, the groundwater cutoff trench, and leachate collection tanks.

The following were present at the landfill for this item:

Tajiguas Landfill and Mustang Staff: Jeanette Gonzales-Knight, Compliance Manager; Travis Spier, Operations Manager; Ed Dimmock, Site Manager; John Hancock, Engineering Technician; John Dewey, CEO Mustang Renewable Power Ventures; John Kular, Engineering Consultant

Central Coast Water Board staff: Thea Tryon, Assistant Executive Officer; Tammie Olson, Clerk to the Board; Stephanie Yu, legal counsel; and section managers Angela Schroeter, and Harvey Packard. Ryan Lodge, Landfill Program manager, and Water Resource Control Engineer, Jordan Haserot.

Members of the public: Cory Black, Chelsey Tu Monterey Waterkeeper, Executive Director; and Allen Tu.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

---

Jane Gray, Chair