
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Friday, August 23, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Santa Cruz County Offices, Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 525, Santa Cruz

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

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on August 22, 2024 for the field trip and closed the Board Meeting at 12:01 p.m. after the field trip. Chair Gray called the meeting to order again at 1:30 p.m. on August 22, 2024 at the Board Hearing at the County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisor Offices.

Board Business

1. Roll Call and declaration of quorum
[Thea Tryon, Clerk to the Board, 805/542-4776]

Field Trip Roll Call – Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

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

Absent: Member Harlan

Chair Gray declared that there was a quorum.

Board Hearing Roll Call – Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hunter, Member Rodriguez, Member Hoskins, and Member Harlan

Absent: none

Chair Gray declared that there was a quorum.

2. Educational Field Trip - Tour of the city of Santa Cruz Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Pure Water Soquel Advanced Water Purification Facility.
[Harvey Packard, 805/542-4639]

Field trip started after roll call at 9:05 a.m.

Board Members

Chair Gray
Vice Chair Wolff
Member Hunter
Member Rodriguez
Member Hoskins

Water Board Staff

Ryan Lodge
Angela Schroeter
Harvey Packard
Leah Lemoine

Public:

- Chelsea Tu, Monterey Coastkeeper
- Jaime Neary, Russian Riverkeeper
- Brandon Bollinger, Community Water Center

Chair Gray adjourned the field trip portion of the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

3. Introductions and Staff Recognition

[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140]

Executive Officer Lodge made the following introductions:

- Thea Tryon, clerk to the Board and assistant executive officer; section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton.
- State Water Resources Control Board Liaison Sean Maguire on Zoom.
- AGP and staff support for audio visual assistance.

4. Approval of June 20-21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes,

Motion: Member Rodriguez motioned to approve the June 20-21,2024 Board Meeting minutes.

Second: Member Harlan

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

Abstain: Member Hoskins

Motion Carried: 5 to 6

5. Reports by Regional Board Members

Member Rodriguez:

- July 9, 2024 – Met with vice president of policy with Strawberry Commission.

Member Hunter:

- August 14, 2024 – Board meeting briefing.

Member Harlan:

- August 19, 2024 – Board meeting briefing.

Member Hoskins:

- July 23, 2024 – Call with Executive Officer Lodge.
- July 24, 2024 – Call with Member Rodriguez.
- July 25, 2024 – Sworn in by Vice Chair Wolff.
- July 31, 2024 – Call with Chair Gray.
- August 14, 2024 – Board meeting briefing.

Vice Chair Wolff:

- July 2, 2024 – City of San Luis Obispo city council meeting on Recycled water and enhancement so their treatment system.
- August 20, 2024 – Board meeting briefing.

Chair Gray:

- August 6, 2024 – Met with Sarah Lopez of Preservation Inc.
- August 12, 2024 – Call with Chelsea Tu of Monterey Waterkeeper.
- August 13, 2024 – Call with Joaquin Esquivel, State Water Board Chair.
- August 13, 2024 – Attended San Luis Obispo Airport Community meeting.
- August 16, 2024 – Attended a meeting with Executive Officer Lodge and Jared Voskuhl CASA.
- August 21, 2024 – Attended CDFA BIPOC producer advisory meeting.
- August 19, 2024 – Board meeting briefing.

Public Comments: none

6. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison
[Sean Maguire, 916/341-5877]

State Water Resources Control Board Member Sean Maguire provided a brief update on funding expenditure plans for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program that issues grants and loans for wastewater and recycled water type projects, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for drinking water projects, and Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program for disadvantaged communities to address critical drinking water issues.

State Board member Maguire discussed the challenges with the State budget resulting in recycled water grant program to reduce funding. Some funding was restored once the current budget was adopted.

Proposition 4 on November ballot could provide funding for State Board to administer loans and grants for water quality, safe drinking water, water reuse, and multi benefit stormwater projects.

State Board member Maguire indicated that the State Board is in the process of updating the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. State Board released a draft for a 60-day informal public comment period on August 1, 2024. Changes include inclusion of statewide Trash Policy, cost reporting requirements, and alternative compliance approach opportunities.

Member Hunter asked for additional information about SAFER funding. State Board member Maguire indicated that SAFER is at year 5 out of 10 years of funding for \$130 million per year.

Vice Chair Wolff asked about water conservation goals for municipalities and what the state is doing in terms of monitoring to determine if those goals are being achieved. State Board member Maguire responded that there are regulations now in place to establish water budgets and reporting is required for systems with more than 3,000 connections.

Chair Gray asked what State Board's position/direction regarding PFAS. State Board member Maguire said there continues to be a focus on determining health information and where the PFAS is located and that he will check with his staff to provide further update at a future meeting. There is some funding that has been afforded to underrepresented communities to sample drinking water for PFAS (about 4,000 wells sampled through this grant funding). Chair Gray asked about the status of the wastewater needs assessment. State Board member Maguire indicated that they are still evaluating information and preparing the assessment.

7. Public Forum
None.

8. Stormwater Program Update
[Leah Lemoine, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer]

Stormwater program manager Leah Lemoine provided a program update that included an overview of federal stormwater regulations; summaries of the permits used to regulate stormwater discharges from municipal, industrial, and construction sources; a discussion of program priorities; a summary of the Central Coast Post-Construction Requirements (PCRs) and their implementation; and, finally, a look at how the program is incorporating considerations related to climate change and extreme weather patterns into permit implementation. Amanda Magee from the State Water Board's Strategy to Optimize Resource Management of Stormwater (STORMS) program shared information about their work to facilitate large-scale stormwater capture and reuse through investigative reports, development of guidance documents, and evaluation of quantification methods for stormwater capture.

9. National Pollutant discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program Update
[Arwen Wyatt-Mair, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/542-4695]

NPDES program manager Arwen Wyatt-Mair provided a brief overview of the NPDES program, including its history, governing regulations, permitted facilities, and implementation and enforcement activities of program staff. Board members asked questions about various topics including climate change planning, back-up power, permit fees, technical assistance, and the status of certain facilities.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

FRIDAY, August 23, 2024 – Chair Gray started the meeting at: 9:05 a.m.

10. Roll Call and declaration of quorum

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Hunter, Member Rodriguez, Member Harlan, and Member Hoskins

Absent: none

Chair Gray declared quorum for the meeting.

11. Introductions

[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140]

Executive Officer Lodge made the following introductions:

- Thea Tryon, clerk to the Board and assistant executive officer; Sophie Froelich, legal counsel; section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton.
- Executive Director of the State Board, Eric Oppenheimer – provided a brief introduction.

12. Consideration of Proposed Order R3-2024-0035, General Waiver for Specific Types of Limited-Threat Discharges [Dillon Kass, Engineering Geologist, 805/549-3879]

No presentation, board member questions, or public comment on this uncontested item.

Motion: Member Rodriguez moved to adopt Order R3-2024-0035 General Waiver for Specific Types of Limited-Threat Discharges

Second: Vice Chair Wolff

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 6 to 6

13. Land Disposal Program Update

[Martin Fletcher, Water Resource Control Engineer, 805/549-3694]

Land disposal program staff Martin Fletcher provided a land disposal program update that included a summary of land disposal program staffing, facilities permitted, applicable state and federal regulations, water quality concerns, regulatory tools, landfill design requirements, and composting regulatory requirements. In addition, the update provided information on the land disposal program's annual priorities and goals prioritized around protecting water quality, outlined recent and anticipated future efforts to monitor for and evaluate PFAS at our landfills. The program update also emphasized that the land disposal program actions incorporate Water Board priorities focused on protecting drinking water, outreach to underrepresented communities, and climate change. Water Board members discussed the information presented and added comments and questions on statewide and local recycling efforts, and potential for future facilities and closure of existing facilities.

14. Consideration of Proposed Order R3-2024-0036, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Closed Landfill Facilities in the Central Coast Region

[Nicholas Smaira, Engineering Geologist, 805/549-3467]

Land Disposal Program staff Nicholas Smaira provided an overview of proposed Order R3-2024-0036, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Closed Landfill Facilities in the Central Coast Region (proposed general order) and discussed postclosure maintenance activities, regulatory improvements compared to previous individual waste discharge requirements, and the addition of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to the monitoring and reporting requirements. Additionally, staff summarized the public outreach process and discussed that the public comments received were primarily related to concerns about the costs associated with the proposed PFAS monitoring and reporting requirements. Board Members discussed the proposed general order, existing groundwater impacts and corrective actions programs at closed landfills, the proposed PFAS monitoring requirements and the statewide PFAS monitoring efforts. Board Members agreed that the proposed PFAS monitoring and reporting requirements are necessary and reasonable to ensure the protection of human health, water quality, and beneficial uses.

Public Comment: Carolyn Burke, Assistant Public Works Director for the County of Santa Cruz in the Special Services Division, provided comments on the PFAS monitoring requirements of the proposed general order and urged the Board to postpone PFAS monitoring at closed landfills until a broader statewide approach is developed.

Motion: Vice Chair Wolff moved to adopt Order R3-2024-0036 General Waste Discharge Requirements for Closed Landfill Facilities in the Central Coast Region

then amended the motion to incorporate the edits identified in the Supplemental Sheet.

Second: Member Rodriguez

Aye: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Rodriguez, Member Hunter, Member Harlan, Member Hoskins.

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 6 to 6

15. Executive Officer's Report [Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140]

Update provided on the Big Basin Wood subdivision wastewater treatment plant project and appreciation was expressed for Central Coast Water Board staff, Santa Cruz County, and Supervisor McPherson for taking on this challenging project. Vice Chair Wolff requested additional information about the status of the drinking water system.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Jane Gray, Chair