

## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**

**Friday, December 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m.**

**Central Coast Water Board Office  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo**

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 on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 9:01 a.m.

#### **Board Business**

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

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

**Absent:** none

Member Harlan and Member Hunter were present virtually via zoom.  
Chair Gray declared quorum for the meeting in person.

2. 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.
- State Water Board Liaison Sean Maguire is not present today but will be available on Friday, December 13, 2024.
- AGP and State Water Board Department of Information Technology staff support for audio visual assistance.
- Recognition for Dean Thomas, Greg Bishop, Stephanie Yu, and Dan Kippen for their work on the San Luis Obispo Airport PFAS project. They received a Superior Accomplishment Award.
- Mary Hamilton introduced Luke Nydam, a recently hired water resource control engineer for the cannabis program.

**3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes, October 17-18, 2024**

Motion: Member Rodriguez moved to approve the October 17-18, 2024, Board meeting minutes.

Second: Member Hoskins

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

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

**4. Reports by Regional Board Members**

**Member Rodriguez:**

- November 12, 2024 – Toured of Colorado river with Bureau of Reclamation and the Quechan Tribe.
- December 3 - 6, 2024 – Attended the Colorado River Water Users Association conference.
- December 8, 2024 – Met with Assemblymember Greg Hartt to discuss water issues in the western United States, southern California, and the region.
- December 9, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

**Member Hunter:**

- December 4, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.
- November 26, 2024 – Confirmed to serve another four-year term on the Central Coast Water Board.

**Member Harlan:**

- November 14, 2024 – Met with David Sanford the Santa Cruz County Agriculture Commissioner.
- December 6, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

**Member Hoskins:**

- December 4, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

**Vice Chair Wolff:**

- November 1, 2024 – Hosted a tour for Ag business presentation at Cal Poly – presentation on Ag regulations for environmental compliance.
- December 9, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

**Chair Gray:**

- October 22-24, 2024 – Attended US EPA tribal conference. Discussed San Lucas with Martha Guzman, EPA Region 9 administrator at the conference.
- October 31, 2024 – Angela Bocanegra, chief of staff for US Representative Zoe Lofgran regarding drinking water needs and information sharing on San Lucas and San Jerardo drinking water projects.

- November 15, 2024 – Met with Sarah Lopez of Preservation Inc.
- November 19, 2024 – Attended community advisory group meeting regarding the San Luis Obispo PFAS project.
- December 2, 2024 – Attended public community meeting for San Luis Obispo PFAS project hosted by the County of San Luis Obispo.
- December 5, 2024 – Met with Arwen Wyatt-Mar, Harvey Packard, and Executive Officer Lodge regarding the CalAm desalination project in Monterey County.
- December 10, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.
- December 10, 2024 – Met with Joaquin Esquivel, State Water Board Chair.
- Monthly chair meeting and weekly briefings with Executive Officer Lodge.

Public Comments: none

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

State Water Board Member Maguire provided an update virtually on Friday, December 13, 2024. The update included:

- Proposition 4, climate adaptation bond was passed which includes a \$3.9 billion water/climate related funding and investments. Funding for recipients for drinking water and wastewater projects is estimated to be \$560 million, \$363 million for recycled water projects, \$101 million for stormwater projects, and \$23 million for tribal water infrastructure. These funds should be available by the end of next year.
- In the last 3 years in the Central Coast Region, the State Board has allocated approximately \$578 in loans and another \$82 in loan forgiveness/grants for Central Coast region.
- Approximately \$880 million has been allocated by Department of Finance FY 24/25 state-wide water and wastewater projects.
- Drinking water needs assessment identifies approximately 7,000 water systems that needs funding equating to about \$10 billion dollars for California.
- Wastewater needs assessment is in development. Anticipated to be another two years before estimates for wastewater needs will be available.
- Because there is more need than money, the state revolving fund policy includes the need for revised criteria to help prioritize which projects receive funding.
- State Board is working on convening expert panel for Irrigated Lands Program. Draft questions were released and finalized and they are currently in the contracting process to select panel members which is anticipated to be completed early next year. The process is anticipated to last a year after panel members are selected and begin to convene.
- Board member Hoskins encouraged Sean Maguire to look to our staff for expertise during panel development/discussions. Board member also encourage more public transparency and education about available funding.
- Vice Chair Wolff requested information on how the budget may impact fees for regulated community. For now there is no information. Sean Maguire indicated

they are waiting for Governor's January budget to get additional clarity about the budget. Sean Maguire did indicate the fee schedule is a public process and there are opportunities for interested persons to provide comment about fee changes – fees are typically updated in September.

- Chair Gray requested information on how State Board looks at principal forgiveness vs loans. Sean Maguire indicated that this has not been determined yet and to stay tuned (could be legislative direction or determined through intended use plan).
- Chair Gray also asked if State Board is aligning drinking water and wastewater needs. Sean Maguire indicated that they are looking into that.
- Chair Gray also asked about training and outreach efforts being done for direct potable reuse operators. State Board is encouraging operators to engage with State Board staff.

#### **6. Public Forum**

Chris Berry – Watershed compliance manager for the city of Santa Cruz Water Department. Concerned about a chemical 6PPD-Q and protection of surface water and salmon/coho populations.

Paul Rys – Concern about governmental entities knowing about chemical risks and how private citizens can understand the risk and the communications from the various water governmental entities. Wants fluorine free foam (FFF) to be evaluated before it is being used.

Bob Derber – Concerns about Santa Cruz as well similar to Chris Berry's concerns.

Molly Troup – Santa Barbara Channel Keeper has concerns regarding sewage spill earlier in the year and a more recent spill from the Goleta Sanitary West collection system, the second spill was the focus on the concern for the comment. Also, concern about management plan not being released yet.

#### **7. Informational Item: Update on Implementation of the Voluntary Cleanup and Abatement Agreement to Address PFAS Contamination at the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport [Greg Bishop, 805/549-3132]**

Central Coast Water Board Senior Engineering Geologist, Greg Bishop provided an update on the on implementation of the Voluntary Cleanup and Abatement Agreement (VCAA) to address Per- And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination at the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport (SLO Airport). The update included an overview of the Site Cleanup Program, application of Resolution 92-49 to inform procedures for investigation and cleanup and abatement of discharges, background on PFAS and occurrence at the SLO Airport, and the VCAA requirements. The staff presentation described that the Airport Parties have made substantial progress and have generally complied with the requirements of the

VCAA. Board Members discussed the importance of effectively implementing the VCAA and engaging with the community and sharing information learned from the VCAA. Board Members also discussed the importance of coordination with the State Water Board and local agencies, and also the potential for obtaining grant funds.

Catherine Boston, a Principal Scientist and Risk Assessor at Roux Associates consulting to the Airport Parties, made a presentation to the Board regarding the uncertainty and limited information on toxicity and exposure pathways related to PFAS. Catherine Boston emphasized the importance of coordinating directly with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard and Assessment (OEHHA) to address these issues to inform the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) being developed for SLO Airport. Board Members discussed the importance of OEHHA's role as an advisor to the Central Coast Water Board and an independent reviewer of the HHRA. Site Cleanup Program Manager, Greg Bishop, described that staff have initiated coordination with OEHHA and that OEHHA requested that the Airport Parties provide a draft site conceptual model and toxicological inputs to be reviewed in advance of discussions. Greg Bishop responded that, in November 2024, Central Coast Water Board staff requested that the Airport Parties submit this information so it could be provided to OEHHA, but the Airport had not yet provided this information.

**Public Comments:**

- Kathy Borland, a community member, described that they participated in PFAS blood testing and results showed elevated levels, and that they are coordinating with other community members to consider conducting similar testing. Kathy Borland also commended the level of community engagement and progress to implement the VCAA.
- Keith Millier, a community member, also commended the level of community engagement and progress to implement the VCAA. Keith Miller expressed the importance of continuing to evaluate and consider all options. He also described that the costs related to human health exposure are a burden on the community and those costs should be covered as part of the VCAA.

Sophie Froelich announced that the Board will go into closed session for items 14.3 and 14.4.

8. Informational Item: Annual Agricultural Order Implementation Update [Elaine Sahl, 805/542-4645; Paula Richter, 805/549-3865; and James Bishop, 805/542-4628].

Section Manager Mary Hamilton introduced the informational item and provided an update on Irrigated lands Program (ILP) staff progress to revise the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands, Order R3-2021-00401 (Ag Order) and to address items remanded back to the Central Coast Water Board in the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order WQ 2023-0081.

ILP staff James Bishop, provided a high level summary of his recent work developing an alternative water supply (AWS) needs and cost assessment for Central Coast Region residents relying on groundwater in areas where nitrate exceeds the MCL as a result of agricultural operations and to coordinate with representatives of Agricultural, Environmental, and Environmental Justice groups to develop an AWS program for residents in the Central Coast Region.

ILP staff Paula Richter, summarized coordination with the approved third-party program to develop and implement workplans for surface water and ground water monitoring and assessment as well as ongoing collaboration to improve grower support and the useability and functionality of the GeoTracker database for this program. Board Members engaged in discussion with ILP staff on various topics including the status of the State Water Board's expert panel, revisions to GeoTracker forms, and tutorial videos and workshops to assist growers with required reporting.

Sarah Lopez, the Executive Director of Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (Preservation, Inc.) led her team, including Ryann DiBasilio and Sklyer Wolfe, in presenting on membership support, monitoring and reporting programs, water quality monitoring program implementation, and development of the new groundwater trend monitoring program and surface water quality follow-up implementation program. Preservation, Inc. staff also discussed the outreach and education efforts for growers reporting higher levels of nitrogen application and growers in surface water priority areas to address discharges that cause or contribute to exceedances of surface water quality limits in the Ag Order. Preservation, Inc. staff engaged with the Board regarding observed water quality trends and potential correlations with recent high precipitation events, nitrate MCL exceedances in irrigation wells and on-farm domestic wells, status of the groundwater quality trends workplan development, support for Preservation, Inc. members including reporting nitrogen applied and removed and how well the outreach to growers is being received.

ILP staff Caroline Webster presented on Ag Order compliance rates and shared data showing that compliance rates increase following outreach efforts such as the semi-annual ranch summary reports. ILP staff also shared information about the ILP dashboard and a new dashboard feature that shows the compliance numbers for various Ag Order requirements. ILP staff engaged with the Board regarding the effectiveness of outreach efforts and translation services at workshops and for written documents. Mary Hamilton provided closing remarks.

Public comment:  
none

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

**Friday, December 13, 2024**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Friday, December 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

**9. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Rodriguez, Member Hoskins, Member Hunter, and Member Harlan  
Absent: none

Member Hunter and Member Harlan participated virtually.  
Chair Gray declared quorum for the meeting in person.

**10. Introductions**

Thea Tryon, clerk to the Board and assistant executive officer; Sophie Froelich legal counsel; section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton. Sean Maguire is present virtually and IT staff were acknowledged.

**11. Consideration of Proposed Order R3-2024-0045, Waste Discharge Requirements for the Monterey One Water Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and Advanced Water Purification Facility, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit CA0048551, Monterey County [Leah Lemoine, 805/549-3159 and Sarah Bragg-Flavan, 805/542-4636]**

Sarah Bragg-Flavan, Water Resource Control Engineer with the NPDES program, and Leah Lemoine, Senior Water Resource Control Engineer with the Recycled Water program, provided the Board an overview of proposed Order R3-2024-0045, a renewal of an NPDES permit for the Monterey One Water Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (Facility). Board members asked questions related to the production, distribution, and use of recycled water, age of outfall infrastructure, water conservation efforts by agricultural end users, climate change resiliency, and benefit to the Carmel River. Staff responded with information related to seasonality of recycled water demand and production, clarifications to permit provisions for redundancy and climate planning, and outfall age and testing requirements.

Alison Imamura, principal engineer with Monterey One Water, added additional operational details related to seasonal variations of supply, demand, and storage of recycled water. Ms. Imamura also shared the typical production rate of recycled water for agricultural use (10 to 12 MGD) and listed the various agencies through which recycled water is distributed, including Monterey County Water Resources Agency, California American Water, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and Marina Coast Water District. Finally, Ms. Imamura added California American Water is on track to meet requirements of the State Water Board cease

and desist order related to unauthorized diversion of water from the Carmel River, in part due to the Pure Water Monterey project.

Matt Thompson, director of engineering with Monterey One Water, shared information related to climate resilience at the Facility. Mr. Thompson stated that Monterey One Water produces renewable energy through cogeneration and utilizes generators for redundancy. Monterey One Water is considering additional renewable energy sources including capture of landfill gas and additional solar and ultimately intends to create a microgrid for the facility. Mr. Thompson also shared Monterey One Water's plans for a major upgrade in the future to, in part, manage the increasing influent strength associated with drought conditions and water conservation practices.

**Public Comments:**

- Nina Beety – Provided comment on risks of indirect potable reuse on human and aquatic health. Ms. Beety stated that reverse osmosis concentrate is bad for the Monterey Bay and industrial agricultural wastewater contains harmful chemicals. Ms. Beety stated that water injected into Fort Ord is contaminated and that surrounding groundwater is not safe.

Motion: Member Rodriguez moved to adopt Order R3-2024-0045, including the changes in the change sheet presented during the hearing by Central Coast Water Board staff.

Second: Vice Chair Wolff

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

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

**12. Informational Item: Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program – Groundwater Assessment and Protection Program Update  
[Julia Dyer, 805/542-4624]**

Central Coast Water Board Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, Julia Dyer, provided an update on the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program – Groundwater Assessment and Protection (CCAMP-GAP) activities. The update included a program overview and status of the Central Coast Drinking Water Well Testing Program, and the Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program. Board Members discussed potential sources and solutions for domestic drinking water wells impacted by arsenic and hexavalent chromium. In addition, Board Members discussed the availability of replacement drinking water throughout the region, as well as public outreach and coordination with county environmental health agencies. Board Members also discussed the Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program and Jodene Issacs, Director of Grantmaking for the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, addressed Board Member questions about the Funding Advisory Board, pool of grant applications



received, grant project timeframes, and specific projects. Board Members also requested that staff provide a future update regarding the Low Impact Development Initiative (LIDI) fund as part of a future Executive Officer's report.

**13. Executive Officer's Report**

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

Ryan Lodge briefly described the tables in the executive officer's report and there were no comments from the board members.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

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Jane Gray, Chair