
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Friday, October 18, 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, October 17, 2024, at 9:07 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 Hunter, Member Rodriguez, Member Hoskins, and Member Harlan

Absent: none

Member Harlan is attending virtually via Zoom. Chair Gray declared that there was a quorum.

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.
- AGP and State Water Board Department of Information Technology staff support for audio visual assistance.

3. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes, August 22-23, 2024

Motion: Member Rodriguez motioned to approve the August 22-23, 2024 Board meeting minutes.

Second: Member Hunter

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

JANE GRAY, CHAIR | RYAN E. LODGE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

4. Reports by Regional Board Members

Member Rodriguez:

- September 4, 2024 – Attended a meeting with vice president of policy with Strawberry Commission.
- September 16, 2024 – Participated in the Metropolitan Water District community leaders briefing in Camarillo.
- September 30, 2024 – Attended the California Associated of Mutual Water Companies annual meeting in Long Beach.
- October 11, 2024 – Met with Congressperson Salud Carbajal and Assemblymember Gregg Hart.
- October 14, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

Member Hunter:

- October 3, 2024 – Met with CalEPA and Governor's office staff to discuss re-appointment to the Central Coast Water Board.
- October 10, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

Member Harlan:

- September 19, 2024 – Attended the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency meeting.
- October 3, 2024 – Attended the Pure Water Soquel Advanced Water Purification Facility ribbon cutting ceremony.
- October 10, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

Member Hoskins:

- October 14, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

Vice Chair Wolff:

- August 27, 2024 – Met with Department of Pesticide Regulation regarding weather station use to reduce pesticide application.
- August 29, 2024 – Assisted Cal Poly with questions regarding donated lands and compliance with Ag Order 4.0.
- September 9, 2024 – Spoke at an environmental science class at Cuesta College.
- September 14, 2024 – Hosted a tour at Wolff Vineyard regarding integrated pest management.
- October 14, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

Chair Gray:

- September 9, 2024 – Met with Chelsea Tu of Monterey Coastkeeper.

- September 10, 2024 – Virtually attended monthly SLO Airport Community Advisory Group meeting.
- September 30, 2024 – Attended community meeting at San Lucas and San Jerardo with USEPA Regional Administrator Martha Guzman, State Board Chair Esquivel, State and Regional Board staff, and representatives from local, state and federal elected officials.
- October 8, 2024 – Met with Assemblymember Gregg Hart.
- October 10, 2024 – Met with Sarah Lopez of Preservation Inc.
- October 14, 2024 – Attended Board meeting briefing.

Public Comments: none

5. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison
[Sean Maguire, 916/341-5877]
Sean Maguire was not available to provide an update.

6. Consider Proposed Order R3-2024-0029, Terminating Waste Discharge Requirements Orders
[Mark Lemus, 805/549-3703]

See item 8 for vote summary

7. Consider Proposed Order R3-2024-0062, Terminating Waste Discharge Requirements Order R3-2013-0028, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit CA0000051
[Sarah Crable, 805/549-3706]

See item 8 for vote summary

8. Consider Proposed Order R3-2005-0017-A01, Amendment to Order R3-2005-0017 to Reflect Change of Name and Ownership of a Facility Having Waste Discharge Requirements
[Mark Lemus, 805/549-3703]

Motion: Member Hunter motioned to adopt uncontested items 6, 7, and 8.

Second: Member Hoskins

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

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

Public Comment: none

9. Consider Proposed Order R3-2024-0056, Terminating Waste Discharge Requirements Order 87-60
[Mark Lemus, 805/549-3703]

Motion: Member Rodriguez motioned to adopt Order R3-2024-0056.

Second: Member Hunter

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

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

Public Comment: none

10. Basin Planning Program Update
[Daniel Ellis, 805/549-3889]

Central Coast Water Board staff Daniel Ellis presented a Basin Plan Program update. The update included the regulatory background and context for the Basin Plan as well as program priorities and tasks for Fiscal Years 23-24 and 24-25. Board Members asked questions and engaged in discussion with staff regarding recently adopted Basin Plan amendments, potential future projects and technical partners such as Sea Grant Fellows, and tribal outreach. The Board Members noted and appreciated the thoroughness of the update and how it paired well with Item 11.

11. Consider Resolution R3-2024-0061, 2024 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin
[Jamie Pratt, 805/549-3761 and Daniel Ellis, 805/549-3889]

Central Coast Water Board staff Jamie Pratt presented on the purpose and process of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan) Triennial Review, progress made on Basin Plan amendment projects since the 2021 Triennial Review, and the 2024 Triennial Review process, public comments, and proposed priority list of proposals to be pursued as Basin Plan amendments.

Board members engaged in a discussion with staff regarding the prioritization approach, the determination not to include all the 2021 Priority List proposals, and whether there were more proposals that could have been included in the 2024 Priority List. Staff explained that the 2024 Priority List included three out of the eight 2021 Priority List proposals, and that the prioritization reflected a focused approach that took into consideration proposal evaluation criteria, staff input, public comment, and staff and technical resources available to develop proposals. Board Members also engaged in a discussion on marine protection area designation and coordination with the Coastal Commission regarding proposed new protection areas.

Board members provided suggestions regarding the definition and use of the term "proposal" to make clear to the public that these were just ideas for improvements and organizing the list of proposals in a consolidated way that identified and appreciated overlap, and suggested including proposals that received support but

did not appear on the final proposed priorities list in the future. Board members asked for an update in the Executive Officer's Report in 18 months.

There was one public commentor: Cori Lopez, a Cal State University Monterey Bay student intern with Monterey Waterkeeper. The commentor spoke in support of this item, specifically the adoption of the proposed priority list of proposals. The commentor also stated that they would have liked the priority list to also include *Proposal 27: Establish Nutrient Water Quality Objectives for Aquatic Life*.

Motion: Member Harlan motioned to adopt Resolution R3-2024-0061 and the 2024 Triennial Review Priority List.

Second: Member Rodriguez

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

Abstain: none

Motion Carried: 6 to 0

Public Comment: Cori Lopez student intern with Monterey Waterkeeper.

12. Public Forum

Taken out of order

No public comments.

13. Grants Program Update

[Katie McNeill, 805/549-3336 and Daniel Ellis, 805/549-3889]

Central Coast Water Board staff Katie McNeill presented an informational item that included an overview of the Grants Program and regional priorities and provided a summary of State Water Board administered and Central Coast Water Board managed funding awarded to various Water Board programs over the past twenty-five years. Staff highlighted several successful projects and recent awards as examples of Grants Program functions. In addition, the presentation included photos and a memorial acknowledgement of Ross Clark, the late Director of the Central Coast Wetlands Group.

Board Members asked questions and engaged in discussion with staff regarding funding that benefits underrepresented communities, such as interim drinking water, the efficiencies and effectiveness in using non-profit foundations to administer grant funding provided by the Central Coast Water Board settlements, and leveraging funding from private, or corporate foundations with our available state and federal funding. The Board acknowledged the meaningful work in the Grants Program and reaffirmed the priorities. Board Members recognized Ross Clark's lasting contributions to water quality and collaboration.

The Board Members requested that staff post the presentation slides on our Board Meeting website so that region-wide funding information is readily available to the public.

Lunch break at 11:36 and returned at 1:31

Sophie Froelich announced closed session to discuss item 21 numbers 3 and 4.

14. Waste Discharge Requirements Program Update
[Jennifer Epp, 805/594-6181 and Rachel Hohn 805/542-4789]

Central Coast Water Board staff Jennifer Epp and Rachel Hohn provided a waste discharge requirements (WDRs) program update. Staff provided an overview discussing general program functions, priorities, types of permits and enrollment information that the WDR program handles and an overview of compliance oversight, funding support, and enforcement actions. Staff also provided an overview of the various program management efficiencies that have been developed.

15. 401 Certification Program Update
[Phil Hammer, 805/549-3882 and Alia Ajina 805/542-4646]

Central Coast Water Board staff Phil Hammer provided an overview of the goals, workload, performance, and future program plans of the 401 program. Staff scientist Alia Ajina provided a summary of a Caltrans 401 project in the Region (Caltrans' St. Francis Revetment Replacement). Common project types include transportation, flood control, and development projects. Vice Chair Wolff asked the program to consider looking at the scale of a project relative to the permitting steps that a permittee must go through (less onerous permitting for small projects – permit streamlining). Phil Hammer mentioned that there are general orders that streamline the permitting process and the General Vegetation Order is another example of helping streamline permitting process. Board members also provided a suggestion to do more public education on how to minimize impacts when working in water bodies.

16. Enforcement Report
[Tamara Anderson, 805/549-3334]

Central Coast Water Board Enforcement Coordinator Tamara Anderson provided a brief overview of the enforcement report covering enforcement actions taken from April through July of 2024 and a chronology of the escalating enforcement process prior to the issuance of the Administrative Civil Liability Order to Jim Mosby and Gustavo Alvarez. Board member Hoskins asked about the enforcement options for facilities with recurring effluent limitation violations and the recurring violations at the Granite Rock Company's Arthur Wilson Quarry. Central Coast Water Board staff explained the general enforcement and regulatory options, in addition to issuing mandatory minimum penalties, for facilities regulated by National Pollutant

Discharge Elimination System permits with recurring effluent limitation violations and staff's coordination with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the cause of the recurring violations at the Granite Rock Company's quarry. Chair Gray inquired about the current operation of the Tajiguas Compost Management Unit and Central Coast Water Board staff explained that the County of Santa Barbara owns and now operates the facility, and staff are actively working with the County related to compliance issues. Board members also asked about the notices of violation issued to Agricultural Order permittees for failure to submit the 2023 Total Nitrogen Applied Report. Central Coast Water Board staff explained that 2023 was the first year that all Agricultural Order permittees were required to submit the Total Nitrogen Applied Report, so the number of issued notices of violation may be higher relative to previous years; however, there was a fairly high compliance rate.

17. 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 3:24 p.m.

Friday, October 18, 2024

Chair Gray called the meeting to order on Friday, October 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

18. Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum

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

Absent: none

Member Harlan is attending virtually via Zoom. Chair Gray declared quorum for the meeting in person.

19. Introductions

[Ryan Lodge, 805/549-3140]

Executive Officer Lodge introduced Thea Tryon, clerk to the Board and assistant executive officer; Sophie Froelich, legal counsel; section managers Harvey Packard, Angela Schroeter, and Mary Hamilton.

Staff introductions included Anthony Schuetz, Engineering Geologist; Jeffrey Whitson, Engineering Geologist (and Luke Whitson service dog); Izabelle Kent from

the Morro Bay Foundation; Sierra Greninger, student; Enoch Kraycik, Environmental Scientist; James Bishop in new role as Senior Technical Engineering Geologist.

20. Strategic Planning Discussion
[Ryan Lodge, 805/549-3140]

Ryan Lodge, Thea Tryon, Mary Hamilton, Angela Schroeter, and Harvey Packard summarized the project/task priorities for each program for fiscal year 2024/2025. Various supervisors of various programs assisted in responding to Board member questions. Leah Lemoine and Karyn Steckling provided an update on the Central Coast Water Board's pilot mentoring program.

Public comment: none

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Jane Gray, Chair

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