

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, August 21, 2025, 11:00 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, August 21, 2025, at 11:01 a.m.

Board Business

1. Roll call and declaration of quorum
Kai Johnson, Clerk to the Board, 805/549-3686,
Kai.Johnson@waterboards.ca.gov

Present: Chair Gray, Vice Chair Wolff, Member Rodriguez, Member Hoskins –
Absent: Member Harlan

Chair Gray declared a quorum present for the meeting

2. Introductions
[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Ryan Lodge introduced Kai Johnson in her new role as the Clerk of the Board.
Jennifer Epp introduced Ismael Haile in his new role as an engineer on the
Waste Discharge team.

Sarah Hewawitharana introduced new staff, Rhett Terrell to the Administrative
Program.

3. Approval of Board meeting minutes, June 19-20, 2025

Motion: Chair Gray motioned to approve the minutes.

Second: Member Rodriguez

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

Abstain: None

Absent: Member Harlan

Motion Carried: 4 to 0

4. Board member communications, including ex parte disclosures and Board member reports. Board members will identify any ex parte discussions they may have had requiring disclosure pursuant to Government Code section 11430.40, and Board members may discuss communications, correspondence, or other items of general interest relating to matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

Member Hoskins:

- July 8, 2025 – Spoke at the Kiwanis Club of San Luis Obispo.
- August 11, 2025 - Attended virtual meeting with Ag Partners: Abby Taylor Silva and Claire Wineman.
- August 14, 2025 - Attended Board briefing with Member Rodriguez.

Vice Chair, Wolff:

- August 11, 2025 - Attended Board briefing.
- August 18, 2025 - Attended virtual meeting with Ag Partners: Abby Taylor Silva and Norm Groot.

Member Rodriguez:

- July 8, 2025 - Panelist on water/wastewater/waste & recycling at the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Life Sciences Conference.
- July 16, 2025 - Participated in the University of Arkansas National Ag Law Center webinar, "Western Water Markets: Overview of Legal and Policy Considerations."
- July 28, 2025 - Participated in an emergency consultation regarding potential rollbacks on EPA's PFAS rules.
- August 4, 2025 – Virtual meeting with Ag Partners.
- August 14, 2025 - Attended a Board briefing with Member Hoskins.

Chair Gray:

- July 7, 2025 - Discussion with Brandon Bollinger at Community Water Center (CWC).
- July 21, 2025 - Discussion with Natalie Herendeen of Monterey Coastkeeper.
- July 29, 2025 - Attended the San Luis Obispo County Community Advisory Group meeting on the Voluntary Settlement Agreement related to PFAS at the San Luis Obispo County Airport.
- July 30, 2025 - Communication with Itzel Vasquez Rodriguez regarding ongoing work in San Lucas with Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC).
- August 4, 2025 – Discussion with Brandon Bollinger at Community Water Center.
- August 6, 2025 - Discussion with Chris Valdez and Abby Taylor Silva on the Alternative Water Supply Project.

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

State Water Board Member Maguire did not provide an update.

No Public Comments.

Public Forum

6. Any person may orally address the Board regarding a matter within the Board's jurisdiction that is not related to an item on this meeting agenda. Comments will generally be limited to three minutes, unless otherwise approved by the Chair. See instructions at the beginning of this agenda notice for submitting a request for extra time. Comments regarding pending adjudicatory matters will not be permitted.

No Public Comments.

Discussion/Informational Items

7. Executive Officer's Report
[Ryan Lodge, Executive Officer, 805/549-3140,
Ryan.Lodge@waterboards.ca.gov]

Executive Officer Ryan Lodge summarized the contents of the report.

No Public Comments.

No action was taken as this is an informational item.

8. **Public Workshop on the Development of an Alternative Water Supply Program for Residents Relying on Groundwater that Exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Level for Nitrate as a Result of Agricultural Operations**

[James Bishop, Senior Engineering Geologist Specialist, 805/542-4628, James.Bishop@waterboards.ca.gov, Mary Hamilton, Environmental Program Manager, 805/542-4768, Mary.Hamilton@waterboards.ca.gov]

This item included two presentations from Central Coast Water Board staff followed by two 15-minute public commentors and then general public comments on the item. Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer, Ryan Lodge, and Environmental Program Manager, Mary Hamilton, introduced the item.

James Bishop provided the first staff presentation titled *Assessment of Interim Drinking Water Needs and Costs in Central Coast Areas Affected by Agricultural Nitrate Groundwater Contamination* (Interim Need and Cost Assessment). Staff answered Board Member questions throughout the presentation.

Staff noted that an assessment of costs for long-term drinking water solution would be released in the next year.

Mary Hamilton provided the second staff presentation titled *Conceptual Structure for the Alternative Water Supply Program* (Concepts Presentation).

The Ag Partners provided a 15-minute presentation to share their comments. Norm Groot and Abby Taylor-Silva provided comment on behalf of the Agricultural Partners (with Tess Dunham available for questions on Zoom). Norm Groot and Abby Taylor-Silva answered Board member questions throughout their presentation.

Following the public comment from the Ag Partners, the Environmental Justice Representatives provided 15 minute presentation to provide their comments. Kija Rivers and Elias Rodriguez spoke on behalf of the Environmental Justice Representatives and engaged with the Board members regarding questions.

State Water Board Division of Water Quality Chief Deputy Director Karen Mogus was present at the meeting and provided a response to the question regarding the ability of SAFER to act as a program administrator, indicating that State Water Board staff are considering this request, but no decisions have been made.

Following the 15-minute comment and presentation from the Environmental Justice Representatives, the Board heard public comments on this item. All commenters are listed below. The Board members engaged with Sarah Lopez from Central Coast Water Quality Preservation Inc. regarding the number of growers who are considered small and/or disadvantaged farmers.

Public commenters include the following individuals:

Name	Organization
Sarah Lopez	Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (6-minutes)
Brandon Bollinger	Community Water Center (5 minutes)
Silverio Perez	Community Member
Ana Maria Perez	Community Member
Juan Medina	Community Member
Maria Medina	Community Member
Maria de Jesus Sanchez	Community Member
Isabel Morales	Community Member
Rosa Carrillo Orozco	Community Member
Jasmine Huerta	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
Chelsea Tu	California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. (5 minutes)
Horacio Amezcuita	Community Member

Name	Organization
Nathaniel Kane	Environmental Law Foundation
Natalie Herendeen	Monterey Waterkeeper

No board action was taken as this was an informational item.

Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 17:01

Jane Gray, Chair

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