

State of California
Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Tues., April 1, 2025 &
9:00 A.M., Weds., April 2, 2025
Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](https://cal-span.org/) (https://cal-span.org/)

Audio recordings of Board meetings (11/2018 and before) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/)
(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/)

i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Bedolla led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Hector Bedolla, Greg Giusti, Ryan
Sundberg, Jake Mackenzie

Alex Hart (via Zoom)

Regional Water Board staff present:

Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen, Josh
Curtis, Claudia Villacorta, Deidre
Wilkerson, Kaete King, Charles Reed,
Justin McSmith, Katharine Carter,
Mona Dougherty, Lisa Bernard, Lance
Le, Kelsey Cody, Brendan Thompson,
Shannon Strong, Matt St. John, Kason
Grady

- iii. **Board Member Reports:** Board Member Giusti reported that he has had several conversations about the decommissioning of the Potter Valley Project, and has specifically received questions about the Regional Board's role in this matter.

Board Member Mackenzie shared that he recently attended a sustainability conference.

Chair Bedolla shared observations about the Russian River and turbidity releases from the Coyote Dam. He also noted that he invited Sean White to speak on this matter during Public Forum.

- iv. **State Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Board Liaison and Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo gave a comprehensive report that began with an update from the State Board March 4th Meeting, highlighting two information items: the 2025 Draft Strategic Work Plan and the completion of the second year of implementation of the Racial Equity Action Plan. Following her update on those two informational items, Vice Chair D'Adamo continued her report with updates on a number of topics, including the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan, Sustainable Groundwater Management, Urban Stormwater Infiltration, recent and upcoming meetings on Water Quality and Water Rights fees, the 2026 California Integrated Report, Utility Wildfire General Order, Scott and Shasta curtailments, Delta Conveyance, and the upcoming Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting.

Vice Chair D'Adamo responded to questions from the Board.

- v. **Board Chair's Report:** There was no Board Chair's Report.
- vi. **Public Forum:** Comments were received from the following members of the public:
- Sean White, City of Ukiah
 - Alan Levine, Coast Action Group
 - Craig Bell, Coastal Watersheds
 - Karen Wilson, South Fork Trinity Up-River Friends
 - Alicia Williams, Independent Activist and Community Builder

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: February 5-7, 2025 & March 17, 2025

Motion: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt the February 5-7, 2025 and March 17, 2025 Board Meeting minutes; Vice Chair Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Hart aye
- Giusti aye

- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Item

2. Resolution No. R1-2025-0003 Approving the Nordic AquaFarm Work Plans for additional Monitoring of Coastal Oceanography and Water Quality and the Biological Survey (*Justin McSmith*)

Justin McSmith, Water Resource Control Engineer for the Regional Board's NPDES Unit, gave a presentation to the Board. The presentation included an overview of the Nordic Aquafarms facility location, aquaculture and fish processing facility, work plan requirements, and Board recommendation.

Following Mr. McSmith's presentation, Ellen Goldenberg, Senior Marine Biologist with Applied Marine Sciences, began her presentation, which included background information on Applied Marine Sciences and the Nordic Aquafarms project, as well as details of the monitoring study (sampling locations, methods, time scale, and reporting).

Mr. McSmith and Ms. Goldenberg answered questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Brenda Chandler, US CEO of Nordic Aquafarms, California
- Jay Johnson, Senior Oceanographer, Principal for Applied Marine Sciences

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Motion: Board Member Giusti moved to adopt Resolution No. R1-2025-0013; Vice Chair Hart seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Hart aye
- Giusti aye
- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

Workshop

3. Workshop for Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region to Incorporate an Action Plan for the Russian River Watershed Pathogen

Total Maximum Daily Load and a Discharge Prohibition (*Lisa Bernard, Lance Le, and Kelsey Cody*)

The Regional Board's Action Plan Revisions Team (Lisa Bernard, Planning Unit Supervisor and Senior Environmental Scientist, Lance Le, Ph.D., Water Resource Control Engineer with the Planning and Watershed Stewardship Division, and Kelsey Cody, Ph.D., Groundwater Permitting Unit Supervisor and Senior Environmental Scientist) presented to the Board. The presentation included regulatory background information, project overview, 2025 revisions, data assessment, OWTS implementation, key takeaways, process and timeline, information on where to find project updates, how to submit written comments, and staff contact information.

Staff responded to questions from the Board

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Following this item, the Board went into Closed Session to discuss agenda item 6 (Continuation of February 5-7, 2025 Public Hearing on Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2021-0047A issued to BoDean Co. Inc, for the Mark West Quarry, Sonoma County, 4611 Porter Creek Road).

The Board returned from closed session at 2:46 p.m. to report that a proposed Administrative Civil Liability Order would be released later in the day, and the hearing would take place as scheduled on Wednesday, April 2.

6:00 p.m. – Information Item

4. Presentation of 2025 Racial Equity Action Plan (*Shannon Strong and Brendan Thompson*)

Brendan Thompson, Senior Environmental Scientist and Watershed Adaptive Management Unit Supervisor, and Shannon Strong, Environmental Scientist in the Northern NPS and 401 Certification Unit, presented to the Board on behalf of the Regional Board Racial Equity Workgroup. The presentation began with a refresher on racial equity, followed by background information on the Regional Board's racial equity initiatives. The presentation then moved to the action plan, focusing on development, timeline, changes, and implementation.

Staff responded to questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Lina Hoshino, Sonoma County Resident
- Phyllis Tajii, self
- Angelo Sacerdote, self
- Gail Seymour, NAACP and JACL
- Regine Chichizola, Save California Salmon

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

- i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Board Member Giusti led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:	Hector Bedolla, Greg Giusti, Ryan Sundberg, Jake Mackenzie Alex Hart (via Zoom)
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Regional Water Board staff present:	Valerie Quinto, Nathan Jacobsen, Josh Curtis, Claudia Villacorta, Deidre Wilkerson, Kaete King, Jeremiah Puget, Kason Grady, Prachi Kulkarni, Lisa Bernard, Katharine Carter, Charles Reed, Heaven Moore
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Action Items

5. Resolution No. R1-2025-0010 Approving Submittal of the Coastal Pathogen Source Reduction Strategy to the State Water Board for the 2028 Integrated Report (*Prachi Kulkarni*)

Prachi Kulkarni, Water Resource Control Engineer in the Planning Unit, presented to the Board. The presentation included goals, background, source identification, source control, recommendation, and useful information.

Staff responded to questions from the Board.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Jennifer Kalt, Humboldt Waterkeeper

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Motion: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt Resolution No. R1-2025-0010; Board Member Sundberg seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Hart aye
- Giusti aye
- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

6. Continuation of February 5-7, 2025 Public Hearing on Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2021-0047A issued to BoDean Co. Inc, for the Mark West Quarry, Sonoma County, 4611 Porter Creek Road (*Heaven Moore, Jeremiah Puget, Claudia Villacorta, Catherine Hawe, Naomi Rubin, and Daniel Kippen*)

The Board confirmed they released Proposed Order No. R1-2025-0017 on April 1, 2025 and shared a brief overview of what the proposed order contains. The Board received brief comments from both the Prosecution Team and the Respondent before moving to public comment.

The hearing was recorded and transcribed; the recording and transcription provide a complete account of the hearing.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Motion: Board Member Mackenzie moved to adopt Proposed Order No. R1-2025-0017; Board Member Sundberg seconded the motion; Chair Bedolla initiated a roll-call vote:

- Bedolla aye
- Hart aye
- Giusti aye
- Sundberg aye
- Mackenzie aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

7. **Executive Officer's Report:** Executive Officer Valerie Quinto highlighted the written Executive Officer's Report.
8. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Others Items of Interest:** Board Members requested the following as future agenda items: Coyote Dam turbidity issues, the Outstanding National Resource Waters project, and the allocation and rollout of Proposition 4 bond money.
9. **Closed Session:** The Board met in Closed Session to discuss agenda item 6 (Continuation of February 5-7, 2025 Public Hearing on Administrative Civil Liability Complaint No. R1-2021-0047A issued to BoDean Co. Inc, for the Mark West Quarry, Sonoma County, 4611 Porter Creek Road) as noted above.
11. **Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**

9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 7, 2025, and
9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 8, 2025
Best Western Miner's Inn and Convention Center
122 E Miner St
Yreka, CA 96097

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.