

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 3, 2009**

(Prepared on May 20, 2009)

**ITEM NUMBER: 5**

**SUBJECT: Board Leadership Development**  
**a. Chair's Role**  
**b. Member's Roles**

**SUMMARY**

a. Chair's role – Our Board Chair has asked for some feedback from Board members on how he is doing as Chair. He sent a survey to each Board member and would like to discuss the survey answers and any suggestions for improving in his role as Chair. Please complete the survey and bring it with you to the Board meeting. If you cannot attend, the Chair would still appreciate receiving the survey and your added thoughts.

b. Members' roles – Regional Board staff has been taking advantage of leadership education opportunities for the last three years, as an integral part of transforming into a performance based organization. Board members also have opportunities to exercise and expand leadership skills in order to be a more effective organization.

Following are three attachments that will prompt some thinking about board leadership potential. The articles are not about boards that are the same as our board, but these articles have some applicable ideas. For example, non-profits are frequently focused on fund raising, which is not something we do. We are involved in allocating funds. Some of the ideas in these articles would be more applicable to board members who are not so part time as regional board members. Another difference is that we have ex parte rules that limit discussion on pending items. Nevertheless, please review these articles and see what ideas are applicable or what ideas of your own come to mind. For example, the second article suggests:

*Create opportunities for board members to "meet the customer". One organization schedules an annual "town hall forum" to provide board members with a face-to-face opportunity to listen to constituents talk about their emerging needs.*

This idea is similar to our discussion of outreach opportunities a few meetings ago. At our last meeting, we had a forum that was more of an outreach event when we discussed Los Osos groundwater management, and invited not only the County but all the water purveyors as well.

Another idea that the Board should discuss is the notion of succession planning for the Board. How can the Board recruit members that have the potential to truly strengthen the Board in its ability to fulfill its mission?

**RECOMMENDATION**

Be prepared to discuss what our board can do to be more effective in accomplishing our Vision of Healthy Watersheds.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Nine Keys for Reinvigorating Board Leadership by Paul Connolly
2. Encouraging Visionary Board Leadership by Frank Martinelli
3. Nonprofit Boards: Eight Leadership Development Stories by Joseph A. Walsh