



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • FAX (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

Linda S. Adams
Acting Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Thursday, December 9, 2010 Central Coast Regional Water Board

Chairman Young called the meeting of the Central Coast Water Board to order at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Watsonville, California.

1. Roll Call.....Administrative Assistant Carol Hewitt

Board Members Present:	Absent:
Chairman Jeffrey Young	N/A
Vice Chair, Russell Jeffries	
John Hayashi	
David Hodgkin	
Monica Hunter	

2. Introductions and Recognition..... Executive Officer Roger Briggs

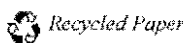
Executive Officer Roger Briggs recognized Administrative Assistant II Carol Hewitt's retirement and Chair Young presented Ms. Hewitt with a resolution of appreciation from the Board. Ms. Hewitt thanked the Board and staff for her great work experience the last eleven years.

Mr. Briggs and Chair Young recognized former Board member Gary Shallcross and presented him with a plaque of appreciation for his many years of service to the Board as a member as well as Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Shallcross noted the exceptional work and attitude of Carol Hewitt and congratulated her on her retirement. He discussed the great technical work and mission focus of the staff, as well as the staff's consistent practice of listening to all sides of the issue and being objective with recommendations to the Board while being protective of the environment. Finally, he thanked his former fellow Board members for their mutual work over the years for the betterment of the region's resources.

Executive Officer Briggs introduced staff and State Board staff liaison Frances Spivy-Weber. Mr. Briggs asked parties who wished to speak to complete testimony cards and turn them in. Supplemental sheets prepared after the agenda was sent out are as follows: Item No. 11 (2 supplemental sheets) and Item No. 16 (multiple support letters).

3. Approval of September 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes.....Board Motion

MOTION: Russell Jeffries moved to approve the September 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes
SECOND: None
CARRIED: (4-0) Note: John Hayashi abstained



4. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison..... Status Report

State Board liaison Frances Spivy-Weber expressed appreciation to Carol Hewitt for her many years of hard work and congratulated her on her retirement. She also thanked former Board member Gary Shallcross for his years of service on the Board.

Ms. Spivy-Weber then provided an update to the Board on the following issues: state budget and staffing challenges, WQCC and other meetings scheduled in 2011, state and federal finance committees and 2011 funding fairs, and she reported on the state and federal funding sources meeting held in Stanislaus County. She also noted there will be several statewide stormwater and pesticides permits in 2011 and that toxicity is a major issue and policy may be adopted in 2011. Delta flows and salinity issues are also pending.

5. Uncontested Items Calendar..... Board Motion

Uncontested items include Items 7, 9, 10, 12, and 13. Note: Item 11 was removed from the uncontested items calendar.

MOTION: Russell Jeffries moved to approve the uncontested items calendar.
SECOND: David Hodgin
CARRIED: (5-0) Unanimously

Note: Executive Officer Briggs stated the sites included on Item No. 7 met water quality objectives and were closed administratively.

6. Low Threat and General Discharge Cases..... Status Reports

Executive Officer Briggs summarized low threat cases as listed on the agenda. Board member Monica Hunter requested clarification on whether or not the Cambria wells will be completely removed. Mr. Briggs and Board staff Sheila Soderberg clarified that the wells *will* be completely removed.

8. Recommended Case Closures Info/Discussion/Board Direction

Executive Officer Briggs introduced the item. Board members discussed different ways in which buyers of property with low levels of contamination might be made more aware of potential risks in the event of property redevelopment. Board members requested that staff work with legal counsel to come up with language to be added as a condition of closure, which will make a buyer more aware of potential threats.

11. Waste Discharge Requirements for Arthur R. Wilson Quarry..... Info/Discussion/Board Motion

Water Board Engineer Cecile DeMartini provided staff's recommendation for adoption. Vice Chair Russell M. Jeffries expressed the potential for downstream flooding if the Discharger is allowed to discharge at times of significant rain events. He further expressed that this type of flooding could potentially cause downstream contaminated land surfaces to flow in the Pajaro River and impact water quality.



Ms. Tina Lau and Mr. Aaron Johnston-Karas, Granite Rock, Arthur R. Wilson quarry representatives, presented storm water management measures taken at the facility to reduce flows and water quality impacts to the Pajaro River.

Bruce Laclergue, Santa Cruz County Flood Control Program Manager, presented historical flooding challenges to the Watsonville levees and requested a delay in adoption of the order. Mr. Laclergue indicated the delay would allow his agency and the Water Board to meet with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Readiness Branch, to discuss the potential of levee impacts due to discharges from the Discharger's facility during storm events.

Executive Officer Roger Briggs and Chairman Jeffrey Young stated levee conditions are not under the jurisdiction of the Water Board and therefore it would not be appropriate to delay the adoption of the order based on levee conditions. Chairman Young indicated the Board is interested in a future update report from the Santa Cruz County Flood Control Program Manager regarding their progress in working with the Corps and addressing Watsonville levee conditions.

MOTION: John Hayashi moved to approve as proposed and have direction to Executive Officer Briggs to bring back before the Board when new information is available.

SECOND: David Hodgkin

CARRIED: (5-0) Unanimously

(Chair Young announced a break at 10:55 a.m.; meeting reconvened at 11:07 a.m.)

14. Enforcement Report..... Status Report

Executive Officer Briggs introduced the item and announced staff was available to answer any questions the Board may have. Vice Chair Russell M. Jeffries asked about the salts violations at California American Water Company's Pasadera wastewater treatment facility in Monterey County. Enforcement Coordinator Harvey Packard explained he did not have any first-hand information to provide but could provide details in a later report.

15. Public Forum..... Board Direction

Steve Shimek, Executive Director of Coastkeeper showed historic photos and maps of the extensive wetlands that used to exist in the lower Salinas Valley. He pointed out that although many current waterways like Salinas River and Tembladero Slough have been heavily modified and constrained by levees and land development (ag and municipal), they are historic natural waterways that need to be improved and protected.

16. Funding for Wild Cherry Canyon Conservation Project..... Board Motion

Executive Officer Roger Briggs, presented background on staff's recommendation to modify a previous board resolution and extend the \$950,000 grant termination date to April 30, 2011. He explained that the board granted the American Land Conservancy an extension once before and another extension is necessary to procure the final funding; the funding is needed to secure the property valued at more than \$20 million. He also stated that staff received numerous letters of support. Chair Young asked if we had received any comment letters opposing staff's recommendation, and Mr. Briggs confirmed that all correspondence were in support of the extension. Chair Young noted the following individuals were present to support the proposal:

Kara Blakeslee, American Land Conservancy, San Luis Obispo

California Environmental Protection Agency



Greg Bettencourt, Cayucos Land Conservancy, Cayucos
Kathy Longacre, SLOPOST, Arroyo Grande
Rachel Duchak, San Luis Obispo County resident
Nick Franco, District Superintendent, CA State Parks, San Simeon
Chair Young asked if they wanted to speak if the Board was ready for a motion. They declined to speak.

MOTION: Vice Chair Russell Jeffries moved to approve the extension in order to procure final funding.

SECOND: Monica Hunter

CARRIED: (5-0) Unanimously

Mr. Briggs thanked those who made the trip to support this action.

17. Reports by Central Coast Water Board Members Status Report

Executive Officer Roger Briggs showed pictures from the Board field trip to the Molera Constructed Wetlands near Moss Landing. He reviewed compliance models discussed in the field and that he discussed after the field trip with Dr. Fred Watson of CSUMB. Board members asked about the potential of using Board mitigation funds for helping with continuation of monitoring and operation of the wetlands as well as possible cost sharing for construction of other pilot projects in other watersheds. Board member David Hodgin reported that some farmers told him that the farmers were collecting money amongst themselves to pay for the monitoring costs for the Molera Wetlands, so that issue should be resolved.

Mr. Briggs said the pilot project shows that such wetlands can be successful, there are many other examples of such pilot projects, and millions of dollars of government grant aid have already gone into pilot projects and assistance for this project as well as many other ag water quality control practices, over many years. Wetlands are but one of many tools that ag will need to use to make needed improvements, and as dischargers, ag operators are responsible for funding those improvements. It's time for ag operators in the region to be responsible for making those improvements. Furthermore, the cost of additional constructed wetlands in other subbasins is significant compared to the discretionary money available for allocation by the Regional Water Board. Mr. Briggs said it would be wise to reserve those remaining funds for higher priorities (e.g., those projects that have significant potential for improvement but parties who do not have the revenue stream that the ag industry has, like municipalities that we are assisting with Low Impact Development/Hydromodification Controls, which will have another future phase, and other regionwide priority issues).

Mr. Briggs recommended he contact Dr. Watson to find out what the financial status is for continuing the Molera Wetlands work, and report back to the Board. Chair Young directed Mr. Briggs to also report back to the Board on the capital costs for the Molera Wetland.

18. Executive Officer's Report Information/Discussion

Low Impact Development Initiative (LIDI)

Water Board staff Dominic Roques presented an update on the Joint Effort for Hydromodification Control and Low Impact Development (LID). Darla Inglis, Program Director for the Central Coast LID Initiative (LIDI), followed with a presentation on the status of LIDI's work. Dr. Inglis highlighted LIDI's recent accomplishments, including assisting municipalities with grant proposals that resulted in grants of approximately \$1.5 million for on-the-ground LID projects. Board members expressed enthusiasm for the Joint Effort and for LIDI's recent accomplishments and asked some questions.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Chairman Young asked if Water Board staff could post to the agency website information and photos on LID projects in the region. Water Board staff indicated they will look at different approaches for optimizing the demonstration value of LID projects in the region. Board member David Hodgin asked whether the Water Board was the sole source of funding for LIDI and whether any thought has been given to charging for LIDI's services. Dr. Inglis responded that the downturn in the economy and the resulting fewer project starts, as well as reduced municipal budgets, had postponed exploration of this option, but that as development picks up, LIDI will evaluate cost-share approaches.

Budget

Executive Officer Briggs reviewed the budget status for Regional Water Board operations, and said that our current hiring freeze is likely to be in place for at least a couple of years, which will lead to continuing reductions in the number of staff due to attrition. Existing and on-going reductions underscore the need for our recent and on-going prioritization and organization realignments as people leave our staff.

Chairman Young adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on February 3, 2011 in San Luis Obispo, CA.

The meeting was audio recorded and the minutes were reviewed by management and approved by the Board at its February 3, 2011 meeting in San Luis Obispo, CA.



Jeffrey Young, Chairman

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