

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

MINUTES

Central Coast Regional Water Board

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Dr. Wolff, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Central Coast Water Board to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 in San Luis Obispo.

1. Roll Call – Board Members.....Michael Thomas, Assistant Executive Officer

Present:

*Jeffrey Young, Chair
Jean-Pierre Wolff, Vice Chair
Bruce Delgado
Russell Jeffries
Mike Johnston
Mike Jordan

Absent:

Monica Hunter

*Chair Young arrived approximately 10 minutes after roll-call.

2. Introduction and Staff Recognition/Awards.....Kenneth A. Harris Jr., Executive Officer
Mr. Harris introduced Board staff and Jessica Jahr, Board Counsel.

Staff Recognitions/Awards:

- Board members and staff congratulated Angela Schroeter, Senior Engineering Geologist, on receiving the Professional Achievement Award by the Professional Engineers in California Government for her work on the Irrigated Agricultural Order.
- Executive Officer Ken Harris and Angela Schroeter presented Hector Hernandez, Water Resources Control Engineer, the Superior Accomplishment Award for his recent work to develop a cleanup and abatement order that requires a discharger to provide safe drinking water to the disadvantaged farm worker community of San Lucas whose well became impacted due to nitrate from fertilizers.

3. Approval of July 11-12, 2013 Meeting Minutes.....Board Motion
The Board approved the July 11-12, 2013, Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Russell Jeffries

SECOND: Bruce Delgado

CARRIED: Unanimously (4-0) Note: Chair Young was not present for the motion; Mike Jordan abstained as he was not present at the July 11-12, 2013 meeting.

4. Reports by Water Board Members.....Status Reports
Mike Johnston reported that he attended a Pinto Lake meeting in Watsonville in mid-September.

5. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison..... Status Report
No report as State Water Resources Control Board Liaison Steven Moore was unable to attend the meeting.

6. Approval of 2014 Board Meeting ScheduleBoard Motion
The Board approved the proposed 2014 Central Coast Water Board Calendar.

MOTION: Mike Jordon
SECOND: Bruce Delgado
CARRIED: Unanimously (6-0)

7. Agricultural Order – State Board Order Status Report
Staff person Angela Schroeter made a brief presentation to the Board to inform them of the outcomes of the September 24, 2013 State Board Hearing to resolve the petitions to the Agricultural Order and to update Board Members on the status of the State Board Order WQ 2013-0101. Board Members requested that staff provide the Board with a summary table of the State Board’s modifications to the Agricultural Order at the next update in December. Ms. Schroeter also described next steps related to implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Public Speakers:
• Steve Shimek

8. Vision for the Future – Major InitiativesBoard Discussion
The Executive Officer outlined for Board Members the major challenges facing the Region and the fact that to try and facilitate solutions would require redirection of staff resources away from everyday routine work. Major challenges discussed included over drafting of groundwater basins, sea water intrusion of aquifers along the coast, possible climate change impacts to wastewater treatment plants due to sea level rise, and development of a long term management strategy for Salinas River channel maintenance. Board Chair Jeffrey Young agreed with the challenges but requested more specific information regarding the magnitude of staff redirection and the impact on routine staff work before approving any major initiatives. The Executive Officer will bring back to the board more specific information on a case by case basis as appropriate at future board meetings.

9. Annual Report Regarding Goals and Priorities.....Board Discussion
Michael Thomas summarized the trend of increasing workload and decreasing staffing levels common to all the Regional Water Boards, and emphasized the need for the Water Boards to improve how they do business. As the number of regulated dischargers continues to increase significantly, it is impossible to manage them as individual cases. The Water Boards must create management systems such as the AG Order reporting system, which is based on on-line reporting into a comprehensive relational database. Staff manage the database and prioritize their follow up actions based on threat to water quality and human health. This type of system is the future of the Water Boards and requires significant investment in our database system infrastructure.

10. Office Relocation PlanBoard Discussion

Ken Harris updated the Board on plans to relocate and/or upgrade the existing Central Coast Water Board office.

Chairman Young adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:00 p.m. October 9, 2013. The next regularly scheduled Water Board meeting will be held on December 5-6, 2013 in San Luis Obispo.

Minutes were reviewed by management and will be considered for approval by the Board at the December 5-6, 2013 meeting in San Luis Obispo.



Jeffrey Young, Chair

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