

**San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**January 15, 2014 Board Meeting  
Draft Minutes for Board Consideration**

ADOPTED February 12, 2014

Note: Copies of orders, resolutions, and minutes are posted on the Regional Water Board's website ([www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay)). Information about obtaining copies of audio recordings of Board meetings may be obtained by calling the Board's file review coordinator at (510) 622-2430. Written transcripts of Board meetings may be obtained by calling California Reporting, LLC, at (415) 457-4417.

**Item 1 – Roll Call and Introductions**

Meeting called to order at approximately 9:04 am in the Elihu M. Harris Building, First Floor Auditorium.

**Board Members Present**

Newsha Ajami  
William Kissinger  
Margaret Abe-Koga  
James McGrath  
Vice-Chair Terry Young  
Chair John Muller

**Board Members Absent**

**Status**

QUORUM  
Dr. Terry Young elected  
Chair at 9:17 am  
James McGrath elected  
Vice-Chair at 9:25 am

Board staff Keith Roberson introduced new scientific aide Sarah Acker. Division Chief Stephen Hill introduced Board staff Cheryl Prowell as the new section leader in the Toxics Cleanup Division. Bruce Wolfe announced Section Leader Mary Rose Cassa's retirement, and Chair Muller presented multiple proclamations to her.

**Item 2 – Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair**

The Board elected Dr. Terry Young to the duties of Chair and Jim McGrath to the duties of Vice-Chair. Each Board Member shared memories and stories of Board Member Muller during his 12-year term as Board Chair and thanked him for his years of dedication and service to the Board.

Ayes : Ajami, Kissinger, Abe-Koga, Muller, McGrath, Young

Nos: None

BOTH ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY

Executive Officer Bruce Wolfe congratulated the newly elected parties and commented on Board Member Muller's numerous accomplishments over the years.

**Item 3 – Public Forum**

Eda Muller, wife of Board Member Muller, addressed the Board and recounted Board Member Muller's time with the Water Board as well as personal memories during the 17 years of Mr. Muller's service to the Water Board.

Laura Snideman, City Manager of Half Moon Bay, also recounted memories of working with Board Member Muller and of his time with the Water Board.

Board Member Muller also shared fond memories of his time with the Water Board.

**Item 4 – Minutes of the December 11, 2013**

Mr. Wolfe recommended adoption of Item 4 with changes to title of the last item.

Board Member Abe-Koga moved for adoption of Item 4, with the proposed changes; Vice-Chair McGrath seconded the motion.

Ayes : Ajami, Kissinger, Abe-Koga, Muller, McGrath, Young

Nos: None

ITEM ADOPTED

**Item 5 – Chairman's, Board Members', and Executive Officer's Reports**

Board Member Ajami discussed her new position at Stanford's Water in the West and ReNUWIt urban water infrastructure planning. Board Member Abe-Koga commented on the status of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration project, along with sea level rise preparation measures, site cleanup levels, and private sewer laterals. Board Member Muller commented on the EO Report, congratulating staff on the progress of the Leona Heights case that was presented to the Board in May 2013.

Mr. Wolfe gave an overview of this month's Executive Officer's Report, including the Board Member tour of Napa Valley vineyards scheduled for January 29. He also discussed the Governor's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2014/15 and the process by which items get incorporated into the Governor's budget. Mr. Wolfe also commented on the project areas the new budget, if adopted, would affect, including 290 drinking water program positions transferred to the State Water Board from the California Department of Public Health, and additional positions allocated to regulate marijuana cultivation, to regulate fracking, and to augment the Water Quality Certification program.

The Board members asked several questions about the proposed budget. Mr. Wolfe responded to each of the questions and also discussed the drought and the State's efforts to coordinate planning and decision-making.

**Item 6 – Consideration of Uncontested Items****Item 6A – City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Pulgas Dechloramination Facility, Redwood City, San Mateo County – Issuance of NPDES Permit**

Mr. Wolfe commented on the Item. Board Member Kissinger noted that he would be recusing himself. Board Member McGrath asked a question about variability in flows. Chair Young asked SFPUC representatives to comment. Paul Gambon, System Operations Manager at SFPUC, described the SFPUC's delivery system and discussed flows. Chair Young asked for a closed session to consider evidence and deliberate on a decision to be reached regarding Item 6A.

**The Board went into closed session at 10:25 am. The Board reconvened at 11:10 am.**

Mr. Wolfe recommended adoption of the uncontested item.

Board Member Muller moved for adoption of Item 6A; Board Member McGrath seconded the motion.

Ayes : Ajami, Abe-Koga, Muller, McGrath, Young

Nos: None

Recuse: Kissinger

ITEM ADOPTED

**Other Business****Item 7 – Screening for Environmental Concerns at Contaminated Sites – Status Report on Regional Water Board's Updated Environmental Screening Levels**

Board staff Uta Hellmann-Blumberg gave a presentation to the Board that included an overview of the updated Environmental Screening Levels (ESLs) and a description how they are used by staff and stakeholders. Ms. Hellmann-Blumberg also acknowledged and thanked those Board staff on her team: Division Chief Stephen Hill, Section Leader Mary Rose Cassa, Ross Steenson, Cheryl Prowell, and Laurent Meillier.

Board Member Kissinger asked clarifying questions about the use of ESLs by other agencies, and Board Member McGrath spoke about his experience using ESLs while at the Port of Oakland. Chair Young commented on the need to have predictable endpoints.

This item was for discussion purposes only and no action was taken.

**Item 8 – Overview of Nutrient Management Strategy for San Francisco Bay** – Information Item on How We Are Addressing Nutrients in the Bay and What Is Our Current Understanding of the Condition of the Bay

Division Chief Naomi Feger gave a presentation to the Board in which she discussed nutrients in San Francisco Bay, the state of our scientific knowledge, and our approach to developing a management strategy. Ms. Feger further explained the decline of pelagic organisms in Suisun Bay and its effect on fish populations and our concern about harmful algal blooms.

David Senn, Senior Scientist and Clean Water Program Manager at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, gave a presentation to the Board. Dr. Senn gave an overview of the nutrient enrichment issues of concern and existing and potential further nutrient scientific investigations.

Board members asked a number of clarifying questions.

Dr. Mike Connor, General Manager of the East Bay Dischargers Authority, addressed the Board and discussed the need to get the science right regarding nutrients given the fiscal implications associated with reducing loads.

This item was for discussion purposes only and no action was taken.

**Item 13 - Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 pm until the next Board Meeting – February 12, 2014