



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



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Acting Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

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Governor

## MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Thursday, February 3, 2011 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, February 3, 2011, at the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California.

1. Roll Call.....Assistant Executive Officer Michael Thomas

**Board Members Present:**

Chairman Jeffrey Young  
Vice Chair, Russell Jeffries  
John Hayashi  
David Hodgkin  
Monica Hunter  
Jean-Pierre Wolff

**Absent:**

N/A

2. Introductions..... Executive Officer Roger Briggs

Executive Officer Roger Briggs introduced newly appointed Board member Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff to the Board. Dr. Wolff provided some background on his experience and reason for being on the Board.

3. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.....Board Motion

**MOTION:** Russell Jeffries moved to re-elect Jeffrey Young as Board Chair.

**SECOND:** Monica Hunter

**CARRIED:** (6-0) Unanimously

**MOTION:** John Hayashi moved to re-elect Russell Jeffries as Board Vice Chair.

**SECOND:** David Hodgkin

**CARRIED:** (6-0) Unanimously

4. Approval of December 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes .....Board Motion

**MOTION:** Russell Jeffries moved to approve the December 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes

**SECOND:** Monica Hunter

**CARRIED:** (5-0) Note: Jean-Pierre Wolff abstained

**5. Report by State Water Resources Control Board Liaison.....** Status Report

Mr. Briggs announced that State Board liaison Frances Spivy-Weber was unable to attend the Board meeting. He then provided a brief update on State Board membership.

**6. Uncontested Items Calendar.....** Board Motion

Uncontested items include Items 14, 15, and 16.

Regarding Item 16, Carpinteria Sanitary District WWTP Permit, Dr. Hunter asked if there is a plan for upgrading to a tertiary treated discharge system. Mr. Briggs responded that Carpinteria Sanitary District is currently focused on a "Septic to Sewers" project. Craig Murray, Carpinteria Sanitary District General Manager, stated the discharge from the Carpinteria facility essentially meets tertiary treatment standards.

Mr. Murray also informed the Board that Carpinteria is about to embark on a grant funded sub-regional study for recycled water development in the area between Goleta and Carpinteria.

**MOTION: Russell Jeffries moved to approve the uncontested items calendar.**

**SECOND: None**

**CARRIED: (6-0) Unanimously**

**7. Low Threat and General Discharge Cases.....** Information/Discussion

Executive Officer Briggs introduced the item and summarized low threat cases as listed on the agenda.

**8. Staff Case Closures.....** Information/Discussion

Mr. Briggs informed the Board that Ski's Marketplace in Cambria met water quality objectives and staff closed the case administratively.

**9. Recommended Case Closures.....** Information/Discussion/Board Direction

Mr. Briggs discussed four cases for closure and explained staff will proceed with closure unless the Board directs otherwise. The Board had no comments.

**10. Underground Storage Tank Program Summary & MTBE Cases.....** Status Report

Water Board staff engineer John Goni briefly explained the status of the ongoing California Water Service Company Supply Well study. A recent report generated with funds approved by the Water Board will help staff focus their investigation into the source or sources of MTBE in two water supply wells in the Salinas area. Board members and staff discussed possible next steps in the investigation

Staff also discussed their general approach for informing the public of Underground Storage Tank cases which have been closed. Staff will be sending a letter to local planning staff in the region to reiterate the need to check State on-line resources before issuing permits for redevelopment.

**11. Enforcement Report.....** Status Report

Executive Officer Briggs introduced the item and summarized the documents within the report. He also pointed out that enforcement staff issued Expedited Payment Letters (EPLs) to seven facilities. Mr.

*California Environmental Protection Agency*



Briggs explained that EPLs are used to streamline the mandatory minimum penalties payment process by offering them the opportunity to pay what they owe and also informs them if there is an opportunity for supplemental environmental projects.

Russell Jeffries expressed concern about the California Mens Colony (CMC) treatment facility. Harvey Packard provided information on upgrades CMC has planned for next year. Mr. Jeffries also asked about the Pasadera facility; Mr. Packard said staff will provide a written report at a future board meeting.

Speaker Jeff Edwards talked about spills and flooding in Oceano during recent storm events and requested the Board's involvement. Chair Young asked Mr. Briggs about flows and capacity and requested future updates on this issue.

**12. Ocean Wastewater Discharge in the State of California..... Status Report**

Executive Officer Briggs introduced the item.

Hillary Hauser, Executive Director, Heal the Ocean, presented information on wastewater discharges to the ocean.

Speaker Dr. Edo McGowan, asked for research on public health effects of recycled water.

**13. Los Osos Wastewater Recycling Facility ..... Status Report**

Staff Environmental Scientist David LaCaro introduced the item and gave an overview of the staff report. The County Supervisor Bruce Gibson and San Luis Obispo's Los Osos Wastewater Project engineer, John Waddell, provided additional information on the progress of the project's funding, the County's approval for its due diligence resolution, and the wastewater project construction schedule.

Water Board members asked County staff questions regarding the wastewater project affordability and more specifically cost per household. Mr. Gibson explained that the County is evaluating low-cost project designs, creating a favorable contract bid environment, assessing conservative estimates, and establishing low cost financing. With respect to the individual cost per household, Mr. Gibson explained that the County passed a rates and charges ordinance in December 2010. According to the ordinance, the average household will pay a rate of approximately \$195.00 per month. However, future funding from Prop 84 funding (or Integrated Regional Water Management Plan funding) and assessment from undeveloped lots within the community may help lower the individual average cost per household. Mr. Gibson also explained that the County is pursuing funding for individuals with low or fixed incomes.

Members of the public provided comments generally regarding seawater intrusion, project affordability, and long-term water quality monitoring. Frank Ausilio, Gwynn Taylor, Keith Wimer, Julie Tacker, Jeff Edwards, Elaine Watson, Richard Margetson, and Ben DiFatta addressed the Water Board.

**17. Public Forum..... Board Direction**

Steve Shimek discussed high toxicity levels in waters on the Central Coast. Mr. Shimek also discussed sea otter mortality due to microcystis, a freshwater algal bloom stimulated by nitrates in surface and ground waters. He also said there is an emerging concern about PBDE, a flame retardant that has been found in very high levels in sea otters.

Speaker Frank Ausilio asked for clarification on what occurs when the public comments on what they believe to be misinformation in a staff report. Frances McChesney, Staff Counsel, gave examples of when a record would be corrected.



**18. Summary of Grant Funds Provided to Support Agriculture..... Information/Discussion**

In response to previous Board discussions, Roger Briggs and Michael Thomas summarized the funding that has been provided to agriculture related projects over the past tens years, and staff's direction to make the grant process more accountable for tangible results that demonstrate reductions in pollutant loads and improvements in water quality. The Board discussed the benefits of grant funding, including the importance of collaboration and team work among different groups to achieve tangible results, and that the collaborative benefits are sometimes difficult to quantify. The Board and staff agreed that collaboration and team work are critically important, and that such collaboration must lead to tangible water quality improvements.

Speakers Kevin Merrill, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, Kirk Schmidt, Preservation Inc., and Darlene Din spoke to the use of grant funds. Russell Jeffries said he would be interested in grant funding of another constructed wetlands demonstration project if agricultural dischargers assumed long term operation and maintenance costs.

**19. Summary of Technical Services Available to Agriculture ..... Information/Discussion**

Board members John Hayashi and Dr. Jean-Pierre Wolff recused themselves from this item and Item 20.

Michael Thomas briefly mentioned some of the technical services and the many organizations available to the agriculture industry, and introduced two guest speakers: Murray Einarson, AMEC Geomatrix and Keith Backman, Dellavale Laboratories.

Mr. Backman discussed the importance and consequences of nitrate in the environment, and options for reducing nitrate loading and groundwater concentrations, and technical services available to the agriculture industry.

Mr. Einarson discussed treatment options for nitrate in groundwater and surface water, and his company's services.

Speaker Darlene Din expressed concerns on what she stated as the lack of professionals able to assist with compliance with the Ag Order.

Kevin Merrill, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau, spoke to and defended the modern progressive agricultural industry on the Central Coast.

David Costa, Costa Family Farms, spoke to the complexity of farm operation and expressed concerns about qualification and experience of those who have rushed to get certified as Certified Crop Advisor.

Speaker Kay Mercer spoke to uniqueness of the area, the uniqueness of the crops, and the lack of information for crops on the Central Coast.

**20. Draft Order (Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements) for Irrigated Agricultural lands..... Information/Discussion**

Staff summarized the status of the their efforts on the Ag Order renewal, including their focus on compliance with standards, time lines to achieve compliance, and verification monitoring and reporting, and the use of tiering requirements based on water quality. Staff reiterated that they will bring final recommendations to the Water Board during its March 17 hearing on the proposed Order. Tess Dunham of the Farm Bureau led a panel presenting a summary of the agriculture industry's proposal.



Speakers:

- Steve Shimek, Monterey Coastkeeper
- Kevin Merrill, Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
- Darlene Din, Private Consultant
- Kirk Schmidt, Preservation, Inc.
- Kris O'Connor, Central Coast Vineyard Team
- David Costa, Costa Family Farms
- Kay Mercer, Paso Robles resident
- Andy Caldwell, The Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business
- Joy Fitzhugh, San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau
- Hank Giclas, Western Growers
- Gordon Hensley, San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper
- William Elliott, Jensen Family Farms
- Abby Taylor-Silva, Grower-Shipper Association
- George Gutman, CANGl CCFC Consultant
- Danny Merkley, California Farm Bureau

**21. Reports by Central Coast Water Board Members** ..... Status Report

Chairman Young introduced the item; Board members had nothing to report.

**22. Executive Officer's Report** ..... Information/Discussion

Mr. Briggs announced that he and Chairman Young will meet with the new Santa Barbara County Chief Executive Officer to discuss several issues including the public health officer letter that we sent to all counties within our region in mid-2010.

Chairman Young adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held on March 16 and 17, 2011, in Watsonville, CA.

The meeting was audio recorded and the minutes were reviewed by management and approved by the Board at its March 16 and 17, 2011 meeting in Watsonville, CA.



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Jeffrey Young, Chairman

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