

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, December 8, 2022
Regional Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skylane Blvd. Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Video recordings of Board meetings (since 2/2019) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](#)

Audio recordings of Board meetings (11/2018 and before) are available at:

[Prior Board Meeting Audio recordings](#)

- i. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Vice Chair Bedolla led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ii. **Land Acknowledgement:** Chair Giusti read the land acknowledgement.

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory and ancestral homeland of the Southern Pomo who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial. We also acknowledge that throughout the North Coast Region there are 59 unique California Native American Tribes with regional and ancestral connection. We recognize Indigenous peoples' profound and unique relationship with water is vital to cultural, spiritual, and medicinal practices and food sovereignty. We also recognize the painful history of genocide, colonization, broken promises, and stolen land and water resources upon which the State of California was founded. We honor the resiliency of Indigenous peoples and Tribes, respect Tribal sovereignty, and commit to addressing systemic inequities that persist and to prioritizing Indigenous voices and traditional ecological knowledge in North Coast watersheds. This acknowledgement does not replace our continued commitment to advancing mutual and lasting relationships with Indigenous communities and tribes throughout the North Coast Region.

iii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present:

Hector Bedolla, Gregory Giusti, Shaunna McCovey, Bill Matsubu

Regional Water Board staff present:

Jim Burke, Josh Curtis, Gil Falcone, Matthew Herman, Kaete King, Nathan Jacobsen, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Jeremiah Puget, Evelyn Reynolds, Charles Reed, Eli Scott, Matt St. John, Claudia Villacorta, Jonathan Warmerdam, Chris Watt.

- iv. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure:** Vice Chair Bedolla attended the Water Quality Control Committee (WQCC) on October 27 and 28. Bill Matsubu also participated in parts of the WQCC meeting. Chair Giusti noted that the Board is at minimum quorum currently as former Board member Robinson resigned due to a new job appointment.
- v. **Regional Board Chair's Report:** Chair Giusti reported that he also (remotely) attended the WQCC. Chair Giusti shared that the Board has selected Valerie Quinto as the new Executive Officer, and she will be starting on January 17, 2023.
- vi. **State Water Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:** Executive Officer Matt St. John noted that this is his last Board meeting as EO and expressed his gratitude to Board members and staff. Chair Giusti expressed that he is looking forward to seeing Executive Officer Matt St. John in his new position.

Executive Officer Matt St. John presented Evelyn Reynolds with a Certificate of Appreciation. Kaete King and Clayton Creager were both presented with Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards. Gil Falcone spoke to the superior accomplishments of Ms. King, and Alydda Mangelsdorf spoke to the superior accomplishments of Clayton Creager.

State Water Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo gave a comprehensive update on various topics including the WQCC and encouraging regional board participation, water conservation levels, the adoption of a reissuance of the Sanitary Sewer Systems General Order and emergency regulation prohibiting wasteful water practices at the State Board meeting earlier in the week, and a brief report from the Association of California Water Agencies fall conference. She also thanked Executive Officer Matt St. John for his service, expressed excitement for his new position, and congratulated incoming new Executive Officer Valerie Quinto.

- vii. **Public Forum:** Comments were received from the following members of the public:
- Brenda Adelman
 - Konrad Fisher

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings \(http://cal-span.org/\)](http://cal-span.org/).

Jonathan Warmerdam, Jim Burke, Jeremiah Puget, and David Leland spoke to thank Executive Officer Matt St. John for his service and leadership.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2022

Motion: Vice Chair Bedolla moved to adopt October 7, 2022, Board meeting minutes; Board member McCovey seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

- McCovey aye
- Giusti aye

- Bedolla aye
- Matsubu aye

Motion passed unanimously

Action Items

2. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2022-0031 (Proposed Order) to consider adoption of Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Specific Categories of Low Threat Discharge in the North Coast Region (*Charles Reed*)

Regional Board staff presented on the Proposed Order including the purpose of the waiver as a tool for streamlining the permitting process, a proposed addition of a new waiver category titled “Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge,” and reported on the conditions and benefits of Flood-MAR examples in Region 1. Board staff recommends adopting the order.

The Board asked several clarifying questions, including the distinction that the Waiver addresses the discharge of waste associated with Flood-MAR project and that separate permits are required by the State Water Board’s Division of Water Rights to address diversion of surface waters for these projects. Regional Board staff provided clarifications and answered Board member questions.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- David Webb, Friends of Shasta River
- Konrad Fisher, Water Climate Trust
- Nick Joslin, Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
- Brenda Adelman

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span’s Prior Board Meeting Video recordings \(http://cal-span.org/\)](http://cal-span.org/).

Motion: Board member Matsubu moved to adopt Agenda Item 2 - Order No. R1-2022-0031; Vice Chair Bedolla seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

- McCovey aye
- Giusti aye
- Bedolla aye
- Matsubu aye

Motion passed unanimously

Workshops

3. Workshop on Draft Order No. R1-2023-0005 Short-Term Renewal of Order No. R1-2018-0018 Scott River TMDL Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and Order No. R1-2018-0019 Shasta River TMDL Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements (*Elias Scott*)

Regional Board Staff presented an overview of Order No. R1-2018-0018 and Order No. R1-2018-0019, and described the purpose and content of Draft Order No. R1-2023-0005. The presentation outlined the existing requirements for dischargers pursuant to Order Nos. R1-2018-0018 and R1-2018-0019, the progress made through the implementation of these existing Waivers, and described Regional Board Staff's involvement in addressing the emergency drought response in the Scott and Shasta Rivers and the associated implications of Staff's work on drought response. Regional Board staff proposes a short-term renewal of the Waivers is necessary to complete the required work prior to the Waivers' expiration on April 19, 2023.

The Board asked several clarifying questions which Regional Board staff addressed. The Board expressed concern at this time moving forward with a short-term renewal that could be in place for up to 5 years.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Erin Ragazzi, State Water Board Division of Water Rights
- Nick Joslin, Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
- David Webb, Friends of Shasta River
- Regina Chichizola, Save California Salmon
- Konrad Fisher, Water Climate Trust
- Nathaniel Kane, Environmental Law Foundation

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings](http://cal-span.org/) (<http://cal-span.org/>).

Chair Giusti stated that the comment period will be extended for 10 days (pending confirmation it does not affect the hearing schedule). Board members thanked the public commentators. Chair Giusti thanked Eli Scott for his work and stated that 18 months is a more preferable extension than 5 years. Chair Giusti recommended keeping up the work and emphasizing to landowners the urgency of why they should participate and collaborate with the agency.

Information Items

4. Detecting Viruses in Santa Rosa's Wastewater (*Robert Wilson, City of Santa Rosa*)

Regional Board staff Matthew Herman introduced Robert Wilson, City of Santa Rosa. Mr. Wilson presented on their regional wastewater treatment and participation in studies detecting various strains of SARS CoV-2 (Covid-19), Influenza A, Respiratory

Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Mpox. The presentation summarized the sample gathering process and included the benefits of wastewater epidemiological screening where individuals may view the data. Additionally, the presentation discussed how the Sonoma County Department of Public Health can use this data to compare service areas to identify trends of infected populations without the need for individualized testing and aid the Health Department's policy decision making.

Comments were received from the following members of the public:

- Brenda Adelman

Specific comments can be reviewed on [Cal-Span's Prior Board Meeting Video recordings \(http://cal-span.org/\)](http://cal-span.org/).

- 5. Executive Officer's Report:** Executive Officer Matt St. John thanked the City of Santa Rosa for their presentation and recognized their innovation over the years with their wastewater program. Mr. St. John referred to the written Executive Officer's Report.
- 6. Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest:** No comments.
- 7. Closed Session:** The board did not meet in closed session.
- 8. Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment**
9:00 a.m., Thursday, February 2, 2023
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.