

Minutes of Meeting

9:00 A.M., Thursday, June 17, 2021
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Video Conference

Thursday, June 17, 2021

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:** Chairman Giusti led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ii. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

Board Members present: Hector Bedolla, Kelli Gant, Gregory Giusti, Shaunna McCovey, and Valerie Quinto.

Regional Water Board staff present: Terri Cia, Patti Corsie, Josh Curtis, Nathan Jacobsen, Cathy Goodwin, Justin McSmith, Heaven Moore, Jeremiah Puget, Charles Reed, Matt St. John, and Claudia Villacorta.
- iii. **Board Member Reports and Ex Parte Communication Disclosure.** No Board Member Reports or Ex Parte Communication Disclosures given.
- iv. **State Board Liaison's and Executive Officer's Reports:** State Board Liaison Dorene D'Adamo gave a comprehensive update on recent as well as upcoming State Water Board actions with the release of the draft 2020 - 2022 Integrated Report for Regions 3, 5, and 9; the Construction Stormwater General Permit; the Direct Potable Water Reuse Permit; and an update on the draft Racial Equity Initiative Resolution and Action Plans, along with a focus on drought-related actions in the North Coast. Ms. D'Adamo informed the Board and the public that the State Board website (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov>) now has a Drought page you can access on their home page for more information & updates on previous and current drought conditions throughout California, and the website: <https://saveourwater.com> for water savings news, guides, and conservation tips. Executive Officer Matt St. John reiterated that the State Board Drought page has useful information regarding drought conditions within the Russian River Watershed and encouraged all to visit the website.

v. **Regional Board Chair's Report:** Chairman Giusti reported that he has had multiple phone calls with E. Joaquin Esquivel, State Board Chairman, Dorene D'Adamo, State Board Liaison & State Board Vice-Chair, and Matt St. John, Executive Officer (EO), and others regarding the drought situation in Region 1. Mr. Giusti stated to stay tuned to the possibility that the August Board meeting will be a hybrid Board meeting, with the Board members attending in person and allowing external participants to join the Board meeting virtually. Mr. Giusti touched upon the draft Racial Equity Resolution being developed at the State Board that State Board Liaison D'Adamo spoke about, and he is hopeful that this will provide guidance in promoting racial equity within our organization. Mr. Giusti stated that the 2021 Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) will be held on October 21 & 22, 2021 and gave other Board members an opportunity to suggest topics to be covered at the WQCC meeting. Finally, Mr. Giusti shared that approximately three weeks ago he participated in a tour of the Elk River Watershed with representatives from Humboldt Redwood Company, and Region 1 staff, including Matt St. John, and encouraged the Board members to attend a similar tour in the future if interested.

vi. **Public Forum:**

Comments were taken from:

- Sydney Hofferth, Environmental Protection Information Center
- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Association.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** June 17, 2021

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt June 17, 2021 Meeting minutes; Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Quinto aye
Bedolla aye
McCovey aye
Gant aye
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

2. **2022 Board Meeting Schedule (Matt St. John)**

Matt St. John, Executive Officer reviewed the 2022 Board Meeting schedule below:

- February 3 & 4, 2022
- April 7 & 8, 2022
- June 9 & 10, 2022
- August 4 & 5, 2022
- October 6 & 7, 2022
- December 1 & 2, 2022

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt the 2022 Board meeting schedule; Board member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Quinto aye
Bedolla aye
McCovey aye
Gant aye
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

3. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0016 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the City of Yreka Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1A84073OSIS (Roy O'Connor).

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt Order R1-2021-001; Board member Quinto seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Quinto aye
Bedolla aye
McCovey aye
Gant aye
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

4. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0018 to consider rescission of Waste Discharge Requirements Order Number R1-2016-0041 and Cease and Desist Order R1-2016-0043 (CDO) for College of the Redwoods Wastewater Treatment Facility, WDID No. 1B80121OHUM, NPDES No. CA0006700.

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt Order R1-2021-0018; Board member Quinto seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Quinto aye
Bedolla aye
McCovey aye
Gant aye
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

- 5. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0010 to consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Cold Water Concentrated Aquatic Animal Production Facility Discharges to Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries, General NPDES NO. CAG131015.** Justin McSmith, Water Resources Control Engineer, NPDES Unit, gave a presentation on Order No. R1-2021-0010 (Hatchery General Order). The Hatchery General Order replaces Order No. R1-2015-0009 (2015 Order), and will serve as a General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a period of five years allowing year-round discharges to surface water from a cold water concentrated aquatic animal production (CAAP) facility upon enrollment. In the North Coast Region, the following four CAAP facilities are currently enrolled under the 2015 Order issued by the Regional Water Board to discharge wastewater to waters of the United States: 1) Warm Springs Fish Hatchery, 2) Coyote Valley Fishery Mitigation Facility, 3) Mad River Fish Hatchery, and 4) Trinity River Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery. Mr. McSmith reviewed the comments received, the responses to each, and the changes that are listed in the Change Sheet in response to those comments with a recommendation to adopt Order No. R1-2021-0010 as proposed. Several Board members asked clarifying questions which Mr. McSmith responded to and which did not result in changes to the Proposed Order.

Comments were taken from:

- Tina Bartlett, CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)
- Terry Jackson, CDFW

Responding to a comment by Ms. Bartlett, Board member Quinto encouraged CDFW to work with Regional Water Board staff during the next Triennial Review process to advance their interest in revising the Hatchery Policy.

Motion: Board member Bedolla moved to adopt Order R1-2021-0010 with the Change Sheet; Board member McCovey seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Quinto aye
 Bedolla aye
 McCovey aye
 Gant aye
 Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

- 6. Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0002 to consider adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements for Russian River County Sanitation District and Sonoma Water, Russian River Wastewater Treatment Facility, NPDES No. CA0024058, WDID No. 1B820450SON, Sonoma County.** Cathleen Goodwin, Water Resources Control Engineer, NPDES Unit gave a presentation on Order No. R1-2021-0002, Waste Discharge Requirements for Russian River County Sanitation

District and Sonoma Water, Russian River Wastewater Treatment Facility. Order No. R1-2021-0002 replaces Order No. R1- 2014-0002 which serves as a NPDES permit for waste discharges to surface water and a master recycling permit for distribution and use of recycled water. The Russian River County Sanitation District and Sonoma Water own and operate a municipal wastewater treatment facility, which provides wastewater treatment and disposal services for a population of approximately 6,500 people within the greater Guerneville area, including unincorporated areas of Rio Nido, Vacation Beach, Guerneville, and Guerneville Park. Ms. Goodwin reviewed the comments received, the responses to each, and the changes that are listed in the Change Sheet in response to those comments with the recommendation to adopt Order No. R1-2021-0002 as proposed. Board Chairman Giusti asked clarifying questions which Ms. Goodwin responded to and which did not result in changes to the Proposed Order.

Comments were taken from:

- Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Association
- Esa Day, Monte Rio Resident

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt Order R1-2021-0002 with Change Sheet; Board member Gant seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Quinto aye
 Bedolla aye
 McCovey aye
 Gant aye
 Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

7. **Public Hearing on Order No. R1-2021-0024 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the County of Mendocino, South Coast Class III Solid Waste Disposal Site, WDID No. 1B77023OMEN.** Terri Cia, Engineering Geologist, Groundwater Permitting Unit, gave a presentation on Order No. R1-2021-0024 to consider adoption of proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for the County of Mendocino, South Coast Class III Solid Waste Disposal Site. The County of Mendocino owns and operates the South Coast Class III Solid Waste Disposal Site which is an inactive landfill. Transfer station operations are currently contracted out to Solid Waste of Willits and regulated by the Regional Water Board. The existing refuse management facilities consist of a waste transfer building, recycling areas, and site attendant building alongside the “intermediate cover” closed landfill, with a perimeter surface seep collection system, 2 leachate storage tank farms, drainage and sedimentation basins with stormwater conveyances routed to the Little North Fork, tributary of the Gualala River. The Proposed Order provides for the transition from “intermediate cover” closure to final construction closure of the landfill surface (capping) utilizing the [ClosureTurf®](#) system. Ms. Cia reviewed the comments

received, the responses to each, and concluded her presentation with a recommendation to adopt Order No. R1-2021-0024 as proposed. There were no comments on the Proposed Order.

Motion: Board member Quinto moved to adopt Order R1-2021-0024, Board member Bedolla seconded the motion; Chairman Giusti initiated a roll-call vote:

Quinto aye
Bedolla aye
McCovey aye
Gant aye
Giusti aye

Motion passed unanimously

Information Items

8. **Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 Workplan for the North Coast Regional Water Board.** Matt St. John, Executive Officer gave a presentation on the proposed 2021 - 2022 Workplans for the Watershed Stewardship Program and each of the four Regional Water Board Divisions: 1) Point Source & Groundwater Protection; 2) Non-Point Source & Surface Water Protection; 3) Planning & Watershed Stewardship; and 4) Cannabis & Enforcement. The purpose of the Work Plans is to prioritize and guide the work of Regional Water Board staff during the fiscal year, and to manage expectations regarding the scope, content and schedule associated with work plan milestones and deliverables and to receive feedback from Board members and the public. Mr. St. John discussed the new components of the Work Plans with the addition of a standalone Watershed Stewardship Program work plan that was previously incorporated within the Planning & Stewardship Division work plan. Also new to the FY 21/22 Work Plan is the presentation of two priority Office-wide Initiatives: 1) the work of the Employee Engagement Steering Committee to identify and implement recommended actions to address organizational improvements; and 2) the work of the State and Regional Water Boards to address systemic societal problems associated with racial equity and environmental justice, both with respect to our own agency and workforce and with respect to how we serve the communities within our jurisdiction. Mr. St. John concluded his presentation with a discussion of the fiscal impacts to the North Coast Regional Board from the Coronavirus Pandemic and reviewed just a few of the many high-profile projects to be brought before the Board for their consideration this fiscal year. Several Board members asked clarifying questions which Mr. St. John, Alydda Mangelsdorf, Clayton Creager, and Jonathan Warmerdam responded to.

Comments were taken from:

- Cedric Twight, Sierra Pacific Industries

9. **Executive Officer's Report.** Matt St. John, Executive Officer reviewed his written Executive Officer's Report article on *North Coast Drought Update*, and let the Board know that the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights (DWR) has requested that Region 1 assist DWR on drought related work in the Klamath Basin, particularly the Scott & Shasta Rivers. Eli Scott, Environmental Scientist, Planning Unit has been tasked to provide 50% of his time on drought related activities in the Klamath Basin. Mr. St. John reiterated that the August Board meeting is planned for a hybrid meeting and explained that the Regional Boards are planning for re-opening coupled with continued telework opportunities.

10. **Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items and Other Items of Interest.** Chairman Giusti suggested that a few times a year, possibly on the 2nd day of the Board meeting, to have the Board members tour areas in our Region, such as a sewage treatment facility; forest lands; Laguna de Santa Rosa; Lake Sonoma fish hatchery, etc. Board members are all in agreement that it would be beneficial to have more field trips to be better informed and connected to the regulated communities we serve.

11. **Closed Session:** The Board met in closed session and discussed Closed Session Item d.5; no report was given.

Arrangements for Next Meeting and Adjournment

9:00 a.m., Thursday August 19 and Friday August 20, 2021

Online – Zoom Meeting

Santa Rosa, CA

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Chairperson _____

Date _____