



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
COASTAL HEARING ROOM

Copies of the resolutions and water quality/water rights orders can be obtained by calling (916) 341-5600 or downloading from our website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/.

The video of the Board Meeting is available to view on our website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/video.shtml

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joaquin Esquivel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 9:02 a.m. with both a physical meeting location and remote location.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel; Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo; Member Sean Maguire; Member Laurel Firestone; Member Nichole Morgan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director
Michael Lauffer, Chief Counsel
Karen Mogus, Chief Deputy Director
Erik Ekdahl, Chief Deputy Director
Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
Marji Arjil, Assistant Clerk to the Board
Beba Maletic, AGPA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Instructions were given in regard to participating in the Remote Meeting.
- The Board meeting is being webcasted and recorded.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

BOARD MEETING

***Public comments on agenda items will be limited to 5 minutes
or otherwise at the discretion of the Board Chair***

PUBLIC FORUM

(Approximately 30 minutes at the beginning of Board Meeting and any remaining speakers at the call of the Chair)

Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the State Water Resources Control Board's jurisdiction provided the matter is not on the agenda or pending before the State Water Board or any California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

No Action Taken

Commenters

Supervisor Paloma Aguirre, County of San Diego

Diana Nuricumbo, City of Calexico

Mary Wood, General Public

Ray Tahir, TECS Environmental

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, Restore the Delta

BOARD BUSINESS

1. The Board will consider adoption of the September 3, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.

Motion: Board Member Morgan moved to adopt the September 3, 2025 Board Meeting minutes

Seconded by: Board Member Firestone

MOTION CARRIED ([September 16, 2025](#))

Aye: Chair Esquivel
Vice Chair D'Adamo
Member Maguire
Member Firestone
Member Morgan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

UNCONTESTED ITEM

2. Consideration of a proposed Resolution adopting the 2026 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines, authorizing staff to solicit and recommend projects, and authorizing the Executive Director, or designee, to award and execute finance agreements for the 2026 Nonpoint Source Grant.

Staff Presenting: Jessica Leonard, Paul Hann, Stefan Spich

- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [2026 Nonpoint Source Grant Program Guidelines](#)

Motion: Vice Chair D'Adamo moved to adopt the proposed Resolution

Seconded by: Board Member Morgan

MOTION CARRIED (Resolution No. 2025-0026)

Aye: Chair Esquivel
Vice Chair D'Adamo
Member Maguire
Member Firestone
Member Morgan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Commenters

None

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

3. Consideration of a proposed Resolution adopting emergency regulations revising the core water quality regulatory fee schedules contained in title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9, Article 1, section 2200 of the California Code of Regulations.

Staff Presenting: John Russell, David Ceccarelli, Serena Liu

- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Proposed Regulation Text](#)

Motion: Board Member Maguire moved to adopt the proposed Resolution

Seconded by: Board Member Firestone

MOTION CARRIED (Resolution No. 2025-0027)

Aye: Chair Esquivel
Vice Chair D'Adamo
Member Maguire
Member Firestone
Member Morgan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Commenters

Rosario Cortes, WaterReuse California

Spencer Saks, California Association of Sanitation Agencies

4. Consideration of a proposed Resolution adopting an emergency regulation amending water rights fee schedules contained in title 23, sections 1061, 1062, 1064, 1074, 1075 and 3833.1 of the California Code of Regulations.

Staff Presenting: John Russell, David Ceccarelli, David Rose

- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Proposed Regulation Text](#)

Motion: Vice Chair D'Adamo moved to adopt the proposed Resolution

Seconded by: Board Member Morgan

MOTION CARRIED (Resolution No. 2025-0028)

Aye: Chair Esquivel
Vice Chair D'Adamo
Member Maguire
Member Firestone
Member Morgan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Commenters

Neena Kuzmich, San Diego County Water Authority

Dan Denham, San Diego County Water Authority

Tekoah Kadara, Allensworth Progressive Association

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

5. Board Member Reports.

For full details on each Board Member report, please review the video at [Board Videos | California State Water Resources Control Board](#). It begins at 2:15:30 on the video for the September 16, 2025 Board Meeting.

The Board recessed at 4:50 p.m. until Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Joaquin Esquivel called the meeting to order on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 9:06 a.m. with both a physical meeting location and remote location.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel; Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo; Member Sean Maguire (arrived at 9:08 a.m.); Member Laurel Firestone; Member Nichole Morgan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

EXECUTIVE STAFF PRESENT

Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director
Michael Lauffer, Chief Counsel
Karen Mogus, Chief Deputy Director
Erik Ekdahl, Chief Deputy Director
Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
Marji Arjil, Assistant Clerk to the Board
Beba Maletic, AGPA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Instructions were given in regard to participating in the Remote Meeting.
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BOARD HEARING

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

6. A continuance of the February 20, 2025 hearing to consider a proposed Resolution to designate the Kern County groundwater subbasin as probationary under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Staff Presenting: Natalie Stork, Jeevan Jayakody, Alexa Evans, Austin Poncelet, Tina Leahy, David Rose

- [Public Notice](#)
- [Agenda Item](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Staff Review](#)
- [Staff Review Executive Summary](#)

Motion: Board Member Morgan moved to adopt the proposed Resolution with changes to Whereas 29 as shown on the screen and read into the record by David Rose

Seconded by: Vice Chair D'Adamo

MOTION CARRIED (Resolution No. 2025-0029)

Aye: Chair Esquivel
Vice Chair D'Adamo
Member Maguire
Member Firestone
Member Morgan

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Panel 1: Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

Derek Yurosek
Abhi Singh
Christina Lucero
Tess Dunham
Kaitlyn Palys
Stephanie Hearn

Panel 2: Community Panel

Mac Glackin, Clean Water Action
Angela Islas, Central California Environmental Justice Network
Community residents of Lost Hills and Shafter:
Saul Ruiz, Lost Hills
Anabel Marquez, Shafter
Irma Medina, Lost Hills

Panel 3: Municipalities and Urban Water Purveyors

Raul Barraza, Jr., Arvin Community Services District
Alberto Martinez, City of Wasco
Michael James, City of Shafter
Daniel Maldonado, City of Bakersfield
Rafael Molina, Cal Water

Panel 4: Semitropic Water Storage District GSA

Jason Gianquinto

Commenters

Chairman Octavio Escobedo III, Tejon Indian Tribe
Tien Tran, Community Water Center
Richard Garcia, Buttonwillow County Water District
Bob Gore, The Gualco Group Inc.
Marty Farrell, California Coastkeeper Alliance
Ellen Wehr, California Waterfowl Association

*Angela Islas, Central California Environmental Justice Network
Jonathan Parker, Kern Water Bank Authority
Sofia Prado-Irwin, Center for Biological Diversity
Taylor Broadhead, Audubon California
Alexandra Biering, California Farm Bureau
Erin Woolley, Union of Concerned Scientists
Anabel Marquez, Resident of Shafter, CA
Raul Barraza, Jr., Committee for a Better Arvin
Jennifer Clary, Clean Water Action*

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Sessions are not open to the Public

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OFFICE/ DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

The Board may meet in closed session to deliberate on procedural or substantive decisions to be reached in the proceeding to consider the water right change petition filed by the California Department of Water Resources to add two new points of diversion and rediversion to water right permits 16478, 16479, 16481, and 16482 (Applications 5630, 14443, 14445A, and 17512, respectively) for the State Water Project associated with the Delta Conveyance Project. (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3).)

The Board met in Closed Session on the above item.

The Board may meet in closed session to deliberate on procedural or substantive decisions to be reached in the proceeding to consider the petition for partial assignment of state-filed Application 25517, accompanying water right Application 25517X01, and petitions for release from priority of state-filed Applications 25513, 25514, 25517 (unassigned portion), 22235, 23780, and 23781 in favor of water right Application 25517X01 filed by the Sites Project Authority. (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (c)(3).)

The Board met in Closed Session on the above item.

OFFICE OF CHIEF COUNSEL

The Board will meet in closed session to discuss the status of and receive legal advice concerning a complaint filed against the Board pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000(d) *et seq.*, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency's nondiscrimination regulation, at 40 C.F.R. Part 7, pertaining to the Board's water quality standards setting in the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed (EPA File No. 01RNO-23-R9). (This closed session is authorized under Government Code section 11126, subdivision (e).)

The Board met in Closed Session on the above item.

PERSONNEL

The Board will meet in closed session to discuss the appointment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of public employee, or to hear complaints or charges brought against that employee by another employee unless the employee requests a public hearing. (This closed session is authorized by Government Code section 11126, subdivision (a)(1).)

The Board met in Closed Session on the above item.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!

Unless otherwise specified, submittal of written comments **must be received by 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on September 11, 2025 and will not be accepted after that time.**

Submittal of electronic PowerPoint presentations **must be received by 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on September 11, 2025 and will not be accepted after that time.**

Submittals are to be sent via e-mail to the Clerk to the Board at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Please indicate in the subject line, **09/16-17/2025 BOARD MEETING – ITEM # (fill in bolded subject from appropriate item)**.

If you have questions about the agenda, or if you do not have internet access and need a telephone number to participate in the meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Board at (916) 341-5600 prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to request a copy of public comments submitted on an agenda item, please send a request to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov, identifying the Board meeting date, and agenda item by name and number.

Agenda and items will be available electronically at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/calendar/index.shtml

*Items on the uncontested items calendar may be removed at the request of any Board Member or person. If an item is removed from the uncontested items calendar, it will only be voted on at this meeting if the Board accepts the staff recommendation for the agenda item. Otherwise, the item will be continued to a subsequent board meeting to allow input by interested persons.

Video broadcast of meetings will be available at: <https://video.calepa.ca.gov/>.
An alternate live-stream broadcast will also be available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport/>

LANGUAGE SERVICES

This meeting will be offered in English. To request translation of written documents, interpretation services in another language, or sign language services, please use one of the following options at least seven (7) calendar days before the meeting, if possible:

- Submit a [Language Services Request](#) online
- Contact the Office of Public Engagement, Equity, and Tribal Affairs (OPEETA) at: 916-341-5254 or at: LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov

ACCESSIBILITY AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

The State Water Board is committed to making its meetings accessible consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.) and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations.

Telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service at: (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922. In addition, persons requiring reasonable modification or accommodation for disabilities should promptly (preferably at least 7 days before the meeting) email contact@waterboards.ca.gov to initiate a request for reasonable modification or accommodation.