STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

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, October 20, 2026 at 9:03 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 Nichole Morgan (arrived at 9:07 a.m., departed at 10:54 a.m., rejoined at 1:31 p.m.); Member Jared Blumenfeld

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
Elizabeth Carrillo, Analyst II

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

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
Regina Chichizola, Communities United for Water Protection

BOARD BUSINESS

1. The Board will consider adoption of the October 6, 2026 Board Meeting minutes.

Motion: Board Member Maguire moved to adopt the October 6, 2026 Board Meeting minutes
Seconded by: Board Member Morgan
MOTION CARRIED (October 20, 2026)
Aye: Chair Esquivel
Member Maguire
Member Morgan
Member Blumenfeld
Nay: None
Absent: None
Abstain: Vice Chair D'Adamo

UNCONTESTED ITEM

2. Consideration of a proposed Resolution that delegates authority to the Executive Director, the Chief Deputy Director, or the Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services to execute certain contracts and amendments for work at Lake Tahoe.
   Staff Presenting: Ed Hancock, Laurie Scribe, Mary Fiore-Wagner, Elizabeth Beryt
   - Agenda Item
   - Draft Resolution

Motion: Vice Chair D'Adamo moved to adopt the proposed Resolution
Seconded by: Board Member Blumenfeld
MOTION CARRIED (Resolution No. 2026-0040)

Aye:	Chair Esquivel
	Vice Chair D'Adamo
	Member Maguire
	Member Morgan
	Member Blumenfeld
Nay:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

Commenters
None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. 2026 Water Year in review and looking ahead.
   Staff Presenting: Jessica Bean, Eloise Berryman, Jeff Parks, Karina Herrera, Marielle Rhodeiro, Tom Gibson (DWR), Paul Gosselin (DWR), Jessica Neuwerth (Colorado River Board)

No Action Taken

Commenters
Regina Chichizola, Communities United for Water Protection

4. Informational update on the Water Board's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 web-based Performance Report.
   Staff Presenting: Greg Gearheart, Swarnalakshmi Gopalarathnam, Kiranpreet Kaur
   - Agenda Item

No Action Taken

Commenters
None

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

5. Consideration of a proposed Resolution adopting Utility Wildfire and Similar Operations and Maintenance Activities Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification and General Waste Discharge Requirements and Resolution *certifying the Environmental Impact Report.*
   Staff Presenting: Robert Stoddard, Jean Bandura, Nick Martorano, Paul Hann, Serena Liu, Phil Crader
   - Public Notice
   - Agenda Item

- Draft Resolution
- Revised General Order (Clean | Redline)
- Written Comments were due by noon on April 29, 2025
- Revised Response to Comments (Clean | Redline)

Motion: Vice Chair D'Adamo moved to adopt the proposed Resolution with Whereas 11 being amended with strikeout language, as further amended to incorporate Vice Chair D'Adamo's language that instructs staff to come back after 18 months with an informational item on overall implementation issues, to separately adopt the proposed revised General Order, provides direction to staff to bring back to the Board for consideration an Erosivity Pathway proposal after public sharing and input in early 2027, along with a friendly amendment by Board Member Blumenfeld to bring back a staff recommendation related to herbicide application and appropriate reporting requirements
Seconded by: Board Member Maguire
MOTION CARRIED (Resolution No. 2026-0041/ WQ Order No. 2026-0031)

Aye:	Chair Esquivel
	Vice Chair D'Adamo
	Member Maguire
	Member Morgan
	Member Blumenfeld
Nay:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

Commenters
Josh Stoops, Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Megan Murphy, California Municipal Utilities Association
Jessica Nelson, Golden State Power Cooperatives
Susie Berlin, Northern California Power Agency
Tim Andrews, PG&E
Amber Jamieson, Environmental Protection Information Center
Dawn Koepke, California Council for Environmental & Economic Balance
Regina Chichizola, Communities United for Water Protection

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

6. 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 5:45:55 on the video for the October 20, 2026 Board Meeting.

No Action Taken

Commenters
None

ADJOURNMENT
The Board adjourned on October 20, 2026 at 4:10 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed Sessions are not open to the Public.
Closed Session may be held on Tuesday, October 20, Wednesday, October 21, or both days. No open meeting agenda items will be heard on Wednesday, October 21.

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 may meet in closed session to discuss pending litigation pertaining to *Santa Barbara Channelkeeper vs. State Water Resources Control Board* (Los Angeles County Superior Court, Case No. 19STCP011786). (This closed session is authorized pursuant to Government Code section 11126, subdivision (e).)

The Board did not meet 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 October 15, 2026 and will not be accepted after that time**.

Submittal of electronic PowerPoint presentations **must be received by 12:00 p.m. (Noon) on October 15, 2026 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, **10/20/2026 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 or board.clerk@waterboards.ca.gov 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 an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.
Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.
Liên hệ chúng tôi để yêu cầu thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.
ਆਪਣ ਭਸ਼ ਵਿਚ ਜਣਕਰ ਪਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਡ ਨਲ ਸਥਕ ਕਰ।.
Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.
请联系我们，以您的语言获取相关信息。

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.